



The Jewish Veteran

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

Congratulations to incoming JWV & JWVA Officers



**National Commander
Barry Lischinsky**



**National President
Shirley Zak**

National Award Winners Page 11

New Post Page 15

Focus on Antisemitism Page 16

Jacobs Shares Outcomes of VA Goals at 2023 Convention

By Bryn Garick, Managing Editor

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Under Secretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs delivered the keynote address during the opening ceremony of JWV's 128th Annual National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida. Jacobs recognized the hard work that VA is doing to support veterans, saying that 2023 has been an extremely successful year for providing benefits to veterans and their families.

"Since the President took office, and with JWV's support, we've delivered more care and more benefits to more veterans than at any other time in our history," Jacobs said. "And all of that work adds up to the one statistic that actually matters most: Veterans' lives saved or improved by the work that we do together."

Jacobs addressed a primary goal of the VA: preventing veteran suicide. The 2022 VA National Suicide Prevention Annual Report states in 2020 the unadjusted rate for suicide among Veterans was nearly double the rate among non-Veterans.

Jacobs referenced 2022's convention when keynote speaker VA Secretary Denis McDonough spoke about the rollout of the National Suicide Prevention Program "988 Press 1." "Since that launch, the hotline has fielded over 1 million calls, texts, and messages with an average time to answer just under 10 seconds," Jacobs said.

Jacobs remarked on veterans' timely access to high quality healthcare. "In just the past year, veterans have had over 73



million out-patient appointments at VA, and 37 million more out-patient appointments with community care providers." He addressed the increase in telehealth appointments, which provide veterans with needed care from the comfort of their own home "Creating more convenient healthcare through streamlined telehealth services and technology improvements has improved average wait times in nearly 60% of our facilities," Jacobs said.

August 10th marked the one-year anniversary of the PACT Act, which expands health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. Jacobs indicated that "veterans and survivors have filed over 2 million [PACT Act] claims,"

adding that "VA has awarded nearly two billion dollars in earned benefits to veterans, their families, and survivors who have filed PACT act related claims."

Jacobs then mentioned that the VA Life Insurance Policy "provides low-cost coverage to Veterans with service-connected disabilities." He further explained that VA Life allows Veterans with any rating of service-related disability to apply, including those with 0% ratings.

Jacobs then spoke to other pressing concerns facing our society: antisemitism and other forms of hatred. Jacobs noted the incident that had just occurred in Jacksonville the day before, in which the *cowardly gunman* "drew swastikas on his guns." Jacobs expressed that this incident

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NMAJMH Hosts Founder of the Jewish Museum of Florida

By Bryn Garick, Managing Editor

Marcia Jo Zerivitz, LHD spoke to JWV members during a National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) event at our National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida. Zerivitz is the Founding Executive Director of the Jewish Museum of Florida – FIU.

Zerivitz spoke on the contributions of Florida Jews in the Military and Jacksonville Jewish History.

"Thousands of Floridian Jews have served in the US military in all ranks: in the Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, and Air Force. They display courage as officers and regular soldiers, nurses, doctors, and chaplains," Zerivitz said.

Zerivitz went on to provide her background on the subject specifically citing her research and book "Jews in Florida" that helped her to develop the Jewish Museum of Florida.

"Even though Florida is the nation's third largest Jewish community with about 800,000 Jews, which is about 3.4 percent of the state's population, and it's the first place where Jews arrived in what became the United States, no one else had done the research and recorded the history," Zerivitz said on why she wrote her book. "Second, to debunk myths like the notion that the history started on Miami Beach post World

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D'verei HaShomrim

First Amendment Religious Privileges

By Rabbi Harold Robinson, Rear Admiral CHC USN Ret.

Anyone familiar with the US military knows that our chaplains services are unique in all the world. Chaplains must provide worship to those of their own faith, facilitate the worship of all those of other faiths and care for the emotional well being of all. Moreover, chaplains have actual rank and are supervised by and report to more senior chaplains often of entirely different faiths than their own. How did that happen?

Our US Constitution ensures majority rule and minority rights. On religion the First Amendment enshrines governmental neutrality. The framers of our constitution were but two generations removed from the turmoil of England's religious conflicts. For them, the First Amendment was a necessary bulwark protecting individuals against the tyranny of a majority, preventing the establishment of a state religion and ensuring free exercise for the individual. Nowhere in American life is the interplay of these principals more poignant or more difficult than in our highly regimented armed forces which exercises a unique level of "authoritarian control" over those who serve. The courts have confronted the tension of free exercise verses non-establishment in military service. In the military everything is GI, Government issue. We eat the food provided, live in assigned quarters, wear required clothes. Moreover when OCONUS members are not always free to attend the religious services of their choice unless provided by the military. So, when military 'establishes chapels and provides clergy for the exercise of religion is it violating the establishment clause? The courts have ruled NO, the military provision of clergy through the military chaplain corps is constitutional since it is the necessary means to ensure free exercise.

The courts have ruled chaplaincy exists to ensure the right of free exercise to everyone. They have also ruled that as an agent of the government, there are limits on the chaplain's personal free exercise. These limit the chaplain's activities in



the larger command context not the chaplain's activities within his or her own faith tradition. My right to swing my arm, ends at the tip of your nose. And consequently, the chaplain's personal free exercise ends where it impinges on others' ability to observe their faiths or limit the chaplain's care for those of no faith.

Thus the chaplaincy embodies the constitutional tension between free exercise and non-establishment. Every military chaplain is ordained (or licensed) clergy, a representative of that ordaining community's beliefs and teachings. Simultaneously, every chaplain is a commissioned officer; even the most junior chaplain outranks well over 90 percent of military personnel, has access to the decision makers in the command and often represents the commander. It is a precarious balance. What about free exercise of the individual chaplain? Is the chaplain free to exercise his or her religion if that religion requires the conversion of others? How can the ever present chaplain with direct access to the commander and the "invoker" at mandated functions provide free exercise without becoming an establishment of religion? One response is the Navy's guidance; the chaplain must provide the rites, and rituals of the chaplains' faith to co-religionists; must facilitate the perceived needs for other faiths and care for all service members, even those of no faith. Note

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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 Bryn Garick at editor@jwv.org.

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Barry Lischinsky

First and foremost, thank you to our Membership for allowing me to serve as your 92nd National Commander during our 128th year as the oldest active chartered veterans service organization in the nation. I would like to thank our Past National Commanders for laying the foundation for us to continue to grow and build upon. I am often reminded that no matter what level that we may rise to in Jewish War Veterans (JWV), that we all belong to a local Post. Our Post Members are our credentials and are the success of our organization. Not only have they served faithfully in the military, but they also continue to serve today for a second time as a volunteer. Collectively, our Members, Patrons, and Auxiliary combined make up a team of our most important assets. I would also like to thank, our fulltime support force led by our National Executive Director Ken Greenberg. A professional career team that represents us daily.

With each new National Commander comes a vision. A vision that will describe the direction I will lead. I was advised by my mentors to, FIRST: "Focus on three or four goals that you wish to accomplish. Zero in on what's important. Remember, do not try to change the world. SECOND: "Get away from the desk and go and visit the Members of our Departments and Posts." Serving as a Second Lieutenant in the military, a seasoned First Sergeant once gave me some advice that I never forgot, even to this

day. "Sir, get out of the office. Our soldiers do not train in your office. Go visit them where they train - in the field." This was the best advice then, and I hope to continue that practice. Just as the seasoned First Sergeant trained this Second Lieutenant, we as Echelon Commanders must take the time to train, coach and mentor our future leaders. Commanders must empower and delegate responsibility to their Senior and Junior Vice Commanders. Future leaders want to be challenged, so challenge them. Train them through professional development and allow them to make decisions and lead in your absence.

During the past twenty-four (24) months under the direction of two Past National Commanders Alan Paley and Nelson L. Mellitz our National Constitution and Bylaws Committee has worked diligently to align our National Constitution and Bylaws to the current times and for the needs of our organization. Before each meeting I would take the time to read and focus on our National Constitution Preamble. The Preamble is what governs our organization, and that is the direction of our journey. Please take the time to visit the following JWV Website: <https://www.jwv.org/membership/for-members/constitution-bylaws/>.

As National Commander my vision will follow the path of "Mission first, Veterans always." I strongly feel this vision is aligned with our National Preamble. We must continue to advocate for all veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, across all generations. We must tell

our story, that Jews served faithfully with honor and distinction, in every conflict throughout

our nation's history. Our stories must be recorded and cataloged in our National Museum of American Jewish Military History, the home of our legacy. We must continue to counter antisemitism, bigotry, and hate, wherever and whenever it surfaces. In the area of strength maintenance: we must increase our Membership at all echelons, while retaining our most important organizational asset, our Members. We must continue to grow new Members and retain our friends. I strongly believe we can achieve our strength maintenance goals by increasing our visibility and working with our local community partners.

I ask that you take the time and read our Jewish War Veterans National Constitution Preamble. Together as a team, we can make the outlined vision happen. Both our JWV National Vice Commander Gary Ginsburg and I welcome any thoughts and/or ideas to help move our organization forward.

"May we go from strength to strength."

Jacobs shares outcomes of VA goals at 2023 Convention

Continued from page 1

has no place in our society. Jacobs stated that Americans must recommit to tackling all forms of hatred including racism and antisemitism.

"In order for us to combat and confront antisemitism, Americans first must recognize and understand it," said Jacobs.

Jacobs then talked about the Administration's National Strategy to Combat Antisemitism. "This strategy is the most ambitious and comprehensive United States government-led effort to fight antisemitism in American history," Jacobs said.

Jacobs is the VA representative on the White House Interagency Policy Committee to Combat Antisemitism. He explained that the committee has developed a strategy that reflects input from the Jewish community as well as JWV and serves as a blueprint for tackling other forms of bigotry.

"Simply put, antisemitism has no place in America; all Americans should forcefully reject antisemitism wherever it exists," said Jacobs. "We must stand united against hate to preserve the values that each of you fought to defend."

Jacobs affirmed that the VA has taken steps in support of that national strategy.

"With your help, we're going to keep our sacred promise to those who served and sacrificed for this country and to serve all Veterans as well as they've served us," Jacobs declared at the conclusion of this address. "So, thank you for your service, for your unyielding dedication to ending discrimination, and for fighting like hell for our veterans alongside us."

NMAJMH Hosts Founder of the Jewish Museum of Florida

Continued from page 1

War II, and in reality it was St. Augustine 348 years prior. Third, it is important to have Jewish memories for Jewish continuity. And fourth because it is timely with a staggering rise in antisemitism."

Zerivitz collected the evidence for her book by "conducting nearly 1,000 oral histories and collecting material evidence to back up the stories."

According to Zerivitz, while less than 500 Jewish people served in the military during the time of the Seminole Wars, their influence on the war and overall American military was instrumental.

"Jewish US Army Lieutenant Meer M. Cohen volunteered and was stationed in St. Augustine. He made detailed notes that became his book that provides

a very clear eyewitness account of the conflict," Zerivitz said.

Well-known figure Uriah P. Levy was the first Jewish commodore of the US Navy. According to Zerivitz, he was "a promoter of justice and human rights [and] instrumental in abolishing corporal punishment in the Navy. Levy prevailed against antisemitism from some of his fellow naval officers."

Levy's influence on the military didn't end there, though. "During the Second Seminole War," Zerivitz

explained, "Levy was the Master Commandant of the USS Vandalia, an 18-gun sloop of war which cooperated with land forces in Florida and helped to suppress the late slave trade."

Zerivitz sites Moses Levy as one of the most important people in early Florida Jewish History.

"In 1822, Moses Levy built his 1,000-acre Pilgrimage plantation just south of Gainesville," Zerivitz said. "It was intended as a refuge for oppressed European Jews to become farmers in a communitarian settlement, the first on US soil. Its main commodity was sugarcane," which Levy had reintroduced to Florida.

M. Levy continued to be influential to Florida beyond its economy through his son David Levy, who was both the first US Senator from Florida and the first Jewish US Senator.

D. Levy wasn't immune to antisemitism though: "Vice President John Quincy Adams referred to him as that alien Jew delegate from Florida," Zerivitz noted, but also that he didn't let that stop him from developing Florida.

According to Zerivitz, David Levy was instrumental in Florida becoming the 27th state in 1845, even helping to draft Florida's constitution.

Levy concluded her address by emphasizing that Jewish Americans' history in the Military particularly in Florida extend far past these couple early influential figures.

"These stories are our collective historic memories, our roots," Zerivitz said. "What I learned is that history helps us understand society and change. Our memories of history are what define us. We need to hear the stories, preserve them, and pass them down to those who follow us."



From left: Joy Benjamin Zerivitz, Jane Rothschild, Paul Glickstein, Marcia Jo Zerivitz, Barbara Rothschild, Jeff Houser, and Michael Rothschild

ON THE HILL & IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH



National Executive Director Ken Greenberg

VA receives advanced appropriations for health services each year from Congress to shield it from the partisan budget disagreements that have led to shutdowns three times in the past decade. Congress has resorted to passing a temporary funding bill or continuing resolution (CR) as stopgap measures to avoid shutdowns. Congress may still pass a short-term CR or take up the House version passed in July, of the VA Military Construction Appropriations bill. **VA Emergency Transportation Access Act of 2023 Introduced in House and Senate**

In a letter, JWV thanked SVAC Chairmen Jon Tester, Ranking Member Jerry Moran, and Senators Patty Murray and John Boozman and HVAC Chairman Mike Bost and Representative Ryan Zinke for introducing the VA Emergency Transportation Access Act. We offered our strong support for this bipartisan legislation. JWV was one of the first Veteran Service Organizations to support this important issue to ensure Veterans, especially in rural areas continue to get the care and services they both earned and deserve.

JWV continuously expressed serious concerns about The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) rule set to go into effect in February 2024. If implemented without change, VA's reimbursement rate for emergency air ambulance services would be dramatically cut. Approximately 4.8 million Veterans live in rural areas, which is 25 percent of our nation's Veterans, including 2.7 million Veterans enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and many of those Veterans will lose access to life-saving emergency transportation should VA proceed with its stated intention to put the new reimbursement rates in place in February 2024. JWV urges a delay in the effective date and will continue to press Congress to enact this important legislation.

Access to Congressional and Executive Branch Leadership

JWV continues to advocate for veterans, servicemembers, their families, caregivers, and survivors. JWV has strong relationships with the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, House and Senate Leadership, and the White House. I have kept JWV at the forefront by participating in meetings with the Chairman and Ranking Members of those Committees, meeting with the Speaker and Minority Leader as well as White House officials.

Our access to VA and its leaders is underscored in numerous meetings with Secretary McDonough, Under Secretary for Health Elnahal, Under Secretary for Benefits Jacobs and Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Quinn. Under Secretary Jacobs was the keynote speaker at our Convention Opening Ceremony.

POW/MIA

Remembrance Day

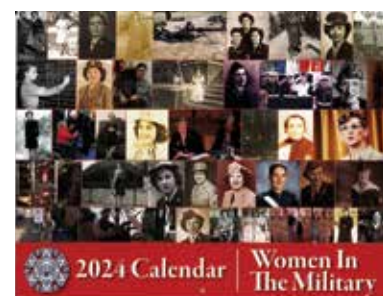
Headquarters staff Ken Greenberg, Jodi Harman, and Bryn Garick represented JWV at the Pentagon for National POW/MIA Recognition Day. They heard remarks from the Honorable Kathleen Hicks, Deputy

Secretary of Defense, and Former POW (Vietnam) Colonel Mike Brazelton, USAF. They witnessed a moving Pass and Review and Flyover as part of the ceremony. JWV continues to work with Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) to assist in identifying and bringing all servicemembers home.



Official Veteran's Day Poster & 2024 Calendar

The official Veteran's Day poster is here along with the 2024 Calendar. Please contact Bryn Garick (bgarick@jwv.org) if you would like to order copies of the poster or purchase the 2024 calendar.



National Welcomes Two New Employees

Jodi Harman is the new Programs, Outreach, and Events Coordinator taking over responsibilities, including convention, NEC, Allied Mission, and events coordination. She will also be handling outreach to JCC, synagogues, schools and assisting Greg and I with getting out governance documents for convention and NEC. Her email is jharman@jwv.org and her phone number is 202 265 6280 ext. 413 Jodi is not new to the VSO space as she previously worked for The Independence Fund and for HillVets. She has been a marine corps military spouse for 27 years.

Bryn Garick is the new Public Relations, Outreach, and Graphics Design Coordinator taking over responsibilities including The Jewish Veteran, Monday newsletter, public relations, press outreach, crafting statements with members for media and marketing. She will also be the primary in-house graphics design staff. We have already talked with her about the branding guide so that all printed JWV materials will be consistent and easily identifiable. Her email is bgarick@jwv.org and her phone number is 202 265 6280 ext. 401. Bryn recently relocated from Philadelphia and holds both a bachelor's and master's degree from Temple University.

Jodi and Bryn will have overlapping responsibilities like overseeing the resource center, developing new outreach to the greater Jewish community, and promoting JWV to press and media outlets. Please welcome them to the JWV team and feel free to contact them on issues in their portfolio.

As the National Executive Director, I want to be your advocate. Reach out to me and share your concerns and tell me what issues are important to you. My email is NED@jwv.org.

Thanks to all who attended the National Convention. It was great to see you in person and virtually. I also want to thank the Resolutions Committee and Chairman Larry Jasper for all their hard work on adopting the five carryover and eight new initiatives as JWV's legislative priorities for the 118th Congress. I encourage JWV and JWVA members to review the Committee's report on page five (5) and urge your Senators and Representatives to support each proposal.

The Washington office has been busy, and I am pleased to provide updates on issues at the forefront of concern to veterans, service members, and their families.

Senate Confirms VA Deputy Secretary Tanya Bradsher



On September 12, 2023, Army Veteran Tanya Bradsher was confirmed by the Senate (by a vote of 50-46) as VA's deputy secretary. Bradsher – who has been serving as VA's chief of staff since March 2021 – is a fourth-generation Veteran and Iraq combat Veteran who

served for 20 years in the United States Army before retiring as a lieutenant colonel. She is now the first woman deputy secretary of VA, the highest-ranking woman in VA history, and the first woman of color to serve in the position.

NED Ken Greenberg represented JWV at the official swearing in ceremony on September 20, 2023. JWV welcomes Deputy Secretary Bradsher and looks forward to continuing to work with her in supporting programs and services for veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. The Deputy Secretary oversees and is the lead VA official on the Electronic Health Records Modernization (EHRM) and Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) projects. Both are important and carefully monitored by JWV.

Potential for a Government Shutdown – Continuing Resolution

First and foremost is the potential government shutdown as the fiscal year ends on September 30, 2023. While I am writing this and cannot predict Congressional action, VA advised JWV that medical care and burials at its cemeteries would continue in the event of a government shutdown, as would benefits such as disability compensation, pensions, education, and housing assistance. These benefits are not subject to the current budget deliberations.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

IT COMMITTEE

By Chairman Leslie Turner

A new member/donor management system is coming to JWV in the last quarter of 2023. It replaces the outdated system which has not kept up with the latest advances in CRM (Customer Relationship Management), and has cost the organization.

This new system, based on Salesforce CRM software, provides numerous benefits to members and staff. Among them are:

- Immediate updates to the member database when any member activity has occurred and is reported, such as: address change, renewal status and member death.
- Elimination of files kept by staff separate from the system due to lack of capability to handle the required data.
- Members can view and request an update to their contact information: address, phone, email, and even have a temporary address for a specified period of time.
- Members can request a change of post due to address change, or for any reason.
- Echelon (department, council, post) commanders and quartermasters can obtain current, up-to-the minute rosters.
- Echelon commanders receive an email notification of when a prospective members applies online.

In the coming months, the system will be online in a progressive rollout: headquarters staff and leadership, department commanders and quartermasters, council and post commanders and quartermasters, and all members. This will ensure that all the systems are working as expected before you, the members, have access to the new system.

The committee is confident this new Salesforce system will streamline headquarters operations, reduce response time from staff, and allow staff to focus on more important issues.

And in combination with a new JWV Website under development, JWV should attract new members, keeping the organization viable for many years to come.

Instructions on the use of the system will be provided throughout the progressive rollout via Zoom meetings and printed material available online.

Be on the look-out for an email announcement with the dates of the Zoom meetings for your level (department, council, post, general members.) Thank you for your patience. The payoff is about to come.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

By Chairman Steve Krant

We attended Convention and briefed attendees on the progress of new and ongoing initiatives to support membership outreach and elevate the JWV brand with a more consistent, readily identifiable look:

- *Retractable Banners* with one earmarked for each Department at no cost thanks to outgoing NC Nelson Mellitz. This type of compact, but eye-catching banner is ideal for local indoor events where the full booth would overwhelm.
- *A Refresh of the JWV Website* in close coordination with the IT Committee. The new website will feature an enhanced “landing page” to greet prospective members with details of JWV’s history, mission, and community involvement.
- *Digital & print advertising.* Marketing is gathering rates and information from a variety of Jewish and military-oriented publications in preparation

for a JWV awareness and membership campaign when the new Website launches.

- *Raise awareness of JWV and Jewish Military Service* in local and regional media with first-person narratives, especially around the Veterans and Memorial Day holidays.

And last, but far from least, the Marketing Committee extends a hearty welcome to the new members of our headquarters staff, Jodi Harmon and Bryn Garick! The Marketing Committee meets monthly via Zoom. Fresh faces and ideas are welcome and encouraged. Please contact marketingcmte@jwv.org if you would like to participate or share constructive comments and ideas.

POST-9/11 COMMITTEE

By Chairman Jeffrey Blonder

After taking off the summer the committee met in September and held two events that were well attended and well received. First led by Rabbi Golub, the committee held a Memorial Service on September 11th. This service has been an annual event for the Committee and will be held every year; We will never forget 9/11. Also, in September we had a lively discussion on the current events in Israel with Jeremy Burton, who is the CEO of the JCRC of Boston. Jeremy recently traveled to Israel and gave a first-hand account of the situation in Israel and answered questions from the members. The Post 9/11 Committee meets monthly via Zoom and features speakers and topics that are of interest to all veterans and members of the JWV and JWVA. Members interested in finding out more about the Post 9/11 Veterans Committee should contact Jeffrey Blonder (jwv.of.massachusetts@gmail.com).

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Larry Jasper

At the recent National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida, the Resolutions Committee passed 13 resolutions that will make up part of our legislative priorities for the coming year. Of the 13, 5 were a carry over from 2022 and 8 were new for 2023.

Carryover Resolutions

- *Support for Combat Injured Veterans Through the Richard Star Act.* This urges the U.S. Senate and House to work together to quickly pass the legislation known as the Major Richard Star Act. This allows a veteran with a combat related disability and fewer than 20 years of creditable service to receive retirement pay without reduction, concurrent with disability compensation.
- *Expanding America’s National Cemetery Act of 2023.* JWV urges the Congress to introduce and pass legislation supporting the addition of another National Cemetery as Arlington is quickly running out of space.
- *Facilitate the Naturalization of Veterans Who Served Honorably.* JWV is calling on the Federal Government to stop deportations of current and former service members and veterans and to pardon and provide a path to citizenship for deported veterans.
- *Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Families and Caregivers (PCAFC).* JWV urges the VA to continue to revise the rules and policies associated with the benefits of the PCAFC while continuing the moratorium on reassessments. JWV will continue to hold VA accountable in its

implementation of PCAFC.

- *VA Electronic Health Records Modernization (EHRM).* EHRM is designed to provide a seamless and paperless transition for Veterans as they transition from receiving care at Department of Defense (DOD) facilities while on active duty to receiving care at VA facilities. JWV urges the VA to halt the rollout of EHRM until all patient safety issues have been resolved.

New for 2023

- *The Coast Guard (CG) Should Be Paid During a Government Shutdown.* The CG falls under the Department of Homeland Security while the other branches fall under the DOD. During a shutdown, the DOD personnel continue to get paid while the CG does not. H.R.2693, “Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2023,” is pending with 47 cosponsors. JWV calls on the Congress to pass this bill to ensure that those in the CG who continue to work during a shutdown get paid during such shutdown.
- *Condemnation of Hate Speech and Violence Targeting Americans and the State of Israel.* Due to a serious increase of hate speech and violence posed against Jews and protected classes of Americans and the citizens of Israel, JWV joins all communities in mourning the loss in these cases, supports the building of relationships to counter acts of racism, antisemitism, and violence, and will speak out in the strongest possible terms against such actions.
- *Oppose Taxation of VA Disability Compensation.* The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is considering a recommendation to impose federal taxation on VA Disability Compensation. JWV urges the Congress to reject the CBO proposal as it would impose an unjust tax on veterans.
- *Oppose Termination of VA Health Care for Priority Groups 7 and 8.* This is another CBO proposal to end VA medical care for Priority Groups 7 and 8. Veterans in these groups have no more than a 40% service-connected disability and would impact approximately 2 million veterans. JWV urges Congress to reject this proposal as an unjust burden on veterans.
- *DOULA for VA Act of 2023 (Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access for Veterans Affairs Act of 2023).* JWV urges passage of this Act to ensure women veterans receive the same level of care as any woman in the civilian sector.
- *Giving Reservists A Valiant Eternity (GRAVE) Act.* H.R. 5114 was introduced to allow for a government supplied headstone at no cost to the surviving family of the veteran. JWV urges Congress to pass the GRAVE Act to allow the families the opportunity to honor the passing of their loved one in alignment with customary military funeral honors.
- *Written Informed Consent.* JWV supports and requests passage of legislation to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a database of drugs that carry the FDA “black box” warnings (BBW) to create a national standard of practice regarding such warnings, track any negative health outcomes from these

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MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Well, another National convention is past. We have new changes to our constitution and bylaws, and new elected leadership. Our next convention will be in Atlantic City, New Jersey. I'm hoping that many more of our members will be attending.

The highlights of the Membership Committee presentation at the convention were;

- 1. Membership numbers (Recruiting and Retention)
- 2. Membership Matrix
- 3. Membership responsibility
- 4. New membership contest

Our membership numbers are not keeping up with attrition. We are down approximately 200 members from this time last year. We must increase our recruiting efforts as well as retain current members. We will be introducing new recruiting and retention material in the near future. One of these is a pop up banner that will be used at many different types of events in your areas. The committee will be sharing ideas from around the country that are successful and easy for people to replicate.

The Membership Matrix that you have seen in the past is being updated to make it easier for Department and Post Commanders to keep track of requirements needed to have compliance for voting at Convention. More on this later.

Recruiting and retention is everyone's responsibility.

Specifically, it is the Junior Vice Commanders (JVC) at every echelon to keep track of and report membership changes to their respective leadership. As of this Convention ALL Department JVC's will automatically be members of the National Membership Committee and will be expected to attend scheduled National Membership Committee meetings. The meetings will be via Zoom.

With Veterans Day coming up, November 11 is on Saturday, it is a good time to think about sponsoring a Kiddush at your local synagogue. Also many communities are having programs for Veterans Day. 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 made to preserve our freedoms.

The National Commanders Membership Challenge Contest. This is a new contest concept we are trying. Each prize category will have a cash award that will be shared with the prize winner and their Post. To qualify for a prize, you must recruit ONE NEW REGULAR MEMBER after that any combination of membership categories. In addition, a cash award will be given solely to the qualified member who recruits any NEW REGULAR member under the age of 35! It is very important that when sending the new membership forms that you have all the information required filled out and



Kim Queen
Membership Chairman

that they are signed. Also write on top of the form, membership contest, this is very important so we can keep track of contest entries for prize validation. Contest details will be published in the Commanders weekly newsletter and on our website.

Remember to order Berres Brothers Coffee Company (A Veteran owned coffee roaster). They provide premium kosher coffees at a discount to our members. This will also generate funds for JWV to support Veterans programs.

Remember, well planned events in your community will go a long way to recruit and retain members.

National Constitution and Bylaws

By National Judge Advocate Peter J. Nickitas

The 2023 National Convention yielded important changes to the Constitution and By-laws as the result of committed JWV members on the Constitution and By-laws Committee. The National Convention adopted the proposed amendments by an overwhelming majority vote on 29 August 2023. The amendments took effect on 1 September 2023.

JWV Constitution Article II now defines JWV, a non-partisan organization, with explicit prohibition against involvement in partisan electoral candidate campaigns, and permission to engage in efforts to enact favored legislation. JWV Constitution Article VIII now limits the National Executive Committee (NEC) Chair to two consecutive one-year terms, with election at the beginning of the JWV National Convention. JWV Constitution Article XIV specifies the two processes for amendment to the JWV Constitution: by voting up amendments at the National Convention, or convening a Constitutional Convention.

JWV National By-laws Article VI, §4 enumerates the powers of the National Executive Director (NED) to enter contracts in the name of the JWV, subject to the recommendation of the National Judge Advocate (NJA) and the approval of the National Commander (NC), with no change in the overarching authority of the NEC. Article IX, §6(c) of the By-laws defines "post in good standing," the state in which a post must find itself eight (8) days before the start of the National Convention, by five criteria, lest it have no voting power at the Convention: (1)Proof of liability insurance, due at JWV headquarters by November 15; (2)Fidelity Bond, due at JWV headquarters by November 15; (3)Finance Board Report; (4)990 IRS Receipt; and(5)JWV Warrant for the current year.

Other By-laws changes included the reduction from ten (10) to seven (7) members for the creation of a new JWV post, and a reduction from seven (7) to six (6) for the number of members to constitute a quorum for business at a post meeting.

Update from the JWV VSOs

By Raiana Berman, National Service Officer

Continuing the push to ensure veterans' timely access to earned benefits, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Ranking Member Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) recently introduced bipartisan legislation to improve the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims and appeals process for veterans. The Senators' Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2023 strengthens employee recruitment and retention for the Board of Veterans' Appeals to address its increasing caseload and cut down appeal wait times. It would streamline VA's scheduling of medical disability exams by increasing communication between contractors conducting the disability exams, Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and attorneys assisting veterans filing for benefits.

The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2023 would require the VA to report on its efforts in providing reimbursement for a veteran's travel to a facility, regardless of whether or not the facility is in the United States, when such travel is necessary to a scheduled compensation and pension examination.

The bill enhances VA's Disability Benefits Questionnaires to help veterans save time during the claims process by allowing them to fill out the forms in advance and require VA contractors to contact a veteran's representative, as well as the veteran, when scheduling medical disability exams. instructs VA to improve the Department's outreach efforts by working with veterans' groups to educate veterans on how contract disability exams are scheduled and establish a competitive internship program at the Board of Veterans Appeals for high-performing law students, and a competitive honors program to recruit high-performing law school students, recent graduates, and entry-level attorneys. The bill would increase the number of judges on the Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims, as well.

These changes would cost \$6 million over the 2023-2028 period. This spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Update: The Senate is likely to consider the House passed similar bill (HR 1530) on September 20th, 2023.

Military and Veterans' Organizations Express Support for CFPB

By PNC Harvey Weiner

On October 3, the United States Supreme Court will hear oral argument in the case of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau v. Community Financial Services Association of America, representing the culmination of litigation which may decide the fate of the Bureau. As the date looms closer, military and veterans' groups are joining to express support for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and its proven commitment to the financial wellbeing of servicemembers, veterans and their families.

Congress specifically tasked the CFPB with special authority to protect servicemembers and their families from targeted financial abuses, such as predatory lending, violations of the Military Lending Act (MLA) and abuse of the allotment system. The CFPB has taken this responsibility seriously, handling over 320,000 complaints

from servicemembers, veterans and their families, recovering \$175 million in monetary relief through enforcement actions involving harm to servicemembers and veterans, including six cases for violations of the MLA, and providing educational resources to these consumers about the rights and protections afforded via their military status.

Without a strong CFPB, servicemembers, veterans and their families are at risk of losing a crucial ally and the sole national consumer protection agency with a Congressional mandate to protect their interests. Should the Court rule against the CFPB, the financial readiness of our all-volunteer force will be seriously undermined and these distressing abuses will go unchecked.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Richard Pape

The future of the Jewish War Veterans lies in its youth, so it is only proper that we hear from a “younger” member. Meet Richard Pape, an unassuming man who said he had nothing interesting to offer about himself.

Pape was a military brat. His father served for 16 years including during Desert Storm with the U.S. Army. He also has an uncle who served in Vietnam with Marine Force Recon. Like many army brats, he grew up in a lot of places, graduating high school in Georgia.

He followed his family background and naturally went into the military. He trained at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) in Texas to become an Air

Transport Specialist. His four-and-a-half-year service took him to places like Altus AFB in Oklahoma and Yokota Air Base in Japan.

After his time in the Air Force he used his training to secure a job in Oman working cargo destined for Iraq and Afghanistan. Pape worked here for seven years, during which he connected with members of the British Special Air Service, he cannot speak much about it but he clearly enjoyed that experience.

Pape earned a degree in Fish and Wildlife from the American Military University where he developed a passion for raising fish. After Oman, he moved to Georgia and Alaska working at fish hatcheries.

Pape now works for a company in Minneapolis, Minnesota (MN) in accounts payable and his interests have led him to seek a career as a Certified Public Accountant.

Pape is a long-time member of the American Legion. In 2020, Lou Michaels, then Department Commander for MN, and also a member of the American Legion, asked Pape to join JWV and so he did. Pape enjoys that JWV is smaller than American Legion as he finds it easier to get things done.

Pape is Commander of Post 331 in Minneapolis and also Vice Commander of the Department of MN. Pape is just what JWV needs for our future – a young veteran willing to accept positions of responsibility.

Pape has been married for 5 years and enjoys spending time with his wife and dog while hiking, cooking, and organizing events. He helps with cookouts at the Sholom Home, a Jewish Retirement Home in St. Louis Park, MN.



Post Commander Richard Pape
(Photo by: Lou Michaels)

Women's Veterans Day celebrations in 25 states

By Sheila Berg

On June 12, 1948, women were allowed to become full time members of the US Army in accordance with Pub. L. 80-625 62 Stat. 356. Women have participated in America’s conflicts since the Revolutionary War, often disguised as soldiers or spies. Deborah Gannett, also known as Deborah Sampson, was an American Revolutionary War hero. She disguised herself as Robert Shurtliff and joined the army. She was wounded in battle, honorably discharged, “undiscovered” in 1783.

Women in the Military continue to be the fastest growing Military demographic. In 2021, women were 17.03% of active-duty force, 21.4 % of the Reserves and National Guard.

First celebrated in 2018, Women Veteran’s Day is not a national holiday. However, it is currently observed in 25 states and territories: Alaska, California, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, U.S. Virgin Islands and Wisconsin.

Women Veteran's Day should be a national holiday. Contact your State Department of Veterans Affairs, Governor’s Office of States not mentioned and US Congressional representatives to bring national recognition.

Original "Rosie the Riveter" Ethel Margolin throws Independence Day pitch

By Earl Roth, Post 603

San Fernando Valley JWV Post 603 member and 101-year-old WWII WAC Ethel Margolin prepares to throw out the first pitch on July 4th at Dodger Stadium.



Ethel Margolin prepares to throw the 4th of July first pitch at Dodger's Stadium.
(Photo Courtesy of John Wordin)

Originally a "Rosie the Riveter," Ethel joined the US Army after being refused entry to the US Marines, US Air Force, and US Navy. Her IQ scores were off the charts, and she was one of five women across the country specially assigned to Air Transport Command, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio for two years to work on special classified projects. She was recently featured in a documentary by Gary Sinise about WWII Vets.

A long time NY Yankee fan, Ethel saw Babe Ruth’s farewell speech and later enjoyed watching the lanky center fielder named "Joltin" Joe Dimaggio.

Dodger Bobby Miller caught Ethel's strike and the crowd roared with excitement.



Ethel Margolin stands with Dodger Bobby Miller and John Wordin of Life Aid Suicide Prevention
(Photo Courtesy of John Wordin)

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Mark F. Kasten - Post 100
Stefan Russakow - Post 100
John Wallshein - Post 100
Steven I. Wenick - Post 100
Lewis G. Arem - Post 552

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

David Price - Post 118
Peter H. Garey - Post 138

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Max A. Goldfarb - Post 243
Michael S. Hirsh - Post 400
David P. Mendelsohn - Post 639
William Seigel - Post 639
Pierre E. Chanover - Post 819
Bruce N. Jacobs - Post 819

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Milton H. Brod - Post 605
Stephen L. Zacker - Post 605

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Yacob Castro De Almeida - Post 167
Gary M. Lattin - Post 167
Aharon P. Venegas - Post 167

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Harvey Albert - Post 508
David I. Anapolsky - Post 508
Herbert I. Bader - Post 508
Todd D. Friedenberg - Post 508
Robert M. Golden - Post 508
Emanuel J. Mason - Post 508
Gerald H. Pass - Post 508
Rona E. Robinson - Post 508

Steven A. Rubin - Post 508
David J. Sheinkopf - Post 508
Samuel J. Singer - Post 508
Alan S. Swartz - Post 638

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Rachel Baker - Post 135
Dana A. Gulick - Post 474
Ashlyn R. Schwartz - Post 510

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Ronald G. Zukin - Post 39
Chris Birardi - Post 740

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Benjamin Ilany - Post 1
Jonah R. Naidus - Post 1
Eugene F. Gould - Post 655

Jacob E. Hamburger - Post 655
Barry Heck - Post 655
Sol M. Sturm - Post 655
Arnold H. Weitz - Post 655

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Aaron Gaber - Post 697

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

David A. Morris - Post 755
Inbal Morris - Post 755

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Gina R. Intravaia - Post 145
Howard Lubotsky - Post 701
Ian S. Queen - Post 701

Convention Validates NMAJMH Feasibility & Planning Study Report

By Abe Wasserberger

The NMAJMH board desires that the museum shall evolve to take its place as a major national venue known for its high-quality exhibitions, programs, and archives in furtherance of its mission to document and preserve the contributions of Jewish Americans to the peace and freedom of the United States and its efforts to combat antisemitism. To achieve this objective the museum's leadership, envision a revitalized and expanded lay leadership, motivated to ensure its growth and sustainability. How best to plan for such a bright future begins with a comprehensive internal assessment of the museum and JWV.

A Feasibility and Planning Study was authorized by the NMAJMH leadership in February 2023. Abe Wasserberger, MSW, a nationally respected consultant specializing in fundraising, strategic planning, and general management, was hired to develop, conduct, and report the findings to JWV and the museum. More than 40 people participated in this survey including donors and key advisors, past JWV NC's and Presidents of the museum. The survey instrument included 40 questions personally administered via video conference or by phone, with each participant.

The sessions lasted from an hour to more than 3 hours depending on the participants questions and sharing of information. The completed comprehensive and detailed written report was extensive in its findings and recommendations. On August 31, Abe presented the findings and recommendations before the full body of the JWV and NMAJMH at its national convention in Jacksonville, FL. Following the presentation and discussion of the report, the national body voted unanimously to accept the findings and to proceed to implement its recommendations.

Core findings

- The Museum operates at a significant and accruing deficit repaired only through support from the JWV and the occasional unexpected bequest or donation. Without significant strategic changes in the model, mission, and vision of both

JWV and the Museum both organizations may cease to function in the near term.

- JWV membership has been declining at an annual rate of 12%. If this trend continues, by 2033, JWV will have 87 paid members and 646 members by other categories including lifetime and complimentary membership.
- The current membership is supportive of developing a long-range business (operations, marketing, and funding) plan that reexamines the model, vision, and mission of both organizations.
- The membership recognizes that they alone cannot save the organizations either financially or strategically. Expanding volunteer engagement from outside veteran's ranks will be crucial to its survival.
- The study determined that approximately \$2,150,500 to \$8,317,750 could be raised from within its membership in support of a revitalized museum. A larger projection suggests that \$30 million could be achieved through a disciplined national campaign.



Recommendations

- Establish a blueprint for the future task force to study and present recommendations based on the results of this study.
- Commission a full due diligence assessment of the current building (1811 R street) to determine its mechanical, electrical, engineering, and architectural deficits and potential. Consider all realistic options including renovation, sale, relocation, and reconfigure as an income property.
- Additional recommendations referenced management, staffing, operations, operating policies, fundraising strategies, alliances with affinity groups, marketing, and communication.

Celebrating Orde Wingate 79 years after his death

By Jodi Harman

Despite a heat index of over 100° Fahrenheit, several dozen people gathered under one of the massive oak trees dotting Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, to pay tribute to Major General Orde Wingate, British Army.

JWV's 79th Anniversary Orde Wingate Memorial Ceremony was overseen by 2023-2024 JWV National Commander (NC) Barry Lischinsky, who welcomed special guests British Ambassador to the USA Dame Karen Pierce, DCMG, and Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) for the Embassy of Israel Eliav Benjamin and was joined by Past



National Commander Barry Lischinsky
(Photo Courtesy of Arlington National Cemetery)

National Commander Nelson Mellitz. All spoke of MG Wingate's many contributions to both Britain and Israel, specifically his essential role in the formation of Israeli Defense Forces.

Kassie Sandacz and Bob Burgoslaw from Voices of Vets provided lovely renditions of all three countries' national anthems: "God Save the King", "Hatikvah", and "The Star-Spangled Banner." 2023-2024 National Vice Commander Gary Ginsburg led those gathered in the "Pledge of Allegiance" after Arlington National Cemetery's Color Guard presented the Colors.

Ambassador Pierce, DCM Benjamin, and NC Lischinsky presented a wreath at the tomb where Wingate was interred along with five American service members

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Continued from page 5

drugs, and implement a prompt wellness check for veterans receiving BBW medications.

- Silver Star Banner.* This asks all government levels to honor May 1st as Silver Star Banner day and to display either the Silver Star banner or flag. This honors all veterans and active-duty members affected by combat.

All of these resolutions are supported by other major Veterans Service Organizations. Every veteran should contact their legislators and express your support for these resolutions. Let your legislators know that you vote and these are important.

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Robert Jacobs

The committee met during Convention. After Committee Chairman Bob Jacobs PDC(NJ) greeted attendees, there was a showing of the video taken on January 18, 2023 of the JWV commemoration of 50 years since the end of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

Jerry Alperstein spoke about possible upcoming committee projects, mainly the possibility of creating a traveling exhibit on Jewish military service during Vietnam and raising funds to do it. A motion was approved giving the committee the ability to look into the possibility of raising funds to create such exhibit.

NC Mellitz explained how a person can still apply for benefits under the PACT Act. He mentioned a NJ law that will prohibit predatory attempts to take a percentage of damages received as a result of toxic exposure. He also discussed a suicide prevention bill and emphasized its importance with over 20 veterans a day dying from suicide.

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE

By Chairwoman Sheila Berg

Our current goals include upgrading the present membership, reorganizing the JWV application to include gender and designation of Service areas (Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, Afghan War, Post 9/11.) We hope to get the Women Veterans Committee included in the NEC meeting.

The overall goal of this committee has been to increase Women Veteran awareness within the Organization, State and Nationwide.

We have a current list of activities helping us complete these goals. These include providing articles to the JWV Newsletter Women's Calendar, and the Women Veterans' Museum exhibit. We'd also like to help states organize their Women Veterans' Day celebrations. Finally, we'd like to partner with American Legion Women Veterans Committee, as they have extensive information and programs.



Wreath Laying Ceremony
(Photo Courtesy of Arlington National Cemetery)

and four British service members and civilians who perished on March 24, 1944, when their plane crashed in route to Burma. Taps sounded in the background, provided by Rob Eisenberg of Bugles Across America.

Given the nearness of the ceremony to Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Chesky Tenenbaum ended the event with the blowing of the shofar.

I recently read an article titled “Arlington National Cemetery Will Finally Remove Its Racist Monument.” But is it racist?

There is a raging controversy over the monument, with no surprise, that one camp feels it must be destroyed and the other feeling that it should remain a vital piece of history and a model of unity.

Before reading further, consider this: The Hebrew Bible includes the triumphs of the Jewish people and our tribulations; we learn the Divinely conducted triumphs over Pharaoh, the Canaanites, King David, and Ahasuerus and Hamann, side-by-side with the shortcomings of blinded Samson, King David’s transgressions, the Exile, and the jeremiads railing against the Jewish people for the Exile. We also learn consolation, repentance, and reconciliation in these same pages, by the teachings of parents, sages, and teachers. We learn these values because we preserve, remember, and observe our entire history – warts and all.

In 2021, Congress required the Department of Defense (DOD) to create a commission to look into how the department continued to honor the Confederacy. The commission’s authorizing legislation instructed it to pay some attention to “local sensibilities” about changes.

In January 2023, the commission submitted its final report to the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) recommending the renaming or removal from military installations of every item related to the Confederacy. The SecDef, in support of the findings, explained that the removal would instill in those who call these facilities home a sense of the history and values of the United States and commemorate the best of the republic that we are all sworn to protect.

On the block is the Confederate Memorial to Reconciliation and Reunification, known formally as The Arlington Confederate Memorial, which is on the National Register of Historic Places

as a contributing part of the Arlington National Cemetery Historic District.

The elaborately designed monument offers a nostalgic, mythologized vision of the Confederacy, including highly sanitized depictions of slavery.

Standing on a 32-foot-tall pedestal, a bronze, classical female figure, crowned with olive leaves, represents the American South. She holds a laurel wreath, a plow stock and a pruning hook, with a Biblical inscription at her feet: “They have beat their swords into plough-shares and their spears into pruning hooks.” It commends the South for turning away from war while also honoring their war dead.

The base has four cinerary urns, one for each year of the war, and is supported by a frieze with 14 shields, one for each of the 11 Confederate states and the border states of Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri. Thirty-two life-sized figures depict mythical gods alongside Southern soldiers and civilians. Two of these figures are portrayed as African American: an enslaved woman depicted as a “Mammy,” holding the infant child of a white officer, and an enslaved man following his owner to war.

The Arlington memorial was sculpted by Sir Moses Ezekiel and was designed in his Italian workshop. He was the first Jewish graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and he fought for the Confederacy before he began a long career as an artist. Ezekiel is buried at the foot of the monument with three others, making his memorial their grave marker as well.

Because the designer and sculptor was Jewish, some argue that supporting the removal of his work would be an act of antisemitism.

The memorial was dedicated in 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson, who declared at the monument’s unveiling that it “represented the best of America—a spirit of reconciliation, democracy, freedom, heroism and patriotism.” The event

was attended by veterans of the North and South, who shook hands and embraced.

One side of the controversy claims that the monument “represents the reunification of the North and South and therefore we can’t tear down a monument that offers us a chance to “better understand the complex history of the United States.”

The monument recognizes an important moment in the evolution of the history of America, the spiritual and emotional reconciliation of two regions that had fought bitterly 50 years earlier.

In 1898, the sons and grandsons of Confederate soldiers joined the U.S. Army in large numbers to help fight the Spanish-American War. President McKinley, himself a Union veteran, saw an opportunity to bind up the nation’s wounds with a generous show of gratitude towards the South. Congress concurred, and provision was made for proper treatment of Confederate graves, including re-interment of hundreds in Section 16 of Arlington Cemetery.

Historians, art critics and everyday people continuously debate their interpretations of art and history. Original source material is critical to those debates. That is why we put such a premium on historic preservation. But if historical artifacts are deliberately destroyed, the debate is cut short and a one-sided narrative is imposed.

The towering figure of a woman signifying



Larry Jasper, National Editor

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D'veri HaShomrim

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our military chaplains facilitate the free exercise of religion for all, including rites and rituals anathema to the chaplain’s own faith. Our rabbis may know Judaism is the only expression of the one true God; but in the US military they are not free to signal to Christians, Muslims, Buddhists and those of no faith that they are wrong. We expect non-Jewish Chaplains to reciprocate with the same equanimity.

Even a commanding officer’s personal free exercise of religion may be limited as he or she represents the government. How this applies to all members of the military varies with differing realities and circumstances. For example, a ship can accommodate a Muslim’s religious free exercise by ensuring a Muslim sailor has suitable pork-free rations. However it need not employ a cook (culinary specialist) who can never have contact with pork or pork products, nor need the entire ship be pork free.

George Washington’s, letter to the Jewish community of Newport, Rhode Island is a tribute to American religious pluralism. He wrote:

“It is now no more that toleration is spoken of

as if it were the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent rights, for happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.”

Washington moved beyond tolerance to an acceptance, respect and inherent mutual, rights. American exceptionalism was born in the union of two principals—governmental neutrality on matters of personal faith, and in all other matters, majority rule limited by minority rights. This balancing act never requires an evangelical Christian to abandon belief in evangelism only its practice because in the authoritarian military context minority faiths experience evangelism as coercive. Chaplaincy is not for all clergy. A great civilian rabbi might never want to learn about other faiths, nor intone a prayer outside a strictly Jewish context. This may not limit him as a rabbi but it does indicate the rabbi is not called to military service. Not all who are willing are called.

So here we are, America is exertional blessed by chaplain services like no other nation and here we are the Jews, not just tolerated but part and parcel of America’s greatness.

Rear Admiral Harold Robinson was born and raised in Boston and Newton, Massachusetts. In 1970, he married Miriam Gariani of Holon, Israel. They have two children, Yair, the Senior Rabbi of Congregation Beth Emeth; and Dori, a director, playwright, and educator. Rear Admiral Robinson graduated Coe College in 1968 and attended the Master of Arts Program at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. In 1999, the College-Institute awarded him a Doctor of Divinity and in 2005 he received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Coe. Following ordination, Rear Admiral Robinson was Rabbi of numerous synagogues. Elected in 2006, he continues to serve as President of the Naval Chaplains Foundation. Rabbi Robinson is an avid sailor and a veteran runner, having completed over fifty marathons including twenty-nine consecutive Boston Marathons.

National Executive Committee

February 20 - 22, 2024

Washington, D.C.



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

This year's NEC meeting will be held at the
Hilton Garden Inn
2201 M Street NW, Washington DC, 20037

Room cost is \$159.00 (breakfast included).
Questions? Please contact Jodi Harman at
jharman@jwv.org or 202.265.6280 ext. 413

NEC 2024 will be hybrid this year

This form is for in-person attendees ONLY.

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

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

Capitol Hill
Action Days are
Tuesday and
Wednesday

Committees will
start meeting
on Wednesday
afternoon

NEC Meeting is
Thursday morning.

NMAJMH
Board
of Directors
Meeting is
early Thursday
afternoon.

Last date to
Register is
January 24th

JWVA Member Name: _____ **Post #:** _____
Auxiliary #: _____
Address: _____ **Dept.:** _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zipcode:** _____
Phone: _____ **Email:** _____
Room will be shared with: _____
Arriving on: ____/____/____ **Departing on:** ____/____/____ **Total nights:** _____

	Cost	QTY.	Amount
Rooms - Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> King bed <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds <input type="checkbox"/> I need ADA room. ADA rooms are assigned on a first come, first served basis	\$159.00 per night		
Total:			
One night's stay must be paid when registering.			
Amount paying now:			
I am paying by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No.	Exp.	/	
Signature			

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

Attn: NEC 2024
Jewish War Veterans
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009



Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America

"Jewboy" Fighter Aircraft

By Falk Kantor

During World War II a US Army P-38 Lightning fighter aircraft with the nickname "JEWBOY" boldly written on its side flew in combat against the German Luftwaffe in the skies over Europe. The pilot was Philip M. Goldstein.

Born in Baltimore, MD, in 1920 to parents who once performed in vaudeville, Philip Goldstein was raised in the Philadelphia area. From his early days Phil had a love for music and following his graduation from high school, he enlisted in the US Army in 1940 with the goal of serving in the Army Band. He was first assigned to a machine-gun company but soon transferred to the 12th Infantry Regimental Band where he played the French horn.

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Phil was motivated to enter aviation training in the Army Air Corps. As an aviation cadet, he began flight training in California and eventually qualified as a pilot in the P-38, a



single seat, twin engine, fighter aircraft. In October 1943, Phil was shipped overseas initially to North Africa where he trained Allied pilots to fly the P-38. He was then assigned to the 49th Fighter Squadron, 14th Fighter Group at Triolo, Italy.

All of Phil's fifty combat missions were flown in 1944. While escorting B-17s and B-24s he had several victories, including a Messerschmitt ME-109 and a Focke-Wulf 190. He was also credited with destroying four Junkers JU-88 bombers during a strafing attack on a

German airfield in Italy.

There were not many Jews in Goldstein's unit. Phil himself was, not always affectionately, referred to as Jewboy. As Phil tells the story, one morning following one of his aerial victories, he went out to the flight line and there was "JEWBOY" painted on the side of his aircraft by his crew chief, Maurice Weiner. Phil understood the implications if he was shot down and captured but said he didn't give a damn.

Phil returned to the US in July 1944 where he served as a flight instructor at Santa Rosa Air Base in California. During a dance at a synagogue in San Francisco he met his future wife, then a physics student at the University of California. Phil was discharged in California in June 1945 where he eventually began a career in the insurance business. Phil passed away on June 29, 2018 in San Francisco at the age of 97.

He was a proud fighter pilot, one of the 500,000 Jews who served in WW II, whose message that he boldly flew in the skies over Europe still resonates today.

Congratulations to All JWV National Award Winners!

Murray L. Rosen Award

National Chief of Staff Larry Rosenthal – NJ

Feureisen - I.T. Rockman Award

Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256 – TALO

Ben Kaufman Award

Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256 – TALO

Wolfson Award

Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein
Greenwald Post 1 – NY

National Commander's Award

Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein
Greenwald Post 1 – NY

Post 9/11 Veteran Support Award

Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein
Greenwald Post 1 – NY

Edward D. Blatt Award

Selina S. Kanowitz – NJ

Most Improved Online Engagement Award

Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein
Greenwald Post 1 – NY

Outstanding Email Newsletter Award

Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256 – TALO

Post-9/11 Veteran Support Award

Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256 – TALO

Isadore Heiman- Al Berger Award

Dept. of Connecticut

Post Growth Award:

Small Post

Saratoga Spring Post 36 – NY

Medium Post

Garr-Greenstein-Friedenberg Post 39
– NJ

Large Post

Copper State Post 619 – AZ

Bountiful Post

Murray Solomon Post 243 – FL

Museum Awards:

Post with highest number of museum members

Milton L. Finel Post 389 – NY

Post with highest percent of museum members

Milton Finel Post 389 – NY

Department with greatest # of members

Dept. of New York

Department with highest percent of museum members

Dept. of District of Columbia

National Achievement Awards

Robert M. Zweiman
Memorial Award - \$5,000

Gabrielle Friedman

Charles Kosmutza
Memorial Grant - \$2,500

Patrick Knight

Charles Kosmutza
Memorial Grant - \$1,000

Katelyn Vanasopa

Max R. & Irene Rubenstein
Memorial Grant - \$1,500

Robert Bond

Youth Achievement Awards

Leon Brooks Memorial Grant - \$1,000
Aliza Ruttenberg

Clifford Lee Kristal Education Grant
- \$1,250

Emma Abramson

Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant
- \$1,000

Michal Epstein

Edith, Louis, and Max S. Millen Memorial
Athletic Grant - \$1,000
Ariel Oppenheim

National Achievement Awards and Youth Achievement Awards applications will be posted Oct. 1 on the JWV website.



Representatives from numerous posts and departments represented their respective homes at the 128th Annual Convention 2nd Business Session.

From left: NC Nelson L. Mellitz, PDC Gary Ginsburg, DC Kim Queen, DC Chuck Greenberg, DC Rochel Hayman, PNC David Magidson



Past Department Commander Selina Kanowitz accepts the Edward D. Blatt Award



Jerry Alperstein (middle) accepts several awards on behalf of Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein-Greenwald Post 1 from the Department of NY from NC Nelson L. Mellitz (left) and Steve Krant (right).



Dr. Barry Schneider (right) accepts the first place award for the 2023 National Membership Contest from DC Kim Queen (middle) and NC Nelson L. Mellitz (left).



Eddie Garcia (right) and Art Kaplan (middle) accept numerous awards from NC Nelson L. Mellitz (left) on behalf of Dr. Harvey J. Bloom Post 256 of the Department of TALO.

(National Convention Photos courtesy of Phil Kabakoff TALO Post 755, and Lou Michaels MN 354)

JWV 128th Annual National Convention



National President Natalie Blank presents Museum President Michael Berman with plaque from JWVA thanking Berman for his work with NMAMJH.
(Photo by Lou Michaels)



NC Nelson L. Mellitz (left) receives a medal and certificate from Chaplain Pat Archuleta Chapel of the Four Chaplains.



Jeff Blonder MA (left) and Chuck Greenberg NJ (right) present the colors at the National Commander's Banquet.



Art Kaplan (bottom), Scott Stevens (left), Bonnie Stevens (middle) and Roz Kaplan (right) pose outside of the National Commander's banquet.



NC Nelson L. Mellitz (left) receives a Stetson hat gifted from department of TALO representative Steve Krant (right), thanking Mellitz for his work as NC.



Bob Jacobs (left), PNC David Magidson (middle) and Jerry Alperstein (right) attended the Vietnam Veterans Night Out.



PNC Maxwell Colón (left) stands beside Rabbi Amanda Lurer (right) as she delivers the invocation at the National Executive Committee Meeting..



PNP Arlene Lodgen (left), Bob Jacobs (middle), and Al Adler (right) join others in chanting for incoming NC Barry Lischinsky as his nomination speeches were given on his behalf.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

Temple Beth El in San Antonio, Texas recently held their annual Shabbat service in honor of Armed Forces veterans.



Post 753 members Carl Brown, MSGT, U.S. Army (Ret) and Joy B. Ream, COL, U.S. Army (Ret) welcome congregants to Friday night services

The DuPage County, Illinois, Veterans Assistance Commission held its annual Veterans Resource Fair on Tuesday, August 29, 2023. This year's fair hosted almost 140 veterans and family members, and about 100 agencies (VSO, VA, state, county, local) and companies offering special veterans deals.



Members of West Suburban Post 54, Glen Ellyn, IL, manned the JWV table. From left: Howard Goldstein, Commander Post 54, Leslie Turner, and Bob Mikyska.

On June 25, 2023 a Korean Conflict Remembrance was held in Rochester, NY. There were several Korean War veterans present assisted by several local veterans organizations including **David J Kauffman Post 41** of the Jewish War Veterans USA and many leaders of the local Korean American



Commander, Department of New York JWV USA, Gary Ginsburg (right) and Roger Hill (left)



From left: Louis Morris, Vic Rosenblum, and Joseph Fridling

On June 25, 2023, **Kemp Mill Post 360** representatives manned a table at the Kemp Mill Civic Association's annual Kemp Mill Community Day, in Silver Spring, Maryland. Kemp Mill Community Day is a fun day highlighting local organizations, vendors, and businesses. Post 360's outreach effort at this event showcased the presence and activities of the Post within the community

On June 5th, the **JWV Minnesota Department** sponsored and hosted a Cookout for the Sholom Home East residents and their families. Over 500 people in total were served a Kosher lunch of grilled hotdogs and hamburgers with potato salad and coleslaw sides, a variety of chips, soda, water and all the fixings for a tasty meal. JWV members volunteered for set-up, cooking, serving, and clean-up.



From left: Jeff Marks, Minnesota Department Quartermaster; Richard Pape, Post 331 Commander, Peter Nickitas, National Judge Advocate; Damara Jefferson, Sholom Home Executive Chef/Director of Culinary Services; Stew Mednick, Minnesota Department Commander; and Bruce Legan, Post 354 member. (Photo by Stew Mednick)



JWV Department of Minnesota hosted a cookout with Kosher lunches, potato salad and a variety of chips and soda.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

On September 8th, **Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein-Greenwald Post 1** sponsored their annual *Oneg Shabbat* at West Point Jewish Chapel.



Lieutenant Colonel [Ret.] Robert Farkas of Jewish War Veterans USA Post 1 and his wife Diana with West Point Cadets at the *Oneg Shabbat*.



**West Point Associate Dean Colonel Benjamin Wallen (left), a member of JWV Post 1, and Post 1 Commander Edward Hochman engage in an animated discussion at the *Oneg Shabbat*.
(Photos by: Colonel Joshua Lubarsky)**



**Herschel Sheiness (left) presents challenge coin to Eli Rosin (middle) who is accompanied by his mother Veronica Rosin (right).
(Photo courtesy of Herschel Sheiness)**

At **San Antonio Post 753's** regular July meeting, in response to the request of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Ch. Maj. Dovid Grossman, Post member Herschel Sheiness was honored to present the CAP General Carl A. Spaatz award to Post member Eli Rosin, a member of **Post 753** since 2021. This award is the highest award a CAP cadet can earn. After two years attending a local community college, Eli will receive a Coast Guard scholarship to complete college followed by rotary wing flight training. Accompanying Eli at the award ceremony was his mother, Veronica Rosin. Rosin commented that Eli is the first Jewish CAP cadet to earn this award.



**On July 4, the Jewish War Veterans and Ladies Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, marched in the Annual Oak Park, Michigan Independence Day Parade.
(Photo courtesy of Alan Muskowitz)**

Dr. Harvey J Bloom Post 256 and Auxiliary 256 recently held their annual Homeless Veteran barbeque.



Auxiliary 256 President & National Sr. VP Jo Reingold and Natala Asa served drinks at the event.



Post Commander Eddie Garcia accepts a donation from Big Al's BBQ for sponsoring the event.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

JWV National Executive Committee [NEC] member Jerry Alperstein served on a panel with VA Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal at the Manhattan VA Medical Center [VAMC] on August 3. NEC Alperstein explained the importance of remembering that the "bean counters at the VA often seek cost-effective measures that are not veterans effective."



VA Under Secretary for Health Shereef Elnahal and NEC member Jerry Alperstein
(Photo courtesy of Jerry Alperstein)

Recently JWV **Department of the Midwest** installed its officers for the next 12 months at Beth Shalom Synagogue in Columbia, Missouri.



Attendees included Rabbi Matt Derrenbacher, Monroe Ginsberg, DC Bill Greenberg, Jack Lite, Scott Bronston, Larry Chervitz, Ellis Frohman, Greg Quinn, Larry Gordon, Ed Cohen, and Howard Noah.
(Photo by: Greg Quinn, Adjutant, Dept. of the Midwest)

Labor Day weekend poppy event by **Jersey Shore Post 125** at the Shrewsbury, NJ Shop Rite.



From left: Henry Lewis, Monty Fisher, Warren Epstein, Norman Ginsburg, and Burt Resnic

JWV Saratoga Post 36 had the privilege of staffing the Community Outreach Booth on the opening day at Saratoga Race Course July 13, 2023. The New York Racing Association reported that the daily attendance for this opening day of the track season was 29,102. Post 36 regularly meets at Congregation Shaara Tfilie in Saratoga Springs.



JWV Life Member Ed Balaban, left, and Post Commander Dr. Sam Gottesman, right, had the opportunity to extend the Post's outreach to the crowd that attended the first day of the 2023 track season.
(Photo courtesy of Post 36)

Brand New Post of Fifteen New JWV Members Formed in Massachusetts

By PNC Harvey Weiner

On September 10, 2023, JWV members came from all over the state of Massachusetts to celebrate the creation of a new JWV post in Massachusetts, certainly the first in the Department in at least fifty years. Perhaps it is the first new post north of the Mason-Dixon line during that same time period.

The event was held in the Cape Cod Synagogue in Hyannis, with nary a Kennedy in sight. The new post is numbered 508 and is named the Cape & Islands Post. PNCs, Ira Novoselsky and Harvey Weiner, National Commander Bary Lischinsky, Massachusetts Department Commander, Dr. Sidney L. Davis and several other Massachusetts JWV stalwarts attended and spoke at the ceremony.

What is remarkable and unprecedented is that the new Post includes fifteen (15) brand new JWV members. This post was mainly the efforts of new Post Commander, retired Lt. Col. Gary Gordon (U.S. Army), assisted by past JWV National Chaplain Rear Admiral Rabbi Harold Robinson, (U.S. Navy (Ret.)). Leaders of the Department provided guidance and encouragement prior to and during its formation, but it was the efforts of a couple of determined individuals that recruited their new members and created the Post.

Gordon is Post Commander and Robinson is Senior Vice Commander and Chaplain. New



From left: PNC Ira Novoselsky, NC Barry Lischinsky, Mass. DC Dr. Sidney Davis, PC Gary Gordon, and Post SVC Harold Robinson, together with 12 of the Post's 15 new JWV members

member Ron Kramer is Junior Vice Commander and new member Harvey Albert is Quartermaster.

And the new Post Commander indicates that there are three other possible new members!

SPECIAL FOCUS ON ANTISEMITISM

By Ken Greenberg, National Executive Director

JWV is in a unique position to have a special focus on antisemitism. JWV opposes all forms of discrimination and bigotry but is especially outspoken on antisemitism. During 2023, JWV leadership participated in numerous roundtables and called out individuals for hate speech and antisemitism. JWV will continue to be a strong voice to combat antisemitism wherever and whenever it occurs.

As the only Jewish VSO, we issued statements condemning antisemitic events and speeches at the University of Pennsylvania “Palestine Writes Literature Festival,” the City University of New York law school graduation, the Goyim Defense League hate flyers on Long Island and remarks by a Member of Congress in Chicago. As instances of antisemitism across the country increase, JWV asks all Americans to be vigilant, learn, and educate our fellow citizens. JWV’s full statements are provided in this article.

JWV Calls on University of Pennsylvania Leadership to Prevent Hate Speech on Campus September 20th, 2023

The Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV) remains deeply concerned that the Palestine Writes Literature Festival will be held on campus September 22-24, 2023. The festival coincides with the Jewish High Holiday of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, and takes place next to the location that Jewish students will be holding high holiday worship services. JWV National Commander retired US Army Colonel Barry Lischinsky stated, “University leadership should be sensitive to the needs of Jewish students and faculty and not provide a venue or platform for hate speech of any kind on campus.” Lischinsky made clear, “The University must be responsive to its students and increase security around Jewish activities and move the festival to a different location, preferably off campus grounds.”

JWV urges alumni and others to write University President M. Elizabeth Magill to disapprove of the “Palestine Writes Literature Festival” and to prevent the University from providing space to those that promote hate speech, bigotry, and antisemitic remarks and events on campus. Lischinsky reiterated that “JWV will continue to stand against hatred, bigotry, and combating antisemitism wherever and whenever it occurs.”

Background

Most “Palestine Writes Literature Festival” speakers have little to do with celebrating Palestinian literature or promoting the culture of Palestinian writers and artists. Guest speakers have published antisemitic statements in the past which conflict with the University of Pennsylvania’s antisemitism policy. Speakers have previously given anti-Jewish speeches which are clearly “hate speech” and are again in violation of the university policy and the U.S. Constitution related to freedom of speech.

Members and patrons of the Jewish War Veterans and others have fought, and many have given the ultimate sacrifice, to preserve the rights covered by the U.S. Constitution. While there is nothing illegal about the University of Pennsylvania event itself, the event speakers’ anti-Jewish hate remarks should not be allowed on campus.

Antisemitism Curricula in California Schools

JWV signs and stands in support of the coalition letter the AMCHA Initiative wrote to the California Legislative Jewish Caucus asking for their help in preventing the implementation of widespread antisemitic curricula in California high schools.

JWV Denounces Antisemitic Remarks by Representative Jayapal July 17th, 2023

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV) expressed outrage at the remarks of U.S. Representative Pramila Jayapal (WA) given on Saturday in Chicago stating that Israel is a “racist state.”

JWV National Commander Colonel Nelson L. Mellitz, USAF (Retired) denounced the comments of Congresswoman Jayapal (WA) as “insensitive, hurtful, and just wrong.” As antisemitism is on the rise, remarks like hers only fuel the fires of hate and bigotry. “JWV continues to stand in support of Israel as we have since its rebirth as well as vehemently oppose antisemitism, wherever and whenever it occurs, as we have since our founding in 1896,” said Mellitz.

JWV Calls on New York Law Enforcement to fully Prosecute Individuals Responsible for Goyim Defense League Hate Flyers June 19th, 2023

“Flyers recently distributed by the Goyim Defense League in Nassau County, New York are extremely antisemitic and filled with hate. They are despicable and threats to any Americans must be dealt with swiftly,” said Colonel Nelson L. Mellitz, USAF, retired, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV).

The flyer singles out current and former Jewish Members of Congress and contains a weapon in the upper left corner with a Star of David placed on the foreheads of elected officials from several states. Mellitz “implores New York law enforcement officials to fully prosecute the individuals responsible for the flyers.” Law enforcement confirmed the flyer was found at a Jewish house of worship and at several residences in the Plainview, NY area.

JWV Condemns CUNY Law School Speaker’s Comments and Calls on CUNY Leadership to Denounce Antisemitic Remarks June 4th, 2023

Jewish War Veterans National Commander Colonel Nelson L. Mellitz, USAF, Retired, expressed outrage at the hate filled graduation speech delivered at the City University of New York (CUNY) Law School graduation by Fatima Mohammed.

Jewish men and women have served in the U.S. military in greater numbers than their percentage of the total population, since the founding of our great republic to preserve the right of free speech. The Fatima Mohammed anti-Jewish hateful graduation speech is a direct attack against what we have fought so hard to preserve for almost 250 years. “Her comments are extreme, inflammatory, filled with anger and have no place in any setting in the United States,” said Mellitz.

JWV calls on CUNY and the law school leadership to take immediate action to denounce her antisemitic remarks and assure that students are not provided a forum to promote hatred and antisemitism in the future.

Coalition Building

JWV is strengthening our efforts by partnering with organizations like Combating Antisemitism Movement (CAM), the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism (FCAS). They are more commonly known as Stand Up to Jewish



standuptojewishhate.org/

Hate or #BlueSquare. We have carried our message to Congress and asked Members to join us in combating antisemitism targeted at veterans and military servicemembers. We partnered with CAM and six Jewish Community Organizations for a forum with ten Members of Congress on Capitol Hill. We are working with FCAS to expand outreach to include Jewish Federations and JCCs across the county. We connected with StandWithUs, to take our efforts to combat antisemitism on college campuses. JWV is a resource in helping to educate Americans. Education is the key to reducing antisemitic actions and incidents in America and around the world.

National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism

In a High Holidays call with American Jewish leaders before Rosh Hashanah, President Joe Biden reaffirmed his commitment to “condemn and combat antisemitism at every turn” and said his administration had “started aggressively implementing” the National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism it unveiled in May of this year. VA’s representative is Under Secretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs and he continues to consult with JWV leadership for issues related to the veteran and military community.

At our Convention in Jacksonville, Karen Barall Associate VP of the Jewish Federation of North America briefed JWV on the National Strategy. She highlighted four pillars of the document that focused on:

1. Increase awareness and understanding of antisemitism, including its threat to America, and broaden appreciation of Jewish American heritage.
2. Improve safety and security for Jewish communities.
3. Reverse the normalization of antisemitism and counter antisemitic discrimination.
4. Build cross-community solidarity and collective action to counter hate.

Chet Edwards Speaks Out on Jacksonville Shooting

“JWV is uniquely powerful and an important voice in the fight against antisemitism in our country. Thank you for being that voice. America is a better country today because of your voice and we will be a better country tomorrow. As we are here in Jacksonville, I would be remiss not to say what we all know. What happened here three days ago was an unspeakable, unconscionable, tragic assault, not just on African Americans in Jacksonville. It was an assault upon our country, the very soul of our country, very heart of our country. I think it’s also important for all Americans to understand that that young terrorist, that the killer had etched Nazi swastikas on his A-15. I think that is a message that needs to go out across this country. Let me also add that as a lifelong Methodist and the son-in-law of a Baptist minister, I feel a responsibility to be a partner with you in the fight against bigotry and antisemitism. All Americans of all faiths and backgrounds must join in the fight against antisemitism because antisemitism diminishes our country and what you were willing to give your life for. So, when I leave this convention today, I will double my effort to be a voice with you against antisemitism.” August 29th, 2023

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Continued from page 9

“peace” on top sends a powerful message. The figures girdling the base are all peacefully linked. The monument was hailed all around as indicative of the much-wished-for future of unity. Destroying it dishonors the veterans who embraced reconciliation and desecrates the surrounding graves.

On the reverse side of the argument, claims are that the figures on the memorial supposedly represent loyal slaves who faithfully remained at home to care for the soldiers’ wives and children along with the “Black Confederates” who fought for the south. Their claim is that the “loyal slave” concept is a myth and the picture presented by the memorial “distorts history.”

They are concerned about the impact the Arlington Confederate memorial has on living service members. They claim Black Americans are over represented in the military and they have volunteered to serve our imperfect country. It follows that it is a poor return for that service to insist that they share their burial ground with a monument that not only praises those who thought they were superior to Black people, but also insists that Black Southerners agreed that their enslavement was for the best.

They claim the fake Black Confederate on the Arlington memorial should no longer be given the same respect as the hundreds of thousands of real Black soldiers who fought for the Union.

Those with the opposing view argue that we have a surplus of object lessons about our complex history on view, and we are in no danger of forgetting when there are legacies much more difficult to change than a single monument.

The final arguments are that no amount of rebranding the memorial will transform it into anything other than what it is and that we need

both truth and reconciliation, not one or the other, versus you don’t have to love the Confederacy to realize that destroying a monument to peace and reconciliation after the most wrenching event in our nation’s history is wrong.

The final determination, if there is such a thing, is to remove the frieze and leave the base; the removed frieze can be redisplayed elsewhere.

Something to ponder: art is controversial. Our nation’s history is controversial. Both should be open for debate, but as with other issues, both factions would like to impose their own interpretation on everyone else. I have spoken with many Americans and found they are tired of tribalism and the hatred and division that it fosters.

Perhaps we should consider that the Civil War veterans who helped dedicate the monument proved the country could be reunited and move forward.

Arlington House, atop the hill at Arlington National Cemetery, is the nation’s memorial to Robert E. Lee. It honors him for specific reasons, including his role in promoting peace and reunion after the Civil War. In a larger sense it exists as a place of study and contemplation of the meaning of some of the most difficult aspects of American history: military service; sacrifice; citizenship; duty; loyalty; slavery and freedom.

During the Civil War, the Lees abandoned the property, and the United States Army used the estate to defend the capital. Then, in 1864, the grounds became a graveyard for union soldiers, now known as Arlington National Cemetery.

Julius Spain is the president of the Arlington branch of the NAACP. In contrast, he argued in 2020 that the Arlington House is a representation of slavery and ongoing institutional racism, and it should no longer be the official image of the government there. The U.S. Congress is considering a bill to rename the home.

Oscar Stein, WWII Survivor and Servicemember

By Earl Roth, Post 603

JWV Post 603 congratulates Oscar Stein on his 100th birthday at the Post meeting in July. Oscar was a WWII Holocaust Survivor and WWII US Army artillery/Intelligence serviceman.

Before emigrating to the US, Oscar actually



attended a Hitler Rally in his home Vienna, Austria but never gave the Sieg Heil salute. After hiding in Hungary, Oscar was fortunate that his mother

them passports to the US in 1940.

Soon thereafter, Oscar joined the US Army where he was a replacement in Normandy for the “Big Red One” First Division. He finished his WWII duty as a reconnaissance trooper, translator, and interrogator.

We are proud of you Oscar!

Military and Veterans’ Organizations Express Support for CFPB

Continued from page 6

The undersigned groups have long advocated for the rights and protection of servicemembers, veterans and their families. Several of these groups signed onto an influential “friend of the court” brief in the Supreme Court case, voicing strong support for the Bureau. At this critical juncture, the groups listed below come together to express support for the CFPB’s ability to fulfill its mission as a critical partner to protect our nation’s military community and to urge the Supreme Court to maintain the integrity of the Bureau.

Advocacy, Legislation, and Grassroots Activities

By Ken Greenberg, National Executive Director

Former Texas Congressman Chet Edwards participated in the Advocacy, Legislation and Grassroots Activities session during our 2023 National Convention. During his tenure in Congress, Edwards represented a district including Fort Hood and two VA medical centers. Throughout his career, he was a champion for the veteran and military community, having served in leadership positions on the House Veterans Affairs Committee as well as being Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on VA Military Construction.

The session was led by National Executive Director Ken Greenberg, who highlighted the importance of coalition building like The Military Coalition and National Military Veterans Alliance, two consortiums of more than 30 VSOs working together to advocate for veterans and military benefits.

Edwards emphasized the importance of establishing local and DC relationships with Members of Congress and their staff; setting up quarterly meetings to advocate for JWV priorities, and even inviting them to Department or Post meetings. Edwards message was clear “Members listen to their constituents, your voice matters, and you can make a difference in influencing

a vote.”

Greenberg highlighted that JWV Departments, Posts and members need to be known to officials at their local VA medical centers, regional offices, national cemeteries, and DOD facilities. “Cultivating relationships at the local level leads to a better understanding of issues, improves access and lets VA and DOD leaders know JWV, who we are, and what we do,” said Greenberg.

Both encouraged members to promote and establish local relationships with media, press and TV stations. Reach out to local Jewish publications and develop partnerships with Jewish Community Organizations like Hillel, Federations, Synagogues, and day schools.



Former Texas Congressman Chet Edwards spoke at the National Convention.

JWV members must be engaged locally to tell their stories and once a story is run – the contact will return for more stories and events. Plan your pitch for a story around Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Jewish American Heritage Month

or one of the Jewish holidays or festivals.

Moving forward remember to partner with other local VSOs, like DAV, VFW, American Legion, VVA, ROA and MOAA on mutually supported issues. There is strength in

numbers especially when you are advocating to elected officials at the federal, state, or local levels.

You can find the video of the session at JWV’s YouTube channel.

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



NATIONAL PRESIDENT SHIRLEY ZAK

2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

Dear Sisters,

It takes a lot to make me speechless, and this is one of the few times I am. I am honored and humbled in becoming President of the National Ladies Auxiliary. I pride myself on being a good worker, so you can rest assured I will always give any task my all. You can be certain I will give 100% while I have the honor of representing you.

I had a lot of help going up the Chairs on the different echelons. If there was a question, I called upon my Sisters of the Bronx and the Department of New York. These ladies were always there to help. I thank you one and all, I know that I will still be able to count on you.

Having been the National Secretary for ten years, I knew much about the administrative part of the workings of National. Going up the National Chairs was something completely different due to the rules and regulations of these programs. Let me tell you, at first this was scary. However, I was so wrong (I am incredibly happy to add). If I thought there was a problem and I did not know what to do, I asked the Past National Presidents. These ladies were GREAT even if I disagreed with them. They gave me a different outlook on the situation. They were understanding, patient and direct in their viewpoints. Ladies, I am looking forward to continuing to work with you.

I am looking forward to travelling around

this beautiful country of ours. On my visits I am eager to visit the VA Hospitals in your areas to see how they are working for our veterans. I will also speak about the National

Museum of American Jewish Military History and the many different programs and exhibits they have to offer. Just a reminder - make sure you are a member of the Museum. Membership in JWVA does not include membership in the Museum.

I know that working with my Line Officers and Chairmen will help keep our great organization running smoothly. I look forward to working alongside the National Commander, Barry Lischinsky. We have spoken numerous times in the past year, and I know we will have a good working relationship during this administration.

My theme this year is: DREAM/BELIEVE/INSPIRE – WE ARE UNSTOPPABLE. I believe in this theme and with your help we will make this work. At this point I would like to give a nod to late husband Jon Zak. He always said I could do this --- Baby, I wish you were here. Again, thank you for

Loyally,
Shirley Zak



NMAJMH MEMORIAL GARDEN

By PNP Iris Goldwasser

After many months of planning our new Memorial Garden has been installed and is beautiful, truly enhancing the front of our building. It follows the same look as our Remembrance Walk with pavers, but also has foliage, benches, an eternal light, etc. We are honoring our fallen heroes with an engraved Monument Stone.

The Memorial Garden has created great interest and some larger items have already been spoken for, although there remains some still available. We are currently accepting applications for pavers; the sizes and cost remain the same as the Remembrance Walk. All items purchased in the new garden will be acknowledged with a plaque or engraving of the donor's name.

Looking to the future and the renovations of our building, we have been assured that the Remembrance Walk and Memorial Garden will remain as they now exist. Their future is secure!

We are looking forward to hearing from you in regard to the new pavers as we want you to be a part of our new Memorial Garden.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

By Sandra Cantor, Editor

When I was a kid, I thought "service to others" was something you did on the weekends or when you had extra time. My idea of service was volunteering at hospitals, animal shelters, collecting food pantries, etc.

As I grew my conception of service has changed a bit.

Yes, it is still important to volunteer, but I see it more of an attitude to build your life around. Approaching everything you do in a spirit of service can transform your life and make it much more meaningful and fulfilling.

This is why I am proud to be affiliated with JWVA. If you look at the pictures and wonderful programs we held at our National Convention in Jacksonville, you will understand.

Our 2023 National Convention now is history. As is tradition at each of our National Conventions, many presentations were made. The Rita Panitz (of blessed memory) Memorial Bear Program saw over a total of 1,300 bears presented to the Sheriff's department, Red Cross, children's hospital and Ronald McDonald House. All were represented at our meeting except the children's hospital which we delivered and were most appreciative of these "bears". Ronald McDonald House also received several items from its Wish List.

The Rhea Sahl (of blessed memory) Memorial Baby Shower provided twelve (12) veterans with baskets filled with everything a newborn baby could possibly need, including beautiful hand-knitted blankets and hats and an amazon gift card, Out of 11 mothers-to-be, 7 were in attendance and one mother who had already given birth came with her beautiful baby. They were all delighted with the baskets they received. The other four (4) who could not attend received their baskets as well. Special thanks to Post 603 who gave the National Ladies Auxiliary a very generous donation to this program.

Our Operation New Start recipient was so grateful for the help we gave him. Unfortunately, he could not be with us. We gave him furniture for his apartment. This year we had two Grant-a-Wish recipients, one could not be with us and we gave him fishing gear for him and his wife and a gift card for bait and that he and his wife can go out to dinner together. The second recipient has a large family and we granted his wish of a gift card to a sporting goods place and gift cards to Applebees and Chilis.

Our out-going National Commander Nelson Mellitz joined us for these presentations and was so impressed. Thanks to all the JWVA & JWV members who joined us, not only to celebrate our out-going President Natalie Blank at her Testimonial, but also our Chai Club Luncheon, Partners events which were enjoyed by all. Thank you to the JWV members who attended our Memorial Service. Thanks to all the Chairmen and their Committees for their hard work that made our events successful. Thanks, also, to all the sisters who placed the names of their loved ones in our Memorial Book.

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

Thank you to JWV Convention Chairman, Alan Paley for including JWVA in everything. You are a pleasure to work with and we look forward to working with you in the future.

We cannot rest on our laurels. There is still much work to be done. Our 2024 NEC will be in

Continued on next page

Presentation of Baby Baskets



**Sitting: Female Veterans,
Standing from Left: Winette Cox (Administrative
Officer at VA Clinic), NP Natalie Blank, PNP
Elaine Bernstein, Daughter of Veteran.**

Grant-A-Wish Recipient



**From left: Grant A Wish recipient, JrVP Jo
Reingold (chairman), Robert Coon (Assistant
Deputy CDCE), Linda Hopkins (Director of
Hospice at Lake City VA).**

Presentation of Stuffed Bears



**Bears Donated to representatives of the
Sheriff's Department, Red Cross, Children's
Hospital and Ronald McDonald House. Besides
these representatives are NC Nelson Mellitz,
NP Natalie Blank, and Child Welfare Chairman
Rosalind Kaplan.**

All Photos by: Phil Kabakoff

2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

Continued from previous page

Washington DC, February 20-23, 2024. Our 2023 National Convention will be held in Atlantic City, NJ from September 8-13, 2024. Looking forward to seeing everyone at these events.

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

L'Shana Tovah to all.

PNP Elaine Bernstein, Chairman

PNP Petra C. Kaatz, Co-Chairman

Operation New Start



**From left: NP Natalie Blank, PNP Joanne Blum
(Chairman of Operation New Start), Kaleigh
Zimmerman (VA Social Worker), PNP Elaine
Bernstein.**

JWVA Double Chai Luncheon



**From left: PNP Linda Singer, PNP Charlene Ehrlich,
PNP Petra Kaatz, and PDC Lew Wunderlich**

Grant-A-Wish Gifts



**PNP Elaine Bernstein (left) with Robert Coon
(VA- CDCE Representative).**

STUDENT AWARDS

By: PNP Joanne Blum, Chairman

Ethyle K. Bornstein Award, \$1,000 to Caroline Vooss

Raul Wallenberg Award, \$1,000 to Parker Heller

Congratulations to our Student Award recipients!

Caroline Vooss is the Granddaughter of Anita Voos of Aux. 425, NY. She plans to attend Northeastern University to study Mechanical Engineering.

Parker Heller is the Grandson of Audrey Heller of Aux. 44, OH. He plans to attend Kent State University to study Business.

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

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

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

The Raul Wallenberg Student Award has been presented to our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren for many years. In the past, we have awarded multiple different awards. This year, at the convention, the membership voted to be able to award the same \$1,000, but, that in the future the committee can allocate different amounts, depending on the number of applicants. Please help us continue this important program. Send in your checks to the National Office earmarked for the Wallenberg Award.

So, keeping that in mind,

Please send in your generous donations now!!

A NEW YEAR'S PLEA

By Jo Reingold

So many things have changed since the start of the pandemic, but the Jewish calendar is something that never changes. Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is now upon us and it is a good time to reflect on our lives and reconnect with those whom we have been out of touch.

September 28, 1928, was the beginning of our organization, JWVA, so we are celebrating our 95th birthday this year! In honor of that occasion, I am asking our sisters to consider making a donation of your choosing (whatever is in your hearts and wallets!) to our National office during the High Holy Days season. You can mail it to: JWVA, 1811 R Street N.W., Washington D.C. 20009. This will help us continue with the many "mitzvot" that we do.

As we begin the New Year, we are thankful for the privilege of greeting it, and we pray for guidance to live it fully. If we have been waiting to perform an act of charity, to assume responsibility, let us do it now. If we have been waiting to show someone kindness, to speak a loving word, to make an overdue visit, let us do all these things now. Wishing a Happy, Healthy, and Fulfilling New Year to all!!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to thank the Members of the Museum for electing me the President of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. We are a unique museum. We are the only museum that memorializes the contributions of American Jews to the military history of the United States. We are the only museum that exhibits the deeds of the Jewish men that were awarded America's highest medal for bravery, the Medal of Honor.

As I stand here as your Museum President, I cannot help but think about Past President of the Museum, PNP Florence Levine the first women President of this Museum. I hope I can be half as good as she was. Also, congratulations to Past President Michael Berman, you did a yeoman's job as President of the Museum. You will certainly be a hard act to follow.

Researchers from around the country come to our museum to reference our archives. We are truly

blessed to have Mike Rugel and Pam Elbe on our staff.

As President of the Museum, I will try to attend the wonderful functions held in the building. My goals include:

- increasing membership,
- improving fundraising, and
- establishing new and updating existing exhibits.

I want these three goals to be interconnected, measurable and sustainable. I envision people wanting to visit our exhibits to learn and then, wanting to join the museum and help it grow financially.

I have a deep-rooted connection to JWV. My father, Meyer Messer, served as a Past County Commander of Bronx County, and my mother, Leah Messer, held the position of Past Department President of the Department of New York. My sisters are Past Junior Division Presidents. Additionally, my late husband, Paul Bernstein, was a Past National

Commander and Executive Director of the Department of New York. I followed Paul as the Executive Director of the Department of New York. In my role as Executive Director of the

Department of New York, I continued to champion the cause I holds dear. My dedication is unwavering.

I am only a phone call away, please call or email me with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Again, thank you for this vote of confidence.



Museum President Elaine Bernstein

Updates By Michael Rugel • Director of Programs and Content

The first weekend in June brought the return of Dupont-Kalorama Museum Consortium Walk Weekend. It feels like a summer kickoff for us and is two of our most visited days of the year. We participate along with five other museums and cultural organizations in the neighborhood. Anderson House (The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati), Dumbarton House, Dupont Underground, The Phillips Collection, and The President Woodrow Wilson House. Visitors get to experience a diverse set of experiences from world-class art to historic houses providing insight into the American experience. It's great to be a part of it. Over the weekend, we frequently hear that Walk Weekend provides the opportunity for visitors to come in for the first time. Also, with us for the weekend, were our friends from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington. They had a table to offer advice to visitors researching their own roots. Special thanks to Sheldon Goldberg, Joel Poznansky, and Hal Henig for being a part of Walk Weekend.

Rabbi Joseph Topek of Stony Brook University joined us for a Zoom webinar on July 25th. He presented Acheinu Anshei Hachayil: The Commemoration of American Jewish Soldiers Killed in World War Two. Rabbi Topek examined the objects connected



Rabbi Joseph Topek was featured at an NMAJMH event on July 25th.

to Jewish military personnel killed during World War Two. He looked at examples of the ways families and communities remembered those lost to war. This included examples from JWV posts and members from across the country. Some synagogues created moving memorial tributes in the forms of plaques or banners. There were ceremonies and even stage productions. Of course, cemeteries served as the ultimate memorial with a variety of markers used to recognize lost Jewish service members both at home and overseas.

We brought our Alan S. Brown Scholar Series to the Jewish War Veterans convention in Jacksonville. Marcia Jo Zerivitz spoke



Marcia Jo Zerivitz and PNC David Magidson

about Florida Jews in the Military and Jacksonville Jewish History. Zerivitz is the founding director of the Jewish Museum of Florida where she created an exhibit on Florida Jews in the Military. The talk took us from the Seminole Wars of the early 19th century to the present. It included organized crime leaders like Meyer Lansky (whose son was a Vietnam-era Air Force officer) and

Florida Jews who sacrificed their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. It was also a pleasure



Jeffrey Weiss spoke at the Museum and on Zoom on September 10th about his book *Fighting Back: Stan Andrews in WWII and the Birth of the Israeli Air Force*

to meet family members and others Zerivitz discussed in Jacksonville. Her book *Jews of Florida: Centuries of Stories* is available in the museum store.

Jeffrey Weiss spoke at the museum and on Zoom on September 10th. He discussed his book: *Fighting Back: Stan Andrews in WWII and the Birth of the Israeli Air Force*. The New York-born Andrews flew B-25s in World War II with the 345th Bombardment Group in the Pacific, serving mostly in the Philippines. In 1948, while a student at UCLA, Andrews was recruited to become one of the first pilots in the newly formed Israeli Air Force. Andrews had never been a Zionist. But motivated by the desire to fight antisemitism and ensure there could never be a second Holocaust, he decided to fight for Israel. Andrews' plane was downed on a mission. He was declared missing and never found. *Fighting Back* is available for sale in the museum store.

Recordings of all of these talks are available on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg>.

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

West Point's History with Judaism as explored by the NMAJMH

West Point, formally known as the United States Military Academy, has long welcomed Jews. The first graduating class of 1802 was 50% Jewish — an impressive statistic lessened only slightly by the fact that the class consisted of two students in total. In 2020, West Point recognized the commencement of the Academy's 1000th Jewish graduate. The most recent class in 2023 had 18 Jewish graduating cadets.

West Point's first Jewish graduate was Pennsylvania-born Simeon Magruder Levy. Levy joined the U.S. Army in 1790 at the age of 16. Levy enlisted in the American army as a sergeant in 1793, and on Aug 20, 1794, he distinguished himself at the Battle of Fallen Timbers during the Northwest Indian War. Levy's commanding officer recommended him as a cadet for the newly established USMA at West Point, New York. He began his studies at the USMA on 2 Mar 1801, graduated on 12 Oct 1802, and was promoted to second lieutenant in the Engineer Corps.

Since Simeon Magruder Levy's graduating class in 1802, Jewish life at West Point has flourished and grown. The following stories from the Museum's archives are just a few examples of the serve of Jewish West Pointers.

Leonard Kaplan served during World War II as a battalion commander of an amphibious unit, stationed in the South Pacific for 33 months. His service record included the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with one oak leaf cluster, and a Purple Heart. Upon leaving active duty in 1947, Kaplan was a lieutenant colonel. While in the Army Reserves, he ultimately reached the rank of colonel. Kaplan's military career began with his first introduction to the military as a member of the Junior ROTC. He then went on to the USMA where he graduated in 1939. The most memorable event of Leonard Kaplan's student years at West Point occurred six days after his June 12, 1939, graduation. On June 18 of that year he married his wife Greta in the West Point Cadet (Christian) Chapel. It was a typical West Point wedding except the ceremony was Jewish—quite possibly the first Jewish wedding ever to be performed at West Point.

Ellis David Greene was born in Cleveland, OH, and raised in Denver, CO by LTC (Ret.) Monty P. and Helen C. Greene. He entered the USMA as one of the youngest members of the Class of 1967.



Leonard and Greta Kaplan's wedding, 1939.

According to his family and friends, his greatest enjoyment at the Academy came from the Jewish Chapel Choir and teaching Jewish "Sunday School."

Following graduation in 1967, Greene attended Infantry Officer Basic Course and shipped off to Europe, where he served as a platoon leader in Company B/2-36 Infantry, 3d Armored Division



Ellis D. Greene's graduation, 1967.

in Germany. Greene began rotary-wing flight school in April 1969 at Ft. Wolters, TX, and completed helicopter training at Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, GA, in Dec 1969. Shortly after graduating flight school, he received orders for Vietnam.

On 1 Mar 1970, he arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to Company C, 227th Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopter), 1st Air Cavalry Division (Airmobile). On 23 May 1970, as Assistant Flight Leader for another combat assault mission into Cambodia, Ellis distinguished himself by his heroic actions and extraordinary sense of duty. Inserting ground troops in an area of Cambodia known as Parrot's Beak, approximately 30 miles from Song Be, Vietnam, his aircraft was part of the second lift into what turned out to be a hostile area. As the helicopter approached the landing zone, it was hit by enemy small arms fire. Ellis instinctively responded to the situation and returned to base camp to pick up reinforcements. Returning to the landing zone, he was able to safely insert the fresh troops, but, before he could clear the area, a B-40 rocket-propelled grenade smashed into the cockpit area causing the aircraft to crash. A fire erupted between the Americans and the enemy as medics attempted to assist the injured crew and passengers. Despite their best efforts, aircraft commander CPT Ellis D. Greene succumbed to his wounds. In 1986, Jewish War Veterans Post #344 was established in Denver in the name of CPT Ellis

D. Greene.

Perhaps the best-known Jewish USMA graduate, David Daniel "Mickey" Marcus was won admission to West Point in 1920 based on his high school academic and athletic record. After completing his active-duty requirement, he became a lawyer and worked as an Assistant United States Attorney in New York. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Marcus returned to active duty. While in London as a liaison for civil affairs, he traded roles to parachute into Normandy on D-Day with the first wave of West Point classmate General Maxwell Taylor (USMA '22) 101st Airborne Division—despite having no paratrooper training. His career as a paratrooper was short-lived, as he was sent back to the US after just a week.

He resumed high-level staff jobs, such as the Nuremberg trials and the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal. General Lucius Clay asked Marcus to serve in Germany where Marcus oversaw providing for the millions of displaced persons in Germany. Marcus toured Dachau and was shocked; though not previously a Zionist, he began to think differently about a Jewish state and saw it as the best hope for the European Jewish population.

In 1947, David Ben-Gurion, the founding father of Israel, asked Marcus to recruit an American officer to serve as military advisor to the Haganah, the Zionist paramilitary organization. Marcus was unable to find anyone satisfactory to fill the position, so he volunteered himself. Marcus was given permission by the US War Department to go to Israel, under the conditions that he would



David "Mickey" Marcus's graduation photo, 1924.

use a different name conceal his military service. As a result, in Jan 1948, a man named "Michael Stone" traveled to Tel Aviv to attempt to create an Israeli military from scratch. The Haganah was an effective underground organization, but it had no experience as a regular national army. Marcus applied his knowledge and skills to the Haganah as he created a command organization and

Continued on page 22

Michigan honors World War II Veterans in Memorial Park

By Alan Muskowitz, Department of Michigan

Michigan was famously known as the "Arsenal of Democracy" during WWII. In 2013, Michigan state Senate and House passed resolutions recognizing The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial as the state's tribute to its contributions during WWII.

Now, 10 years later, the board of the memorial was making good on their promise to Michigan's WWII veterans and Rosie the Riveters that a tribute to their sacrifice, both on the warfront and homefront, would have a permanent home in Royal Oak's Memorial Park.

The Jewish War Veterans Dept. of Michigan have been longtime supporters of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial since J WV-MI Sr. Vice Commander Art Fishman introduced the project to them over a decade ago. They've been regular attendees at the memorial's annual fundraising galas where Fishman and fellow J WV-MI Guy Stern have both been honored with the organization's Victory Award.

J WV-MI have been regular financial contributors to the memorial project and purchasers of bricks for the Walk of Honor. Their latest donation came on the morning of the dedication when representatives of the J WV-MI gathered at the site for a special check presentation to the memorial board.

The highlight of the day was the official dedication of the memorial when Fishman, 96-, and 101-year-old Frances Masters, an original Rosie the Riveter, received standing

ovations from the stage. The two were chosen to officially accept the memorial on behalf of all Michigan's WWII veterans and Rosies.

Fishman, who served in the Navy, has volunteered tirelessly on behalf of the memorial project for the last 10 years. Even in the days leading up to the dedication you could find him assisting



From left: Memorial board members Debi Hollis and Judy Maten, J WV's Mark Weiss and Marc Manson, memorial president John Maten, J WV Art Fishman, memorial board member Kim Jones



Art Fishman and Frances Masters accepted the award on behalf of all Michigan's WWII veterans and Rosies

board members in the positioning of the brick pavers donated by all three J WV Michigan posts.

West Point's History with Judaism

Continued from page 21

training manuals for Israel's young army. Israel was prepared in May 1948 when it proclaimed independence and the Arab armies invaded.

Ben-Gurion named Marcus a lieutenant general, the first general in the army of Israel in nearly two thousand years as a token of appreciation for all Marcus did for the Jewish state.

Hours before a cease-fire was scheduled to take effect on June 11, 1948, Marcus was unable to sleep. He wrapped himself in his white bedding and went for a walk, waving to the sentry as he passed. By the time Marcus returned, the sentry had been replaced who challenged the white-robed Marcus in Hebrew as he approached the perimeter. Marcus did not understand and replied in English, which the sentry did not understand. Marcus kept approaching, so the sentry fired and killed Marcus, the last casualty before the cease-fire. Ben-Gurion said, "He was the best man we had." Marcus's body was flown back for burial at West Point. He was buried at West Point on July 2, 1948, 28 years to the day after he first reported there as a plebe.

For more than 150 years, the USMA Jewish community gathered to worship each week in a variety of temporary locations. A chemistry lab located in Bartlett Hall hosted the community's Shabbat services for much of the 20th century. In 1965, three Jewish graduates formed a group that ultimately became the West Point Jewish Chapel Fund, a nonprofit committed to raise funds for the construction of a Jewish chapel. Construction began in 1982 and was completed in 1984. Inside the Jewish Chapel is a hallway with plaques bearing the name of every known Jewish cadet graduate, from Simeone Magruder Levy to Mickey Marcus to more recent graduate like 1LT David Bernstein, a 2001 West Point graduate who was killed in Iraq and is featured in the NMAJMH's list of Fallen Heroes. Today, the West Point Jewish Chapel "serves as a focal point for the Jewish community, a valued meeting space for the broader academy, and a living symbol of the continued patriotism and military service of Jewish Americans."

TAPS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Elsie Abrams - Post 100
Sidney Drayer - Post 100
Barney Fleishman - Post 100
Mitchell W. Greenbaum - Post 100
Benjamin Liss - Post 100
Leo Schwartz - Post 100
Leon Sporn - Post 100
Daniel Stopek - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Irwin L. Jacobs - Post 603
Rubin Kadin - Post 603
Hillard W. Lewinson - Post 603
Charles Schwartz - Post 603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Jack Vogel - Post 45
Lowell N. Waldo - Post 45
Morton M. Pear - Post 51
Joseph Gelb - Post 142
Marvin Lawrence - Post 142

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Harry J. Shuffler - Post 199
Ian Z. Heller - Post 243

Gerald Prezioso - Post 352
John Finks - Post 404
Harold Barbash - Post 440
Ruth B. Botwinick - Post 440
Brus S. Troner - Post 501
Bernard Koenig - Post 549
Debra H. Stern - Post 606
Alter G. Goldman - Post 613
Marvin B. Lichtenstein - Post 698
Stuart P. Tauber - Post 941*

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Alan B. Sterling - Post 800

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Raymon I. Orloff - Post 22
Stuart P. Tauber - Post 22*
Bernard Gitlin - Post 211
Stanley J. Keizer - Post 735

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Marvin Novetsky - Post 135
Jerome Manchel - Post 474

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Frank Gordon - Post 162

James D. Kahn - Post 354
Irving Rosenblum - Post 354
Robert Tilsen - Post 354

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Jerry G. Gordon - Post 39

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

D. Louis Ehrenberg - Post 1
Cheri Chummins Markle - Post 1
Herbert Starr - Post 1
Nathan M. Goldberg, PNC - Post 105
Aaron Silver - Post 191
Stephen G. Lande - Post 206
Israel Saleh - Post 218
Max Rubinstein - Post 425
Melvyn Singer - Post 425
Mark I. Koppelman - Post 648
Gilbert Friedenreich - Post 655
Myron Hirsch - Post 655
John Horowitz - Post 655
Sy Israel - Post 655
Howard Sherman - Post 655
Henry Appelstein - Post 717

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Nathan Burzinski - Post 44
Sidney Rackoff - Post 44

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Richard S. Rose - Post 65

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

George Philip Sier - Post 215

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Steven Musen - Post 23

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Richard M. Lesser - Post 210
David J. Woodland - Post 210
Irving Berk - Post 619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Alexander Hoffman - Post 755

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA-NC

Harry Paly - Post 765

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Nate Rudman - Post 487

* Dual Member

Happy New Year!

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

Good Health and Happiness to All
Allan Abramson

In Memory of Eugene Baraw
PDC Edward & PDP Lousie Baraw

US Forces Austria ('44-'45) - 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 & Happiness to All
PNC Jerry & PNP Joanne Blum

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

Preserve Democracy

Major Philip Lehman Memorial Post 50
PNC Jerome D. Cohen - Abe Cohen

In Memory of my Beloved Gigi
Brig Gen Gordon A. Ginsburg, USAF (Ret)

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

In Loving Memory of My Husband Walter
Dorothy D. Greenwald, PDP 204

In Memory of PNC Ron Ziegler
PA PDC Larry Holman

Good Health to All!
Petra C. Kaatz

In Memory of Marty Kessler
Leon Kutcher

Health and Happiness to All
PDC Steve and PNP Arlene Lodgen

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

In Memory of My Brother, Ben
PDC Stanley R. Light, Post 26

To All Good Health & Happiness
In Loving Memory of Jayne Wasserman
The Paley Family

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

In Honor of my Helen
Stephen Sax

Maxine Dad Irv USMC USNR USA
Love Harley Gabrielle Shelbee

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

Love Harley Gabrielle Shelbee
Maxine Dad Irv USMC USNR USA

Best Wishes to all JWV and JWVA Members
PNC Barry & PAP Charwynne Schneider

Our Very Best Wishes to All
PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman

Speedy Recover & Best Wishes R + R
John Robbins, Commander Post 717

In Memory of Norman Smith, Post 129

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

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

In Memory of Philip & Julia Weinstein
Leon Weinstein

Irwin Rosenbaum, Past Vet WWII
In Loving Memory of Jon Zak, DC
Shirley Zak NP

In Memory of my Beloved Miriam
David S. Zwerin

Good Health & Long Life to All
JWV Shore Post 712

Best Wishes to All & Good Health
Lt. Charles Freedman Post 706 Phila, PA

In Memory of Sanford Gorodetsky, RI 23
PDC Atty Stanley R. Light, Cmdr Post 26

Good Health and
Happiness to All

In Memory of Jeri & PNC Robert Zweiman

In Memory of Gilbert Finglass
Our beloved father, husband and grandfather

In Loving Memory of Linda Colón
Jerry and Diane Benjamin

In Memory of my Mother
Norma Kolsky-Benedict (Post 98)

Best Wishes to All Veterans
Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. Matt Segal

In Loving Memory of Jeannette Marie Maul
Fred Sona

In Memory of my Wife of 52 years, Shelley Novoselsky

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

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