



The Jewish Veteran

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

JWV Aids Members with Relief Funds After Hurricane Ian

By Larry Jasper, National Editor

Thanks to the JWV Disaster Relief Fund, members affected by Hurricane Ian in September were able to get money within days to help with the cleanup.

Hurricane Ian made landfall as a Category 4 storm near Fort Myers, Florida on September 28. It was the deadliest storm to hit Florida since 1935.

All JWV members in the area were okay, but some of their homes were not so lucky.

"All Post 400 members were impacted by this storm. Most were fortunate in that they were able to get back to some degree of normalcy within a few weeks. There are two members, two Patrons, and one member's widow who were not that fortunate, as their homes were nearly destroyed by Ian," said Commander of Post 400 Harvey Charter.

As soon as the hurricane left the area, the JWV Disaster Relief Program swung into action to bring some much-needed help to the JWV members.

"Working with the National Commander and National Executive Director, we were able

to move quickly and meaningfully in the wake of Hurricane Ian," said JWV Emergency Relief Fund Chairman Donald Schenk. "The role of the JWV Disaster Relief Program is to help our members when catastrophe strikes. We are grateful that we can help in times when resources are limited, and despair is high."

Schenk's committee allocated funds to the two members and one widow. Patrons of the organization are unable to receive funds from the program but Post 400 stepped in with financial help in those two cases.



Damage to the Osin's home in Fort Myers, Florida

Disaster relief in cases like this comes from many places, but few are as quick to act as JWV.

All of those assisted were grateful for the care, concern, and quick action from JWV as they try to rebuild their lives.

Here are some letters we received from the families helped by the fund.

*Dear Harvey and Jewish War Veterans of the USA,
From the bottom of my heart,*

I like to thank you for your generous gift; contribution towards rebuilding my home.

I never thought that at this stage of life, I'll be rebuilding and restoring my home without the love of my life.

Your gift will certainly help me with the numerous expenses I am faced with.

*Thanks again,
Judith Satin*

To the Jewish War Veterans of America and Post #400 Commander Harvey Charter,

My wife and I would like to thank you for the generous contribution that your organization made to us to help in the recovery from Hurricane Ian.

At times like the present we feel so lucky to be part of a community and an organization that gives support to those in need.

We are humble being a recipient of your contribution.

*Kind regards,
Isaac & Sue Osin*

Dear Jewish War Veterans,

Thank you very much for your very generous

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A New Place for Memories

By Mike Rugel, NMAJMH Director of Programs and Content

An area full of dirt and weeds is now a place to sit and reflect. The National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) spent several years discussing the idea of a Memorial Garden outside the front of our building on 18th and R Streets in Washington, D.C. The NMAJMH Board of Directors voted to go ahead with a landscaping plan in August of 2021. By October, the first phase of the work was complete.

The goal of the garden is to provide a place to memorialize and honor those who have served and sacrificed for our country, as well as enhance the building's curb appeal. It will also provide fundraising opportunities for the museum.

The initial work was completed so quickly thanks to a generous donation from the Department of New York and several other sponsors.

The Remembrance Walk of engraved pavers, which leads to the doors of the building is nearly full. The pavers are filled with inscrip-

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The Memorial Garden outside JWV and NMAJMH

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D'verei HaShomrim

By Chaplain (Major) Matt Friedman, California State Guard, 195th Wing/Joint Forces Head Quarters

It's December - a month of happiness and trepidation. How do we get through it and more importantly, how can we get through it and be happy about it? I'll start with the challenging element with childhood memories and move to the celebratory. Why that order? In ancient days the Rabbis, even when delivering the harshest of messages would always end with a positive idea and encouragement. That will come, but for now the trepidation.

Trepidation is a sense of concern with an element of uncertainty and perhaps even some fear. What is it about December? It is typically when Hannukah occurs. Hannukah with latkes, gelt, and of course lighting the Menorah (some use the term Hanukkah), is a time of anticipation. Along with those happy elements, it also comes with its definition as the Jewish Christmas. Many Jewish people have childhood memories of explaining that it isn't a Jewish Christmas, many of us don't eat ham on December 25 (or any other day), and we feel a bit uncomfortable singing songs that have no meaning to us or perhaps are in opposition to our beliefs. Some of these memories are distressing.

As an elementary student I attended a school where there were only a few Jewish families. Most classes had one, two or sometimes three Jewish students. My first memory of Christmas was in kindergarten. A man arrived at the school in a fire truck. He had long white beard and red and white clothes. My classmates were very excited. They called out, "Santa, Santa." I had no idea what was going on. Within 30 seconds they all lined up, so I followed them. One by one they would sit on Santa's lap and tell him what toys they wanted for Christmas, and he would reward them with a candy cane. I also wanted a candy cane, so I came up with a fine list of toys. It never occurred to me that I would get any of those toys, but I got a candy cane, and I eagerly told my friends that I liked Santa. At some point during that month, we were ushered into the auditorium, and we were told we needed to learn a song that we would sing at an assembly. The song was called "Silent Night." The words were strange to me, and I couldn't understand why there was such attention being directed at a baby. What was the big attraction? There are babies everywhere and they usually cry and need to have diapers changed.

By fourth grade, the Jewish parents had convinced the principal that singing Christmas songs and making tree ornaments wasn't of interest to us. Two events stand out. The Jewish kids were excused, much to our joy, from singing Christmas songs. The Muslim kids also asked to be excused.



Chaplain Matt Friedman

The principal turned down the request. At that moment it occurred to me that the principal, who was generally a very nice man, didn't quite understand that it also did not make sense for the Muslim kids to sing the songs. That same year the teacher came up with a solution to our lack of interest in making tree ornaments. She crafted a flat Menorah out of black construction paper. For the next three weeks, Mark Ehrlich, the other Jewish kid in the class, and I cut up pieces of colored paper and glued them to the paper Menorah. It was boring, but we were avoiding ornaments and singing. As vacation time approached the teacher realized she had a dilemma. There were two boys, but only one (ghastly) art project. Immediately, we both offered to send it home with the other. The teacher was touched by our magnanimity! In her Solomonian wisdom she decided to cut it in half. We looked at each other and realized we were expected to take home our half of the Menorah. Both sets of parents found the entire incident ridiculous and hilarious.

While many of us share similar memories from our childhood, we can now view Hannukah as adults and adults in the military. Over the years I have contemplated how to think of the holiday and as a Jewish chaplain serving all faiths, how to make it relevant. While there are many themes and lessons from the Hannukah story, there is one that can resonate with everyone. Hanukkah is a story of optimism. During this time of year, the days are short and often gray. Some are deployed far from home. Hannukah takes the symbol of increasing light to give us a message of optimism and positivity. The rededication of the Temple reminds us that we can not only endure, but we can thrive.

Project Maggid Storyteller Program



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

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



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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

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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.

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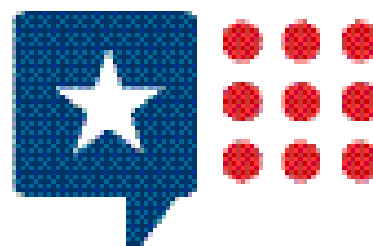
NPA#112285 • ISSN 047-2019.

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

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

Veterans Crisis Line



**DIAL 988 then
PRESS 1**

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Nelson L. Mellitz

Jewish War Veterans Working Together To Accomplish Our Mission

I have been a member of JWV for more than 30 years, serving in many positions, including numerous Post committee leads, Junior Post Commander and now National Commander. It wasn't until I became National Vice Commander that I learned of the complexities and capabilities of our national staff. At the JWV headquarters we have wonderful individuals who sometimes work seven days a week in our interest. However, the JWV national staff is made up of just ten paid employees. To compare that with another Veterans Service Organization (VSO), the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) has 84 paid headquarters staff. JWV and MOAA manage many similar programs to support service members and veterans' issues. In addition, our JWV staff works with me daily to fight against antisemitism and promote the support of Israel.

I don't want to discourage Departments and Post members from contacting our national staff, but every day headquarters receives requests that could be handled at the Department or Post level. Our national headquarters staff is composed of strong individuals who all contribute to our ever-improving organization and to our outreach and reputation in the military, veteran, and Jewish communities – thank you for working at JWV.

As your National Commander I travelled
Hurricane Ian Assistance Check for me

JWV AIDS MEMBERS WITH RELIEF FUNDS AFTER HURRICANE IAN

Continued from page 1

It will be very helpful due to the very strong impact of this very powerful Hurricane impact on my house.

I will put your very kind assistance to good use as I had a lot of damage that needs fixed. My insurance will not cover all of my damage to my house.

It really makes me feel good to know that I belong to such a caring organization that helps Jewish Veterans in need.

Thank you again.

All the Best.

Dennis Simon

This is the first time the relief fund has handed out money after a disaster since a wildfire in California in September of 2020.

For more information on this program, visit our website at www.jwv.org.



Damage to Judith Satin's home

across much of the United States on almost every weekend of October and November, including trips to Minnesota, West Point Academy, Air Force Academy, Reserve Organization of America's National Convention, Mikve Israel in Savannah, Post 1 events in New York City, Veterans Day ceremonies in Arlington, Washington, D.C., and Maryland, etc. I have plans to travel in January and February to attend the Departments of Florida and TALO Conventions, The Aleph Institute, The Chapel of Four Chaplains Foundation 54th Annual Banquet, Federation of Jewish Men's Club, Middle Atlantic Region Dinner, and other events. At these events I talk about what JWV has recently accomplished and what we are planning to accomplish, including improved benefits for service members and veterans, actively fighting antisemitism, and support for Israel. I explain why qualified individuals should join and be active members of JWV. If you would like me to attend one of your events, please contact me through email with the request.

In my travels the most rewarding events have been ones involving young Jewish members of the military. A good example is the recent Jewish Warrior Weekend held at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. There were nearly 100 Jewish cadets, midshipmen, ROTC students, and military academy future service members in



attendance. The students mobbed me after my presentation with pointed questions about military service, JWV's mission, and how we at JWV are fighting antisemitism. Wherever I travel, I have found wonderful young Jewish service members and veterans. Jewish women and men serve in the U.S. military – let's recruit them to serve in the Jewish War Veterans.

Last year and during part of this year the Jewish War Veterans celebrated our great accomplishments over the past 125 years. We must all work together and continue to accomplish our mission to support service members, veterans, fighting antisemitism, and support of Israel. I am here to help you accomplish our JWV mission. Feel free to reach out to me at nationalcmdr@jwv.org.

Once Again JWV Answers the Litigation Call

By PNC Harvey Weiner

Twice in November, JWV was asked to become involved in two separate veterans' benefit appellate cases and both times JWV stepped up to the plate.

In the first case, *Veteran Warriors, Inc. v. McDonough*, JWV was asked to join in a Petition for Certiorari from the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit to the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS). The facts are somewhat lost in this case, which involve an interpretation of the Caregivers Act. The question is whether the VA should employ the Pro-Veteran Canon of interpretation when it begins to interpret provisions of the Caregivers Act or wait until after it makes its interpretation (when it is usually too late to favor the veteran). The Circuit Court, in a divided opinion, held that the VA can wait to apply the Pro-Veteran Canon, which disadvantages the veteran. It may take as long as a year before SCOTUS decides whether it will hear the case.

The facts of the second case, *Louis v. Bluegreen Vacations Unlimited*, a class action, are not lost. After nine hours of pressure, Bluegreen Vacations convinced Private Louis and his wife to enter into a long-term discount vacation contract. When Private Louis tried to cancel the contract, Bluegreen refused. Under the Military Lending Act (MLA), Bluegreen misrepresented the interest rate, failed to provide the written and oral disclosures the statute requires, and included an arbitration clause - all of which the MLA forbids. The contract is void from the inception of such a contract and unenforceable under MLA. The

Federal District Court held that these violations didn't matter because Private Louis did not prove that he would have made a different decision if it weren't for these violations. The decision has been appealed to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals and the JWV has joined in an amicus brief. This is an important case because the District Court's interpretation makes MLA less effective and makes it much harder for service personnel to get relief under MLA. The case is still in the briefing stage and oral arguments are not yet scheduled.

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National Executive Director Ken Greenberg

I bring you greetings from JWV headquarters. I am pleased to share information on current issues before Congress and the Executive Branch. Please write to me at kgreenberg@jwv.org with feedback or concerns. I hope all JWV members and their families have a joyous holiday season.

Election Results Bring Changes to 118th Congress in January 2023

All indications are that the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) will continue with Senator Jon Tester of Montana as the Chairman and Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas as Ranking Member. In the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), Chairman Jack Reed of Rhode Island will retain his position and Roger Wicker of Mississippi is expected to become the Ranking Member. The previous ranking member, Senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma, has retired.

In the House of Representatives, Rep. Mike Bost of Illinois is expected to become the Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) and Rep. Mark Takano of California is expected to become the Ranking Member. For the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), Rep. Mike Rogers of Alabama is expected to be named Chairman and Rep. Adam Smith of Washington is expected to be named Ranking Member. Both HVAC and HASC leadership will be swapping their positions from the current Congress.

JWV has an excellent working relationship with all four committees as well as their respective staffs. We will continue to keep you posted as any updates occur.

NED Greenberg Participates in Antisemitism Roundtable

On November 17, 2022, JWV National Executive Director Ken Greenberg represented JWV at a roundtable on antisemitism sponsored by The Friedlander Group. In his remarks, Greenberg stated JWV's strong position in fighting antisemitism and cited examples of JWV having a Nazi lithograph removed from the walls of a USAF base in Texas and calling for the resignation of a German official for comments about British Major General Orde Wingate. Greenberg also noted that JWV's advocacy for William Shemin and Tibor Rubin led to each receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor. Six members of Congress also spoke at the event. Attendees included representatives from Jewish community organizations and at least 12 embassies.

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023

JWV worked hard and collaborated with many VSOs as Congress moved the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2023 forward. The NDAA contains many provisions of importance to veterans, retirees, servicemembers, and their families including pay raises, housing, TRICARE, childcare, and commissary access. On

December 6, the House and Senate Armed Services committee leadership announced a bipartisan, bicameral agreement. It will be voted on shortly.

JWV Supported H.R. 3304, AUTO for Veterans Act Advances

JWV joined 15 other organizations to urge SVAC to seek expeditious passage of H.R. 3304, the AUTO for Veterans Act.

The House recently passed H.R. 3304. This important legislation had bipartisan support and would allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to immediately provide an additional automobile allowance to eligible veterans if 25 years have elapsed since they received their first automobile grant. Over time, the period would shorten to 10 years. The bill would also change the definition of medical services to include certain vehicle modifications like van lifts, which are offered through VA's Automobile Adaptive Equipment program.

VA only allows eligible veterans to receive a single grant currently worth \$22,355.72 to help them purchase a new or used vehicle. Unfortunately, the average useful life of a modified vehicle is about 11.5 years, and it can cost anywhere between \$40,000-\$60,000 to replace it.

Thanks to advances in science and modern medicine, these veterans are living longer and more independently. Now more than ever, access to an adapted vehicle is essential to the mobility and health of catastrophically disabled veterans by increasing access to VA medical care and improving access to employment, especially for veterans living in rural areas with little or no public transportation. JWV calls on SVAC to move the bill to the floor and for the full Senate to act swiftly and pass the legislation.

VA Plans to cut Emergency Medical Air Transportation Reimbursement Rates – Putting Veterans at Risk

In a letter to VA Secretary Denis McDonough, JWV and the National Military Veterans Alliance (NMVA) expressed deep concern with the Proposed Rule (RIN 2900-AP89, Change in Rates VA Pays for Special Modes of Transportation) that cuts the VA reimbursement rate for emergency air medical services to below the costs of the services themselves. If it is published without changes, it would put more than 2.7 million rural veterans in our country who are enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and 4.8 million rural veterans overall, at risk of losing life-saving emergency air transportation.

These emergency air services are ordered by physicians and first responders, when they believe providing health care within the golden hour after a stroke, heart attack, or other life-threatening situation could be the difference between life or death for a veteran. This proposed rule would cut VA's reimbursement rate to less than 50% of operational costs, which will cause emergency air medical bases around the country to shut their doors, halting services to veterans.



In January 2022, the No Surprises Act went into effect, requiring air medical companies to submit two years of cost data to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). VA must delay the consideration of any change to its reimbursement rate until HHS publishes that cost data report. JWV and NMVA are requesting that VA immediately stop moving the final rule forward and await the HHS report on the air medical company data.

JWV calls on DOD and HASC and SASC Leadership to Address TRICARE Pharmacy Cuts

JWV, along with NMVA, expressed concern about the recent announcement that nearly 15,000 local and independent pharmacies have chosen not to continue participating in the TRICARE pharmacy program. A letter sent to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin calls on the Department of Defense to immediately reverse the changes to the TRICARE program which led to the mass exodus of these pharmacies, and if the Department of Defense is unable or unwilling to do so, it calls for Congress to adopt a legislative solution in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. The letter was also addressed to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the HASC and SASC.

Under current practices, Express Scripts acts as a pharmacy benefit manager for the TRICARE program while serving as a mail-order and specialty pharmacy itself. This poses a conflict of interest that must be reconciled to ensure TRICARE is compliant with federal procurement law and provides for additional competition in the marketplace to drive down costs and expand options for beneficiaries. The sudden and wrongful network reduction goes far beyond simply reducing access to care for TRICARE beneficiaries.

For those beneficiaries, it eliminates the crucial role local pharmacists play in protecting beneficiaries' health, especially those requiring multiple medications where contraindications are always a concern.

JWV and NMVA opposes any decisions made solely to ensure cost savings over the quality-of-care beneficiaries are receiving. Such an approach to taking care of service members and their families will harm beneficiaries in the short term and readiness down range.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET COMMITTEE

By Chairman PNC Alan Paley

Our National Accounting Department will provide the committee with cash basis numbers (this is the actual cash received and spent) from July 1 through November 30. The committee will take these numbers, which represent five months of activity, and will project an annual amount for each revenue and expense line of the budget. The committee also looks at prior years trends and takes that into consideration when preparing the budget for the coming year. The proposed budget will be prepared along with commentary on certain line items that may be more or less than usual. This budget package will be distributed to those who attend the NEC in person and online.

During the NEC meeting on January 19, these reports will be presented and discussed, and the Budget Committee will ask for a vote to approve the budget. Once approved, the budget for the year beginning July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, will be put in place.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

By Chairman PNC Alan Paley

Our upcoming NEC will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn on M Street in Washington, D.C. As in the past, we have gone back to Washington at the request of our membership, so we could incorporate Capitol Hill Action Days. We will begin on Tuesday, January 17 with a full day on Capitol Hill. Wednesday, January 18 will have the morning hours reserved for Capitol Hill visits, and the afternoon and evening hours for committee meetings at the hotel. On Thursday, January 19, JWV will hold its NEC meeting in the morning. The National Ladies Auxiliary will hold their NEC meeting at the same time, also at the hotel. Following a lunch break (there is a restaurant within the hotel property), the National Museum of American Jewish Military History will hold its Board of Directors meeting from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. We have secured a nightly room rate of \$159.00, which includes breakfast. We hope you will consider joining us.

Our next national convention is scheduled for August 27, 2023, through August 31, 2023, at the Omni Jacksonville Hotel. The committee is ready to receive bids for upcoming conventions for 2024, 2025, and 2026. The specifications have been distributed to all Department Commanders, so if you would like to host a national convention in a city near you, simply request the required specifications and submit your bid. We suggest that if there is an interest in hosting a national convention, you first contact the Convention or Visitors Bureau and provide them with the specifications. They in turn will reach out to hotels that they work with who then know can accommodate a group our size. They will provide you with a listing of hotels, or specific contacts at hotels they suggest you speak with. Very often, if you go through the local Convention or Visitors Bureau, you can get lower rates than if you contacted the hotel directly.

The committee is ready to review all bids and ideally would like to secure two upcoming convention sites (2024 and 2025) before our August

convention.

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

GULF WAR COMMITTEE

By Chairwoman Rochel Hayman

The Gulf War Committee email is JWVGWC@gmail.com. I wanted to put it right at the beginning so that you can get used to seeing it frequently. The Gulf War Committee has had slow progress recently, but we are looking to increase activities and projects. A major goal is gathering people together, so remember the email JWVGWC@gmail.com.

This email is our first portal for collecting contacts and bringing together those who have in common their service during the Gulf War - we're around the same age and place in life and bring a certain variety to the JWV table. This committee gives us a place and opportunity to network nationally with potentially creative and collaborative avenues. The monthly meeting is returning, and we are using interactive documents for correspondence as well as starting a WhatsApp group.

We've done well and our intent is to grow substantially, since our strength is not only in numbers but in what each person brings to the table. So, email JWVGWC@gmail.com with your best contact info, others who you know served during the Gulf War era, or anyone who is just interested in joining the discussion.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

By Chairman Steve Krant

The Marketing Committee was established in 2019. We're determined to increase the visibility and awareness of the Jewish War Veterans, so first a good news anecdote about our trade show-style travelling booth. The Department of Illinois used it at Chicago's semi-annual Jewish Festival earlier this year. The booth, staffed by uniformed JWV members, caught the eye of Israel's Consul General to the Midwest, Yinam Cohen. That led to a recent meeting attended by PNC Sacks and several Department officers to explore how JWV and the Consulate could work together in pursuit of our mutual interests. A win-win!

More good news - our Resource Center, which you can find under the Membership pulldown menu on JWV's website or by going directly to www.resourecenter.jwv.org, continues to add users and documents, while also refining its search and data organization. The official Branding Guide, with instructions and sample documents to edit and customize to suit the needs of your Post or Department, is available for download. The Resource Center remains a work-in-progress, but try it, you'll like it.

We are also strengthening ties between marketing and membership. A primary role of marketing is to create awareness and tell JWV's story in a positive, recruitment-friendly manner that helps membership "close the deal." Our respective teams are coordinating on messaging and will take part in each other's working group sessions.

The reputation and perceptions of any brand, whether commercial or nonprofit, requires time, effort, and resources to cultivate and maintain. Your Marketing Committee is always open to constructive feedback and fresh perspectives. Contact us through Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at headquarters.

POST-9/11 COMMITTEE

By Chairman Jeffrey Blonder

The Post 9/11 Committee continues to offer meaningful and informative programming to the members of the JWV. In October the Post 9/11 Committee heard from National Executive Director Ken Greenberg on the recently passed PACT Act. This piece of legislation is the most significant legislation for veterans passed by the U.S. Congress in 30 years. Any JWV members who want more information or to see if they are eligible for benefits should contact one of the JWV National Service Officers. In November we had a discussion on antisemitism in the U.S. with a representative from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). This was well received by all who attended. In December, the Post 9/11 Committee sponsored a very important discussion on suicide and how we can be agents of change in that field.

The Post 9/11 Veterans Committee meets virtually the second Monday of each month and is open to all JWV members regardless of which era you are from.

VAVS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Howard Goldstein

JWV Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS) representatives and deputies held their first virtual meeting with eight members from around the country. We started with introductions, discussed what we would want out of these meetings, and briefly described what is going on in each of our respective VA facilities. We plan to meet quarterly to share stories and insights into what is happening within the VA facilities and to learn from each other as to how we can best support our respective VAs.

JWV has representatives and/or deputies in 68 of the 183 VA hospitals around the country. While it would be beneficial to have representation at all VA facilities, there are practical reasons why we don't. Some states have no JWV Posts or, if they do, the Posts are not near a facility.

When there is a facility near a Post, we should make every attempt to have volunteers there.

Participating in VAVS meets two key JWV goals - to help veterans and to promote the Jewish War Veterans. We are doing a good job in the facilities where we have active members. It would be good to expand this elsewhere.

Those who are volunteering at the VA facilities are encouraged to track their hours, both at the facility and with JWV National. Doing this shows the VA how much JWV is supporting veterans. At the annual CDCE National Advisory Council meeting (the organization overseeing VAVS) awards are

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MEMBERSHIP CORNER

I am excited to see so many of our Posts and members being part of Veterans Day programs around the country. This has been the first time in several years that there have been so many activities. Participating in these activities is one of many ways to get JWV into the public eye and remind people of our existence, contributions, and sacrifices to preserve our freedoms.

Having information about JWV and membership forms available is a must at these types of events. We must never pass up the opportunity to recruit new members.

At a recent event a man approached me and said he belonged many years ago but no longer did because all they did at meetings was sit around and complain. I said our post is part of this event and this is just one of many things we do in the community. He has now renewed his membership. This took only ten minutes.

Having a list of events to participate in can encourage more of your members to be active. Not

everyone likes to offer poppies. Recently four of our members were part of a veteran's program that talked to 500 grade school children in two days about what it means to serve our country. We also picked up two new members - younger veterans who accompanied the kids. So, there are many opportunities to find new members.

National reports that it is receiving membership forms that are not properly filled out or even completed. It takes a lot of time for staff to follow up on these forms and that means delays in the new member packets going out. Please have at least two people check these forms before they are sent in.

We will be having another membership contest this coming year, same criteria as last year. We hope to see more people participating. See the separate announcement.

Also we have a new member benefit. JWV has partnered with Berres Brothers Coffee Company (a veteran-owned coffee roaster) to provide premium coffee at a discount to our members. This will also



Kim Queen
Membership Chairman

generate funds for JWV to support veterans' programs. There will be more information coming out about this great program soon!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our JWV members who spent time participating in Veterans Day events.

2023 JWV National Membership Contest

GOAL:

Most new members signed up from January 1 to May 31, 2023

RULES

- Contestant must be a member in good standing during the entire period of contest
- All entries will be reviewed by the Director of Membership and the National Membership Committee
- When submitting membership forms make sure the contestant and their post are listed as sponsors on the form
- Only new paid members will be counted (Transfers, Renewals and Patrons will not be counted).
- Write across the top of the new membership form that this submission should be counted for the 2023 membership contest

FIRST PRIZE

2023 National Convention in Jacksonville, FL. package includes:

- 2023 Convention registration fees
- Hotel room at the host facility for the dates of the convention (up to five nights)
- Two tickets for the National Commanders Banquet

(All travel and other expenses are the responsibility of the contestant)

SECOND PRIZE

2023 National Convention in Jacksonville, FL. package includes:

- 2023 Convention registration fees
- Two tickets for the National Commanders Banquet

(All travel and other expenses are the responsibility of the contestant)

THIRD PRIZE

Two tickets for the National Commanders Banquet

Massachusetts Wills for Veterans

By PNC Harvey Weiner

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, JWV's Department of Massachusetts revived its annual Wills for Veterans program on November 10. The Department hosted the event alongside the Massachusetts chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Seven estate planning attorneys from the Boston law office of Day Pitney LLP donated their services to draft wills, trusts, durable powers of attorneys, and/or health care proxies for 13 veterans, members of the Massachusetts National Guard, five spouses, and a Gold Star wife. Among the veterans helped was the lead plaintiff in a landmark case which holds that there should be equal military benefits for spouses regardless of gender. If any departments or posts are interested in a template on how to hold a similar event, you can find it in JWV's Resource Center under the membership tab on our website.



From left: Bruce Dobson, Chris Voukides, Chris Fox, Prajakta Joshi, PNC Harvey Weiner, Kaitlyn Sapp, Amy Lonergan, Heidi Seely, Moriah Preston, Kyle Munns, and Col. James Downey.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Selina Kanowitz

By Larry Jasper
Meet Selina Kanowitz, the current Commander of the Department of New Jersey and a woman of many talents.

Kanowitz joined JWV Post 215 in Philadelphia in 1991. Prior to becoming Department Commander, she served as Junior Vice Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Commander of Post 126 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and also served in parallel positions at the department level. Her father and her father-in-law were also JWV members.

Kanowitz grew up in Pennsylvania, graduated from Penn State University with a BS in Education and Pre-med and Westchester State University with a degree in Safety Ed. Her husband is an attorney and they have been married for 43 years. She has two children, a son who took two years of Army ROTC while in Penn State University, and a daughter.

Her family has a long history of military service. Her father served as a medic in World War II where he earned a Purple Heart. Also in WWII, one her uncles was a very lucky man. He was wearing a mezuzah around his neck when he was shot and fortunately the bullet hit the mezuzah and saved his life. Two of her uncles served in Korea.

When she took basic training, she was the only Jew in her unit, was dorm chief, and had the nickname Private Benjamin. After basic she served in the Air Force Reserve with the 913th Tactical Clinic, part of the 913 Combat Support Squadron, in radiology, eventually rising to be the NCOIC of the section. She



did her annual training at major hospitals around the United States, England, Germany, and Japan, helping in different areas of the hospitals. She also took survival training in

Texas. She was activated during Operation Desert Storm but remained stateside at McGuire AFB in New Jersey. 350 members of her unit were deployed worldwide, and all returned safely.

During her career she had a couple of opportunities for a Direct Commission but each time she was bumped for unexplained reasons. She retired in 1998 as an E-7, having served over 21 years.

Kanowitz, in her current JWV position, has goals to bring in more members, especially female veterans, increase the visibility of the command, increase community outreach, reduce antisemitism, and travel the state to meet with the governor and members of the department. She feels that a personal touch is a great way to improve retention, build unit cohesiveness, and give the members a good feeling about the leadership.

Kanowitz has been a figure skater for 30 years, likes horseback riding, a pastime for which she won a blue ribbon in jumping, and loves her 39-year-old red-lored amazon parrot. She also loves languages and travel.

She feels the military gave her opportunities that she would not have had otherwise. Her desire is to educate others so they too can gain those opportunities.

A NEW PLACE FOR MEMORIES

Continued from page 1

tions paying tribute to veterans and those killed in the line of duty. The Memorial Garden provides an opportunity to continue the engraved paver program in a new space next to the walkway. Pavers will lead from the sidewalk to two benches in the garden. We look forward to seeing new messages in the garden honoring and memorializing loved ones.

We're also planning to install an eternal light and plaque on the main stone in the garden.

There are several sponsorship opportunities still available in the garden.

- Garden Plaque - \$7,500
- Flagstone - \$5,000
- Trees - \$2,500
- Engraved Pavers -
 - 4x8 - \$250
 - 8x8 - \$500

If you are interested, contact Michael Rugel at mrugel@nmajmh.org or (202) 265-6280.

2024 JWV Calendar Submissions

The theme of next year's calendar will be "Women in the Military." We are interested in acquiring stories and photos from any women who served in the U.S. military at any time. You can send these items to Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at crinkoff@jwv.org or contact her at (202) 265-6285 with any questions.

NEW MEMBERS

- DEPARTMENT AT LARGE**
Bruce A. Feldman - 100
William R. Poller - 100
- DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA**
Arthur Katz - 64
- DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA**
Scott Topiol - 118
- DEPT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
David A. Waugh - 381
- DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**
Kenneth M. Shewitz - 400
Larry J. Schwartz - 502
Mark S. Ross - 506

- Jeffrey M. Hoffman - 941
- DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS**
Larry H. Cohen - 29
Michael J. Heyman - 29
Michael E. Steinberg - 29
- DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND**
Sherman B. Paper - 167
Michael P. Wohl - 167
Jim H. Shiffrin - 380
- DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN**
Suzanna Dyan Friedly - 135
- DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA**
Thomas Mortel - 162

- DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY**
Mark S. Lichtenfeld - 126
Stuart Weinstein - 609
- DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK**
Aidan Djavadi - 1
David Frommer - 1
Ben Wallen - 1
Alan Chernow - 2
Joel T. West - 2
Eileen F. Woodcock - 036
Richard Kitson - 336
Kogan Gabriel - 648
Leonard Meisels - 655

- DEPT OF SOUTHEAST-GA,AL,SC,TN**
Amir Udler - 112
Howard K. Cohen - 320
- DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST**
Arthur S. Uram - 619
- DEPARTMENT OF TALO**
Sidney L. Sokol - 256
Andrew Lovy - 574
Alisa Friel-Watanabe - 618
Carl Lee Brown - 753
Laura M. Fross - 755
- DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA-NC**
William L. Small - 95

VA Warns Veterans to Remain Vigilant of PACT Act Scams

Scammers are targeting millions of veterans and survivors newly eligible for benefits

By Meghan Badame, Department of Veterans Affairs Communications Specialist

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is asking veterans, their family members, caregivers, and survivors to remain vigilant of scams related to the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, signed into law August 10 by President Biden. The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history and will help millions of veterans and survivors with the care and benefits they have earned and deserve.

Senior Adviser for Policy Performing the Delegable Duties of the Under Secretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs, said scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud.

“We want to make sure veterans know about these scams and predatory entities, so the benefits they’ve earned are not compromised,” said Jacobs.

How PACT Act scams work and what VA is doing

PACT Act fraudsters, not recognized by VA, have been targeting veterans and their families through multiple communications avenues by advertising on TV, social media, and in print. This has led to an increase in PACT Act-related phishing (email), vishing (phone), and social media scams.

“In many cases, these companies and/or individuals are offering no upfront fees to help veterans obtain benefits associated with presumptive conditions in relation to the PACT Act – and are, instead, charging exorbitant fees on the back end once the veteran receives their benefit payments,” Jacobs said.

VA is proactively reaching out to veterans, family members, and survivors to raise awareness of predatory companies not recognized by the VA. These companies may charge absurd fees or entice claimants to sign contracts that commit them to pay a portion of their future VA benefits.

Tips to Avoid PACT Act Scammers

Veterans, their family members, caregivers, and survivors can protect themselves against new scams and fraudsters with these tips:

- Do not provide personal benefits, medical, or financial details online or over the phone to anyone.
- Do not click on online ads or engage with

social media sites that seem suspicious or “too good to be true.”

- Check for “https://” at the start of website addresses.
- Enable multi-factor authentication on all accounts.
- Work with trusted Veterans Service Organizations.

When Veterans and survivors are working with service providers to file a claim with VA, they should follow these tips:

- Review all documents thoroughly.
- Never sign a blank form for someone else to complete later.
- Always review the completed form before signing.
- Retain a copy of the completed form for their records.

VA urges caution in working with companies that claim to be contacting veterans, family members and/or survivors on behalf of the VA, claim to have a special relationship with the VA, or anyone who guarantees VA will award a lucrative financial benefit or service. Claimants can contact VA directly at 1-800-827-1000 if they are unsure about the authenticity of any message they’ve received.

To report suspected fraudulent activity, veterans and survivors can:

- Report suspected fraudulent activity by contacting the VA’s Office of Inspector General at vaoighotline@va.gov.
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission and the Better Business Bureau if they suspect a company is using predatory practices or projecting misinformation.
- Contact VA directly at 1-800-827-1000.
- Use the Office of General Counsel Accreditation tool to confirm and validate accredited representatives at a Veterans Service Organization, agent, or attorney credentials at www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp.
- Contact the Department of Justice with questions regarding legal action filed under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act at camplejeune.pactact@usdoj.gov or 202-353-4426.
- Visit the Cybercrime Support Network for additional resources to combat cybercrime.

About the PACT Act

This monumental law expands eligibility for health

care and benefits for veterans and their survivors of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era and Post-9/11 era who were exposed to toxic substances.

The PACT Act adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures, expanding presumptive exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation. This means that veterans or survivors may not need to prove that a claimed disability for specific illnesses is related to service if they served in a recognized location that exposed the veteran to toxins.

“VA has been hard at work on implementing this landmark legislation,” says Jacobs. “We are urging veterans to submit their claims now so they can take full advantage of these new benefits.”

While the PACT Act contains phased-in applicability dates for several presumptions of service connection, the VA Secretary made a determination regarding all claimants’ ability to demonstrate other sufficient cause, such that all presumptions in the Act are applicable upon the date of enactment. This means that for any presumptive conditions outlined in the PACT Act, the effective date for benefits may be as early as August 10, 2022 if the claim is filed within one year of the date the law was signed. VA will begin processing and deciding PACT Act claims in January 2023.

How to Apply for Benefits

Veterans and survivors who think they might be eligible for PACT Act benefits should apply directly to VA now by going to www.VA.gov/PACT or calling 1-800-698-2411 to learn more. VA will help gather the necessary evidence to support veterans’ and survivors’ claims, and there are no costs or hidden fees to apply.

Veterans and survivors who need extra assistance may also make a virtual appointment to speak with a local benefits counselor from one of VA’s 56 regional offices by going to www.benefits.va.gov or calling 1-800-827-1000. VA accredited representatives and Veteran Service Officers are always standing by and ready to help.

“My top priority is to make sure we honor our commitment to those who have worn the uniform and made sacrifices for our great nation. VA will continue its commitment to protecting veterans from criminal activities and ensuring veterans and their beneficiaries receive the full compensation they deserve,” Jacobs said.

Update from the JWV VSOs

2023 VA Disability Rate Increase

By Raiana Berman, National Service Officer

Every fiscal year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) sets forth an updated cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), based on the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earnings and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). The CPI-W measures the change in prices of goods and services over time. After the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) calculates the monthly CPI-W, the SSA will pull data from the third quarter of the previous fiscal year to the third quarter of the current year to determine the COLA for the upcoming year. Following this, Congress will pass new legislation to allow a cost-of-living increase for veterans’ ben-

efits. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will then adjust veterans’ monthly compensation to reflect the updated cost of living. This typically leads to an increase in veterans’ benefits each year.

On October 13, 2022, the Social Security Administration announced a massive 8.7% COLA increase to 2023 VA Disability Rates for disabled veterans with a VA rating of 10% or higher, effective December 1, 2022. These changes will be reflected in veterans’ monthly payments at the end of the month (i.e., December 30, 2022), with an official automatic pay date of January 2023. This is the largest adjustment to the federal COLA due to

inflation since 1981.

Your 2023 VA disability compensation is a monthly tax-free payment from the Department of Veterans Affairs paid to former military service members who sustained an illness or injury during their time in service. It is important to note that this benefit is not permanent and it may be subject to review. On a wider scale, the VA may change its rating schedule at any time, but it may also reexamine your individual claim to judge whether your disability has improved or worsened, thus affecting your benefit amount.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

From the moment we are born we begin to die. Only Hashem knows when that moment will be. We have all faced the loss of a loved one and eulogized their life. We have all looked into a mirror and seen our own immortality and sometimes wondered when our time will come.

It is said that on a grave stone what really matters is the dash – the dash between the year of our birth and the year of our death. That dash represents what we have done with our life.

What will your dash say? Will your life have been meaningful? Will it be one that people remember? Will you have accomplished all that you intended to? Will your loved ones say you were all work and had no time for them? Or will they say you were a wonderful father/mother etc.?

What will your fellow JWV members say when your time comes? What will those outside of JWV say – those other veterans whose lives you have touched? Will you be missed or forgotten?

We have a mission.

We have all served – those in uniform served

our country, our patrons and Auxiliary have served those who served.

Our mission is to keep serving. We need to serve our fellow veterans. We need to mentor our younger members. We need to mentor those in our communities who will hopefully serve one day. We need to spread the word that Jews serve, have always served, and will continue to serve so long as this great nation endures.

We need you, those who you know, and those who you do not yet know, to be a part of JWV to continue our mission.

We just passed Veterans Day. A day set aside to honor those who served. This day was created on November 11, 1911, at 11:00 a.m. On June 28, 1968, the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill was passed into law. This law made the observance of Veterans Day the fourth Monday in October. Outcry from veterans forced Congress to change the law. On September 20, 1975, President Ford signed a law so that beginning in 1978, once again, the official observance would be November 11.

What did you do for Veterans Day? I spoke at four synagogues about the day and related subjects, and made an appeal for every person in the congregation to join JWV – either as a member, patron, or as part of the auxiliary. I handed out applications to every person present with my business card attached. Did you?

As I have said previously, membership is everyone's job. We need to keep JWV going for the next 126 years.

So, when the time comes, what will the dash on your grave stone say about you?



Larry Jasper, National Editor

ON THE HILL

Continued from page 4

JWV Joins New Coalition to Reduce VA Surgical Wait Times

JWV has joined Veterans Need Care Now, a grassroots coalition committed to reducing surgical wait times in VA facilities. The coalition is calling on the VA to take urgent action to reduce wait times for veterans requiring anesthesia and pain management services by expanding access to the Department's 1,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs).

Six years after news reports and court documents first showed veterans were experiencing significant wait times accessing surgeries and other healthcare in the VHA, a national survey conducted by Veterans Need Care Now has found that more than 23% of veteran households still report delays in securing VA health appointments and surgical procedures. Of these delays, 13% were viewed as major problems for veterans and their families.

The coalition's survey found broad and strong public support for VA to give veterans direct access to the care and services of CRNAs. An overwhelming 88% support this change, extending across party, age, gender, race, and all other key demographics. Among veteran households, 88% are strongly in favor of the proposal. To learn more about the coalition and email your lawmakers and the VA about the proposal, visit VeteransNeedCareNow.org.

Coalition Building Continues – JWV Added to White Oak Collaborative (WOC)

JWV was recently approved as an observer member of The White Oak Collaborative (WOC). The Collaborative seeks to address the challenges faced by military and veteran-connected communities through data-driven, cross-sector partnerships among its members. Efforts include direct service and/or policy-level solutions, while applying a whole-of-family lens. The steering committee wrote, "We believe that Jewish War Veterans will add a great deal of value to the overall Collaborative, and we look forward to welcoming your organization into the wonderful work we are doing together."

WOC is a cross-sector coalition of organizations committed to supporting service members, veterans, wounded warriors, caregivers, survivors, and their families. Blue Star Families is the convening authority and secretariat for the collaborative, with more than 200 members representing military and Veteran support organizations, other nonprofits, and private, philanthropic, government, and community sectors. The work of the White Oak Collaborative is non-partisan.

Staff Change at JWV Headquarters

Ben Kane has recently left the JWV staff, and we are currently interviewing to fill the position of Membership Director. Until we are able to hire a replacement, please send your membership questions to National Executive Director Ken Greenberg (kgreenberg@jwv.org) or Director of Operations Greg Byrne (gbyrne@jwv.org).

New VA Life Insurance Program for Veterans

On January 1, 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is launching a new life insurance program for service-connected veterans called Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife). VALife expands access to life insurance coverage to more veterans with service-connected disabilities than ever before.

VALife Benefits

VALife offers guaranteed acceptance, whole life insurance coverage to all veterans age 80 or under with any level of service-connected disability rating (0-100%) from VA. Benefits include the following:

- Up to \$40,000 in coverage, available in increments of \$10,000
- Cash value component that builds over the life of the policy
- No medical requirements for enrollment
- No deadline to apply if you are age 80 or under
- Premium rates that are competitive, or better than, similar private sector programs.

veterans who are 81 or older may apply for VALife within two years of receiving notification of a new service-connected disability rating if they:

- Applied for VA disability compensation before age 81, and
- Received a new service-connected disability rating after turning 81.

When and Where to Apply for VALife

Veterans can apply for VALife on January 1, 2023 when the application goes live on the VALife website. The application and enrollment process will be completely online, with automated instant decisions.

Learn More About VALife

Please note, VALife does not offer waiver of premiums. To learn more about VALife coverage, premium rates, and more, visit the VALife website at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife.asp>.

Stay in touch with JWV!



World War II Veterans Honored



Goldstein and Jacobs

By Sheldon Goldberg

On September 24, two Jewish World War II veterans from posts in the Department of Maryland were honored at the 11th Annual 007 Black Tie Gala hosted by the Ruyts Foundation.

2nd Lieutenant George Jacobs was a radar navigator with the 91st Bomb Group, 324th Squadron. He flew six combat missions and three humanitarian missions, including dropping food to starving civilians in Holland, participating in the fly-out of 9,000 Allied Airmen from Stalag Luft One, and flying medical supplies and doctors to Mauthausen concentration camp after its liberation in 1945.

Technical Sergeant Larry Goldstein served as a B-17 radio operator with the 8th Air Force. He deployed to England in February 1943 and participated in strategic bombing attacks over key German industrial, transportation, and military targets in Europe. In March 1944 he participated in the first daytime bombing raid over Berlin. Goldstein also served in the Korean War.

New York's Nassau-Suffolk District Supports Holocaust Awareness

By Eric Spinner

It should be no surprise to anyone that education about the Holocaust and other genocides has been neglected in schools across our country, and the neglect has been even more apparent lately with the political unrest and the apparent failure of hastily devised bail reform. Regardless of the cause, there are many groups promoting awareness and enforcement of education law that requires this historical problem to be addressed in our schools.

Representatives of the Jewish War Veterans in downstate New York are actively engaged in campaigns to reinforce these requirements for teaching of history, and members of the Nassau-Suffolk

District Council have added their support to one of the leading groups in this cause, Voices 4 Truth & Humanity on Long Island.

Seven of our members were proud to provide a Color Guard for the 3rd Annual Remembrance Awards Dinner at Crest Hollow Country Club on September 13.

Guest honorees for the event included Prime Minister Salih Hudayar of the East Turkistan Government-in-Exile and champion for the Uyghur people who are victims of Communist Chinese oppression and genocide, New York State Regent Roger Tilles, and Martin Bloch, a Holocaust survivor and Bielski Partisan. All delivered powerful

messages regarding antisemitism and hate, and the need for coordinated action against the forces promoting hate.

Public service awards were also presented to New York State Senator Anna Kaplan, and to New York State Assemblywoman Nily Rozic for their efforts in support of Holocaust education requirements.

All JWV members and Posts are encouraged to participate in activities in support of efforts to put Holocaust remembrance and education at the top of their efforts in every community across our nation. Never forget!



From left, front row: Murray Steinberg, Eric Spinner, Jeffrey Newman, Steven Ratnoff, Melvin Cohen, and Avidor Hercz. Back row: Angel Cepeda, Noel Rabb, and Gary Glick. Photo credit: HeadShotRescue.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On Friday, September 9, members of the **Department of Massachusetts** attended the Greater Boston Stand Down at Boston City Hall Plaza. The goal of the event is to bring together community providers and veterans in one place, so vets have an easier time accessing services. This year, the Department of Massachusetts handed out more than 500 pairs of compression socks, t-shirts, and other items donated by the Bombas Corporation. They also distributed towels and girl scout cookies. From left: NVC Barry Lischinsky, Sidney Davis, and Jeffrey Blonder.



Members of **Jersey Shore Post 125** spent five days outside the Shop Rite in **West Long Branch, New Jersey** holding a Poppy Sale over Labor Day Weekend. From left: Warren Epstein, Norman Ginsberg, Allan Solden, and Gerry Levine.



Members of **Manhattan Post 1** helped World War II veteran Ben Goldwasser celebrate his 101st birthday on September 9 at his home. From left: Peter Shay, Goldwasser, and Edward Hochman.



Jerry Alperstein, member of **Manhattan Post 1**, taught a lesson on how to blow the Shofar to six West Point Cadets on September 9. From left: Aidan Djavadi, Lucas Schwed, Rafael Nachman, Claudia Brodsky, Adam Nichols, and Alperstein.



Members of **Post 126** in **Cherry Hill, New Jersey**, the South Jersey Men's Club, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Southern New Jersey, organized the placement of nearly 3,000 U.S. flags on the grounds outside the Katz JCC on September 8 to remember the 2,977 men and women who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Several local police departments also helped place the flags.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



The Hamilton Township Council in New Jersey presented a commendation to National Chief of Staff Larry Rosenthal on October 18 for his “years of faithful service and sacrifice for our country and community.”

Left to right: Pat Papero, Council President Nancy Phillips, Rick Tighe, Rosenthal, Chuddy Whalen, and Anthony Carabelli Jr.



Several members of **Colonel David Mickey Marcus Post 336 of Centereach, New York**, assisted with Yom Kippur services at the Long Island State Veterans Home by transporting residents and assisting with the readings. From left: Steve Steinbaum, Mel Cohen, Rabbi Joseph Topak, Robert Ackerman, and Gary Glick.



National Commander Nelson Mellitz addressed the attendees at the 100th Anniversary Convention of Reserve Officers Association (ROA) in Arlington, Virginia on October 1.



On October 23, members of **Shandler-Pincus Post 305 of Merion Station, Pennsylvania** received a private tour of the First City Troop Museum in Philadelphia. From left: Grace Hill, Joanne Nathans, Marty Birenbaum, Dennis Boylan, Shirley Birenbaum, Larry Abel, Seyna Abel, Jeff Hill, Frank Brodsky, Ernie Watts, Jacqueline Hall, and Eileen Watts Siegel.



Members of **David J. Kauffman Post 41 of Rochester, New York** were honored during an event by Congressman Joe Morelle on October 25 that formally recognized Vietnam Era veterans from the city of Rochester and Monroe County. From left: Gary Ginsburg, Saul Rasnick, Rep. Morelle, and Stuart Blume.



New York State Senator Pam Helming recognized Department of New York Senior Vice Commander Gary Ginsburg for his nomination to the state's Veterans Hall of Fame during a ceremony on November 2.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Staff Sergeant Ian Queen of the Florida National Guard supervised maintenance personnel repairing equipment used in the relief operations after Hurricane Ian. Queen is a member of **Horenstein-Katz Post 701** in **Wisconsin**.



Members of JWV **Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256** participated in the annual Dallas Homeless Veterans Stand Down on November 2. The post handed out warm socks and disposable rain ponchos to the veterans who attended.



Four members of **David J. Kauffman Post 41** spoke to students at 12 Corners Middle School in **Brighton, New York** on November 10. Each one talked about the importance of Veterans Day, their own military experience, and the primary lesson they learned from that service. The participating members included Stu Blume, Mort Stein, Larry Schulman, and Gary Ginsburg (pictured).



On October 14, members of **Post 753** in **San Antonio, Texas** presented a check for \$1,800 to their city's Fisher House. From left: Herschel Sheiness, Ralph and Arwen Wilson, Irma Robinson of the San Antonio Fisher House, and David Marne.



Leaders from the **Department of Illinois** met with the Consul General of Israel to the Midwest, Yinam Cohen, on November 10. Cohen spoke with JWV members about how the consulate could work with JWV to educate the public about Jews in the military and how to help those members of the military suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The Department presented Cohen with a certificate of appreciation for his interest in the work of JWV. From left: Leslie Turner, PNC Jeff Sacks, Bruce Mayor, Cohen, Howard Goldstein, Steve Fixler, Deputy Consul General Daniel Aschheim, and Director of Civil Society, Culture and Jewish Affairs for the Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest Renie Schreiber.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Members of **Post 757** in **Austin, Texas** held a belated birthday celebration for Harry Kabler on September 22. The post presented Kabler, who celebrated his 101st birthday in July, with JWV's Centenarian Certificate. From left: Michael London, Alana Pompa, Kabler, Greg Phillipson, and Charles Rosenberg.



For the first time in three years, members of the **Department of Massachusetts** resumed their tradition of serving meals at the Chelsea Soldiers' Home on November 24. For more than 65 years, members of JWV, the Auxiliary, and their families have served meals on both Thanksgiving and Christmas. From left: Lyn Elfman, PNC Harvey Weiner, Phil Tamaro (seated), PNC Ira Novoselsky, Courtenay Galvin, Mark Tolpin, Leslie Emack, and NVC Barry Lischinsky. Photo Credit: CSH Director of Communications and Community Relations Pattyanne Lyons.



On September 18, **Post 510** member Art Fishman was named the 2022 Michigan Veteran of the Year by Phil Smith of the Commanders Group of Michigan. From left: Don Schenk, Mark Weiss, Fishman, Smith, Bill Glogower, and Larry Berry.



On November 20, the **Department of Michigan** honored Jack Caminker with a Centenarian Certificate in honor of his 100th birthday. From left: Mark Weiss, Caminker, and Don Schenk.



Members of the **Department of Michigan** and Auxiliary marched in Detroit's annual Veterans Day Parade on November 6.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



Post 692 held its 7th annual Veterans Day Program on November 13 at the Bender JCC in **Rockville, Maryland**. More than 50 people were on hand to hear from U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin, Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, Rockville Mayor Bridget Newton, and JWV's National Executive Director Ken Greenberg. Attendees also heard a performance from the musical group, Voices of Vets.



NC Nelson Mellitz spoke to Jewish cadets and midshipmen on October 29, as part of Jewish Warrior Weekend at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Jewish Warrior Weekend brings together future Jewish military leaders for a weekend of learning, comradery, and celebration of Judaism.



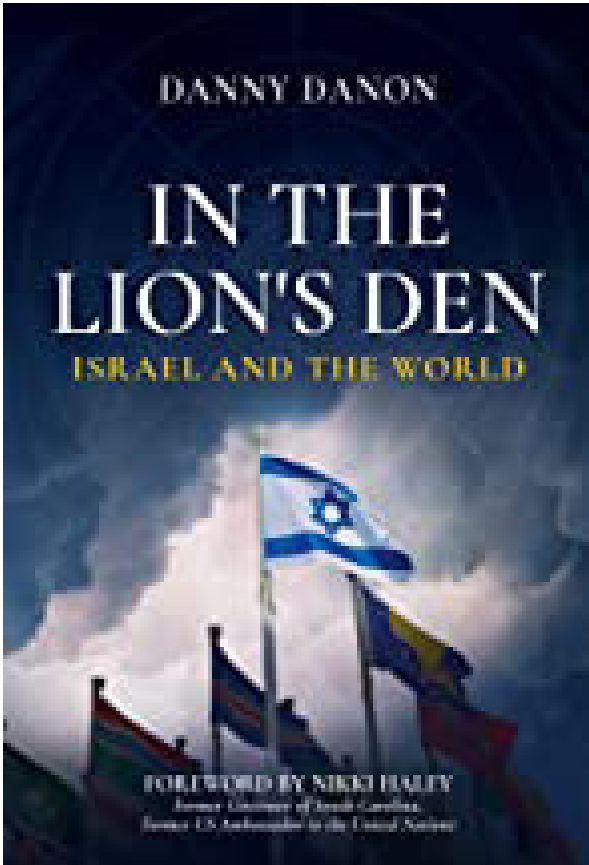
NC Nelson Mellitz and NVC Barry Lischinsky, along with PNC Norman Rosenshein and National Chief of Staff Larry Rosenthal attended the Official National Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. JWV participated in the Parade of Colors with Joel Poznansky and Ari Tessler serving as flag bearers, as well as assisting in the laying of the JWV wreath. From left: Poznansky, Rosenshein, Rosenthal, Lischinsky, and Tessler.



On November 6, members of **West Suburban Post 54 of Lombard, Illinois** joined students of Congregation Etz Chaim to place flags on Jewish gravestones at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Hillside. The students also cleaned off many of the headstones.



The **Department of Minnesota** held its 77th Annual Membership dinner in St. Paul, Minnesota on October 19. The dinner has been at Mancini's Steakhouse every year since 1946. National Commander Nelson Mellitz and National President Natalie Blank attended the dinner this year. For the fifth year in a row, the JWV National Commander attended and was knighted in connection with the St. Paul Winter Carnival. The Carnival's Senior Royalty also attended.



By Sheldon Goldberg, PhD

“In the Lion’s Den” is a day-by-day, autobiography of the author’s five-year tour as Israel’s 17th Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) and his life. Danon, an ardent Zionist and Likud member previously served as a member of the Knesset from the Likud Party, as Minister of Science, Technology and Space, and as Deputy Minister of Defense. In June 2016, Danon was elected as chair of the UN Legal Committee, the first Israeli to ever hold the chairmanship of any UN committee.

This book, Danon’s second, appears to have been motivated by the surprise abstention by the United States in December of 2016 during the vote on UN Resolution 2334, condemning Israeli settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Jerusalem. It was a vote, unprecedented in the history of US-Israeli relations, and one Danon said he would never forget. As a result, “In the Lion’s Den” is more a primer on what is required of an Israeli Permanent Representative to the unfriendly United Nations in order to be successful.

The above notwithstanding, the first of the nine chapters in this book, entitled “Why a Strong Israel Matters,” is biographical and revolves around

IN THE LION’S DEN: ISRAEL AND THE WORLD
BY DANNY DANON

Danon’s close relationship with his father and the strengths and traits he drew from him and his other hero, Menachem Begin. In so doing, Danon lays out his vision of Israel and the seven key principles he followed to help Israel achieve its foreign policy goals. The remaining chapters illustrate positions Israel must adhere to, by citing Winston Churchill’s 1941 speech to Harrow School that included the admonition to “...never give up in...nothing, great or small, large or petty – never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.” In this vein, Danon writes about remaining optimistic in the hostile UN environment and demonstrating to all that what is good for Israel is good for the world.

A good part of the second chapter is devoted to the history of UN Resolution 2334. Danon discusses the speech he prepared for the debate prior to the vote and the several attempts he and Prime Minister Netanyahu made to delay or stop the vote. Never one to mince words, his speech was a rapprochement to the U.S., and Danon relates how he went on to attack the U.S. publicly for its “shameful and cowardly behavior” and the confrontational way Secretary of State Kerry defended the abstention. Less than a year later, when the Trump administration moved its embassy to Jerusalem, Danon describes his close relationship with the new U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley.

The titles of each of the following chapters are essentially a sign telling the reader where the author is going and how he dealt with the issues he discusses. For example, in chapter three, “Never Hide – Never Apologize,” Danon addresses the need to directly confront critics, especially hypocrites who accuse Israel of excessive use of force when defending itself against terrorist attacks by citing examples of how others, even democratic countries, react to internal upheavals. He described his first speech in the UN, clearly stating that unprovoked attacks against innocent civilians are not part of a “cycle of violence,” but the result of a culture of hate taught to Palestinians by their leaders and in Palestinian youth who are indoctrinated to hate Jews as opposed to learning math and reading. He quoted Nelson Mandela who said “No one is born hating another person.... People must learn to

hate.” Again, in chapter four, “Open Doors – Open Minds,” he stresses the role of diplomacy and the need to make friends so that they will understand one’s concerns and be sympathetic to one’s goals. Sovereignty aside, he reminds us that every nation needs friends and that the true test of friendship comes in times of crisis. In many respects, Danon’s book is a modest praise of his successes, but he does not ignore his failures. Obviously, the vote against the settlements was a major failure, but that most likely was the result of the bad relations between President Obama and Prime Minister Netanyahu. A second failure was his inability to marshal enough UN members to prevent the vote against U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. That said, there were many successes, including his election as Chairman of the UN Legal Committee, having the cafeteria bring in Kosher food, and making Yom Kippur an official UN holiday.

Another significant success was his initiation of trips to Israel for UN ambassadors, ironically helped by the Palestinian representative’s writing complaint letters to the capitals of those ambassadors who took the trips – letters not appreciated by the ambassadors. The trips did not stop but increased as a result.

Throughout Danon’s narrative, he provides interesting insights to the workings of the UN, the role of UN ambassadors, and the difficulties of working with some countries.

In the last few chapters, Danon sets out the things Israel can offer to the world including agriculture, technology, aviation, pharmaceuticals, etc. His concluding chapter deals with the wave of antisemitism that has swept the world and asks what can be done about it as well as the Boycott, Divest, Sanction (BDS) movement? He closes with his view of the peace process as it relates to the changing dynamics of the region since the 1990s, cautioning that what may have worked then, will not work now.

“In the Lion’s Den” is a well written, readable book. It provides insights on the issues facing Israel in the UN and how Danon faced them and resolved them to the best of his ability, relying on certain principles outlined above and, above all, keeping “Judaism on the front page.”

Future National Convention Sites

By PNC Alan Paley

For years, our membership wanted input in the selection of sites for our National Conventions. Last year, the Convention Committee re-wrote the criteria and distributed that criteria to all Department Commanders.

We want your input in where we should be holding our National Conventions, but so far, no one has responded with any viable suggestions.

Unless we receive responses from the membership by January 9, the Convention Committee will again select the site of our 2024 National Convention.

If you are interested in having our National Convention in your area, please get the revised criteria, reach out to the local Convention and Visitor's Bureau in the city or town you have selected, and submit their responses to the Convention Committee.

If you need additional information, please reach out to Alan Paley at adpaley@aol.com or Programs and Public Relations Director Cara Rinkoff at crinkoff@jwv.org.

2023 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. Foundation has scholarships available for both veterans and descendants of JWV members. If you are interested in applying for the 2023 scholarships, you can find the application on our website, www.jwvusafoundation.org.

From Our Archives...

First published in The Jewish War Veteran, Spring 1994, Vol. 47, No. 1

My Trip to Israel

By Richard A. McAuley, Jr., American Ex-POW

This past April, I, along with others representing the various veterans' groups from across the country, had the distinct honor of visiting Israel as a guest of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.'s Eighth Allied Veterans' Mission. Our group departed JFK airport on Sunday, April 4th. After a 12 hour flight, we arrived at Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv. Tel Aviv is truly an Israel Mediterranean metropolis. A cosmopolitan city of beachfronts, avenues, cafes and modern architecture, it serves as the hub of the nation's cultural life, and holds close to a quarter of Israel's population. As evening came, we attended a Passover Seder, and then retired to the Ramada Continental hotel.

The next morning, our group toured a battle site of the 1948 War of Independence. In the afternoon, we visited the ancient port city of Jaffa. Jaffa is where it all began, when G-d got fed up with his creates he brought the great flood on the world to wipe the slate clean and start anew. After the flood, Noah's youngest son, Japeth, found a pleasant hill overlooking a bay and settled down, naming the site "Jaffa", Hebrew for beautiful. One of the oldest cities in the world, Jaffa has retained its biblical flavor, spiced by historic events through the ages. Today, it sports an artists' colony, galleries, shops, restaurants and nightclubs. For the rest of the city, time has seemed to stand still. Primitive ovens still churn out an infinite variety of breads while ancient streets hum of aggressive shopkeepers, pastry vendors and passersby.

The next morning, we drove along the Mediterranean Coast to visit the crusader ruins of Caesaria which included the Roman aqueduct and amphitheater. We then continued along the coast to the modern post city of Haifa, Israel's third largest city which is the center of the nation's renowned high technology industries. Haifa is situated on a mountainside setting among rising slopes. The city is built essentially on 3 levels, rising from its first location along the waterfront. The second level, in the Carmel foothills is the hadar which is the central business district and the oldest residential area. The newest neighborhoods have climbed all the way to the crests of the peak and cling to the sides connected by a network of excellent roads. At the very apex, is the Carmel center where some of the cities most attractive homes and classiest ho-

tels and shops are located. That night, we visited the U.S.O., and also attended a lecture by Israel Defense Forces' Colonel Yehuda Gavish.

The following day, we headed for the Galilee and Golan. The Galilee is often called the cradle of Christianity, for it was here on the sea, that Jesus was said to have walked. The coast of the lake is dotted with churches marking the miracle Jesus reportedly performed in this region. In Nazareth, I viewed the Basilica of the Annunciation. The largest church in the Middle East, it was built 20 years ago, but encompasses the remains of previous Byzantine churches. It marks the spot where the Arc-Angel Gabriel is supposed to have informed the Virgin Mary that G-d has chosen her to bear his son. The event is depicted by a series of elaborate murals, each from a different country.

The Golan is a brooding and somber mass doomed by history to be bloodied by nearly ceaseless war. It is a great dark rock, high above the upper Jordan Valley and those who have the Golan have the power to rain misery upon their neighbors. Today, the Golan Heights are considered by Israel to be a part of Israel. Although, few other countries seem willing to accept this fact. In 1981, Israeli military occupation of this former Syrian territory was replaced with Civil Law and Administration. The Golan today is as much a part of Israel as the Negev.

Israel's justification for absorbing the Golan focuses on Syria's belligerence, and the fact that it was used for frequent artillery shelling of the Israeli settlements when it was in Syrian hands. Since the start of the peace process with Syria, there has been much talk of territorial compromise over the Golan. Many in Israel vehemently oppose such an eventuality. Later in the evening after an extensive visit to the Galilee and Golan, we traveled to Jerusalem.

The following morning, we awoke in Jerusalem and since it was Good Friday, we split up and visited the churches of our respective faiths...

...On Saturday, we drove to the Dead Sea, and anyone who wanted to swim, had an opportunity to do so. From there, we went to what is certainly the most spectacular archeological site in Israel, the Rock of Masada. It was on this desolate mesa, that Herod the Great built an impregnable fortress as a retreat from his potentially rebellious subjects. As

interesting as this fortress or its beautiful view area, the real reason that Masada is worth the visit is the story of the Jewish war against Rome. This has made Masada a place of pilgrimage; second only to the Western Wall. In recognition of the symbolic importance of the site, young soldiers inducted into the armored corps today, swear their oath of allegiance atop the fortress and vow "Masada shall not fall again."

On our last day, we returned to Tel Aviv for a meeting with the Israeli Assistant Secretary of Defense. On the way to the meeting room at the Israeli Defense Forces Headquarters, we bumped into Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and were able to speak to him for several minutes.

At the meeting with the Assistant Secretary, we discussed the attitudes of various countries concerning Israel's borders. He explained how important it was for Israel's defenses that every able bodied citizen join the military for a few years. By doing so, Israel has been able to form one of the largest reserve systems in the world. As witnessed by Desert Storm, Israel was able to mobilize most of its population in defense of its borders. I explained to the Secretary that as the United States is cutting back on defense spending, we should also concentrate more on our reserves and not just the regular army. Our enlisted men serve their terms and then scatter about the country leading their lives. We, too, must have a strong reserve system to actively defense us at a time of national emergency. The Defense Minister said that he did not want to comment, but he did say, that five years down the road, the U.S. would certainly have a problem.

In summation, my trip to Israel was one of great interest and a personal education or me. The people of Israel deserve to be allowed to live their lives in peace and security. They are no different than you or I, in trying to lead a happy and prosperous existence. After visiting Israel it is easy for me to conclude that her greatest resource is most definitely her people. Under almost constant economic, social or military stress, they have created a strong modern homeland from little more than sand and sacrifice.

I would like to thank the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., our hosts Jack and Phyllis Litz and especially my good friend Stanley Wides, who recommend me for this trip of enlightenment. Shalom.

For more information on the 2023 Israel Trip, please contact Iryna Apple at (202) 265-6280 or iapple@jwv.org.

JWV's 33rd Allied Mission Trip to Israel is scheduled for April 20-30, 2023.



2018 Israel Trip Participants

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



NATIONAL PRESIDENT NATALIE BLANK

I am happy to say I had my first in person official visit. I visited Abrahamson-Bigelow/Spector #54 in Minnesota. Although it was cold, it was a wonderful visit. I had the pleasure of meeting with Auxiliary President Tamara Michaels and several other Sisters of the Auxiliary as well as members of the three local Posts. I especially want to thank Department of Minnesota Commander Lou Michaels. Not only was he my chauffeur, but a super and wonderful tour guide. They were fantastic hosts. From the time I arrived until the time I left I was treated with the utmost respect. I was introduced to and enjoyed meeting everyone. In addition, I had the pleasure of sharing this visit with National Commander Nelson Mellitz. I will give a more detailed report about my visit in my President's Report at the NEC.

I am looking forward to greeting all of you at our upcoming NEC in Washington from January 17-19, 2023. Of course, as we all know, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History is our legacy. There are new and exciting things happening at the museum for you to check out. I am hoping in addition to coming to our NEC you will find time to visit the museum

while in Washington. I am also hoping that you are a member of the NMAJMH. If not, please join. Your JWVA membership is separate from the museum membership.

I want to thank PNP Iris Goldwasser for a wonderful first issue of The Veteran and PNP Sandra Cantor for taking over as editor. Please get your articles to her as soon as possible.

In conclusion, I would like to say thanks for allowing me to be your President again. I am hoping that I make you proud. Once again, I cannot wait to meet all the Sisters of this wonderful organization on my official visits, and I wish all my Sisters and Comrades a very Happy and Healthy Chanukah and New Year.

Natalie Blank,
National President 2022-2023



EDITOR'S COLUMN

by PNP Sandra Cantor

As your new editor, I would first like to thank PNP Iris Goldwasser for the last six years. Her diligence and hard work as editor of the ladies' section in this publication is very much appreciated! Secondly, I want to share my vision for the Editor's Column going forward. Instead of hearing from me, I would like to highlight you. Just as the section of "JWV in the Community" shows pictures of our Post members and their activities, I would like to showcase photos of local or Department Auxiliaries taking part in community events. Of course, our section will still include informative articles from National Chairwomen and important information, however, let us get a look into what we do in the community through our photos that show our good works - which can be in conjunction with JWV or at our own events. Below are examples of what I am looking for, so please send me pictures, names of the people in the photos, and what is happening. I will try to display as many as possible.



The Michigan JWVA prepared "Blessings in a Bag" care packages for veterans on November 1. From left: Estelle Gubow, Mona Gubow, Vicki Adler, Diane Jacobs, Sheryl Erlich, Ellen Hechler and Andi Weiss.



JWVA 256 sponsored the popcorn stand at Scottish Rite Children's Hospital in Dallas, Texas. From left: National Secretary and hospital volunteer Roz Kaplan, AP Jo Reingold, Auxiliary Treasurer Sharon Weinberg, and PNP Sandra Cantor.



Auxiliary 606 President Ellen Robbins presented the annual Esther Schreiber Citizenship Award to two fifth graders at Ramblewood Elementary School in Coral Springs Florida. Abigail Saul and Sergio Ebona each received a framed certificate and a check for \$25.



★ Helping Hands Across JWVA ★

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

By DP Sandra Fritts, Armed Forces Chairperson

From the battlefields of the American Revolution to the deserts of Kuwait, women have been serving in the military in one form or another for more than two hundred years. They have had to overcome decades of obstacles to get where they are today, serving in greater numbers in combat roles and in leadership positions all around the world. During the Revolutionary War soldiers' wives, sisters, daughters, and mothers went with them. These women boosted morale, mended clothes, tended wounds and forged for food. Some even disguised themselves as men and traveled to the front lines to help.

During the Civil War women began to serve as nurses. Legendary nurse and founder of the Red Cross Clara Barton received special permission to travel directly onto the battlefields where she drove her medical wagons to tend to wounded soldiers.

When we entered World War I in April 1917, the Army Nurse Corp only had about four hundred nurses. A year later 1918 there were more than 3,000 American nurses deployed to the front lines

caring for service members and civilians alike in France. Remember these women sacrificing their safety did not yet even have the right to vote. As we approached WWII with 16 million Americans enlisting for the front lines non-combat roles needed to be filled. Women of the U.S. for the first time in history, all branches of the military enlisted women in their ranks. The Army had the Women's Army Corp (WACS) and the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP's). The Navy had the Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). The Marine Corp Women's Reserve.

The Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARS). Many of these women worked right on the front lines, came under enemy fire and some even won combat decorations. These women were finally recognized as vital, enlisted members of the Armed Forces. Their perseverance and dedication to serve throughout the war helped pave the way for women in the military who would come after them.

In 1948 President Harry S. Truman signed the

Women's Armed Service Integration Act into law, officially allowing women to serve as full permanent members of all branches of the Armed Forces.

In 1967 President Lyndon B. Johnson opened promotions for women to general and flag ranks and in 1972 women were allowed to command units that included men. In 1973 the Pentagon announced that pregnant woman could remain in the military. Since the 1980s there were a lot of firsts for women in the military: the first woman to become a Navy fighter pilot, the first female four star general in the Army, and the first female rescue swimmer in the Coast Guard. Women continue to make history in the military today pushing boundaries and taking on more roles and more prestigious roles than ever before. More than 300,00 women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Female service members are a force to be reckoned with---You've come a long way baby!

SENIOR CITIZENS

Verna Rosenzweig, Chairman

There's lots of good news in health for Senior Citizens:

Starting in 2023, people with Medicare Part D drug coverage will pay nothing out-of-pocket for even more vaccines, including the shingles vaccine, that are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Now's the time to get your updated COVID 19 vaccine and your flu shot. For better protection against flu, the CDC recommends people 65 or older get one of the three higher-dose flu vaccines, if available.

Medicare will start negotiating drug prices starting in 2023, as implementation of drug provisions in the newly enacted Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) gets underway, but savings will come gradually over several years.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

By PDP Gloria Abramson, National Program Chairwoman

Community Relations has been an active program in the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary since before COVID-19. It is important now to do whatever we can in our community.

We miss our friends, relatives, neighbors, and visiting our veterans in hospitals and veterans' homes. We need to keep in touch by telephone, letter writing, and virtual meetings.

If you drive, I am sure it would be appreciated. Otherwise, suggest they use the telephone for a delivery.

Inquire if someone is in need of food, prescriptions, doctor's visits, virtually or by appointment.

Remind them to stay hydrated. Check on their house temperature to coincide with the weather.

Welcome new neighbors in the community and invite them to attend a meeting.

CHILD WELFARE

By: Rosalind Kaplan, Chairman

JWVA Child Welfare Programs focus on making a difference in the lives of children in our communities. Each Auxiliary participates in programs that assist organizations in their cities and counties. Whether you are supporting a group of Scouts, volunteering in a children's hospital, serving a Ronald McDonald House, assisting at a Special Olympics event, sending LEGOS to be refurbished and distributed to underserved schools, providing snacks to children of veterans at a VA Hospital or Fisher House, reading, tutoring, or telling a story at your local public school, you are making an impact on the lives of our children. Children are our future, and we need to provide the services that will help them to become successful citizens in the ever-changing world that we live in. Set a new goal for your Auxiliary this year to create a **NEW** Child Welfare Program that will make a difference in the lives of the children in your community.

NEW YEAR—NEW IDEAS!

Publicity Chairman Jo Reingold

Sisters- The Jewish New Year has begun and the secular one will soon follow. How about a fresh approach and some different ideas for publicity? If your city has a Federation, ask them for the community leaders of the various Jewish organizations and get a flyer to them about what we stand for and some of your local programs. Synagogues are another good source, ask the rabbi or lay leader if they can make an announcement about your group from the pulpit (especially around Veterans Day or Memorial Day).

Does your community have a Jewish Film Festival and/or Jewish Book Fair? If so, make sure that you co-sponsor a movie or author coming to your city and have brochures out for attendees to pick up. It's a simple, good way to get your name out there. Think creatively, share your ideas and have a great year!!

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

By PNP Petra Kaatz, Chairman

Even during the Covid pandemic, the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service has been actively meeting through virtual programming. One of the things that has come from their meetings is a change to the Voluntary Services' Department title. It now is to be known as the 'Center for Development and Civic Engagement "(CDCE). This is a system-wide change, but essentially, no change since the goal remains the same: providing for the hospitalized and long term care resident veterans.

Sisters, I know this has been a difficult time for all of us who love to volunteer at our local VA hospital. However, even throughout the various stages of the "lockdown", we supported and continue to

support the veterans being treated at these hospital facilities and those residing in the Community Living Centers (CLC) by working with your Auxiliary Hospital Chairman, the local Recreation Department and voluntary service offices. I know some facilities are more "open" than others, but the CLC's mostly remain on some form of lockdown. Locally, we have sponsored pizza parties for our CLC locked unit and one other CLC unit. Check with your local facility to find out what your Auxiliary can contribute to the veterans' days. The residents are lonely, and it helps them cope with the restricted visiting by knowing that they are not forgotten.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we come to the end of 2022, it is only appropriate that we look back and review what we have accomplished and what is still on our bucket list. We opened a new exhibit honoring the men and women who served during the Vietnam Era. We planted the museum's Memorial Garden in front of the building. We are in the process of planning and preparing an exhibit entitled, "Jewish Women in the Military." We continue to explore new and viable concepts for additional new and creative exhibits. We are looking at ways to fund the museum in a permanent secure fashion so that we can expand our staff beyond the two professionals we now employ.

As President of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, I dream of exhibits that could be marked as permanent or rotating, much like many of the major museums. We are currently reviewing the space allocations utilized

by some of our current exhibits to see if the space can be reallocated to allow us the luxury of better use of the space available. Some of the exhibits have become stale over the years and several areas of the museum need to be refreshed.

Iris and Ed Goldwasser developed the concept of the Memorial Garden and have made certain their concept reached fruition in a professional garden that enhances the appearance of the building and is appropriate for the neighborhood. Thank you, Ed and Iris.

Rochel Hayman is the mover and shaker behind the "Jewish Women in the Military." She envisions a soft opening of a teaser exhibit before our next annual convention, followed by a new exhibit that truly honors and provides appropriate recognition to the women of the Jewish faith who served primarily post-World War II. She needs mementos and memorabilia from women who served

and their families. Please contact Pam Elbe if you have anything that might enhance this exhibit.

Our next museum meeting will be held in conjunction with the National Executive

Committee meeting on January 19, 2023. We will follow the hybrid model (both in person and virtual). We hope you will attend, in either mode.

Enjoy a happy and healthy New Year!

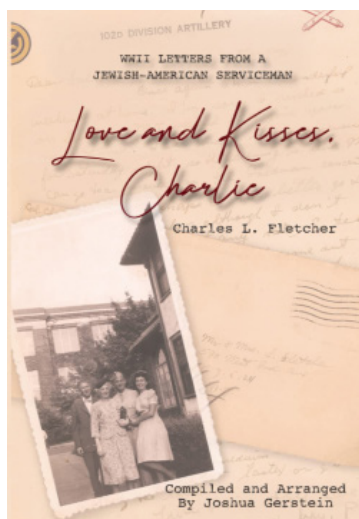


PNC Michael B. Berman

Updates By Michael Rugel • Director of Programs and Content

It's been a good couple of months. We welcomed tour groups from the Northern Virginia Jewish Community Center, George Washington University students, and synagogues Etz Hayim, Ohr Kodesh, and Adat Reyim. It was also a pleasure hosting the promotion ceremony of Lt. Col. Matthew Moosey. It's great to have these events at the museum.

For the first time since 2019, we held our annual Veterans Day service project at the museum. We put together care packages for patients at the Washington VA Medical Center. Thanks to all of those who came out to support the program and donated money, time, and materials. The packages were distributed by the hospital's voluntary service office.

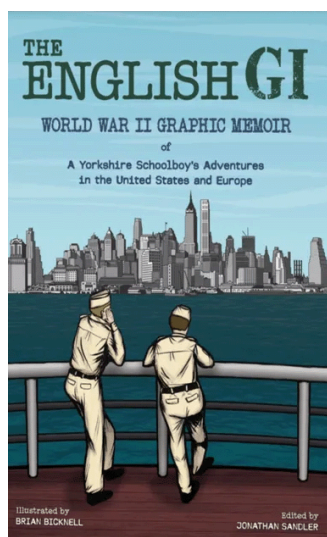


On November 17, we held a webinar with Rabbi Joshua Gerstein. Gerstein is an IDF chaplain who compiled and published "Love and Kisses, Charlie: WWII Letters from a Jewish-American Serviceman." The book contains letters written by his grandfather Charlie Fletcher during World War II. Fletcher's near-daily letters to his family provided an in-depth look at his life as he served in the United States and Europe. It was also fascinating to hear about Fletcher's influence on his grandson's life and his decision to become a rabbi serving in the IDF.



Jonathan Sandler

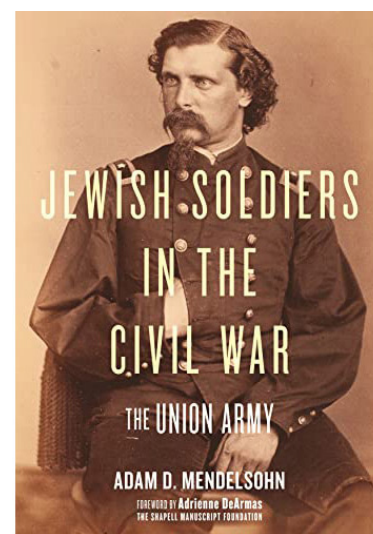
On December 1, Jonathan Sandler spoke about "The English GI: World War II Graphic Memoir of a Yorkshire Schoolboy's Adventure in the United States and Europe." The book tells the story of Bernard Sandler. As a teenager from England, Sandler came to the U.S. and Canada on a school trip. When the war prevented him from returning, he stayed in New York and spent time here in D.C. Eventually, he was drafted into the U.S. Army. Sandler served in Europe as a combat infantryman and was wounded when hit by shrapnel from



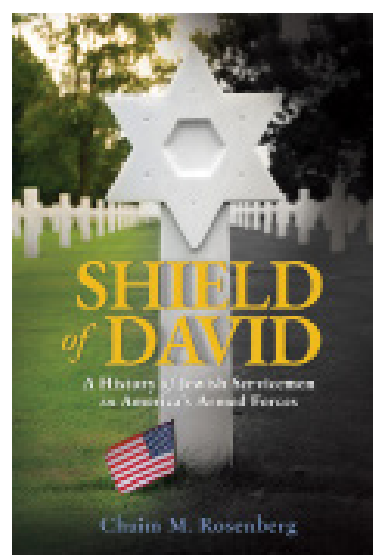
a German mortar attack hit his leg. It's great to see these stories being told in a variety of formats and hopefully the graphic novel can reach an audience.

Video recordings are available on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg>.

New books in the store:



"Jewish Soldiers in the Civil War: The Union Army" by Adam Mendelsohn



"Shield of David: A History of Jewish Servicemen in America's Armed Forces" by Chaim M. Rosenberg

**Order at <https://nmajmh.org/shop/>.
Use coupon code **Veteran23** for a
10% discount on any book until
March 31, 2023!**

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

The US Public Health Service and the Loss of USCGS Muskeget

The U.S. armed forces are what we generally think of when someone mentions uniformed services, but there are two additional uniformed services beyond the military branches - the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Public Health Service.

For more than two centuries, men and women have served on the front lines in service of our nation's public health in what is today called the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). The USPHS did not begin as an institution dedicated to public health. It began with the creation of the Marine Hospital Fund in 1798, which was reorganized in 1871 as the Marine Hospital Service. The Marine Hospital Service was charged with the care and maintenance of sick and disabled seamen but grew to take on new health roles that included programs protecting the commerce and health of America from global pandem-

other employees at the request of the Secretary of War or the Secretary of the Navy to the military and made USPHS stations available for treating sick and wounded military personnel in times of war or threatened war. This order militarizing the USPHS was later overturned, with the Attorney General arguing that the power to create a military force out of a civilian one was a duty residing with Congress alone. During World War II, however, the president was given legislative authority for militarizing the USPHS Commissioned Corps and on June 21, 1945, President Truman issued an executive order which declared "the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service to be a military service and a branch of the land and naval forces of the United States during the period of the present war." Further legislation codified the president's ability to declare the Corps to be a military service not only in time of threatened or actual war, but also in "an emergency involving the national defense proclaimed by the President."

The USPHS has contributed support to more recent military operations, such as in Vietnam and Iraq and Afghanistan. The USPHS organized surgical teams in Vietnam, consisting of both Corps and civilian personnel. USPHS staff were also involved in efforts to control malaria and other infectious diseases in Vietnam. During Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, officers were deployed to multiple public health and clinical missions including direct support to the Department of Defense. Beyond their wartime duties, Commissioned Corps personnel are

trained and equipped to respond to public health crises and national emergencies, such as natural disasters, disease outbreaks, or terrorist attacks. The teams are multidisciplinary and can respond to domestic and international humanitarian missions. Some notable deployments involving the USPHS Commissioned Corps include Hurricane Katrina, an Ebola outbreak in western Africa, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Since the NMAJMH's mission focuses on Jewish participation in the U.S. armed forces, we have little information relating to the other uniformed services. One relevant story from our archives regarding the USPHS is that of Dr. Haskell Rosenblum. Haskell Ben Rosenblum, known also as Hank, was born on July 13, 1911, in New Castle, Pennsylvania, to Samuel and Rachel Rosenblum and raised in Butler, Pennsylvania. Haskell graduated from Cornell University in 1933 and Cornell Medical School in 1938. In 1937 he married Janeth Ravner in Scarsdale, New York and they welcomed a son in 1940. Haskell joined the U.S. Public Health Service and the family settled briefly in Washington, D.C. before moving to Newton, Massachusetts in 1941.

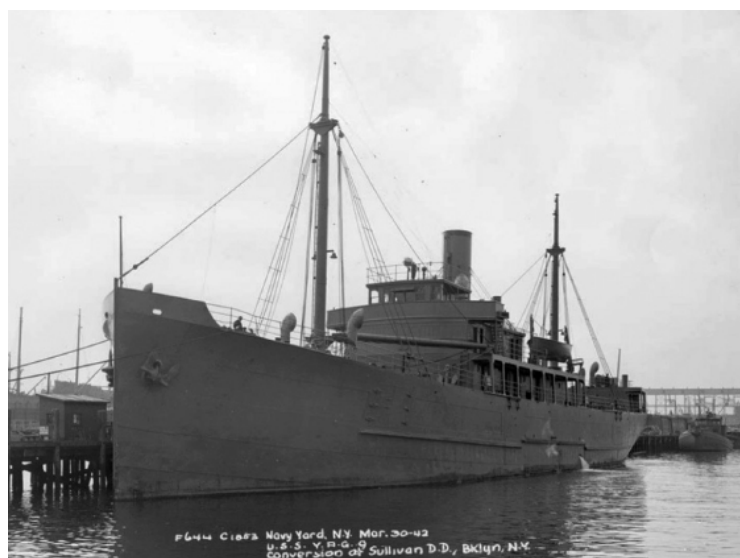
At the start of U.S. participation in World War II, Haskell was an assistant surgeon with the Public Health Service. He was serving aboard the USCGS



Dr. Haskell Rosenblum

Muskeget, a weather ship, on August 24, 1942, when she departed Boston for her second weather patrol. The Muskeget, a converted cargo ship, was on loan to the U.S. Coast Guard from the U.S. Navy for use as a weather ship. Weather ships gathered data on winds, temperatures, humidity, and pressure to make weather forecasts that supported Allied military operations. It was dangerous duty, as weather ships cruised a small area with no naval protection for up to a month at a time. Muskeget issued the first weather report of her patrol on August 28 and arrived on Weather Station No. 2 on August 31. After she issued a weather report on September 9, 1942, Allied forces did not see or hear from her again. The ship sent to relieve the Muskeget at Weather Station No. 2 could find no trace of her, and Allied ships and aircraft conducted a search but found no sign of the ship. On September 10, 1943, the Navy and Coast Guard officially declared all 121 on board the Muskeget to have been killed in action, and she was taken off the Navy List. Only later did the details of her demise become known.

At 2:54 p.m. on September 9, 1942, the German Navy submarine U-755 sighted the Muskeget emerging from a rain squall in a heavy swell about 400 nautical miles east of Newfoundland in the North Atlantic. The commander of the submarine misidentified the Muskeget as a merchant cruiser and fired two torpedoes, sinking the ship. U-755 departed the area but returned hours later finding eight men and two life rafts tied together. No survivors were rescued. Muskeget was the only U.S. weather ship lost during World War II. Haskell Rosenblum was one of 14 USPHS officers killed in action during WWII. Compounding his loss was the fact that his wife Janeth was pregnant when Haskell was lost at sea, and he never had the opportunity to meet his daughter nor see his young son again. Though easily overlooked because his service was not in the armed forces, the Rosenblum family's sacrifice is no different from that of the families of soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen lost during World War II.



The USS Muskeget

ics like smallpox and yellow fever.

In 1889 Congress established the Commissioned Corps within the Marine Hospital Service. Officers were organized along military lines with titles and pay corresponding to Army and Navy grades. The Commissioned Corps assisted the military during the Spanish-American War. All the Marine Hospitals were made available for the care of the sick and wounded of the Army and Navy. The Corps was also responsible for preventing the introduction of yellow fever into the United States by troops returning from Cuba and Puerto Rico. Medical officers of the Corps were assigned to Cuban and Puerto Rican ports, and some Corps officers were assigned to transports carrying troops home. The Corps also operated a temporary quarantine station for returning troops.

The Spanish-American War emphasized the need for defining the functions and status of the USPHS in wartime. Consequently, an act approved on July 1, 1902, contained a provision authorizing the President to use his discretion "to utilize the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service in times of threatened or actual war." Using the authority of this act, President Wilson militarized the USPHS in anticipation of America's entry into World War I through an executive order issued on April 3, 1917. This order allowed the USPHS to detail officers or

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Continued from page 5

given to those organizations showing the greatest support. Beginning in January, we plan to start a contest within JWV for those individuals and facilities showing the most hours worked.

If you are currently a VAVS representative or deputy please plan to attend our next virtual meeting, tentatively scheduled for mid-January. If you are interested in learning more about the position, please contact your Department Commander or me at Howard@jwvpost54.org.

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Bob Jacobs

As I’m sure you know by now, March 29, 2023, will mark the 50th anniversary of the end of American involvement in the Vietnam War. A number of events are being planned on various levels to

commemorate this important date in our history. This spring (May 11-13) there will be a series of events on the National Mall. JWV will be a participant and further information can be found at www.vietnamwar50th.com. JWV is also working to set up our own commemoration on January 18. It is scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m..

It has been brought to my attention that there should be more on female Jewish military service during the Vietnam War in our exhibit. When we were working on gathering stories for the now-published “Jewish Americans in Military Service During Vietnam,” five women submitted their stories. Those stories are on the computer in the exhibit, but we have very little on the walls. We could not exhibit what we did not receive! If you know of any females who served in the U.S. armed forces between 1959-1975, ask them if their service

involved Vietnam in any way. They may not have been in Vietnam, but they could have served off the coast, in Thailand, Guam, or Okinawa. These areas were all part of the theater of combat operations. If they have any artifacts, memorabilia, photos, etc., let me know and we will see if we can add them to the exhibit.

Even though it is only December, we are looking ahead to our National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida in August. As in the past, the committee will be sponsoring a Vietnam Veterans Night Out dinner on August 30. It will be at the Chart House and seating will be limited to the first 60 reservations. We will have reservation forms available at NEC in January, so let’s get those reservations in early.

TAPS

IN MEMORIAM

PNC Steve Zeitz



The JWV Community is sad to report that Past National Commander Steve Zeitz passed away on September 24 at the age of 84. Zeitz served as the National Commander from 2010-2011. Zeitz was a life member of Kelkey-Blatt Post 575 in Philadelphia. Prior to his election as National Commander, Zeitz served as JWV’s National Insurance Chairman for many years and in 2003 he received the Murray L. Rosen Member of the Year Award. Zeitz also co-founded the Descendants of JWV in Philadelphia, received the Legion of Honor from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, and served on the Board of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH). Zeitz served in the U.S. Army in Germany. He is survived by his two children and grandchildren.

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

- Martin George Dretel - 100
- Elliot C. Kaplan - 100
- Charles K. Keil - 100
- Abraham Kriss - 180

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

- William Budin - 65
- Anthony R. Lecce - 65

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

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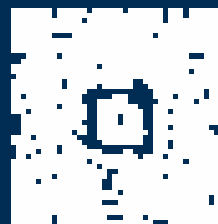
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Visit usaa.com/bundleright to learn more.



Abstract

Happy Hannukah !

Good Health and Happiness to All
Allan and Sheila Abramson

In Memory of PNC Lou & SVP Brenda
PDP Gloria Abramson

In Memory of Adele Zucker PNP

In Memory of Eugene Baraw
PDC Edward & PDP Louise Baraw

**US Forces Austria ('44-'55) – USASETAF
Italy ('55-'94)**
Howard A. and Dorothy G. Berger

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

In Loving Memory of My Wife, PDP Adele
PDC Stanton Bilker, 697

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

**In Loving Memory of son Frank Pincus
Collins,**
NYC Detective & SSGT. Army Reserve

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

Best Wishes and Good Health to All
Elliott & Elisa Donn

Preserve Democracy

In Memory of David Alter USMC

In Memory of Philip Dorf, Post 6

PNC Jerome D. Cohen – Post 50
PDC Sidney Goldberg

In Loving Memory of my husband, Code
Jerry Gomberg & Daughters

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

National Adjutant 2016-2019
Arthur Greenwald, Post 321/69

In Memory of PDC Ron Ziegler
PA PDC Larry Holman

Good Health to All!
Jason A. & Petra C. Kaatz

Spread Love, Kindness, & Peace in 2022.

In Memory of Marty Kessler
Leon Kutcher

**Best Wishes & Good Health to my Dear
Friend**
Dr. Robert Pickard – Col. US Army – PNC

**We Wish all Good Health, Strength & Happy
Life**
Ret. Maj. Gen. Pierre David & Jhoanna Lax

In Memory of David Westerman
PDC Atty. Stanley R. Light

To All Good Health & Happiness

Happy Holidays
PNC Ira Novoselsky

In Loving Memory of Jayne Wasserman
The Paley Family

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

In Memory of Raya – Dr. Jack Porter

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

In Honor of my wife Helen
Stephen Sax

Love Harley Gabrielle Shelbee
Maxine Dad Irv USMC USNR USA

From Generation to Generation
PNC Barry and PAP Charwynne Schneider

Our Very Best Wishes to All
PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman

In Memory of Norman Smith, Post 129

In Loving Memory of Jeannette Maaie Maul
Fred Sona

In Loving Memory of Claire Stadtmauer
CH Murray Stadtmauer, Post 648

In Memory of Harriet Tarnofsky

Health and Happiness to All
Norma & PNC Paul Warner, Ph.D.

In Memory of Philip & Julia Weinstein
Leon Weinstein

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

In Loving Memory of Jon Zak DC
Shirley Zak NJVP

In Memory of Jeri & PNC Robert Zweiman

In Memory of my Beloved Miriam
PDC David S. Zwerin

A Salute to Our Fallen Comrades
JWV Shore Post 712

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