



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

October 13, 2023

Colonel Barry Lischinsky
National Commander
United States Army (Retired)
Jewish War Veterans (JWV) of the United States of America
1811 R. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Colonel Lischinsky:

To you and Ms. Shirley Zak, JWV Auxiliary President and Mr. Ken Greenberg, National Executive Director, and all Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, family members, caregivers, and survivors—the Department of Veterans Affairs stands with you during this tragic time for the Jewish people in Israel, in the United States, and around the world. And we join you in condemning this terrorist attack that has, as President Biden said so powerfully last week, “brought to the surface painful memories and the scars left by a millennium of antisemitism and genocide of the Jewish people.”

The depraved terrorist assault on Israel brutally reinforced the stark, sorrowful reality that antisemitism is rising here in our country and abroad. And lest anyone of us believe ourselves immune to the hate causing such indescribable pain and suffering in the Middle East right now, we know that people fueling hate against Jews target other communities: an attack on any one group of us is an attack on us all. So, the mission of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America has never been more important than it is right now—defending the rights of all service members and Veterans, fighting anti-Semitism, and supporting the state of Israel.

It was on Veterans Day 1996 at Arlington, during JWV’s 100th year, that your late Past National [Commander Bob Zweiman](#) reminded everyone that “we are, each one of us, our brother’s keeper.” And that is my prayer—that we remember and help others know “how good and pleasant it is ... to dwell together in unity” that, together, we bend the arc of the moral universe closer to justice for all; and that in this time of such suffering among the Jewish people—and always—we join hands and build unity, whatever our faiths, and grow a sense of community among all people. May God bless and keep safe all of you, your dear families, and your beloved friends.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denis McDonough".

Denis McDonough