



The Jewish Veteran

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

Congratulations to incoming JWV & JWVA Officers



**National Commander
Nelson L. Mellitz**



**National President
Natalie Blank**

Million Veteran Program Page 8

"Three Minutes: A Lengthening" Page 16

McDonough Discusses State of VA at 2022 Convention

By Cara Rinkoff, Managing Editor
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Denis McDonough delivered the keynote address during the opening ceremony of JWV's 127th Annual National Convention in Savannah, Georgia. McDonough said he came to the convention to give an update on the latest work the VA is doing as well as to hear some of JWV's concerns. "I'm here because these are true heroes, patriots, and people that I can learn a great deal from and that's what we've done today," McDonough said. "I'm thrilled to...make sure that we're living up to not only the president's command to me to fight like hell for vets but living up to the high expectations of the Jewish War Veterans, to make sure we're doing right by them."

McDonough spoke to JWV just two days before President Biden signed the PACT Act into law, which he called the biggest expansion of veteran benefits in history. The Secretary noted that this would not have happened without the hard work and advocacy of JWV.

He said the VA still needs JWV to pass along a few messages about the PACT Act to ensure all veterans get the care and benefits they've earned. "First, we at VA want veterans and survivors to apply for their PACT Act



benefits right now. Second, we will begin processing the PACT Act benefits for veterans and survivors on the earliest date possible, which is January first. And third, any veteran or survivor can learn more about the PACT Act by visiting www.va.gov/PACT or calling 1-800-MY-VA-411," McDonough said.

McDonough said another goal he hopes to tackle at the VA is ending veteran homelessness. "Our focus here is on two simple goals: getting vets into homes and preventing them from falling into homelessness in the first place." McDonough said the VA is currently halfway to its target of find-

ing permanent homes for 38,000 veterans this calendar year. McDonough also hopes to increase the housing supply, make existing housing more affordable for veterans, and then get vets any treatment they may need – for substance abuse or mental health issues – to ensure they can remain in their homes.

While the VA is doubling down on its telehealth capabilities, the Secretary said the department is also investing in infrastructure. "We're going to modernize our facilities...because vets in the 21st century should not be forced to receive care in early 20th century

Continued on page 3

NMAJMH Hosts Widow of Medal of Honor Recipient

By Cara Rinkoff, Managing Editor
Father. Friend. Family. Those are the three words that Katie Celiz says in her mind best describe her late husband, Army Ranger Christopher Celiz.

Katie Celiz spoke to JWV members during the National Museum of American Jewish Military History's event at our National Convention in Savannah on Sunday, August 7.

President Biden posthumously awarded Sergeant First Class Christopher Celiz the Medal of Honor for actions he took on July 12, 2018.

The citation read by the president at the ceremony on December 16, 2021, said in part,

"...Celiz voluntarily exposed himself to intense enemy machine-gun and small-arms fire to retrieve and em-

ploy a heavy weapon system, thereby allowing U.S. and partnered forces to regain the initiative, maneuver to a secure location, and begin treatment of a critically wounded partnered force member.... Celiz willingly exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to direct and lead the evacuation. As the casualty moved from a position of cov-

Continued on page 3

CONTENTS

D'veri HaShomrim	2	JWV in the Community	13
Message From the Commander	3	National Ladies Auxiliary ...	18
On The Hill	4	Museum News.....	20
Membership Corner	6	Taps	22

D'verei HaShomrim

Honoring All Our Service

By Rabbi Aaron Stucker-Rozovsky

United States Marines Corporal Paul Fagundes, Lance Corporal Giovanni Cruz, and Lance Corporal James May Jr. They weren't shot by a Taliban sniper in Marjah, Afghanistan; they weren't blown up by an IED in Baghdad; nor were they torn apart by an ISIS mortar in Syria. They met their end on July 4, 2010 when they drowned in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, while serving with Fleet Anti-terrorism Team (FAST), Alpha Company, 6th Platoon.

I was serving in GITMO as a deployed Army National Guard Military Police Platoon Leader the day Fagundes, Cruz, and May died. There hasn't been a Marine Corps birthday, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, or July 4th since, where I haven't thought of these three young Marines, how their lives were so suddenly and sadly snuffed out, and how the lives of their dear families, friends, and hometowns were forever affected. Despite the deaths of these three young men, these Marines, despite the fact that there were soldiers in my company who worked 17 hour days for 6-7 days straight in extreme heat and humidity, despite the fact that we were tasked with securing one of the most high visibility and strategic detention facilities in the world, and despite the fact that we were separated from our loved ones for a year, when we got home, some fellow service members had the gall to tell us, "You know you weren't on a real deployment, right?"

How hurtful, how belittling, how shameful, how flatly untrue.

I have been deployed overseas twice, to both Guantanamo and Afghanistan, and I am equally proud of both deployments - the people I served with, the missions I was on, the units whose patch I have the privilege of wearing - all of it.

During World War II, the 150th Infantry Regiment of the West Virginia Army National Guard was deployed overseas. They didn't fight at Salerno, Normandy, or Bastogne, and they didn't storm Guam, Leyte, or Okinawa. Their role was



protecting the Panama Canal. Imagine how much more drawn out, how much bloodier an Allied victory would have been without the canal and the vital link it provided between two theaters of war. Being such a linchpin, a prized jewel in the American defense enterprise, someone had to defend it from would-be saboteurs, Nazi spy rings, prowling U-boats, and even possible German and Japanese air raids, and these proud Mountaineers did just that. These West Virginians were part of the peak strength of 119,000 American service men and women defending the Canal and the Caribbean in December 1942. I wonder though, if when these soldiers came home after the war, they too received the same reception that my fellow Guardsmen and I received when we returned in 2010.

In the book of Vayikra (Leviticus), specifically 25:17, we are commanded to abide by the following decree: "Do not wrong one another." Traditional sources and commentators such as Maimonides' Mishneh Torah have said this means not harming one another through speech. Additionally, Leviticus 19:16 instructs us, "Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people." Maimonides again tells us that this means that we are not to speak ill of others. Finally, Leviticus 19:17, proclaims "thou shalt not hate thy brother in thy heart." Maimonides comments here too that this means we are not to embarrass others.

Continued on page 9



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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

National Commander Nelson L. Mellitz
National Executive Director Ken Greenberg
National Editor Larry Jasper
Managing Editor Cara Rinkoff
JWVA Pages Editor Iris Goldwasser

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 December 2nd at noon, EDT.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)	
1. Publication Title The Jewish Veteran	2. Publication Number 01047-21022
3. Filing Date 10/24/2022	4. Issue Frequency Quarterly
5. Number of Issues Published Annually 4	6. Annual Subscription Price \$10.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) Jewish War Veterans of the USA 1811 R Street NW Washington DC 20009	
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) Jewish War Veterans of the USA 1811 R Street NW Washington DC 20009	
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Larry Jasper 1811 R Street NW Washington DC 20009 Cara Rinkoff 1811 R Street NW Washington DC 20009	
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.) Jewish War Veterans of the USA 1811 R Street NW Washington DC 20009	
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)	

13. Publication Title The Jewish Veteran	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 10/24/2022
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation USA National - non-profit flat	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months 9,423
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Based on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	9,423
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Based on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	9,062
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	9,423
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	858
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	858
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	855
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	858
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	10,282
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	200
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	10,482
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	92

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)	
16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
a. Paid Electronic Copies	
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	0
d. Percent Paid (Both Paid Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 15c x 100)	
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify that 99% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price. <input type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the Jan 2022 issue of this publication.	
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Cara Rinkoff, managing editor Date 8/23/2022	

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Nelson L. Mellitz

As a democracy, the United States requires active participation of its citizens. To remain a thriving democratic organization, the Jewish War Veterans requires active and engaged members at all echelons. Since our founding in 1896 our mantra (in similar wording) has been “A Jewish Voice for Veterans, A Veteran’s Voice for Jews.” To express this voice, we need your active participation.

Your membership and active voice will continue to make JWV the leading advocate on behalf of Jewish uniformed service members and Jewish veterans. If not us, who will take up this mantra?

During my year as your national commander, we will concentrate on actively accomplishing the goals that you, as a member, have set out for us in survey results and quantitative interviews conducted during the previous 18 months.

Fighting Antisemitism

The United States and many parts of the world have experienced a tremendous increase in antisemitism. According to the Anti-Defamation League, there are more cases of direct (physical) attacks against Jewish men, women, and children than against any other religious group or individuals in the United States over a recent 12-month period. The largest increase in individual attacks (physical, social media, verbal) has been against Jewish people.

JWV has teamed with Jewish and non-Jewish organizations that are effective in fighting antisemitism. We will increase our actions to directly

combat covert and overt antisemitism wherever it raises its ugly head through press releases, articles, and direct communications with local and national leaders.

Support of Israel

JWV was one of the first organizations to recognize Israel as the Jewish Homeland. However, we as an organization have not been consistently active advocates of the State of Israel. In April 2023, JWV will restart our Allied Mission to Israel, which stopped because of COVID. This trip is a wonderful way for you and the organization to show support for Israel. Additional information about the trip is available on our website. JWV leaders and members will team with Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, StandWithUs, and others that actively advocate for Israel.

Outreach to Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)

JWV is a member and leader within The Military Coalition and our National Executive Director Ken Greenberg will continue to be a leader in this important coalition. In addition, we have expanded our outreach to the military and veterans by working with several other organizations, including: Our Community Salutes, www.ocs.org, which recognizes individuals who enlist in the military directly out of high school; Tunnels to Towers, www.t2t.org, which helps veterans and first responders who are injured while on active duty; and the Chapel of the Four Chaplains,



www.fourchaplains.org, which promotes interfaith cooperation and encourages selfless service.

It is a great honor to be your National Commander and to plan our way forward. Each member, patron, and staff member of JWV deserves praise for the exceptional volunteerism and professionalism they have continuously demonstrated to ensure that we are a vibrant and responsive service organization. But we must do more.

We need your active help to lift JWV to the next higher level in serving the military, veterans, and the Jewish community in order to fulfill our mantra, “A Jewish Voice for Veterans, A Veteran’s Voice for Jews.”

Please contact me by email with your ideas on how to make JWV a better organization or if you are interested in volunteering to be an active participant on a national committee. My email is nationalcmdr@jwv.org.

We need you to keep the Jewish War Veterans strong, growing, and a leader among Veterans Service Organizations.

McDonough Discusses State of VA at 2022 Convention

Continued from page 1

buildings,” McDonough said. “Instead, we need to build a VA health care system with the right facilities, in the right places, to provide the right care for veterans in every part of the country.”

McDonough said suicide prevention is the top clinical priority of the VA.

The Secretary also talked about the expansion of the caregiver program, saying that in October, the program of comprehensive assistance will be available to every generation of veterans.

McDonough said, “VA don’t serve some vets. We serve all vets.” He said this means that female veterans will get the care they need, that all LGBTQ+ vets will get the service and support they need, and that racial disparities within the VA system will be eliminated. “In this administration no veteran is going to have to fight to get the quality care and benefits they’ve earned—no matter who they are, where they’re from, how they worship, or who they love.”

In short, McDonough used his speech to address the importance of the Jewish War Veterans to his department and veterans in general.

“The partnership between VA and JWV is all about working together to deliver for veterans,” McDonough said.

NMAJMH Hosts Widow of Medal of Honor Recipient

Continued from page 1

er and out into intense enemy fire, Sergeant First Class Celiz made a conscious effort to ensure his body acted as a physical shield to his team carrying the casualty and the crew of the aircraft. As the casualty was loaded and Sergeant First Class Celiz’s team returned to cover, he alone remained at the aircraft... With his final reposition, Sergeant First Class Celiz placed himself directly between the cockpit and the enemy, ensuring the aircraft was able to depart. As the helicopter lifted off, Sergeant First Class Celiz was hit by enemy fire. Fully aware of his own injury but understanding the peril to the aircraft from the intense enemy machine gun fire, Sergeant First Class Celiz motioned to the aircraft



Katie Celiz

to depart rather than remain behind to load him.”
“I have no idea what thoughts crossed his mind when he decided to perform such an act of heroism. However, I do know that Chris followed his heart and his gut,” Katie Celiz said. “He took a brief moment to consider the consequences, and in true Chris fashion, decided to do whatever was most necessary to protect those he cared about.”

Katie Celiz talked about the importance of

Jewish faith to both her and Christopher.

“He was proud of our Jewish faith and found it extremely important that our daughter grow up with a strong Judaic education.”

She told members a story about how he created a menorah out of turkey for their congregation, Mickve Israel, when Hannukah fell at the same time as Thanksgiving.

Katie Celiz also talked about how his work family was just as important as she and her daughter were to Christopher.

“Chris not only wanted his work family to succeed, but he did everything in his power to provide them the tools to surpass his personal and professional goals,” Katie Celiz said. “Chris strongly believed that leadership was not simply giving orders, leadership was leading by example, and not asking something of someone that you are not willing to do yourself.”

Katie Celiz said that while she still has no answers as to why Chris took the actions he did, she noted, “I find some comfort in knowing that Chris will never be forgotten by those whose lives he’s touched.” She added her thanks to organizations like the Jewish War Veterans for making sure the memory of her husband stays alive and well.

Stay in touch with JWV!



National Executive Director Ken Greenberg

I bring greetings and updates to all JWV members, family, and friends.

JWV Leads the Way in Securing Enactment of the Honoring our PACT Act

Great news for veterans of all eras. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) officials are now accepting claims for all presumptive illnesses included in the PACT Act that was signed into law on August 10, 2022. This includes cases concerning burn pit smoke and carcinogenic chemicals that were not scheduled to go into effect for several more years.

JWV and many other Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) were proud to support this legislation due to the benefits it will bring to veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

When the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (PACT Act) was signed into law, VA officials were directed to treat all the new presumptive conditions in the bill beginning on that date.

The PACT Act addresses service members' exposure to burn pits and other toxic substances. The bill provides expanded access to health care and disability benefits for veterans harmed by certain toxic exposures, whether in Vietnam, Iraq, or Afghanistan. Provisions also let VA move more quickly in the future to determine if illnesses are related to military service, and it offers critical support to survivors who were harmed by exposures at Camp LeJeune. The bill also includes the tools and resources to ensure that VA can effectively implement it.

The VA wants eligible veterans and survivors to start applying for their benefits now. You can find all the necessary information at www.va.gov/PACT. If you need assistance, contact JWV's National Service Officer Raiana Berman at rberman@jwv.org or (202) 265-6280.

Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

JWV wants to encourage all veterans who served in eligible areas to enroll in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pits Registry. Participation in the registry allows the VA to track burn pit exposure and provide data regarding associated adverse health effects. Exposure to burn pits may be linked to respiratory conditions such as asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder.

The Richard Star Act Update (Concurrent Receipt)

JWV continues to urge Congress to enact the Major Richard Star Act (S.344/H.R.1282) and ensure it is included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2023. Currently there are 310 cosponsors in the House and 64 cosponsors in the Senate.

The Star Act would support over 50,300 combat-injured veterans with concurrent receipt of vested retired pay and VA disability. Currently,

these combat-injured (and often seriously disabled) veterans are subject to a cost-saving offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. Reducing retirement pay because of a combat disability is an injustice and is an unfair way to achieve savings.

Please call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 to reach your representatives and senators and urge them to support the Major Richard Star Act. **We need you to make this call as soon as possible because action will be taken on this before mid-October.** JWV recommends using this simple script in contacting them:

I am a JWV member and a constituent of yours. I reside in your state/district at (provide address with zip code). More than 50,300 combat-injured veterans would benefit from this legislation. Help ensure these men and women get their full service-earned retirement, as well as their disability compensation from the VA. Please support the Major Richard Star Act.

VA Extends Caregiver Benefits to 2025 for "Legacy" Participants

Another victory for JWV and veterans as VA extends caregiver benefits to "legacy" participants of the program through September 2025, under a plan announced September 15, 2022. This ensures that thousands of families will continue to receive stipends for the next three years.

VA's changes come after months of controversy surrounding the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). The program is designed to support and compensate full-time caregivers providing at-home assistance to severely wounded veterans. About 33,000 veterans are currently enrolled in the program. Nearly 20,000 of those are "legacy" participants, post-9/11 veterans who applied to the program before October 2020.

JWV commends VA on the PCAFC extension and in conducting a complete program review to address the needs of veterans of all eras and their caregivers. The extension also removes the fear that veterans and caregivers would lose their benefits at the start of 2023.

JWV, VSOs and veterans objected to program cuts, leading VA to re-examine changes to PCAFC. On June 9, VA halted thousands of pending program dismissals until a full program review could be completed. An internal review showed as many as 90% of the legacy families receiving VA caregiver benefits would have been kicked out of the program because of the earlier eligibility changes. JWV, VSOs and lawmakers harshly criticized those numbers, saying the large-scale dismissals went against the goal of helping veterans and their caregivers.

PCAFC is set to expand to veterans of all eras on October 1, 2022, by opening the program to veterans who served after May 7, 1975, and before September 11, 2001.

VA Extends Debt Relief to End of the Year



VA Secretary McDonough has approved the extension of the Department's current benefit debt suspension policy until December 31, 2022, providing temporary benefit debt suspension when a veteran requests this assistance. VA first established this relief option to help veterans through the COVID-19 pandemic. VA's expansive debt relief options, including temporary suspension, have been effective and resulted in the number of veterans seeking financial hardship relief to fall below pre-COVID-19 levels.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

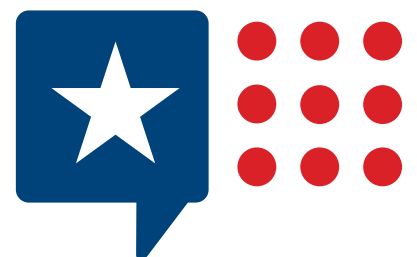
Updated booster shots are available at most VA facilities. These updated boosters protect against both the original virus strain and the Omicron variant and are available at no cost. If you are an eligible veteran or family member, you can get an updated booster if you are at least 12 years old, have completed your primary vaccine series, and it has been two months since you last primary vaccine dose or booster.

If you have not started your primary COVID-19 vaccine series yet, you can still get an original COVID-19 vaccine. These vaccines are effective at preventing severe illness from COVID-19.

Veterans are also encouraged to receive the flu vaccine. It is safe to receive your flu vaccine and a COVID-19 vaccine at the same appointment.

As I said during the convention, I look forward to hearing from you on issues of importance. I can only assist you when I am aware of your concerns. Let JWV help you with your claims, health care, or any other issue. You can send me an email at kgreenberg@jwv.org.

Veterans Crisis Line



**DIAL 988 then
PRESS 1**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GULF WAR COMMITTEE

By Chairwoman Rochel Hayman

The Gulf War Committee is back in the swing of things with an energized first virtual meeting after the summer. Our plan is to continue meeting the first Wednesday of the month starting at 8:30 p.m. EST, and we welcome all JWV members who wish to attend. Each of our meetings are well attended and include brainstorming sessions and interesting discussions on the involvement of JWV and how we can be of service.

One of our primary goals continues to be making sure we reach out and are in communication with every JWV member who was active during the Gulf War era. We believe having a Gulf War (GW) liaison in each Department (and in Posts as well) gives us the opportunity for interaction and communication with those in our age and life experience group. If you don't have a GW Liaison in your Department or Post, please email your information to JWVGWC@gmail.com. You can also apply to the closed Facebook group JWV Vet Network.

We're looking forward to more members joining us! Contact me at RochelHaymanJWV@gmail.com if you have any questions.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

By Chairman Steve Krant

The Marketing Committee was established in 2019 at National Convention in Richmond, largely to counter the idea that JWV is the best kept secret, with both strategies and programs to raise awareness and increase our credibility among Jewish veterans, fellow VSOs, and the public at-large. I'm honored to take the committee reins from Howard Goldstein... a tough act to follow!

Marketing Committee 2.0 will see a shift in our focus beyond the bubble of JWV's own membership. In addition to continuing our support of current programs, we'll explore affordable ways to increase JWV's visibility with print and electronic media coverage, as well as brand-awareness, advertising, targeted direct mail, better tools for community outreach, and, in collaboration with a revitalized IT Committee, a much-needed refresh of our website.

Despite COVID disruptions and the vagaries of Zoom, the Committee has made significant progress over the past three years thanks to Goldstein's leadership and expertise, a supportive headquarters staff, and the group's commitment to achieving our shared goals in partnership with the Membership Committee. For example:

- The new online Resource Center with a rapidly growing collection of downloadable how-to guides, best practices, marketing materials, logos, graphics, and much more. You'll need a password to access the Resource Center. You can register by clicking on it in the Membership drop-down menu on the home page of www.JWV.org.
- A deep-dive membership survey into who we are, our concerns and priorities, and what members really think of JWV. The results – some confirming, others surprising – spurred an introspective look at our organization and motivated change.
- A detailed branding guide meant to standard-

ize JWV's public-facing image across media and other platforms. It provides guidance for displaying our logo, a uniform color palette for documents, plus brochure and informational handout templates that can be customized with local echelon details and contact information.

- A professional style trade-show booth to enhance recruiting efforts at local and regional events. Guidelines for using it, set-up instructions, and the request form are all available in the Resource Center.

It's important to understand that building or rebuilding any brand takes time and resources, plus a heavy dose of patience and persistence. Fresh perspectives and constructive feedback are always welcome. You can contact the committee through Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at crinkoff@jwv.org or 202-265-6285.

POST-9/11 COMMITTEE

By Chairman Jeffrey Blonder

After a brief hiatus for the summer, the Post-9/11 Veterans Committee started its monthly meetings again on Monday, September 12. The first meeting included a discussion on the recently passed PACT Act. This legislation is a game-changer for veterans of all eras and is the most important veterans' legislation in 30 years. JWV was instrumental in assisting the passage of this act. We are also looking for suggestions for other topics members are interested in hearing about. We meet the second Monday of every month at 8:00 p.m. EST via Zoom. The meeting is open to all JWV members. For more information, please contact the committee at post911committee@jwv.org.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Larry Jasper

At the recent National Convention in Savannah, Georgia, the Resolutions Committee passed seven resolutions that will make up part of our legislative agenda for the next year.

- The AUTO for Veterans Act: JWV urges the U.S. Senate and House to pass S.444 and H.R.1361, which will allow the VA to provide or assist with providing disabled veterans a vehicle if they have not received the benefit in ten years.
- The Naturalization of Veterans Who Served Honorably: JWV is calling on the U.S. Government to stop the deportation of current and former service members and veterans and to pardon and provide a path to citizenship for deported veterans. This request is in support of H.R.1182, H.R.1183, and H.R.4382.
- Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC): JWV urges the VA to continue to revise the rules and policies associated with the benefits of the PCAFC while continuing the moratorium on reassessments and to pass the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2022 (S. 3854 and H.R.6823).
- The Richard Star Act: JWV urges the U.S. Senate and House to work together to quickly pass the Major Richard Star Act, which allows a veteran with a combat-related disability and fewer than 20 years of creditable service to receive retirement

pay, without reduction, concurrent with disability compensation.

- The CARS for Veterans Act: JWV urges the U.S. House to pass H.R.3304, which is similar to the AUTO for Veterans Act except that this bill also includes assistance with certain vehicle modifications.
- VA Electronic Health Record Modernization: JWV urges the VA to halt further deployment of the Electronic Health Record system until patient safety issues are resolved.
- The Expanding America's National Cemetery Act of 2022: JWV urges the U.S. Senate and House to introduce and pass legislation supporting the addition of another National Cemetery as Arlington is quickly running out of space.

You can learn more about these resolutions at www.JWV.org. Just click on "What We Do" and then "Legislative Priorities."

You should also contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives and ask them to support the bills listed in the resolutions.

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Robert Jacobs

At the National Convention in Savannah, we held a committee meeting for those at the hotel as well as several who were online.

National Vice Commander Nelson Mellitz gave us an update on current news from the Department of Veterans Affairs, including recent legislation on toxic exposures.

Our Vietnam Veterans Night Out at the Pirate's House was a very successful event with 61 attendees. Our guest from the local VVA chapter, Retired Navy Lieutenant Commander O.C. Fowler told us about local veteran activities. He also talked about the Gold Star Family program. He is a member of that program because his father died in the Korean War. The food was great, and the comradeship was even better. Next year in Jacksonville, our Night Out will be at the Chapter House. The committee will be able to keep prices down thanks to profits from this year's dinner.

March 29, 2023, will mark 50 years since the end of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. I have unofficial word that the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is planning a massing of chapter flags at The Wall in Washington on that date. Our national government, through www.vietnamwar50th.com will hold numerous events on the National Mall May 11-13. At our committee meeting we discussed ideas for how to commemorate this event during NEC in Washington D.C. Those ideas were turned over to leadership.

Finally, Jerry Alperstein and I met with Rochel Hayman, who is leading the Women in the Military Committee's work on a new museum exhibit. We told her about our experiences developing the new Vietnam exhibit and hope this helps her efforts in the year ahead.

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE

By Chairwoman Sheila Berg

The Women in the Military Committee held a meeting during the 127th National Convention in

Continued on page 10

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

After several years of serving as Vice Chair, I am now your new Membership Chairman. Working with Barry Lischinsky has been a great experience. I plan to carry on his vision for the function of the Membership Committee. To that end, I have the honor to announce Department of New Jersey Commander Selina Kanowitz as the new Vice Chair of the Membership Committee. She has been a member of the committee for some time and has been actively involved in its operation.

Moving forward I will soon be sending out invitations to members who I'd like to join the committee. This includes all Department and lone Post Junior Vice Commanders. We will be having regularly scheduled Zoom meetings on membership topics.

We are planning another membership contest for Spring, so look for future information.

On another note, Veterans Day is fast approaching. It's time for you to consider sponsoring a Veterans Day Kiddush at your local community Shuls, Congregations, Temples, Chabad, etc. This is the ideal time to interact with your local Jewish community and your local Jewish media. Remind your congregations that Jewish veterans live among them. Most of all, we are looking for Jewish veterans to fill our ranks. We need them to

stand and serve with us.

First, plan to honor the name and memory of your Post Members who have passed away during the past year. Invite their family members to participate in this special Veterans Day event. Let them witness first-hand that our deceased JWV members are not forgotten. As cited in our mission statement of 1896, we seek "To preserve the memories and records of patriotic service performed by the men and women of our faith." Their names should not be forgotten.

Second, to have a successful Day of Remembrance, you must publicize the event well in advance. Start publishing the location, date, and time of the event in your JWV newsletters, your place of worship, and your local community media outlets.

Third, before you read the names of our departed, the local JWV Echelon Commander should remind the congregation that members of our faith have served honorably with dedication and duty in every U.S. war since the establishment of our nation. Our service even predates the Revolutionary War. As far back as 1654, Asser Levy is first mentioned in public records in New Amsterdam (later known as New York). Levy fought for Jewish rights in the Dutch colony and is famous for win-



Kim Queen
Membership Chairman

ning the right for Jews to serve on guard duty for the colony.

Fourth, after the names are read, have a Rabbi or Lay Leader recite the Mourner's Kaddish.

Fifth, the Senior Echelon Commander should ask that all the veterans in the room remain standing. Thank them for their service. Let them know we need them to stand within our ranks.

Finally, thank the family members for attending and for the sacrifices that they made throughout the years in support of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America.

The Jewish War Veterans Indispensable Role: Amended National Constitution and Bylaws

By National Commander

Nelson L. Mellitz, Colonel, USAF, Ret.

In February 2022, National Commander Alan Paley called for an update to JWV's Constitution and Bylaws, including the numerous amendments proposed in 2020 and 2021. Paley directed Scott Stevens and I to update the documents with the help of committee members PNC David Magidson, PNC Harvey Weiner, PNC Larry Schulman, National Judge Advocate Peter Nickitas, Barry Lischinsky, Larry Jasper, and Kim Queen.

The committee quickly determined that incorporating the amendments into the documents would produce 20th century documents with 21st century amendments. The committee's mission was revised to completely rewrite both documents. After months of virtual meetings, the amended JWV Constitution and Bylaws were finalized. They are not perfect but incorporate most of the proposed amendments and are easy to read, follow, and use. The new Constitution and Bylaws with amendments will govern us for the next 25 years and beyond.

The committee took great care in eliminating any sexist terminology like chairman and serviceman. We could not change the Preamble because its part of our Congressionally approved charter. We did add a National Advisory Council which will make our organization more democratic in its decision making when the NEC is not in session.

Our new Constitution and Bylaws were approved during our National Convention in August and are now posted on the JWV website. These documents allow for amendments so that they will reflect the JWV membership's continuously changing needs.

Update from the JWV VSOs

By Raiana Berman, National Service Officer

October is National Organize Your Medical Information Month. Keeping all your medical information de-cluttered and safe is important whether you have a complicated medical history or not. Health care visits, medications, and insurance claims can sometimes seem overwhelming if you don't have a system to keep track of them, particularly if you are juggling numerous medical appointments, medications, and insurance claims for yourself, or if you oversee another family member's medical information.

Start by asking your caregivers and physicians for access to your medical files. Once you receive those files, make hard copies, and organize them in a binder by creating a table of contents, a doctor directory, and list of your medications, if you take any. Take advantage of technology. You can scan your medical records into your computer, check for online health records, and store your health records online. As we move into the colder season, this is an excellent time to start organizing your

documents on a rainy or snowy day. Be sure to let at least one other person know where they can find your organized binder of records. Having your records safe and categorized means your doctors can examine them as quickly and efficiently as possible. Basically, having a system for your medical information is good for the future of your health.

By developing a system that works for you, you'll be in a better position to find the information you need when you need it — especially important in emergency situations, when you move, or when you change doctors — rather than sorting through piles of paperwork that you've tossed in a box or file folder. Good health care is at the top of most seniors' lists of important lifestyles considerations and having an organized system that puts all your medical records at your fingertips can reduce your stress and ensure that you can easily provide up-to-date information to your health care providers and monitor paperwork from your insurance companies.

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 JWV Online Store at www.jwv.org or contact
Pat Ennis at 703-753-3733 or by email: pat@asb-va.com**

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Ken Hartman

By Larry Jasper, National Editor
Meet Dr. Ken Hartman, a man of many talents, from humble beginnings.

Hartman is the son of a Holocaust survivor. His father, Paul, was liberated by a soldier, and he fostered a lifelong respect for the military. He came to America as a refugee.



Hartman’s parents taught him that the privilege and freedom in America were so unique and precious, he should never take them for granted. This inspired him to join ROTC in college and to serve as an Army officer.

Hartman graduated and served mostly in armor and military police units from 1980 until 1989, fulfilling his desire to do something for his country.

After his service, he went on to earn a master’s degree and a Ph.D. He served several decades as a university professor, senior academic administrator, consultant, and university president.

Hartman wrote numerous books and scholarly publications and is an active presenter at industry conferences. He was also the author of a nationally syndicated newspaper column and was a technology reporter for an NBC affiliate in Philadelphia.

In 2009 he found his real passion. It always troubled Hartman that when high school graduates went off to college there was a lot of fanfare, but graduates who went into the military were largely ignored. He founded Our Community Salutes (OCS), a non-profit organization with the motto, “The First to Say Thank You.”

OCS is dedicated to honoring graduating high school seniors and their parents who made the commitment to serve their country. OCS had a humble beginning in Vorhees, New Jersey, where a facility was rented, and recruiters brought their inductees for a dinner and salute to them and their families.

Today, OCS ceremonies are held throughout

the country (including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Over 250,000 high school seniors have been honored since 2009, with each receiving the 96-page OCS pocket-guide to the nation’s founding documents, as well as an OCS challenge coin.



Hartman has been a member of JWV Post 126 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey for six years. In 2020, the Department of New Jersey awarded OCS its Organization of the Year Award.

If you are interested in learning how to support OCS, contact Dr. Hartman at ken@ocsusa.org.

Hartman lives in Cherry Hill, New Jersey with his wife Marti and has two adult children.

What Can You Do About Anti-Semitism?

By David Levin, Post 425
It’s no secret that antisemitic and anti-Zionist activity has been on the rise in this country over the last few years. I use the term activity to include things happening online, demonstrations, rhetoric, real-world violence, student intimidation, as well as political posturing. Antisemitic incidents in the U.S. increased by 34% between 2020 and 2021 according to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). These incidents are now at their highest level since the ADL started compiling information about antisemitism in 1979.

This is not 1933 Germany. No group is going around pulling you from your home because you are a Jew, look like a Jew, or consort with Jews. But people have been murdered because of Jew ha-

tred, most notably at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh in October 2018. Antisemitism has been around in various forms for various reasons for thousands of years, and it will likely never be eliminated completely. This essay is written solely to get us thinking, and hopefully acting to make a dent in the problem.

I can’t begin to enumerate the pro-Jewish/Israel organizations who send me snail mail or email in the fight against antisemitism. They are working hard to educate and influence people through podcasts, conferences, literature, and lobbying elected officials. One wonders if they can reach the minds of the troublemakers or those most likely to cause trouble in the future. What can we do besides speak to like-minded people, stay informed, and support

some of these wonderful entities financially?
We realize that no racial or ethnic group is homogeneous in their moral, cultural, intellectual, or physical attributes. But the hard-core antisemite lumps all Jews together, usually based on some perceived negative encounter or characteristic. One approach is to support educating gentiles, and sometimes ourselves, by emphasizing Jewish contributions to mankind as well as the Torah values that Judaism represents. The way in which these values have a commonality with other religions and cultures could be a foundation of this educational program.

The Holocaust Museum and Center for Tolerance and Education located at Rockland

Continued on page 22

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Leigh Musicof - Post 77
Alan Czako - Post 100
Serge M. Starkman - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

John M. Ohlsson - Post 64

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Elliott Rubinstein - Post 603

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Martin S. Goodman - Post 352
Joseph Lehman - Post 373
Stuart C. Berman - Post 400
Lea W. Rosenberg - Post 400
Barry S. Levey - Post 440
Richard M. Arnold - Post 549

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Allan R. Budweg - Post 29
Henry A. Gould - Post 29
Melvin J. Simon - Post 29

DEPT OF MIDWEST

Robert E. Bellefy - Post 605
Amir Minoofar - Post 605

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

John P. Sullivan - Post 167

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Paul J. Chute - Post 135

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Alan B. Fogel - Post 39
Alan M. Hoffman - Post 444
Roe A. Kidron - Post 444

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Alvin A. Golub - Post 1
Alan J. Gutman - Post 36
Robert L. Katzman - Post 36
William N. Leakakos, Jr. - Post 36
Boaz B. Marmon - Post 36
Ari Fisher - Post 105
Fredric J. Bloomstein - Post 106
Gray M. Klein - Post 336
Loretta Weiss - Post 336
Maurice I. Kessler - Post 652
Noel Podell - Post 652
Steven J. Ratnoff - Post 652

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

David M. Feinstein - Post 305
Perry Stein - Post 706

DEPT OF SOUTHEAST-GA,AL,SC,TN

Lloyd S. Goodman - Post 320

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Burton J. Levine - Post 574
Ira D. Miller - Post 753
Braydon Grant Welch - Post 755

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA-NC

Ira R. Lederman - Post 158
Elizabeth L. Robbins - Post 299

One Million Veterans to Change the Future of Healthcare

By Sumitra Muralidhar, Director of the Million Veteran Program, VA Office of Research and Development

Nearly 15 years ago, a small group of doctors and scientists from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) huddled around a conference room table in Rockville, Maryland. I was among these scientists, and what we created was groundbreaking.



Dr. Sumitra Muralidhar

A few years earlier, the human genome was decoded for the first time in history, which meant long-sought answers about our health were finally within reach—answers like why some people are more at risk for certain cancers, or why others are vulnerable to major depression or post-traumatic stress disorder, and why medications work for some people, but not others.

On that spring day in Rockville, we were determined to harness this new, evolving knowledge to give veterans more accurate predictions of their health as well as better diagnoses and treatments. We dreamed of individualized healthcare based on people's genes, military exposures, and medical history.

How big should this project be?

Over the next two days, our team tossed around ideas that at first seemed impossible.

At the time, genetic studies typically had between 100 and 2,000 participants. This seems large, but not large enough to reach findings for whole populations of people. To make significant contributions to science and medicine, as we hoped to do, we needed to go big. But how big? 100,000 veterans? More?

Over dinner that night, Dr. Mike Gaziano, Harvard Professor and physician from the VA Boston Healthcare System, wrote four words on a napkin: "The Million Veteran Program (MVP)."

The name stuck.

With this, our goal was set—1,000,000 veterans—a goal more ambitious than any research program ever dreamed of before.

The impossible becomes a reality because of Veterans

If one million veterans would agree to share their DNA and health information, we could eventually understand nearly any kind of health condition affecting any veteran. We could advance medicine in a way never done before—and ultimately, improve care for the men and women who served our country.

The VA was ideally suited to build such a program.

We have one of the best electronic health records systems in the world, a national research program within a healthcare system, world-class doctors and researchers, and, most of all, altruistic veterans willing to participate in research that helps other veterans.

Leaving no stone unturned



Veteran Greg Amira was the 900,000th veteran to join MVP in August 2022

We all returned to our day jobs and began working on the complex task of designing and building MVP.

We shared our vision with members of Congress, VA program offices, universities, and Veterans Service Organizations.

We created an external advisory committee, made up of the nation's leading geneticists and researchers, to help guide our work.

Then in 2011, we enrolled our first veteran. Every year since, we hit new milestones that leave us humbled and amazed—100,000 veterans, 250,000 veterans, 500,000 veterans.

Just last month, the 900,000th veteran enrolled in MVP. Greg Amira is a wounded combat veteran and survivor of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. When asked why he was inspired to join our program, Amira said, "anything to help my fellow veterans."

Our discoveries are already making a difference

Thanks to Amira and now more than 900,000 veterans in MVP, we understand certain health conditions better than we ever have before. This is just the beginning of what our research has to offer.

Already, data from veterans in MVP have supported the largest genetic studies to date on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), major depression, heart disease, and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, one of the most common forms of chronic liver disease in the United States.

Other areas we're researching include tinnitus, cancer, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, Gulf War Illness, and suicide prevention.

What's next for MVP

For me, the most humbling part has been meeting veterans like Amira and hearing their stories. Veterans of all ages, backgrounds, and creeds share with me the same message—they consider joining MVP as a second opportunity to serve their country and help their fellow servicemembers. I take this personally and pledge to every veteran my full commitment to make your service in MVP count.

My hope is that over the next ten years, doctors will have information not only about veterans' health and health history, but also their genetic profiles, lifestyle, and military exposures. Providers will be able to tell patients what illnesses they are at risk for, and what drugs work best for them.

The veteran standard of care will be revolutionary—tailored and custom fit for every patient. It will be the very best care in the world.

That is my dream.

Join VA's Million Veteran Program today.

Fifteen minutes and a blood draw are all it takes. Call 866-441-6075 to make an appointment or visit www.mvp.va.gov to sign up online. You do not need to be enrolled in VA health care to sign up.

MAZON: Fighting for Food Security for Veterans Who Fought for All of Us

By Abby J. Leibman, MAZON President & CEO

From the time of the American Revolution, Jews served with honor in the Armed Forces in defense of this country, its people, and the very idea of the United States. For nearly as long, our country has failed to repay its debt, allowing veterans of all faiths and backgrounds to fall through the cracks of our social safety net and slip into food insecurity.

Today, an estimated 1.3 million veterans rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to access adequate, healthy meals. That doesn't include countless others who are eligible for the program but do not enroll, whether because of the burdensome enrollment process or the stigmas that exist around seeking help.

Among younger veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, more than a quarter struggle to put food on the table - double the national rate.

More than one in four female veterans struggle with hunger, and two in three student veterans report being food insecure. These rates are staggeringly high, well above the civilian population—and yet these veterans are frequently overlooked by the general public, and by the elected officials who are tasked with ensuring our service members are not left behind.

The problem only got worse during the pandemic. Food insecurity grew among military and veteran populations over the past two years, contributing to an increase in diet-related chronic disease, lost productivity, and even spikes in suicide rates.

The reality facing veterans and their families is what led MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, to begin its work with the veteran community. For nearly four decades, MAZON has fought for leg-

islative, policy-based solutions to food insecurity, recognizing that in a nation as plentiful as ours, allowing anyone, especially those who served in the Armed Forces, to starve, is simply unconscionable.

At MAZON, we understand that veterans face unique circumstances that contribute to their food insecurity and that those unique circumstances demand unique and meaningful responses. As a national leader in the anti-hunger field, MAZON has testified before Congress on the need for programmatic and policy solutions that address the hunger crisis among veterans. We partnered with the PsychArmor Institute to develop an online course designed to engage veteran service providers about food insecurity and illuminate solutions to this problem. MAZON has conducted numerous webinars with the Department of Veterans Affairs

Continued on page 22

JWV has celebrated its 126th anniversary. Will we be able to celebrate another 126 years? How about 50 years? How about 20 years?

Why, you ask? Because we are in trouble.

We are continually losing members. Some due to their passing and some due to a lack of interest. We are recruiting new members but not enough. Our losses have slowed, but they still outpace our gains.

National Vice Commander Barry Lischinsky, our former Membership Chairman, has repeatedly warned that we are bleeding. He and his committee have done a tremendous job at stemming the losses and helping to gain members.

But what are you doing?

We recently completed a membership contest. There were three winners for bringing in the most new members. The winners were from the Departments of Florida and TALO. Why didn't you win? Will you win the next contest? Are you actively recruiting new members? Are you being friendly to prospective members? Are your meetings at times when younger members can attend? Do your meetings take place during breakfast or lunch on a weekday and followed by war stories?

Every one of us needs to be a membership person. National cannot go into every community and recruit for your post.

Are you actively going to synagogues and recruiting? Have you been asking veterans (and non-veterans) to join us? Have you told them why they should join?

Maybe it is time for a new approach. Instead of asking, try telling them. Tell them that for 126 years we have been "A Jewish Voice for Veterans, a Veteran's Voice for Jews." Tell them we are losing members as they age, and we need them to join so we can continue to be that voice for the next 126 years. Tell them about the great things JWV has done and continues to do. Let them know that without their support we may not be able to be that voice in the future.

Do not forget the active-duty personnel. If there is a military installation near your post, there are probably Jewish personnel stationed there.

Finally, if you are doing something well, tell others about it. This is one of the reasons why we have a resource center. If you are not familiar with it, check it out at www.jwv.org. The resource cen-

ter is a repository for ideas that can help you and your post, department, or council. You can have your successful efforts listed for others to follow.

Do you have professional sports teams in your area? Are you providing a Color Guard for the games? This is another great way to get recognition in your community.

We may be in trouble, but that does not mean we are done. Send a letter to The Jewish Veteran if you have any great suggestions or if you disagree with this assessment.

Together we will ensure a long future for JWV!



Larry Jasper, National Editor

D'verei HaShomrim

Continued from page 2

We as veterans have a solemn duty and a moral responsibility to uplift all our fellow veterans and service men and women, regardless of branch, service component, length of service, rank, MOS, or rating, and to honor them for their service, sacrifice, and commitment. Anything less would be *hillul HaShem* (a desecration of G-d's holy name). Likewise, no one should ever feel the need to hide or be ashamed of their service because it wasn't well-known or didn't have a movie or film made about it. Why? Because the defense of our great nation takes all of us. Protecting our country is a team effort and each of us is an essential member of that team.

Perhaps there is no more fitting conclusion than this. At the memorial service for Fagundes, Cruz, and May, Major Winston Tierny, commander of the Marine Security Force Company Guantanamo Bay said, "Our hearts were broken this past Sunday by a horrible tragedy as we lost three young American fighting men. While not lost in combat, they were lost in the defense of our nation." These words should serve as a poignant reminder to us all in honoring the service of our fellow veterans.

Bizrat HaShem we may always remember to celebrate and venerate all veterans and service men and women, no matter the time or place where they served!

Rabbi Aaron Stucker-Rozovsky has been in the Army National Guard and Army Reserve for over 16 years as both a Military Police Officer and Chaplain. He was deployed to Guantanamo Bay and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He currently serves as the Deputy Command Chaplain for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and holds the rank of Major. In his civilian career, he is the Rabbi of Beth El Congregation in Winchester, Virginia. He and his wife Eliza have three cats.

The Military Coalition, and JWV's Important Role in It

By CW4 (Ret) Jack Du Teil, President, The Military Coalition
On August 10, 2022, I had the honor and pleasure of addressing the Jewish War Veterans at its National Convention for the second time (the first was in 2019, in Richmond, VA). This time, I was invited by my close friend and colleague, JWV National Executive Director Ken Greenberg.

Ken wanted me to brief JWV members on what The Military Coalition (TMC) is, a little about its history, current legislative priorities, and the key role JWV professionals have played (and still do) in its vital mission, over the years.

By its own definition, TMC is "a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million currently serving, retired, and former service members and their families and survivors."

It is non-partisan, and broadly its members are categorized as military service organizations (MSOs) and veterans service organizations (VSOs), depending on their areas of primary focus. On areas of mutual interest, TMC provides MSOs and VSOs with a larger, collective voice.

As sagely noted by past TMC Vice President Mike Hayden in his 2016 farewell article, "At times, not all the associations agree on a position, but that is one of the key strengths of the coalition. Being able to come together and discuss the pros and cons of military compensation and benefits proposals delivers a greater understanding of the implications at hand."

In 1985, several MSOs and VSOs met to develop a strategy to fight a serious threat to military cost of living adjustments (COLAs) in the Gramm-Rudman Sequestration Act. These professionals won that battle, recognized the power they had in speaking with one voice, and the TMC was born.

In late 2013 and early 2014, TMC reversed another attack on military retiree COLAs that would

have cost the average service member more than \$100,000 of earned retirement income over a lifetime. Over several years, we also blocked cuts to service member pay and substantial increases in the cost of healthcare benefits.

TMC successfully championed the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, responding to the Phoenix VA crisis that year (further strengthening it in 2018-2021). Likewise, we fought for the 2015 Veterans Omnibus Bill, which established one-year advanced funding of the VA, insulating veteran's programs from future government shutdowns.

These are just a few of the victories we have achieved in bipartisan partnership with lawmakers on Capitol Hill. In recent years, we even achieved seemingly impossible goals, such as an end to the Widow's Tax on survivor benefits, and passage of the National Guard and Reserve Incentive Pay Parity Act of 2021 (in the National Defense Authorization Act [NDAA] of 2022).

In my August speech to the members of JWV, I also highlighted our current efforts to protect inflation-sensitive pay, housing, and healthcare benefits for servicemembers and veterans alike. Simultaneously, we continue to seek legislation to finally achieve deserved, full concurrent receipt of retirement and disability benefits, and implementation of appropriate sexual harassment and assault protections.

TMC relies on member organization representatives to voluntarily take on leadership responsibilities, and JWV has never shied away from this uncompensated responsibility.

In fact, in September of 2018, I remember sending then JWV Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth an email. A primary mentor of mine, he was finishing his tenth year as President of

Continued on page 16

JWV Annual
Event

National Executive Committee

January 17-19, 2023

Washington, D.C.



Hotel reservations for JWV and JWVA MUST be made through JWV.

This year's NEC meeting will be held at the

Hilton Garden Inn

2201 M Street NW, Washington DC, 20037

Room cost is \$159.00 (breakfast included).

Transportation on Thursday, January 19 between the hotel
and JWV Headquarters will be provided.

NEC 2023 will be hybrid this year

This form is for **in-person** attendees **ONLY**.

If you wish to participate virtually
(JWV only), you **MUST** sign up online at
www.jwv.org.

*Mail-in forms will not be accepted for
virtual participants.*

**Capitol Hill
Action Days are
Tuesday and
Wednesday**

**Committees will
start meeting
on Wednesday
afternoon**

**NEC Meeting is
Thursday morning.**

**NMAJMH
Board
of Directors
Meeting is
early Thursday
afternoon.**

**Last date to
Register is
December 20**

JWV Member Name: _____ **Post #:** _____

JWVA Member Name: _____ **Auxiliary #:** _____

Address: _____ **Dept.:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zipcode:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Room will be shared with: _____

Arriving on: _____ / _____ **Departing on:** _____ / _____ **Total nights:** _____

	Cost	QTY.	Amount
Rooms - Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> King bed <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds	\$159.00 per night		
<input type="checkbox"/> I need ADA room.			
ADA rooms are assigned on a first come, first served basis			
Total:			
One night's stay must be paid when registering.			
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. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Exp. <input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>			
Signature _____			

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

Attn: NEC
Jewish War Veterans
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009



Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Continued from page 5

Savannah, Georgia. The goal of the meeting was to start building our coalition and preserving the history of women in service.

Carol Berman of Post 580 in Louisiana is now our committee's Vice Chairwoman. She will also serve as our Research Officer, and make sure JWV leadership and other veterans are aware of our concerns. Donna Lehman of Post 220 in Massachusetts will serve as our Adjutant. New Jersey Department Commander Selina Kanowitz is our committee's new Quartermaster. Jennifer Brande of Post 243 in Florida will serve as both our Legislative and Communications Officer.

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History's (NMAJMH) President, Michael Berman, has asked Rochel Hayman of Post 210 in Arizona to lead the effort to create the museum's new exhibit on Women in the Military. Her vision for the exhibit would use print, images, and digital media, to incorporate the history of Jewish women's military service into the NMAJMH. The exhibit is one of our committee's primary objectives, and we will do everything possible to represent the proud service of Jewish women throughout our country's history. The exhibit committee will need your help developing this project. Please contact them at herstory@nmajmh.org. They are happy to receive information and content to assist in our

journey to understanding the sacrifices of Jewish women throughout the centuries.

Your JWV Women in the Military Committee is currently recruiting for other committee positions and developing our leadership. We are extremely interested in gathering ideas and momentum to support JWV's enthusiasm. Above are the names of women who have raised their hands for their country and JWV, but we are looking for more. Whether you are a woman or not, we still want you to help us shine. Please feel free to contact me at hermission@jwv.org or 610-360-1267, for more information. In JWV, her mission continues - through YOU!

Congratulations to All JVV National Award Winners!

Murray L. Rosen Award

PNC Robert Pickard of Florida and Erwin Burtneck of Maryland

Feuereisen - I.T. Rockman Award

Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256 – TALO

Ben Kaufman Award

Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256 – TALO

Wolfson Award

Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256 – TALO

National Commander's Award

Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein-Florence Greenwald Post 1 – NY

Post 9/11 Veteran Support Award

Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein-Florence Greenwald Post 1 – NY

Recruiter of the Year Award

Martin Hochster Memorial Post 755 – TALO

Brenner-Jaffee Memorial Awards

Best Monthly Publication

Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256 – TALO

Outstanding Email Newsletter Award

Martin Hochster Memorial Post 755 – TALO

Post Growth Award:

Small Post

Free Sons of Israel Post 221 – NY

Medium Post

West Suburban Post 54 – IL

Large Post

Albert S. Aronovitz Post 373 – FL

Bountiful Post

Maryland Free State Post 167 – MD

Museum Awards:

Post with highest number of museum members

Milton L. Finel Post 389 – NY

Post with highest percent of museum members

Bernard & Sanford Wilkof Post 73 – OH

Department with greatest # of members

Dept. of New York

Department with highest percent of museum members

Dept. of New York

National Achievement Awards

Robert M. Zweiman

Memorial Award - \$5,000

Hannah Harding

Sidney Lippie Memorial Grant

- \$5,000

Shannon Dornhecker

Charles Kosmutza

Memorial Grant - \$2,500

Peter Hauger

Charles Kosmutza

Memorial Grant - \$1,000

Kyle Bond

Max R. & Irene Rubenstein

Memorial Grant - \$1,500

Lauren Swiderski

Leon Brooks Memorial Grant - \$1,000

Adrian Weiss

Youth Achievement Awards

Clifford Lee Kristal Education Grant

- \$1,250

Moie Brenner

Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant

- \$1,000

Timothy Mellman

Edith, Louis, and Max S. Millen

Memorial Athletic Grant - \$1,000

Lev BenAvram



Florida Department Commander Larry Jasper accepts the Post Growth Award for a Large Post on behalf of Albert S. Aronovitz Post 373 of the Department of Florida. From left: NC Alan Paley, Georgi Jasper, Jasper, Barry Lischinsky. Photo by Lou Michaels.



Phil Kabakoff accepts the award for Outstanding Email Newsletter on behalf of Martin Hochster Memorial Post 755 of the Department of TALO from NC Alan Paley. Photo by Lou Michaels.



Illinois Department Commander Bruce Mayor and PNC Jeff Sacks accept the Post Growth Award for a Medium Post on behalf of West Suburban Post 54. From left: NC Alan Paley, Mayor, Sacks, and Barry Lischinsky. Photo by Lou Michaels.



Art Kaplan (right) accepts several awards on behalf of Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256 of the Department of TALO from NC Alan Paley. Photo by Lou Michaels.



PNC Barry Schneider (right) accepts the award for Recruiter of the Year on behalf of Martin Hochster Memorial Post 755 of the Department of TALO from NC Alan Paley. Photo by Lou Michaels.



Jerry Alperstein (right) accepts several awards on behalf of Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein-Florence Greenwald Post 1 of the Department of New York from NC Alan Paley. Photo by Lou Michaels.

JWV 127th Annual National Convention



NC Alan Paley modeling the Stetson cowboy hat he received as a gift from the Department of TALO. Photo by Lou Michaels.



Four alumni from Boston English High School reunited at convention. From left: Sidney Davis of Post 211, Barry Lischinsky of Post 220, Harvey Charter of Post 400, and Steve Lodgen of Post 485. Photo by Lou Michaels.



The popular Double Chai Breakfast hosted by the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary. Photo by Phil Kabakoff.



JWV and JWVA leadership met with VA Secretary Denis McDonough before his speech to the convention. From left: NMAJMH President PNC Michael Berman, Sec. McDonough, NC Alan Paley, NP Sandra Cantor, National Historian Lou Michaels, NED Ken Greenberg, NVC Nelson Mellitz, PNC Norman Rosenshein, and JWVA Convention Chair Elaine Bernstein.



National Executive Director Ken Greenberg and Former Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Tom Bowman. Photo by Lou Michaels



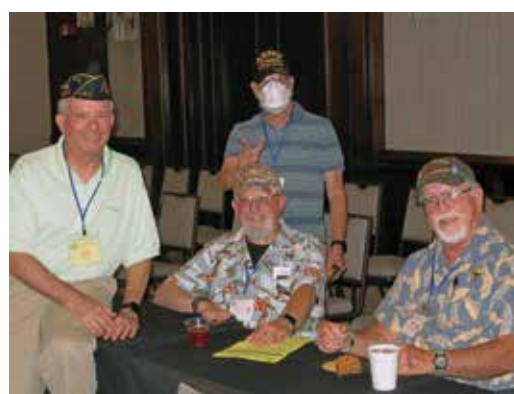
NMAJMH President PNC Michael Berman and JWVA Convention Chair PNP Elaine Bernstein. Photo by Lou Michaels.



Department of TALO members at the banquet. Back row from left: Carol Berman, Bonny Stevens, Scott Stevens, Ron Sivernell, PNC Barry Schneider, Allan Cantor, and Phil Kabakoff. Front row from left: Art Kaplan, Roz Kaplan, Charwynne Schneider, and NP Sandra Cantor.



JWV Members attending Minyan on Thursday, August 11. Back row from left: Peter Nickitas, Sidney Davis, NC Alan Paley, Larry Jasper, Kim Queen, PNC Jeffrey Sacks, Gary Ginsburg, Chaplain Dovid Grossman. Front row from left: Barry Lischinsky, Howard Kanowitz, David Zwerin, Chuck Greenberg, Alan Lehman, Jerry Blum, Sidney Goldberg, and Lou Michaels.



Frank Katz from the Department of the Southeast, PNC Jeffrey Sacks and Howard Goldstein from the Department of Illinois, and Wisconsin Department Commander Kim Queen. Photo by Lou Michaels



Members of the Women in the Military Committee from left: Carol Berman, Georgi Jasper, Selina Kanowitz, Donna Lehman, and Rochel Hayman. Photo by Lou Michaels.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Members of the **Department of Illinois** set up the JWV booth at the Jewish Festival in Morton Grove, Illinois on June 12. From left: IL Department Commander Bruce Mayor, NC Alan Paley, Bruce Chudacoff, PNC Jeffrey Sacks, Howard Goldstein, Jerry Field, and WI Department Commander Kim Queen.



JWV Life Member Rabbi Joel Newman of **Carlsbad, California's North County Post 385** marched along with Jeanne Whitney in Vail, Colorado's Fourth of July Parade.



Houston-Levy Post 574 teamed up with a Hebrew Order of David Lodge to donate 250 sets of shirts and shorts to the VA Hospital in Houston, Texas on July 13. From left: Frank Shaw, Dori Wind, Jack Schlossberg, Burt Levine, Mark Katzenellenbogen, and Zack Katzenellenbogen.



Post 1 in Manhattan held an event at the Town and Village Synagogue in New York City on July 17, to honor Past National Commander Edwin Goldwasser. He received the Colonel Larry Epstein award for his 50 years of support to the Jewish cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. From left: Jerry Alperstein, Goldwasser, and West Point's Jewish Chaplain David Frommer.



Saul Rasnick (left) and his son Scott returned home after an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. on June 19. Rasnick is a member of **Post 41 in Rochester, New York**.



Past National Commander Michael Berman installs several new officers of **Monmouth-Ocean Post 178 in Lakewood, New Jersey** during a ceremony on June 12. From left: Post Adjutant Al Adler, Junior Vice Commander Dorit Attias, and Judge Advocate Robert Jacobs.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Members of **Maurice Kubby Post 749** in **El Paso, Texas** along with individuals from local synagogues placed flags on the gravesites of more than 300 Jewish veterans for Memorial Day.



On June 1, ten members of **Post 740** in **Livingston, New Jersey** received that state's Meritorious Service Medal for service in support of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, as well as the Global War on Terror. From left: Crescenzo Leopore, James Beyer, Alan Wofsheki, Joel Lebowitz, MG Edward Chrystal, Norman Gudema, Hyman Fisher, Joe Paperman, Frederick Friedman, Peter Berkowsky, and Peter Brady.



On July 22, members of **Allan H. Katz Post 118** in **Santa Monica, California** donated school supplies to a drive for low-income elementary school students held by local Assembly member Richard Bloom. From left: JWV members Mat Millen and Joe Halper with Assembly Staffers Josh Kurpies and Sebastian Lozano.



Past Commander of the **Department of Michigan** Larry Berry presents an award to the Department's new Commander, Mark Weiss, on July 21.

Post 41 in **Rochester, New York** received a proclamation from New York State Assemblywoman Jennifer Lunsford in honor of its 90th anniversary. Lunsford presented the proclamation to Gary Ginsburg and Louis Babin on August 31.



Post 609 in **Monroe Township, New Jersey** will donate nearly 200 DVDs to the Veterans Home in Menlo Park. From left: Carol Adler, Al Adler, Larry Rosenthal, Selina Kanowitz, Chuck Greenberg, Jack Kirschenbaum, Bernard Passer, and William Roth.



Members of **Mo-Kan Post 605** of **Lenexa, Kansas** attended a Kansas City Monarchs game on August 15. From left: Simon Wacjman, Howard Eichenwald, Keith Silvers, Scott Bronston, Howard Noah, and Bill Greenberg.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Members of **Drizin-Weiss Post 215** of **Philadelphia** traveled to Delaware to help two synagogues in Wilmington put flags on the graves of veterans for Memorial Day. From left in the front row: President/CEO of the Jewish Federation of Delaware Seth Katzen, Philippa Miller and her daughter, Adam Fox, and Haley Eng and her daughter. The back row are all members of Congregation Beth Shalom.



Members of **Manhattan Post 1** celebrated the 100th birthday of Hannah Deutch with a luncheon on July 13. From left in the front row: Diana Glass, Jerry Alperstein, and Edward Hochman. Back row: Murray Newman, Hannah Deutch, Morton Weinstein, and Harold Schaeffer.



Members of **Post 400** in **Fort Myers, Florida** attended the funeral of one of its members, Holocaust survivor Paul Tenenbaum, on June 9. Tenenbaum served in the Korean War.



Members of the **Department of Michigan** donated \$6,000 to the Fisher House in Ann Arbor, Michigan on August 8. From left: Art Fishman, Fisher House Executive Director Kate Melcher, Memorial Home Association President Marc Manson, Mark Weiss, and Bill Glogower.

On August 21, PNC Alan Paley presented certificates and checks to four members of Scout Troup 36 who attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Each Scout received a certificate from JWV National, a \$50 check from the Department of Florida, and a \$50 check from **West Broward Post 606**. From left: Harrison Medow and Paley.



Loretta Z. Weiss, Patriot Extraordinaire

By Eric Spinner, Post 652

Many women have served in our military over the years, and all have gone well beyond the normal expectations that society, in general, has set for them. Periodically one meets a person who has defied the odds, served her country, and made a mark in the historical record. This is a story of one of these remarkable veterans.

At 103-years-old, Loretta Weiss is still spirited and pushing the limit as much as possible. On Thursday, June 2, several of us had the opportunity to visit her at the Long Island State Veterans Home (LISVH) in Stonybrook, New York to celebrate her birthday. She was able to show her appreciation for all the attention using a text-to-speech function on a smartphone.

LISVH Director Fred Sganga welcomed the guests and recounted the accomplishments of this great lady. Post 336 member Ed Bram presented her with an honorary JWV Life Membership pin and gave her a JWV cap. Also attending were Past Department Commander Mel Cohen, Department Commander Gary Glick, and other members of Post 652.

SFC Weiss served in the U.S. Army for more than two decades, was inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame in 2013 and is a longtime member of JWV. We are proud to have her in our ranks!



There was something odd happening in the Polish town of Nasielsk on a sunny day in 1938. A man by the name of David Kurtz was visiting, and he brought with him a camera with which he could record film- an expensive, rare piece of equipment in that time and place. It seemed the entire town wanted to gather to view this technological marvel. One of the scenes in the three minutes of film shows a group of worshippers leaving said synagogue. “Three Minutes – A Lengthening” paints a beautiful picture of the vibrant Jewish community in Nasielsk. A Jewish community whole and happy, before it was almost completely destroyed by the Nazis.

When the average person thinks of the Holocaust, they often think of the number six million. Six million Jews whose lives were stolen. But it’s difficult to wrap one’s head around a such a massive calamity. Six million is so large

THREE MINUTES - A LENGTHENING
By Ben Kane, Membership Director

that it becomes just a number. Each victim is, albeit inadvertently, reduced to being simply one of many millions. “Three Minutes: A Lengthening” seeks to humanize the loss, and it succeeds in its goal. Those who were lost had hopes and dreams. They had fears, routines, questions, foods that they loved, and some that they didn’t quite love so much. They were like you and I, human, and very much not a number.

Much of the footage shows the town crowding around the camera, with some observing bemused in the background, and others trying their hardest to make themselves seen. Kids playfully shove other kids away, so the focus is on them. The message of the residents in the film seems to be, “look at us. We exist.” A tragic message, considering that many lost their lives, and then the footage was lost for many years. But now, in a way, those who were lost to death and time exist once again thanks to “Three Minutes – A Lengthening.”

“Three Minutes – A Lengthening” was created by many talented individuals. The film was directed by Bianca Stigter, co-produced by Steve McQueen (the director of “12 Years a Slave”) and narrated predominately by actress Helena Bonham Carter. There are occasional thoughts provided by Glenn Kurtz, the grandson of the filmmaker and the one who rediscovered the

footage, as well as by Maurice Chandler. Chandler is one of the few Jewish residents of Nasielsk who survived the Holocaust, and recognized himself as a child upon watching David Kurtz’s film. All three guide the viewer beautifully through the footage that had remained unseen for decades.

Attendees of the 2022 National Convention in Savannah, Georgia were fortunate enough to be able to listen to more of Maurice Chandler’s story from the man himself. He took the time out of his day to join convention attendees over Zoom, and his story left the audience awed by his eloquence and resilience. If you would like to be similarly awed by the story of the town of Nasielsk, “Three Minutes – A Lengthening” is now playing in select theaters across the country.



Townspeople of the predominantly Jewish village of Nasielsk, Poland in 1938 as seen in Bianca Stigter’s “Three Minutes - A Lengthening.” Image courtesy of Family Affair Films, © US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The Military Coalition, and JWV's
Important Role in It for All of Us

Continued from page 9

TMC – I was asking him if I could have the honor of nominating him for yet another two-year term.

His response? “Jack, I was actually getting ready to ask if I could nominate you to be our next President?” As I intimated in remarks at a JWV dinner earlier this year, I have never felt as honored as I did in that moment.

JWV should not only be proud of Retired Colonel Rosenbleeth’s years of selfless service (three decades in the military, and another three with JWV and TMC), but also of its present folks. Ken Greenberg currently serves as the Co-Chair of both the Veterans and Retirement Committees. Your Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff serves as the Co-Chair of the Communications Committee.

Moreover, JWV members should take pride in

their organization and its tremendous work – both independently, and together with their TMC partners – from their leadership, down to the grassroots level!

I ended my speech the way I always do, with the question, “Who will fight for you, when your MSOs & VSOs are all gone?” They say today’s young people are not joiners. I challenge anyone reading this to be an ambassador for great organizations like JWV and its MSO/VSO partners. The work we do is as crucial as it is irreplaceable. Let people know, whenever you get the opportunity!

If you have any questions about legislation, policy, Congress, or the Executive Branch, please contact Greenberg at kgreenberg@jwv.org

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.

Karnofsky, Louis Armstrong NOLA connection lives on — in Lithuania

By Larry Brook, Southern Jewish Life

The story of the Karnofsky family in New Orleans and their early support of legendary jazz singer Louis Armstrong is now being celebrated in Lithuania.

On May 22, 2021, the municipality of Vilkijs dedicated an outdoor stage overlooking the Nemunas Valley in honor of Armstrong and the Karnofskys, as the Karnofsky family had lived there in the 19th century before immigrating to the United States and arriving in New Orleans in 1900.

Around 1913, Louis and Tillie Karnofsky hired Armstrong, who at age seven was at the Colored Waif's Home, to work with their sons, Morris and Alex, on their junk and coal wagons. They blew tin horns to attract customers, and Armstrong soon wondered how he would sound with a real horn.

He saw a cornet in a pawn shop window for \$5, and was determined to get it. Armstrong insisted that he work for it instead of receiving it as a gift, the Karnofskys loaned him against future pay, and he got the cornet.

Morris, who eventually opened the first jazz record store in New Orleans, knew Armstrong had talent and encouraged him to play. Dining with the family, Armstrong developed a taste for Jewish food, and learned a Russian lullaby from Tillie.

He worked for the Karnofskys until he was 12, and then was off to the world of music. But he always had a special relationship with the Karnofskys and an affinity for the Jewish people. In one instance, before a Moscow concert he was asked by Soviet officials to remove songs with Jewish-styled melodies, because as they said, there were few Jews in the Soviet Union. Armstrong is said to have replied, "And a lot of blacks?"

Armstrong wore a Star of David necklace, spoke Yiddish and had a mezuzah.

Eugenius Bunka, a journalist in Lithuania, has written about the connection between the Karnofsky family and Vilkijs. During his research he contacted Jacob Karno and traveled to New Orleans to interview him about his family. He also visited with Ricky Riccardi, research director at the Armstrong House Museum in New York.

Bunka, who told the story at the annual Mama

Jazz festival in Vilnius, suggested the dedication for the town's long-planned venue. There is even a rumor, which has not been confirmed, that the stage is on the site where the Karnofsky house had been.

Local official Kazys Bacenas said "the stage is mainly dedicated to music events, so can there be a better idea than to call it the name of the music performer and his patrons from Vilkijs? Nice coincidence."



Unveiling the Louis Armstrong plaque in Vilkijs. Photos courtesy Kaunas Region Municipality

The stage will be covered by a canopy during the summer, with it being removed in winter.

Throughout the park, there are pillars where one can press a button and listen to one of 13 tracks by Armstrong.

An "Early Years" plaque describes the Karnofskys as "simple people" when they lived in Vilkijs, who were involved in trading and waste collection.

After describing how the Karnofskys took Armstrong under their wing, the plaque describes the "warm relationship" between them, and how he incorporated Jewish motifs in his jazz. The plaque also mentions how the Karnofsky Project still helps "children from indigent families purchase musical

instruments."

At the dedication, the Kaunas Big Band played jazz and Kaunas District Mayor Valerius Makunas spoke about the town's history.

A bas relief of Armstrong was unveiled during the ceremony.

The Jewish History of Vilkijs

The Jewish presence in Vilkijs dates back to the 18th century, and became a large presence. In 1915, according to the book "Lithuanian Jewish Communities," Jews were expelled from the town, but soon returned, and by 1921 about 800 Jews lived there, 80 percent of the population.

A large fire in 1937 contributed to the community's decline, as did a disruption in the timber industry from Vilna, and by the late 1930s, the Jewish community numbered about 400.

In the Holocaust, Jews throughout Lithuania were slaughtered during the second half of 1941, often by Partisan groups before the Germans had even arrived. The first targets were Jews who were suspected to have ties to the Soviet Union, which had just left after occupying Lithuania.

After the German invasion, it took only a few weeks for the Jews to be rounded up and placed into ghettos, then taken to the forests to dig pits for their own mass graves, where they were either shot or buried alive.

A recent book, "The Lithuanian Slaughter of Its Jews," compiled by David Sandler, includes a chapter on Vilkijs, from the testimonies of Moyshe Karnovsky, recorded in a displaced persons camp between 1946 and 1948.

There had been two synagogues, including a 19th-century Neo-Renaissance style building on the bank of the river, and was the iconic image on postcards from that time. It operated until World War II, and afterwards was a storage house before being abandoned and collapsing. Some fortifications remain as the only remnants of the town's Jewish history.

Today, the town has about 2,300 residents.

Reprinted with permission from Southern Jewish Life

Legislative Advocacy

By Ken Greenberg, National Executive Director
Former Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Tom Bowman participated in an advocacy session during the 2022 National Convention.

During the session, National Executive Director Ken Greenberg highlighted JWV's leadership role in coalitions with other Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) including The Military Coalition (TMC), Toxic Exposures in the American Military (TEAM), The National Military Veterans Alliance (NMVA), and many others. The members of these coalitions work together on enacting legislation to improve and establish new benefits and health care services for veterans and service-members, support increases to VA and Department of Defense (DoD) budgets, and preserve existing services and benefits.

Greenberg and Bowman also emphasized the importance of presenting clear information on po-

sitions and keeping papers you give to elected officials at just a single page. Both underscored that Departments and Posts also need to be known to officials at their local VA Medical Centers, Veterans Affairs Regional Offices, and DoD facilities. "While national advocacy is important, cultivating relationships at the local level often leads to success," Greenberg said. "Make sure VA and DoD high level officials know JWV, who you are, and what you do. You can also volunteer locally or invite them to your Department of Post meetings."

You can find a recording of the session in the Resource Center at www.jwv.org.



Bowman and Greenberg

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



NATIONAL PRESIDENT NATALIE BLANK

Dear Sisters,

During our 2022 National Convention I had the honor of being installed as your next National President once again. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic during my first term I did not have the opportunity to visit any of our Auxiliaries or Departments except via Zoom. However, this year I am looking forward to my in-person visits with as many of our hard-working units as possible.

This year was a Constitutional Convention and there were many changes made to our Constitution and Bylaws. I want to thank the Sisters on the special committee who worked diligently to make some long-needed revisions.

Those Sisters who did not attend the Convention, which was held in Savannah this year, missed the wonderful and heart-warming presentations we made to the Ronald McDonald House, Police Dept., Fire Dept. and Children's Hospital. In addition, there were twelve Baby Baskets presented to twelve deserving pregnant veterans. We also enjoyed having with us the recipient of Operation New Start and our Grant-A-Wish programs who were thrilled and most appreciative of their gifts.

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History is our legacy to the future; if you are not already a member, we hope you will join us today. This year the NMAJMH is creating a Memorial Garden at the entrance to our headquarter building in remembrance of our Fallen Heroes and will include an external light, meditation benches, trees and more pavers. In addition, they are also working on an exhibit honoring Women in the Military. You can join our museum by going to nmajmh.org and completing the form or

FUNDRAISING

By Shirley Zak, NSVP/Chairman

Our new fund raiser for this year is PICK A DATE.

We all have special dates to remind us of good times and sadly bad times. For example, birthdays, anniversaries, or dates of our loved ones passing. How about the date that you met someone special? Let's make these special dates even more special! Here's how:

Submit your special date(s) and each entry will give you a chance to win \$150.00. The cost is \$10.00 per date you select. Just mail to our National Office these special dates with a check payable to "National Ladies Auxiliary JWV." If you have any questions, just call me at 917-715-8458.

Now, just suppose one of your special dates is the same as mine (or a good friend of yours). I will contact you about the duplicate date and you can give me an alternate date of your choosing. The lucky winner will be selected at the 2023 National Convention.

The National Echelon needs your help. So, please help with this great idea.

by calling the office and requesting an application. There are many levels of enrollment through which you can join our Museum.

I would like to inform the Sisters that beginning with the next issue of this newspaper we will have a new Jewish Veteran Editor for our Auxiliary, PNP Sandra Cantor. I want to extend our special thanks to PNP Iris Goldwasser for serving as our JWVA Editor since 2017, a challenging responsibility.

Last, not but least, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to National Commander Nelson Mellitz and his staff and wish them a most successful year.

My theme this year is "Helping Hands across JWVA." G-d bless America, our troops and Israel. I would like to close by wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. Loyally,
Natalie Blank



2022 NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

Our 2022 National Convention now is history. Yes it is over, but many long lasting changes resulted from our five days of hard work.

We began our sessions with a Constitutional Convention that updated our Constitution and Bylaws to reflect the new technology available and adjust for our smaller membership. Thanks to the Committee and to all the sisters who participated in this challenging task.

As is tradition at each of our National Conventions, many presentations were made. The Rita Panitz (of blessed memory) Memorial Bear Program saw over a total of 1,200 stuffed animals presented to the local fire department, police department, children's hospital and Ronald McDonald House. All were represented at our meeting and were most appreciative of these "stiffies." Ronald McDonald House also received several items from its Wish List.

The Rhea Sahl (of blessed memory) Memorial Baby Shower provided twelve (12) veterans with baskets filled with everything a newborn baby could possibly need, including beautiful hand-knitted blankets. The mothers-to-be were delighted.

Our Operation New Start recipient was so grateful for the help we gave her, saying it could not have come at a more opportune time. Our Grant-A-Wish recipient and his wife along with, at their request, their long-time friends were treated to an all-expense paid dinner cruise that they had long hoped to experience.

Our out-going National Commander Alan Paley joined us for these presentations and was so impressed that he relayed information about these presentations to the JWV members at their business sessions and at our National President's banquet.

Thanks to all the JWVA & JWV members who joined us, not only to celebrate our out-going President Sandra Cantor at her Testimonial, but also our Chai Club Breakfast and Partners events which were enjoyed by all. Thanks to all the Chairmen and their Committees for their hard work that made our events successful. Thanks, also, to all the sisters who placed the names of their loved ones in our Memorial Book.

Not all our time was spent in business sessions. Our Chairman and Co-Chairman made sure to schedule free time for our members to sightsee, shop or just relax.

One major change going forward is that JWVA has a new editor for our pages in the Jewish Veteran. Sandra Cantor, PNP, has taken up this challenge. Many thanks to Iris Goldwasser, PNP, for the many years she served as our editor and the amazing job she did throughout those years.

We cannot rest on our laurels. There is still much work to be done. Our 2023 NEC will be in

Continued on next page

RHEA SAHL BABY SHOWER

By PNP Linda S. Colon, Chairman
PAP Megan Leis, Co-Chairman

Our annual Baby Shower was held on Monday, August 8, 2022 at our National Convention in Savannah, Georgia. We had five well-deserved pregnant Veterans in attendance to accept their baskets. The remaining seven baskets will be individually picked up by the other recipients. This Mitzvah can only happen through your generous contributions. Thank you to all the sisters who helped prepare the 12 baskets and to all who donated during the year. Your efforts made this wonderful presentation a success.

STUFFED ANIMAL PRESENTATION



Left to right: APO Joshua Flynn; Roz Kaplan, National Child Welfare Chairman; Kristin King, Manager of Child Life at Dwaine and Cynthia Willet Children's Hospital of Savannah; Billy Soroachak, Executive Director; Lizzy Ross, Programs Director, from Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Coastal Empire.

TRUE PATRIOTISM

By PNP Iris Goldwasser, Editor

The following article, written by a friend of JWV and reprinted with permission of Post 425, is a reminder of who we are as Americans. Please read it and let me know if it strikes you as it did me. It is a refreshing commentary on how some of our former patriots handled negative thoughts about our great country.

THESE ARE GOOD

JFK's Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, was in France in the early 60's when DeGaulle decided to pull out of NATO, DeGaulle said he wanted all U.S. military out of France as soon as possible. Rusk responded, "Does that include those who are buried here?" DeGaulle did not respond.

You could have heard a pin drop.

When in England, at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of "empire building" by George Bush. He answered by saying, "Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have asked for in return is enough to buy those that did not return."

You could have heard a pin drop.

There was a conference in France where a number of international engineers were taking part, including French and American. During a break, one of the French engineers came back into the room saying, "Have you heard the latest dumb stunt Bush has done? He sent an aircraft carrier to Indonesia to help the tsunami victims. What does he intend

to do, bomb them? A Boeing engineer stood up and replied quietly: "Our carriers have three hospitals on board that can treat several hundred people; they're nuclear powered and supply emergency electrical power to shore facilities; they have 3 cafeterias with the capacity to feed 3,100 people three meals a day, can produce several thousand gallons of fresh water from sea water each day, and carry half a dozen helicopters for use in carrying victims and injured to and from their flight deck. We have eleven ships; how many does France have?"

You could have heard a pin drop.

A U.S. Naval Admiral was attending a naval conference that included Admirals from the U.S., England, Canada, Australia and French Navys. At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large group of officers that included personnel from most of those countries. Everyone was chatting in English as they sipped their drinks. A French admiral suddenly complained that Europeans learn many languages. Americans learn only English. He then asked, "Why is it we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French?" Without hesitating

the American Admiral replied, "Maybe because the Brit's, Canadians, Aussie's and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German."

You could have heard a pin drop.

Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry-on. You've been to France before, monsieur?, the customs officer asked sarcastically. Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously. "Then you should know enough to have your passport ready." The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it." "Impossible.. Americans always have to show their passports on arrival in France!" The American senior gave the Frenchmen a long hard look. Then, he quietly explained, "When I came ashore at Omaha Beach, on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single French man to show a passport to."

You could have heard a pin drop.

I am proud to be of this land –AMERICA. I am proud to be an American.

DID YOU KNOW??

By Sandra Fritts, DP
Americanism Chairman

More than 400 women disguised themselves as men and fought in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War.

More than 35,000 American women served in the military during World War I.

In 1918 women were allowed to serve in non-commissioned and non-combat roles. They were known as "Yeomanettes."

The United States Army Signal Corps enlisted women to work as telephone and switchboard operators nicknamed the "Hello Girls."

2022 NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

Continued from previous page

Washington DC, January 17-19, 2023. Our 2023 National Convention will be held in Jacksonville, Florida August 27 - September 2, 2023. Looking forward to seeing everyone at these events.

We hope all who attended the Constitution Convention and annual Convention this year enjoyed seeing everyone and learned something to bring back to their local Auxiliaries.

L'Shana Tovah to all.

PNP Elaine Bernstein, Chairman

PNP Petra C. Kaatz, Co-Chairman

STUDENT AWARDS

By: PNP Joanne Blum, Chairman

Ethyle K. Bornstein Award, \$1,000 to Hailey Jacobson

Raul Wallenberg Award, \$ 750 to Evan Brown

Raul Wallenberg Award, \$ 750 to Maya Cortez

Congratulations to our Student Award recipients!

Hailey Jacobson is the Granddaughter of Barbara Lipschutz of Waminster, PA.

Evan Brown is the Great Grandson of Estelle Oberman of Aux. 3, and the late Gustave Oberman, World War II Veteran.

Maya Cortez is the Granddaughter of Rosalind Kaplan, Aux. 256 and Arthur Kaplan.

All were deserving of these awards, and the committee was proud to be part of the presentations.

The PNP Ethyle K. Bornstein Memorial Student Award for \$1,000, will continue to be funded and presented to an applicant majoring in Academics.

The Evelyn Wegman Student Award is a funded award for \$500, and is awarded to a student majoring in Music or the Arts.

The Raul Wallenberg Student Award has been presented to our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren for many years. In the past, we have awarded four \$500 awards. This year, at the convention, the membership voted to be able to award the same \$2,000, but, that in the future the committee can allocate different amounts, depending on the number of applicants. Please help us continue this important program. Send in your checks to the National Office earmarked for the Wallenberg Award.

So, keeping that in mind,

Please send in your generous donations now!!

GRANT-A-WISH



HUSBAND AND WIFE – MILTON & JUDY HEPNER

Excerpts from thank you letter

"My husband and I are forever grateful for what you and the ladies of such a caring organization did for us. The Georgia Queen was the most elegant boat that we have ever been on..."

My heart was filled with joy that we would have even been considered, yet alone all that you did for us. I was overwhelmed when we opened the envelope to find not only the e-tickets, but the extra cash and gift certificate that you included. You must know that I actually broke down and cried for the fact that someone would do that for us. We are simple people and never would have done something like this for ourselves...

Your kindness will not be forgotten. May God bless each and every one of you for the tireless work that you do."

Thank you again!!!

With much Love,

Judy Hepner

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

These are exciting times at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. As you all know, we opened our newest exhibit, “The Jewish Experience During the Vietnam Era” in May.

We are looking forward to following up that exhibit with another new one, “Jewish Women in the Military.” Chairwoman of the exhibit, Rochel Hayman, envisions a two-step process, with a limited opening ahead of next year’s national convention. This exhibit will concentrate on the contribution of Jewish women after World War II. We have members in our ranks that made great efforts in the preservation of our democratic ideals, often putting their very lives on the line in the process. Their contributions to the maintaining of the American way of life will be highlighted.

We are in the process of setting up our committees for the 2022-2023 year. You don’t need to

be a member of the Board or an officer of the museum to help us out. All you need is a passion to maintain and better our museum. Please call Mike Rugel at the museum to offer your services.

We are kicking off a new series of speakers this fall. Check out the museum’s website to see what is coming up. Last year we had some outstanding presenters and are looking forward to surpassing those authors and discussion leaders with topics of broad interest and meaningful content. If you have read or heard of an author we could feature, let us know.

We are now moving quickly on building the Jewish War Veterans Memorial Garden. We are clearing the area in front of our building, planting shrubs and adding an area for contemplation and reflection. We envision an area with benches, pavers, memorial stones, and an eternal light. You can see a rendering of the garden on our website along

with prices for the various items.

We will have a virtual meeting in the fall, and all are invited to attend. The meeting after that will be in conjunction with the National Executive Committee

(NEC) Meeting in January and will be both in-person and virtual. We look forward to seeing you at both.

From my family to yours, and to all our dear friends, here’s wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.



PNC Michael B. Berman

Updates By Michael Rugel • Director of Programs and Content

After a two-year hiatus, it was great to return to participating in the annual Dupont-Kalorama Museums Consortium Walk Weekend the first weekend in June. It’s our busiest weekend of the year and it’s always a pleasure to partner with other world-class museums and cultural institutions. The participating locations included the Phillips Collection, Woodrow Wilson House, Dumbarton House, American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, and Dupont Underground. We started things off with a Shabbat service at the museum. Special thanks to Rabbi Melanie Aron for leading the service. Rabbi Aron used the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council prayerbook and paid tribute to the fallen.

Also, special thanks to summer intern Alana Stolnitz for all her help both on Walk Weekend and throughout her internship. She produced some excellent educational materials for schools that want to either visit the museum or use the materials in their own classrooms. We plan to continue to offer more to students. Check out the education section of our website at <https://nmajmh.org/education/>.



The JWV convention in Savannah, Georgia provided a special opportunity to examine the history of Jews in the American military in both recent times and the colonial era. Congregation Mickve Israel was established there in 1733. Amongst the founders were the Minis and Sheftall families. Both were important contributors to the Revolution. Mordecai Sheftall may be best remembered for his experiences as a prisoner of war of the British. During his imprisonment, the British, knowing his fervent Jewish religious beliefs, attempted to force him to eat pork. Sheftall’s refusal served as an example to many in resisting the British.

More recently, Mickve Israel was the congregation of the late Medal of Honor recipient Christopher Celiz. It was an honor to host his widow Katie Celiz at the convention. It was a privilege to hear her discuss her husband’s character and the importance of Jewish community both during Christopher’s life and after his loss.

Katie invited Rabbi Robert Haas to the convention for her speech. Haas was extraordinarily gracious with his time and knowledge, providing a tour of the synagogue, the Mordecai Sheftall Cemetery, and the Levi Sheftall Family

Cemetery. He also shared stories of Christopher including how he got off a flight from Afghanistan and immediately went to the synagogue to lead the annual Hanukkah run for Savannah’s Jewish community that stops at each of the city’s three synagogues.

Haas opened the cemeteries, which are normally locked to the public. It was powerful to see the graves of Mordecai Sheftall and know this was also the burial ground of Abigail Minis and her family. The tradition of military service at Mickve Israel is truly impressive and seeing how it’s continued from the Revolution to today is inspiring.

Also, at our board meeting, we had the opportunity to welcome Maurice Chandler as a guest speaker. He is featured in the new documentary film “Three Minutes: A Lengthening.” The film is an in-depth exploration of three minutes of film recorded in Poland in 1938 showing Jewish life in Nasielsk, Poland before it was destroyed in the Holocaust. It features Maurice Chandler at age 13 in the original footage, and as a narrator at 96. After

the war, Maurice immigrated to the U.S. Through Truman’s bill he became a U.S. citizen, and was promptly drafted to serve during the Korean War. Maurice was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, and then was sent to Fort Meade to join Military Intelligence. He discussed his journey to the U.S. where he was admitted as a rabbinical student after he had spent the previous five years posing as a Catholic to survive the war.



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

The History and Future of Collections at the NMAJMH

"To document and preserve the contributions of Jewish Americans to the peace and freedom of the United States." This mission statement is the basis behind the National Museum of American Jewish Military History's collections and archives, and our membership is integral in helping us accomplish that objective. The NMAJMH is built on the donations of JWV members, their families, and the larger Jewish community. Most of the materials in the museum's collection have been acquired through the generosity of individuals such as yourself, making our collection one that truly reflects the diverse experiences of Jewish Americans in the U.S Armed Forces.

While the museum has been around for nearly 70 years, starting as the National Shrine to the Jewish War Dead in 1954 before transitioning to the Jewish War Veterans National Memorial Inc. in 1958, what you and I think of as the NMAJMH



Some of the more recent donations to the Museum have been related to our new Vietnam exhibit. PNC Harvey Weiner donated memorabilia he saved from his time in US Army, which included a year in Vietnam where he served as an intelligence advisor to the Vietnamese. Some of the items in his collection include intelligence reports and documents captured from the Viet Cong.

was formed when we moved to our current R Street location in 1984. The mid-1980s marked the beginning of the museum as we know it, with a professional staff collecting materials and creating exhibitions for the public. Prior to the 1980s, the museum did not have much in the way of a collection, just a few important artifacts like JWV Past National Commander Ben Kaufman's Medal of Honor.

The first decade at R Street saw a huge growth in the NMAJMH's collection, as we were essentially starting from scratch. Staff had the luxury of accepting nearly everything and anything pertinent to the mission. Almost 40 years later, within our collection we have documented both World Wars and (to a lesser extent) the Korean War quite well. Because space and money are finite resources, we now need to focus on periods that are less well represented in our museum – namely any service or conflict from the 1970s until present day. The museum is actively seeking to preserve the stories and experiences of our nation's newest veterans. If you served in Iraq or Afghanistan, please consider

donating items that document your personal experiences for future generations. Of course, we are always interested in materials relating to Jewish military service during the early days of the United States.

I am contacted nearly every day by a veteran or their family about the possibility of donating their memorabilia to the NMAJMH. Many people are unfamiliar with the donation process, so here are the steps to follow for offering donation items to the museum/archives.

- All donation offers must be made in writing. This paperwork is an important part of a donation's file. Please do not send items to the museum, as we cannot accept actual artifacts for review without prior consultation. The quickest and easiest way to find out if the NMAJMH would be able to use your memorabilia is to send me an email at pelbe@nmajmh.org, describing the materials.

If possible, please also include photographs of objects. Since the background of the item is as important as the item itself, provide as much detail as possible. Also be sure to include information regarding the military service of the person involved.

- The information provided will be reviewed and you will be contacted with a response and information on how to proceed.

- To complete the donation, you will be sent a Deed of Gift formalizing the gift to the museum. This legal document transfers ownership and all applicable rights to the NMAJMH.

Please remember:

- Only the legal owners of an item (or their legally designated representative) can donate (transfer title to) items. Please do not accept materials from fellow post members or friends. Rather, direct them to contact me at the museum.

- The museum cannot guarantee that donated items will be exhibited.

- The museum does not have the capacity to accept all items offered for donation due to a variety of limitations (space, duplication of items already in the collections, lack of provenance, etc.). As mentioned earlier, we have a sizable collection



One of the earliest donations to the NMAJMH's collection is the Martin Weitz collection. Rabbi Weitz served as a chaplain in the Pacific during World War II, and he assembled a portable ark and altar from the materials available to him at the time. This self-made chaplain's kit has a "swords into plowshares" theme, with several people helping Rabbi Weitz gather objects of war from the battlefield so that they could be converted into items of peace.

of materials relating to both World Wars, so we are not currently able to accept materials from these periods.

- The museum is unable to accept JWV memorabilia such as echelon flags, plaques, trophies, pins, caps, etc.

We are also working on a new exhibit focusing on Jewish women in the U.S. military. Many people want to contribute to the museum but do not have memorabilia to donate. If you are a female veteran or know a female veteran who might be willing to share her story, please let us know. Rochel Hayman formed a committee to bring this new women's exhibit to fruition, and she is seeking individuals interesting in helping with this project and women willing to share their experiences. For more information, please send an email to HERStory@nmajmh.org.



An auspicious Project:

A PREMIER EXHIBIT TO SPOTLIGHT AND CELEBRATE JEWISH WOMEN'S MILITARY SERVICE TO OUR NATION.

SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE ON THE COMMITTEE.

BRING YOUR SKILLS, CREATIVITY, AND PASSION TO THE PROJECT.

CONTACT ROCHEL HAYMAN AT HERStory@nmajmh.org

Get periodic updates on the Project: email your contact info to:
HERStory@nmajmh.org SUBJECT: Updates List

MAZON: Fighting for Food Security for Veterans Who Fought for All of Us

Continued from page 8

(VA) to engage and inform its social workers on the realities of hunger and resources available to ameliorate it.

Jewish values play an integral part in our goal to eliminate hunger by addressing its root causes — not simply mitigating it. The Torah teaches that while acts of tzedakah are a mitzvah, we must strive for tikkun olam, repairing the world. Food banks and private donations offer temporary help in emergency situations, but ending hunger can only be achieved through bold, urgent action by policymakers with access to the full resources of their government.

While programs like SNAP can offer meaningful help to veterans in need of support, too many veterans miss out on the program. Sometimes, it's because they're unaware that help exists and other times, it's because of the persistent stigma associated with seeking it. To reduce and ultimately elim-

inate hunger among the veteran population, lawmakers must not only protect and expand SNAP, but also better integrate nutrition assistance into VA outreach and programming, including providing information about federal nutrition programs like SNAP as part of existing veteran transition and veteran military prevention programs.

As Congress prepares to reauthorize the Farm Bill next year — the legislation which funds SNAP and other federal nutrition programs — MAZON is urging Congress to take action to ensure that veteran food insecurity is finally, and permanently, addressed. MAZON is pushing for bills that will enshrine the government's responsibility to care for its veterans, like Rep. Jahana Hayes' Feed Hungry Veterans Act, which would make it easier for disabled veterans to qualify for SNAP and remove barriers that make it cumbersome to enroll.

The Feed Hungry Veterans Act is just one of

the many pieces of legislation that MAZON urges Congress to take up without delay, and that could make a major difference in the lives of hungry veterans. MAZON will continue this work with Congress until they honor the debt we owe these heroes and keep the promise to ensure that all veterans have enough food to put on their tables.



You shop. Amazon gives.

Shopping on Amazon via Amazon Smile helps the J WV.

Amazon will donate 0.5 % of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchase to the J WV Foundation.

What Can You Do About Anti-Semitism?

Continued from page 7

Community College (RCC) in Suffern, New York, led by Executive Director Andrea Winograd, has been working hard with student groups and community visitors in this area for many years, and is now in a new and expanded milieu. Besides the education efforts, promoting the concept of tolerance along with the baton of love and mutual respect to all we encounter will go far to achieve our goal. After all, how else can we legitimately call ourselves the light for all nations?

I recently saw the movie “Shared Legacies” at RCC, along with Jews, Blacks, elected officials, and other interested community members. It was a survey of the Civil Rights alliance between Blacks and Jews, with a focus on the close relationship between the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. When these two giants of their time passed on, in 1968 and 1972

respectively, the alliance, bereft of these leaders, began to wither away.

The point to be made is that a vigorous and successful response to antisemitism is unlikely without strong leaders and engaged followers who can overlook their differences and unite behind these leaders. In my opinion, both the lack of courageous and charismatic leadership as well as the lack of unanimity and common resolve among the followers has impeded the effort. Policy makers, interfaith clergy, leaders of educational institutions, businesses, and media, must all realize that intolerance and disrespect of the “other” has the potential to weaken our nation and is a threat to common humanity.

The late Lubavitcher Rebbe surmised that the avowed antisemite has a void in their life that they try to fill with Jew hatred because they were not

exposed to Torah. For sure, unless explained by intellectual or mental deficiency, what logic could deny or distort the Holocaust, see Jews as a threat to white people, or rationalize the isolation or intimidation of Jewish college students based on their cultural beliefs?

Interestingly, the Rebbe felt that a possible strategy was to engage with leaders of some antisemitic groups in a quiet and diplomatic manner as an attempt to educate and possibly find some mutual understanding. So, what may be necessary are education, engagement, and a united effort to be an upstander rather than a bystander on this issue. That doesn't mean risking an emotional or physical confrontation, but it does require a moral commitment, and sharing the love we all have within us.

TAPS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

- Scott Ross - Post 77
- Saul H. Cohen, MD - Post 100
- Rudy Kutno - Post 141
- Sherman Elias - Post 181
- Gerald D. Simon - Post 344

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

- Melvin A. Engelman, Ret. - Post 680
- Muriel P. Engelman - Post 680
- Walter Schwimmer - Post 760

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

- Herbert Kaplan - Post 45

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

- Murray H. Hendel - Post 202
- Jack Zichlin - Post 373
- Paul Tenenbaum - Post 400
- Harold Ehrenman - Post 440
- Everett A. Rosenblum - Post 440
- Irving Friedman - Post 549
- Martin Cohen - Post 606
- Murray N. Pascas - Post 606
- Melvin E. Polick - Post 606
- Jack Elie - Post 631
- Melvin Glickman - Post 631

Manuel S. Fishman - Post 819

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

- Sheldon H. Konowitz - Post 29
- Donald Statland - Post 29
- Robert Stearns - Post 407

DEPT OF MIDWEST

- Daniel Guckenheimer - Post 605
- Paul E. Schooner - Post 644

DEPT OF MASSACHUSETTS

- Martin Oppenheim - Post 140
- Irving A. Backman - Post 211
- Raymond S. Koff - Post 211
- Robert Stacks, MD - Post 211
- Arthur A. Suckney - Post 220

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

- Milton Y. Zussman - Post 135
- Leo Barris - Post 474
- Phillip Blinder - Post 474

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

- Marvin Jacobson - Post 354

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

- David M. Beckerman - Post 63
- Julius Schechter - Post 63

Ralph S. Gerber - Post 76

- Alvin Sussman - Post 76
- Bernard Weinberg - Post 76
- Samuel J. Hoffman - Post 125
- Henry Katchen - Post 125
- Carlos Garber - Post 126
- Louis Bonus - Post 178
- Jordan Solkowitz - Post 178
- Norman Picker - Post 444
- Mark Soifer - Post 601
- Marvin J. Fischer - Post 609
- Sidney Hollender - Post 609
- Edward Rosenblatt - Post 651
- Jack E. Shames - Post 972

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

- Friedel Leopold - Post 69
- Marshall G. Kaplan - Post 389
- Franklin Philip Herber - Post 625
- Robert A. Rosen, Nymn (Ret) - Post 625
- Arnold H. Drapkin - Post 648
- Leonard Friedberg - Post 648
- Matthew Goun - Post 652
- Edward Rosensweet - Post 652
- Jerome O. Kushel - Post 655
- Ted Shuster - Post 717

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

- Martin Robins - Post 122
- Irvin Szames - Post 122
- Beverle Gelb - Post 222

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

- Donald Feldman - Post 98

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

- Donald N. Cherry - Post 201
- Bernard Gross - Post 210
- Alexander B. White - Post 210

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

- David B. Rosen - Post 256
- Ervin Rovinsky - Post 256
- Howard H. Schultz - Post 256
- Jack F. Einhorn - Post 574
- Michael M. Greenspan - Post 574
- Abe I. Moore - Post 574
- Louise R. Morewitz - Post 574
- Dennis W. Richards - Post 574
- Irv Wilson - Post 574
- Fred J. Yondorf - Post 574

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA-NC

- Lawrence W. Vogel - Post 299



NOT HOW YOU WOULD'VE DONE IT

YOU BUNDLE THINGS RIGHT

Like when you bundle your home and auto insurance with USAA and save up to 10%.¹

Visit usaa.com/bundleright **to learn more.**



¹Savings are off total premium. Not available in all states or in all situations. To qualify, auto policy must be active prior to property issue. Subject to change. Restrictions apply.

Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change.

Property and casualty insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association (USAA), USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, based in San Antonio, Texas; USAA Limited (UK) and USAA S.A. (Europe) and is available only to persons eligible for property and casualty group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products.

© 2022 USAA. 287873-0822



Happy New Year!

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

Allan & Sheila Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

PDP Gloria Abramson
In memory of PNC Lou & SVP Brenda

PDC Edward & PDP Louise Baraw
In Memory of Eugene Baraw

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

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!

Jhoanna 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 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!

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