



The Jewish Veteran

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

JWV Well Represented at March For Israel

By Bryn Garick, Managing Editor

National Commander Barry Lischinsky, National Vice Commander Gary Ginsburg, Past National Commander Nelson Mellitz, Past National Commander David Magidson, and more than 25 members and patrons from twelve JWV departments donned JWV caps and gear before heading to the National Mall to demonstrate their support for Israel. On November 14, 2023 the Jewish Federations of North America (JNF) and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations hosted a rally at the National Mall in Washington, DC.

NC Lischinsky emphasized JWV's message was clear, "this march was to show support for Israel, stand in solidarity with the hostages and condemn antisemitism."

JWV staff including National Executive Director Ken Greenberg and Director of Operations Greg Byrne met at JWV National Headquarters before walking with Lischinsky, Ginsburg and Magidson to the National Mall to attend the rally. They met with other JWV members and patrons, some of whom had traveled from as far as upstate New York to attend the rally.

JWV signs attracted individuals to stop and talk with JWV officials, thanking them for their service and inquiring about our organization and its work.

PNC Magidson remarked, "A multitude of groups wanted to have their picture taken with us, B'nai Brithers, Hillelers, etc. Why? We showed the hat. We are Jewish Veterans. Pride all around!"

The formal event started at 1 PM and lasted approximately two hours and a half hours.

Permits obtained prior to the event estimated a crowd of 60,000 people. According to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency these numbers

were exceeded, with 290,000 participants in-person.

Reports included more than 250,000 tuned in to the livestream.

While the turnout exceeded expectations, a viral incident revealed

some people were unable to attend.

One incident prevented

more than 900 people from

the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit from attending the rally. These people were abandoned at the airport after bus drivers refused to transport the protestors. Despite this antisemitic incident, the rally was considered an overwhelming success.

The event featured 30 different speakers, including three different relatives of Israeli hostages that spoke of their missing relatives, urging Hamas to return them home. As they spoke, the large crowd chanted "Bring Them Home." Other speakers included actress Tovah Feldshuh, Israeli Artist Ishay Ribo, the a capella group The Maccabeats, and more.

The event also included political leaders such as the Co-Chairs of Bipartisan Task Force Combatting Antisemitism: Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), Rep. Kathy



JWV leadership, staff and members gathered from around the country to show their support for Israel.

Manning (D-NC), as well as, Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY). These political leaders spoke about the United States' commitment to stand with Israel, as well as showed unwavering support to condemn and defeat Hamas.

JWV NVC Ginsburg remarked, "The March for Israel was a moving, emphatic event with an unmistakable message: America stands with Israel."

These sentiments were echoed by other JWV leadership.

NED Greenberg stated, "Today's march was personally touching to me to see so many gather in unity to bring the hostages home. JWV will continue to be a strong voice in support of Israel."

JWV Leads Letter Signed By 25 VSOs Expressing Solidarity for Israel

By Bryn Garick, Managing Editor

JWV Stands with Israel -- JWV leads letter signed by 25 different VSOs and MSOs showing support, solidarity, and unity for Israel.

On November 3, 2023, JWV spearheaded a letter sent to Congressional leadership urging Congress to act and show solidarity and unity for

Israel. The letter was signed by JWV National Commander Barry Lischinsky National Executive Director Ken Greenberg, and 25 other Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs), Military Service Organizations (MSOs), and other veteran-focused groups.

The letter was addressed to Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries.

Full letter on page 3

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D'verei HaShomrim

First Experience Away from Jewish Community

By Rabbi Heather Borshof

I grew up in central New Jersey, a county that had one of the largest Jewish populations in NJ. Public schools were closed for Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Passover. Even though I was exposed to other faith groups, I never thought twice about having to fight for or explain why I needed off for a Jewish holiday because it was never necessary.

When I first came into the military as a rabbi and Jewish chaplain, I discovered very quickly that Jews, as we are in the world, are a minority. In fact, I learned a new phrase: I am a “low-density faith” chaplain and Jews are a low-density faith religion in the military. This was a completely different experience for me than where I grew up and went to college.

For the first time, I met people who had never met a Jewish person. Many people do not recognize the tablets insignia that Jewish chaplains wear. Throughout my time in the military, and in particular during my time in Afghanistan, on a daily basis, individuals would inquire and ask what that “symbol” above my name was. I discovered that this was and is a wonderful opportunity to share who I am as a Jewish chaplain, and to communicate about who we are as a Jewish people. When we show our Judaism, whether that be the way we dress (wearing a Jewish star, or a kippah, or for me the Jewish tablets with the 10 commandments and the Star of David), we represent not just ourselves, but all of Judaism. So many people do not realize that Jews serve in the military and have always served in the military.

During my thirteen years on active duty in the Army as a Jewish chaplain, I have been fortunate to encounter very little antisemitism or opposition to practicing my faith freely. Once or twice, I have had leadership who did not respect or understand my requirement to serve the military Jewish community in addition to my regular officer responsibilities. However, most people are receptive and often even excited to meet a Jewish chaplain.

But I do know that for those Jewish military personnel who are not chaplains, the experience of finding others to be receptive and understand their needs is not always so easy. Many Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen experience resistance when making a request to practice their Judaism. Whether that be for kosher meals or asking to be excused in order to attend worship services for a Jewish holiday, they are often met with opposition and are denied the chance to participate and practice their Judaism.

In the present day, we are facing more antisemitism than we have in recent years. That is not to say that it was not always there, but it is more public today and tolerated in a way that must be considered unacceptable to Americans. However, in the military I find that when Jewish people are refused the opportunity to practice their faith, it is more out of ignorance and a lack of understanding than it is out of antisemitism.



After the attacks on 7 October in Israel, Jewish students at many colleges and universities are experiencing antisemitism as they never have before. It is scary, upsetting, and problematic on many levels. I am currently stationed at West Point in NY, and I am pleased to see that the Jewish students here have not experienced that kind of antisemitism. In fact, many of the faculty have reached out and asked how they can be supportive of the Jewish community. It is a breath of fresh air, but I know that this is an anomaly and is not happening in many places around the country, so it is important that we speak up and speak out when we face antisemitism.

We have a strong Jewish community here at West Point, and our Cadets will be among the Jews who serve in the US military in future years. We hold several Jewish events and Shabbat services with Shabbat dinner on a regular basis here at West Point. The Jewish Cadets often bring their non-Jewish friends and they have a wonderful time. It is a terrific opportunity to expose those from other faith backgrounds to Judaism. This will give them a better understanding of the Jewish community when it is their time to be leaders in the Army and a fellow Jewish Soldier asks them for their help living their Jewish identity.

It can be challenging to be a “low-density faith.” Many have experienced firsthand the challenges that come with it, and it is important that we continue to educate others. As a low-density faith chaplain, I feel blessed to be able both to serve the military Jewish community and have an opportunity to work with all of those from other faiths as well. Everyone has so much to learn from one another, and together we can continue to teach each other, support each other, and make the military a stronger and more cohesive community.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Heather Borshof

Rabbi/Chaplain Heather Borshof was born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Central NJ. She holds a BA in Judaic Studies and Philosophy from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, an MA in Jewish Education from Baltimore Hebrew University, and was ordained as a rabbi from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2010. Upon Ordination, Rabbi Borshof commissioned onto active duty in the



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National Commander Barry Lischinsky
National Executive Director Ken Greenberg
National Editor Larry Jasper
Managing Editor Bryn Garick
JWVA Pages Editor Sandra Cantor

EDITORIAL OFFICE

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

Telephone (202) 265-6280 x401
Fax (202) 234-5662
E-mail jwv@jwv.org
Web Site www.jwv.org

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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.

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

United States Army and served as a Jewish Chaplain. She completed the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course from Fort Jackson, SC in April 2011 and was assigned to Fort Belvoir, VA immediately following. In July 2013, she was assigned to Fort Bragg, NC with the 82nd Sustainment Brigade and deployed to Afghanistan in 2013-2014. From there, she was assigned to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. From 2017-2020, she served as the chaplain for the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Belvoir, VA, working with Wounded Warriors, while also serving the Jewish community. Rabbi Borshof arrived to West Point NY in July 2023, and currently serves as the Jewish Chaplain providing support to all Cadets and the Garrison. She currently serves as a Major in the Army.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Barry Lischinsky

Let me start by again saying “Thank you” for electing me as your 92nd National Commander and National Vice Commander Gary Ginsburg as your 4th National Vice Commander to lead our organization. Since our 127th Annual Convention in Florida as a team we have hit the ground running. Our pace has been somewhat quick and demanding, however we managed to cover a lot of ground in three months and are proud to represent our organization.

For the majority of the time, we would go in different directions to cover a variety of events and gatherings. Then there would be times that we would team to scope-out new venues and be reacquainted with organizations that share the same ideology and culture of our organization.

I would like to share some of my travel experiences since September 1, 2023.

September 6, 2023: JWV hosted the Annual Major General Orde Wingate Remembrance Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. The Ceremony was held at the gravesite where General Wingate is interred. MG Wingate, a British Army Officer, is considered a hero in the Jewish community for his military leadership in Palestine during 1936-1939 and his support of the Jewish state. This year’s event was attended by British Ambassador to the United States Dame Karen Pierce and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Israel Eliav Benjamin.

September 10, 2023: During our recent

JWV National Convention in Jacksonville, FL, the National Executive Council approved and granted a Charter to JWV Cape and Islands Post 508. An official opening ceremony and induction of Post Officers was held. Twelve new members were administered the oath of induction and became members of the newly established JWV Cape and Islands Post 508.

September 15, 2023: Jewish War Veterans (JWV) Department of Massachusetts (MA) Members & Auxiliary from across the Commonwealth gathered to support the 2023 Greater Boston Stand Down at Boston City Hall Plaza. This annual event is dedicated to bringing together community providers and Veterans in one place to make it easier for our Veterans to access services. Several JWV & JWVA MA Members volunteered in shifts throughout the day to help make this a successful event.

October 15, 2023: JWV assisted with the dedication of a Jewish Veterans Monument at New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery (NHVC) Boscawen, NH. While walking the grounds of the Memorial Garden at NHVC Rabbi Gary Atkins, a member of Jewish War Veterans of the USA and Chaplain/Major in the Civil Air Patrol, noticed there was not a single monument dedicated to Jewish Veterans interred at the cemetery. With the vision and direction of Rabbi Atkins, together with the local Jewish Community and partnering with Jewish Federation of NH, they raised sufficient funds for a monument dedicated

to NH Jewish Veterans.

On Sunday, October 15, 2023, a beautiful New England fall afternoon, the Jewish

Community’s vision became a reality. Rabbi Atkins assisted National Commander Lischinsky and unveiled the monument. Inscribed on the monument are the words “May their Memory be for a blessing. Dedicated in solemn Memory of Jewish Veterans interred here and elsewhere who fought to defend their country.”

October 18, 2023: While visiting JWV Department of Minnesota, both JWV National Commander (NC) Lischinsky and JWVA National President (NP) Zak had the honor to attend the Commanders’ Task Force (CTF) in support of Veterans. Governor Tim Walz opened the CTF by welcoming both NC Lischinsky and NP Zak then proceeded to acknowledge the seriousness of the current situation in Israel, and publicly announced his complete support for both the members of the Jewish faith and the Nation State of Israel. The CTF approved seven (7) new designated VSO State License plate logos to include Jewish War Veterans of

Continued on page 8



Israel Emergency Fund



On October 16, 2023, JWV National established and organized a collective donation to support Israel. Advertised in the Monday e-Newsletters, Departments, Posts and JWV members were encouraged to participate in this combined effort.

National is collecting donations through December 31, 2023 to be sent to *Magen David Adom*.

JWV thanks all who donated including members, patrons, departments and posts to the Israel Emergency Fund.

JWV leads VSO/MSO effort to Congressional Leadership Urging Solidary and Unity for Israel November 3, 2023

Continued from page 1

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Republican Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Democratic Leader Jeffries:

The undersigned Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) and Military Service Organizations (MSOs) representing more than six million current and former uniformed service members, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors urge you to stand with Israel and in support of humanitarian and military funding. The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV) is leading this effort to demonstrate solidarity and unity from the larger veteran and military community in the United States. Now more than ever, we must stand against terrorism and the atrocities committed by Hamas and with our brothers and sisters in the Israeli Defense Forces.

The October 7, 2023, terrorist attacks by Hamas, an Iranian proxy, were unprovoked and vicious, killing and maiming many Israeli civilian men, women, and children. Reports from the Middle East share barbaric atrocities including innocents being beheaded, whole families randomly being executed, women being raped, and people being kidnapped and held hostage for future trade-offs. Hamas, like ISIS, is a terrorist organization and terrorist activities are never justified. The United States

must continue to fight for democracy and stand against terrorism wherever and whenever it occurs.

We believe that a strong national defense against terrorism is necessary to protect democracy. As such, the undersigned VSOs and MSOs urge you to stand with Israel and move swiftly to pass proposed emergency aid to Israel.

Thank you for all you do for service members and veterans, as leaders in Congress. We also commend your support for Israel at this critical time.

Sincerely,
COL Barry Lischinsky, USA, Ret., JWV National Commander
Kenneth Greenberg, JWV National Executive Director

List of signing organizations

American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society, American G.I. Forum, American Retirees Association, America's Warriors Partnership, Association of the United States Navy, Blinded Veterans Association, Blue Star Families, Fleet Reserve Association, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Korean War Veterans Association, Marine Corps League, Marine Corps Reserve Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Order of the World Wars, Military-Veterans Advocacy, National Defense Committee, Non Commissioned Officers Association, Operation First Response, Sea Service Family, Foundation, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Ukrainian American Veterans, USCG Chief Petty Officers Association, Vets4Vet Leadership, Wounded Paw Project

ON THE HILL & IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

National Executive Director Ken Greenberg

NED Greenberg Participates in Roundtable Hosted by Minority Leader Jeffries

On November 30, NED Ken Greenberg represented JWV at a roundtable hosted by Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries that focused on veterans



NED Greenberg speaks at Roundtable

housing, homelessness, suicide prevention, mental health, access to care, and wait times. Members exchanged views and produced meaningful dialogue with VSO/MSO leaders on issues of concern to the veterans and military communities.

JWV thanks Leader Jeffries, HVAC Ranking Member Mark Takano, HVAC Subcommittee Ranking Members Mike Levin, Julia Brownley, MilCon/VA Appropriations Ranking Member Debbie Wasserman Schultz and the other House members who shared time with us.

NED Greenberg Participates in Roundtable Hosted by Majority Whip Emmer

On December 13, NED Ken Greenberg represented JWV at a roundtable hosted by Majority Whip Tom Emmer, HVAC



Greenberg and Whip Emmer

Chairman Mike Bost and attended by Speaker Mike Johnson.

The discussion focused on veterans' mental health, suicide prevention, education benefits, oversight of VA programs, and access to care. NED Greenberg's comments highlighted JWV's concern on the rise of antisemitism and support for the Major Richard Star Act. VSO views were communicated leading to responses from the members on critical issues to veterans, service members, and their families.

JWV commends Whip Emmer, HVAC Chairman Bost, HVAC Subcommittee Chairs Derrick Van Orden, Mariannette Miller-Meeks, Morgan Luttrell, Jen Kiggans and other House members in attendance. JWV looks forward to working with all members of the 118th Congress on critical veteran issues.

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Heads to the President for Signature

JWV worked hard on many provisions included and excluded from the final compromise bill. We thank Congress for enacting the NDAA for fiscal year 2024. The Senate voted 87-13 on December 13 and the House followed the next day with a vote of 310-118. This is the 63rd straight year both chambers of Congress have reached an agreement on annual Department of Defense (DOD) activities. The NDAA is now headed to President Biden's desk for signature. The White House indicated the president will sign the bill.

The Act includes a 5.2% pay increase for

the troops, the highest percentage since service members got a 6.9% increase in 2002. It also comes after troops got a 4.6% raise this year.

In addition to the pay raise, this year's NDAA seeks to improve junior service members' finances by allowing the military services to give E-6s and below a monthly bonus if "prevailing economic conditions ... adversely affect" them. The rate of the bonus, which would only be allowed in 2024, would be set by the service secretaries.

The compromise bill would also allow the service secretaries to exclude the Basic Allowance for Housing from income calculations for a stipend to help food-insecure troops if a service member has a "demonstrated need" for extra income to meet basic needs. For complete details on the NDAA, see the Armed Services Committee summary at https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy24_ndaa_conference_executive_summary1.pdf

Military Nominations Blockade Ended – Senate Approves more than 400 Promotions

As a longtime supporter of removing the block on military promotions in the Senate, JWV was pleased that 425 promotions were confirmed on December 5, 2023. Senator Tommy Tuberville (AL) had blocked confirmation of general and flag officer promotions for 10 months in protest over the Pentagon's policy of reimbursing troops who travel to seek abortions. Once the hold was released, the Senate moved swiftly and confirmed the nominations.

Further action by the Senate on December 14 approved legislation to grant back pay to senior military officers whose promotions were delayed by Tuberville's hold on nominations. Senators in both parties pushed to compensate officers who had lost out on increased pay that would have come with a higher rank. The bill passed by unanimous consent. The back pay legislation must still pass the House. The vote is likely to take place in January when they return to session.

Tuberville is still blocking the quick confirmation of 11 nominees for four-star positions. Schumer could line up votes on those promotions when the Senate returns the week of December 18.

Government Funding Deadlines: January 19 and February 2

On Tuesday, November 14, the House voted 336-95 to pass a Continuing Resolution, setting funding deadlines of January 19 for four appropriations bills, including Military Construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development and Department of Energy, and February 2 for eight other bills, including the Defense Department. The Senate on November 15, passed its version in a bipartisan vote of 87-11. President Biden signed the measure into law on Thursday, November 16, 2023.

As the upcoming deadlines approach JWV will continue to report updates on any Congressional actions.

House Ways and Means Committee votes 42-0 to Report VETT Act to Full Chamber

JWV strongly supports the VSO Equal Tax Treatment (VETT) Act, H.R. 1432. If enacted,



the legislation updates a provision in the Federal tax code that currently prevents Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) from accepting tax-deductible donations unless they maintain a membership of at least 90 percent wartime veterans.

JWV thanks Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Neal, Congressmen Wenstrup and Panetta, and the Ways & Means Committee for their unanimous support OF the VETT Act, as well as U.S. Senators Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) for their leadership in the Senate.

"JWV is the longest serving VSO, founded in 1896 and believes this change allows JWV and other VSOs to be treated like other nonprofits. This tax reform will permit JWV to grow our membership by including those who served in peacetime and wartime, without the risk of losing tax deductible charitable contributions," said JWV National Commander COL Barry Lischinsky USA, Ret.

All WWII Veterans are now eligible for VA Health Care

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that all World War II Veterans are now eligible for no-cost VA inpatient and outpatient health care. Under this expansion, all WWII Veterans who served between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, are now eligible for VA health care, regardless of their length of service or financial status.

VA Emergency Air Transportation Rule Effective Date Delayed

JWV efforts are successful – effective date for rule delayed by one year to February 2025. JWV was one of the first Veteran Service Organizations to continuously express serious concerns about The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Special Modes of Transportation rule set to go into effect in February 2024. JWV wants to ensure veterans, especially in rural areas, continue to get the care and services they both earned and deserve. If implemented without change, VA's reimbursement rate for emergency air ambulance services would be dramatically cut and many veterans would lose access to life-saving emergency transportation. VA expects to publish the rule delaying the effective date prior to February 16, 2024.

JWV will continue to hold VA accountable and press Congress to take legislative action to ensure veterans' access to emergency air transportation is maintained.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

IT COMMITTEE

By Chairman Leslie Turner

The Information Technology Committee has made several significant inroads in its task of improving the efficiency of the headquarters work, faster reporting to department and post leadership, and reducing member and donor data errors.

and if needed, to departments and posts around the country. Baruch will be available by phone to help with answering questions from members concerning the CRM system and the Member Portal. The committee is very confident that the addition of Baruch will enhance the office staff and membership's technical interaction.

Finally, the committee has winnowed the

selection of a Website developer to two. The final selection should be completed by year's end. The completion of the new Website and its "going live" is expected to take about three to four months after selection of the developer.

Again, thank you for your patience.

populate the new site. Please contact me if you have images to share: marketingcmte@jwv.org

Other projects in-the-works include updated editions of JWV's "Leadership Guide" and "Public Relations Toolkit," and a customizable Business Card template available to download in the Resource Center. In addition, Jodi is leading an initiative to gather and amplify echelon-level social media activity through our JWV channels. All our efforts are aimed at reinforcing JWV's brand and creating awareness of what we stand for and do within our communities. In turn, that will help individuals at every level of our organization find and recruit new members.

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

The Post-9/11 Veterans Committee continues to be the most active committee in the JWV. 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.

In October, we held a meeting with National Commander Barry Lichinsky, National Vice Commander Gary Ginsberg, and National Executive Director Ken Greenberg. The three leaders of the JWV shared their goals and vision for the JWV. We continue to monitor and participate in the process of creating a monument in Washington DC for Post-9/11 veterans. 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, Chair.

VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Robert Jacobs

Since my last report, the committee has been looking into the possibility of creating a traveling exhibit highlighting Jewish military service during the time of the Vietnam War.

It would not be as detailed as the exhibit the committee created for the NMAJMH but, for those who have not been to see that exhibit, it will give the essential message.

We have some tentative prices for the costs of creating, shipping, etc. but that information may change. When the committee meets at the NEC in February, what we have will be presented to those present (and on Zoom). If the committee decides to go ahead with the project in some form, ways of raising funds to pay for it will be discussed.

The screenshot displays the 'Your Information' section of the Jewish War Veterans Member Portal. It includes fields for Name, Birthdate, Primary Phone, Email, Address, and Seasonal Address. Below this is the 'Post Information' section with fields for Current Post and Post Website. The 'Membership Information' section includes fields for Current Membership Term, Member Type, Current Membership Start Date, and Current Membership End Date. At the bottom, there is an 'Update Your Information' button. Below the main form, there is a 'More Information' section with buttons for 'Request Post Change', 'View Your Active Officer Information', 'View Dues History', 'View Donation History', 'View Post History', and 'Committee Information'.

Screenshot Example of the Test Member Portal

The new Customer Relations Management (CRM) system the committee has been developing in conjunction with Salesforce, the engine that runs the CRM system, is being implemented as you read this.

On December 4, 2023, headquarters staff had the first of several instructional sessions on the use of Salesforce. These sessions are to be followed by instructional Zoom sessions with, in order, department commanders and quartermasters/adjutants and then post commanders and quartermasters/adjutants. Lastly, as the bugs are worked out of the new system all members will be invited to a Zoom session in the use of the Member Portal.

The Member Portal allows members to update their own personal information: address, email, phone number(s), add a temporary address, renew their membership, and request a change of post. The portal can also display such member information as donations and membership history. (Note: The image of the Member Portal above contains test data.)

The headquarters staff has increased with the addition of a new Director of IT. JWV member Baruch Fogel of TALO, who has been a stalwart member of the IT Committee and instrumental in the development of the CRM system, has been hired. His work is performed mostly remotely but when necessary will travel to Washington for work in the headquarters office,

The committee looks forward to welcoming you to the new CRM system and the Member Portal.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

By Chairman Steve Krant

We're wrapping up the year with some wins and positive steps to boost awareness of JWV, our history, and our mission. For starters, the Retractable Banners introduced by PNC Mellitz at Convention in August have now been deployed to Departments around the country and are in use as the visual "brand awareness" centerpiece at numerous public-facing events.

Additional banners may be purchased by any echelon for \$240 each (shipping & handling included) – contact [Jodi Harman](#) at headquarters for information or to place an order. For outdoor events, we're working on similarly priced "sail"-style banners using the same artwork and with a ground spike or weighted base. In addition, we're designing a Branding Guide-compliant template for a multipurpose vinyl or cloth banner with corner grommets and "curtain rod" channels across the top and bottom that can be produced locally with your Post or Department information. Details as they become available.

Marketing is working closely with the IT Committee on the Website refresh project. Photographers, we need high quality, recent photos of JWV members and activities to

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

It is exciting to see so many of our Posts and members being part of Veterans Day programs around the country. Participating in these activities is one of many ways to get JWV into the public eye and remind people of our contributions and sacrifices to preserve our freedoms.

I see some of our echelons are now using the pop-up banners that National sent out. These banners are a great attention getter at any activity. Having information about JWV and membership forms available is a must at any type of event. We must never pass up the opportunity to recruit new members.

So, there are many opportunities to find new members.

Recently, I was at an echelon meeting and was talking about participating in community events. Someone said there aren't many events for veterans to participate in, and it takes time to put something together which "I" don't have.

There are many veteran events happening all the time at local VA facilities for ALL veterans

to participate. Another source are community and synagogue bulletins. All you have to do is call and ask to participate, you will probably be welcomed with open arms. I added that by participating they would probably get several good new member leads and if they sign them there is the chance that there will be someone who has time to help do things.

The winners of the National Commanders Membership contest will be announced at the NEC meeting. We will be having another membership contest this coming spring. And we hope to see more people participating. There will be a separate announcement.

Recent events surrounding Israel and Gaza has provided opportunities to speak about a being a Jewish veteran. If you have the chance, please speak up and remind the public YOU have served in the Armed Forces of the United States to insure the freedoms we as Americans hold dearly. Just as those serving in the IDF serve to protect and ensure the same for all of the citizens of Israel.

Remember to order your Kosher Coffee products from Berres Brothers Coffee Company (A Veteran owned coffee roaster) who provide premium coffees at a discount to our members. Your order will generate funds for JWV to support veterans programs. If you have questions about this program, please contact me.

If you have ideas or questions regarding membership don't hesitate to call me or Melody.



Kim Queen
Membership Chairman

Wills for Veterans

By PNC Harvey Weiner

The Massachusetts Department of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA once again sponsored its annual Wills for Veterans program a few weeks after Veterans Day. With the joint sponsorship of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, this was the fifth such annual event. Nine estate planning attorneys from the Boston office of the law firm of Day Pitney LLP once again donated their services and office space to draft wills, trusts, durable powers of attorney, and/or health care proxies for eight veterans and two spouses from seven different Massachusetts cities and towns. Army, Navy, Marine and National Guard veterans were among the eight. One Vietnam veteran brought the yellowed carbon copy of his 1968 will, the original of which apparently still resides somewhere in Fort Meade, Maryland.

The experience was so meaningful to the estate planning attorneys that they offered to have a second Wills for Veterans day around Memorial Day. When performing pro bono legal work, lawyers usually get more out of it than they give.

Once again, those departments interested in a template of how to create and implement such a rewarding program, do not hesitate to contact PNC Harvey Weiner.



Col. James Downey (in fatigues) and PNC Harvey Weiner (wearing JWV cap) are surrounded by some of the estate planning attorneys who did free estate planning for Massachusetts veterans.

Update from the JWV VSOs

By Raiana Berman, National Service Officer

With 2024 quickly approaching, let's look back on what 2023 brought us. The fiscal year 2023 budget approved by Congress late last year topped \$300 billion for the first time ever. Part of the increase in VA funding reflects an uptick in veterans' demand for claims and services under the Honoring our PACT Act, which expanded VA health care and benefits to millions of veterans. Within VA's 2023 budget, \$119 billion is set aside for medical care, a 22% increase over fiscal year 2022 levels. It also dedicates nearly \$4 billion to administer benefits, including compensation, and \$5 billion solely for implementing the PACT Act.

Now a look forward to 2024. The VA total FY 2024 request is \$325.1 billion, the largest budget proposal in U.S. history for veterans. That is a \$16.6 billion increase above the FY 2023 enacted level. This includes a discretionary budget request of \$142.8 billion, including \$4.3 billion from Medical Care Collections and \$600 million from the Recurring Expenses Transformational Fund. The mandatory

funding request is \$182.3 billion which includes \$160.0 billion in traditional benefits to veterans, \$16.6 billion for mental health efforts - including suicide prevention, \$1.9 billion for construction and \$20.3 billion for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund, \$3.1 billion in providing homeless and at-risk of homelessness veterans with permanent housing, access to healthcare and other supportive services, \$257 million for women's health and childcare programs.

VA anticipates supporting 453,824 Full-time Equivalent staff in 2024 using all funding sources. The 2024 request will provide the necessary resources to meet VA's commitment to provide timely access to healthcare and earned benefits to veterans which funds operation of the largest integrated health care system in the United States, with over 9.1 million enrolled veterans, provides disability compensation benefits to 6.6 million veterans and their survivors and administers pension benefits for nearly 263,000 Veterans and their survivors.

Veterans Day Ceremony Honors Two Jewish Bookends to World War II

By Peter A. Berkowsky, Col, USAF (ret)

Livingston NJ's 36th annual Veterans Day observance, hosted by Dan Michelson Post 740 at Temple Beth Shalom on November 12, 2023, featured a tribute to two World War 2 veterans - "bookends" with a local connection. Louis Schleifer and Murray Sklar were contemporaries growing up in Newark, but probably never knew each other.



Louis Schleifer
(1920 - 1941)

Schleifer enlisted in the army shortly after his graduation in 1938 from Newark's South Side High School. Long interested in aviation, he was assigned to an intelligence unit in the Army Air Corps, which

in June 1941 would be redesignated as "the Army Air Forces." By that time, he was serving in the 4th Reconnaissance Squadron, 5th Bombardment Group, Hickham Field, at the entrance to Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and he loved his work.

But that peace was suddenly shattered on that infamous Sunday morning in December 1941, in an aerial assault that killed more than 2400 American servicemen, destroyed much of our fleet and our army's air assets in the Pacific, and drew this country into war.

Most of the airplanes at Hickham Field that day had been clustered in the open, near the runway,



Murray Sklar
(1924 - 2016)

Continued on page 17

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Raymond Elias

By Larry Jasper, National Editor

Meet Raymond Elias, currently the Milwaukee, WI Post 701 Commander. When asked why he joined JWV, he says his son-in-law, Kim Queen (WI Department Commander and JWV Membership Chair), made a deal with him. Kim agreed to take his daughter off his hands if he would join JWV. Queen also got him to join the American Legion and the VA Medical Program.



From left to right: Raymond Elias, Commander Post 701 Milwaukee, WI; Kim Queen, Commander, Department of Wisconsin; Sherman Elias, Past Post Commander, Pittsburgh, PA. Photo taken in 2021 prior to Sherman's passing.

All parties seem happy with the result. His military career began when he was drafted in 1956 at the age of 24 and served for two years as a clerk typist with the 1st Training Brigade Regimental Headquarters at Fort Knox, KY. His most memorable time was during the High Holidays when he and a friend were invited to attend a dinner in the home of a Jewish family in Louisville.

Following his active service, he returned to PA and served in the reserve for two additional years. As seemingly unremarkable as his service was, that was not the case for his three older brothers.

His oldest brother Elvin served in WWII in the Philippines where he earned a Purple Heart.

His second older brother Herbert also served in WWII as an Army Air Corps Pilot in the Mediterranean. He flew B25s and B24s and was part of the raid on Ploiesti, Romania in 1942 which raid knocked out about 50% of Romania's oil production that the Germans relied on. He was later shot down over Italy but managed to crash land in friendly territory with all crew surviving.

His third older brother Sherman

served in Korea as a Crew Chief on C47s. His plane was also shot down and he rescued fellow crew and pilots for which he earned a Silver Star. Brother Sherman was also a JWV member, in Pittsburgh, PA, until his passing in 2021. He served the veteran community for many years and at his funeral, the Commanding General for the Pennsylvania National Guard presided over the Honor Guard and also delivered a eulogy.

Following Elias's service he briefly worked as a draftsman for General Telephone Equipment and then joined Met Life where he progressed from being a clerk to salesman to manager. He worked for Met Life for 35 years.

Elias likes to travel. His travels took him to Greece (where his wife had family), Paris, England, and Mexico. He found the people friendly and enjoyed learning about the various places he went.

During his service and civilian work, he was fortunate to never experience any acts of antisemitism.

Elias now enjoys the post poppy programs, helping place flags on Memorial Day, and volunteering at the food pantry in Ozaukee County, WI. He previously helped for 16 years at the Jewish Food Pantry in Burbank, CA.

He previously wintered in CA and spent summers in WI. He says "I hate winter".

Elias will turn 90 on February 12th!

Jewish Warrior Weekend: A Success for JWV and Cadets

JWV National Commander Barry Lischinsky and National Vice Commander Gary Ginsburg spoke with future Jewish military leaders from West Point, NY and the Citadel in Charleston, SC on October 28, 2023.

NC Lischinsky briefed the Jewish cadets



The group picture (NC is on far right and NVC third from left in front row) was taken in front of Charleston's historic Jewish houses of worship. (Photo by NVC Gary Ginsburg)

present on the history, purpose, and current and future JWV priorities.

NC Lischinsky pointed out, "JWV will continue to support this important program and we will know in a few weeks the location for the spring 2024 Jewish Warrior Weekend event. Lischinsky indicated, "we obtained six more signed JWV membership applications from our West Point cadets and future Army leaders."

US Army Major General retired Jeff Jacobs (2nd from right in group picture) was also present for this leadership professional development opportunity as chairman of the West Point NY Jewish Chapel Fund. General Jacobs is also a member of the JWV.

JWV also appreciates the support provided by the College of Charleston Hillel office, and the Jewish lay leader from USMA Colonel Ben Wallen.



VoterVoice is an online subscription platform that allows JWV stakeholders to participate in grassroots advocacy efforts. Letters concerning veteran and antisemitism issues vital to JWV's legislative and other priorities are sent directly to Members of Congress with a click of a few buttons.

Three VoterVoice campaigns were completed during the fall. The first urged Congress to support Israel. JWV's second campaign regarded avoiding a federal government shutdown. Later in November, JWV called on Congress to demand that Hamas release the kidnapped hostages. Nearly 500 individuals participated in these three campaigns.

Please be on the lookout for another plea for Congress to pass the funding bill to help Israel defend herself.

If in the future you see an email from Jewish War Veterans with the heading "Call to Action," know that it is legitimate and has been sent to you in the hope that you will amplify the voice of Jewish Veterans in the US directly to your elected officials.

NEW MEMBERS

- DEPARTMENT AT LARGE**
Alexander Y. Thymmons - Post 77
Rachel A. Kennon - Post 99
Asher Ellis - Post 100
Donald J. Smith - Post 100
- DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA**
David N. Wemett - Post 51
- DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**
Martin D. Epstein - Post 321
Fredric K. Weiss - Post 373
Joel Weisberg - Post 409
- DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST**
Joshua Goldfarb - Post 605
Lynn S. Kuluva - Post 605
Paul Salavitch - Post 605

- Jerome S. Nissenbaum - Post 644
- DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND**
William K. Schoenfeld - Post 360
Mona I. Cassidy - David - Post 567
- DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS**
Barry S. Clickstein - Post 508
Samson S. Dickens - Post 508
Gerald L. Issokson - Post 508
Miriam G. Robinson - Post 508
Jason Cohen - Post 638
- DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA**
Jeffrey R. Giza - Post 65
- DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY**
Daniel La Sure - Post 39

- DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK**
David P. Warshaw - Post 36
Tiffany J. Paruolo - Post 105
James C. Pollack - Post 655
- DEPARTMENT OF OHIO**
Aaron Gaber - Post 697
- DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST**
Jacob G. Foster - Post 112
Sean M. Wheeler - Post 320
- DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST**
Kenneth E. Maki, Jr. - Post 210
- DEPARTMENT OF TALO**
Stanley Assa - Post 256
Robert S. Talbert - Post 256
Aaron Poscovsky - Post 574

- Daniel A. Feirman - Post 580
Matthew B. Carp - Post 753
Cheryl E. Davis - Post 753
Ethan A. Luckens - Post 757
- DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA-NC**
Allan Berg - Post 95

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

Continued from page 3

the USA. That afternoon, JWV Department of Minnesota donated eight (8) cases of Richards Brand sweat suits for the Veterans residing at the Minneapolis Veterans Home. The evening concluded with a gathering at Mancini's Steakhouse in St Paul, Minnesota. Over 125 individuals attended the event.

October 27-29, 2023: National Commander Lischinsky and National Vice Commander Ginsburg attended Jewish Warrior Weekend at Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina where they participated in a professional development session and leadership class with attending cadets and midshipmen. Jewish Warrior Weekend led to six new members who qualified for in-service membership joining our organization.

November 11, 2023: National Commander Lischinsky, at the invitation of President Biden, attended the annual White House Breakfast WHICH IS HELD TO say thank you to our Veterans and Veteran Service Organizations (VSOS) that care for Veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors. The President's White House Breakfast was a memorable moment of appreciation on this very special day - Veterans Day.

November 12, 2023: JWV Department of Maryland Post 692 hosted their 8th Annual Veterans Day Program Ceremony at the Bender Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington. JWV Post 692 Commander Michael Glick along with Master of Ceremony Lt. Colonel Sheldon Goldberg (Retired USAF) hosted a Veterans Day event recognizing all that have served. Guest speakers included Maryland's Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Woods, Colonel David Brog (Retired USAF) representing Congressman David Throne, and JWV National Commander Colonel (Retired) Lischinsky.

November 15-17, 2023: Mayor's Conference, Fort Lauderdale, FL. JWV National Commander Barry Lischinsky traveled to the North American Mayors Summit to Combat Antisemitism. Hosted by the Mayor of Fort Lauderdale, Dean Trantalis, and the Conference

of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. National Commander Lischinsky heard experts speak on what contemporary antisemitism is and what it looks like in today's world, how to adopt and implement the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, the best practices to prevent and secure local Jewish institutions, how to tailor the Administration's policy to combat antisemitism at the local level and promote interfaith tolerance. At the closing session, NC Lischinsky heard Natalie Sanandaji's account of her escape from and survival of the October 7th Nova Music Festival massacre. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz provided the congressional perspective to fighting antisemitism at the national level.

November 23, 2023: Thanksgiving Day (2023), at the Veterans Home in Chelsea, MA. JWV partnered with the Veterans Home at Chelsea to serve Veterans their holiday meal. Established in 1882, the Veterans Home at Chelsea, offers residential and long-term care programs to eligible Massachusetts Veterans. JWV Members, Auxiliary, and descendants from several JWV MA Posts throughout the Commonwealth gather both Thanksgiving and Christmas mornings to help serve the holiday meal to our Veterans. This has been an ongoing JWV MA tradition for over sixty-five (65) years.

November 30 – December 3, 2023: Jewish National Fund, Denver, CO. During the opening day of Jewish National Fund (JNF) event "Global Conference for Israel," JWV National Commander Lischinsky and National Vice Commander Ginsburg were welcomed by JNF Chief Executive Officer Russell Robinson. Mr. Robinson was very appreciative that the JWV decided to attend the event. There were approximately 2,500 participants. Participants from across the nation acknowledged our JWV presence. Many would take the time to thank us for our service. Our "JWV garrison cap" reminded many of their family members who served proudly in support of our organization. Not once did we hear anyone say, "I never heard of JWV." We must continue to partner with

organizations that share the same ideology. By attending events of this nature, the potential to recruit for JWV, JWVA and our National Museum of American Jewish Military History is endless.

December 7, 2023: Hanscom Air Force Base, Bedford, MA. Jewish War Veterans (JWV) Members attended the Hanscom Field Air Force Base annual menorah lighting on December 7th to mark the first night of Chanukah. Colonel Taona Enriquez, Installation Commander, invited JWV National Commander Colonel (Retired) Barry Lischinsky, Massachusetts Department Commander Sidney Davis, and Post 220 Senior Vice Commander Donna Lehman to participate in the official lighting ceremony. At the conclusion of the ceremony, service members and guests gathered inside the Base Chapel to hear Chanukah songs performed by the Hanscom Middle School Choir. A brief history lesson of the eight days of the festival of lights was narrated by Chaplain (Captain) Rabbi Ezra Fraser. The evening concluded with a customary tasting of latkes and jelly-filled doughnuts.

Lesson Learned: I would like to share the primary lesson learned from my travels, although JWV is well known within our Veteran Services, the Jewish Community is aware of our organization. Many shared with me the memories of their family members who served in our organization are grateful for the service we provide to our Veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors. JWV is no stranger in the Jewish Community, we just need to continue to stay in touch with additional Jewish organizations that share our values. In conclusion, now more than ever, we must expand our partnership base in support of the nation state of Israel.

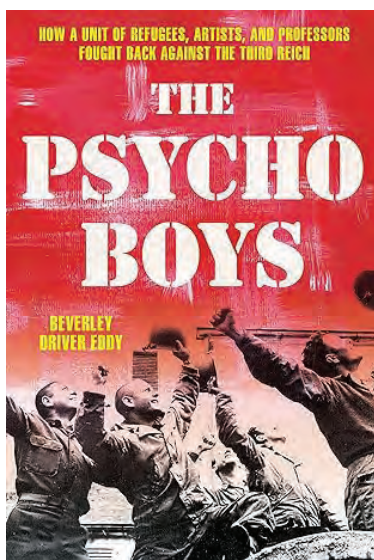
Please attend our NEC in February 20-23, 2024, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2201 M Street, NW, Washington, DC. I will share my thoughts and make recommendations that we must consider in building our strategic plan to help shape our organization's future. Hope to see you all at the NEC. If you cannot attend, please register to watch virtually.

REVIEW: The Psycho Boys, Beverly Driver Eddy, Stackpole Books, 2023

By Sheldon Goldberg

On the edge of the Gettysburg Battlefield was a former camp known as CCC Gettysburg 2. Initially housing an all-black Civilian Conservation Corps unit, the camp was abandoned in 1942 but converted to a small Army sub-camp of Camp Ritchie in 1943. Its purpose was somewhat given away by its name – Camp George H. Sharpe – named after General George G. Meade's intelligence officer during the Battle of Gettysburg.

The initial cadre of about 60 men were those who had



The Psycho Boys, Beverly Driver Eddy, Stackpole Books, 2023

completed intelligence training at Camp Ritchie but were now receiving commando/ranger training before being deployed behind enemy lines in Europe. Following this group were approximately 800 soldiers, described as not being in the best physical shape, differing in age, and from a multitude of civilian occupations and professions. Many, but not all, were Jewish. Some were native-born Americans, others were immigrants and refugees from Europe who had managed to escape the Nazis. Some had received training at Camp

Ritchie, many not. That said, several common threads bound them together: their language skills, their knowledge of Europe, and their desire to defeat the Axis.

At Camp Sharpe they would be divided into four Mobile Radio Broadcasting (MRB) companies and taught skills needed to interrogate prisoners and civilians, make radio broadcasts, loudspeaker appeals, leaflet and newspaper production, and operate both in front of and behind enemy lines. Trained in psychological warfare, these secret units would become known as "The Psycho Boys."

The book itself, an updated and somewhat revised version of the author's 2015 book, *The Camp Sharpe Psycho Boys*, is the result of a number of interviews with living members of these MRBs and in-depth research by the

Continued on page 11

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Let's talk about leadership – or the lack thereof.

Before you start screaming “what is he talking about, I am a great leader,” it is clear that we have some great leaders, some not so great leaders, and, to be polite, some leaders who need some help.

What makes a great leader? No, they are not born.

Let's begin with taking responsibility. We can draw examples from the Torah. In Genesis, Adam blames Eve and Eve blames the serpent. In Exodus, Moses, when he sees an Egyptian beating an Israelite he intervenes. Same when he sees two Israelites fighting. In Midian he sees shepherds abusing the daughters of Jethro and he intervenes.

What would you do in similar situations? Do you pass the buck or take responsibility when you fail or see something that is not right?

In the Torah, G-d said “it is not great for man to be alone.” A great leader does not function alone. A leader needs a second. In theater, a lead always has an understudy. Do you?

Do you have a vision?

While it is important to learn history so we do not repeat the mistakes of the past, without a vision for the future we go nowhere. Regardless of the leadership role you may have, you need to know where you want to be and you need to have an action plan to get there.

Do you continue to learn or do you feel you know all there is to know?

One of the things that separates a great leader from a mediocre one is education. I am not saying you need a PhD, but you need to continue to expand your horizons. Go beyond what you are currently doing. Without constant study, leadership lacks direction and depth. Become a leader and not a manager.

Do you believe in the people you lead?

The highest form of leadership is teaching.

Your influence can lift people above their former self and help turn them into leaders. It all begins with you leading them and not having them be followers only.

Do you lead by example? Do you lead from the front?

Don't be so far in front that when you turn around you find no one following. Leadership is transformative. Your job is to transform people to be better, stronger, more self-confident, and hopefully to be able to step up to greater levels of responsibility.

Transformative leaders see the need for people to change but people resist change. People expect the work to be done for them by their leader. Don't let the people you are leading shirk their responsibilities.

All of this takes time and patience. Leadership can be stressful and emotionally draining. It is not unusual to sometimes feel burnout and despair.

To lead is to serve. Leaders lead because they see there are problems to be solved and challenges ahead. Leaders hear this as a call to change the world for the better, whether your world is large or small. Leaders lead because they know that to stand idly by and expect others to do the work is not the right course of action.

A great leader finds it to be worth all the pain and frustration

A great leader also knows when to pass the torch – when to step aside and let the next group of leaders take over. Just as Moses did with Joshua.

So what kind of leader are you?



Larry Jasper, National Editor

Wedding Bells in Wake of October 7 Attack

By Jerry Alperstein



Ben Mernick and Dvorah Hofnung at their wedding.

On October 22, 2023, Jewish War Veterans USA Post 1 Life Patron Mitchell Mernick and his wife Helena Ross announced the marriage of their eldest son Ben Mernick to Dvorah Hofnung.

This wedding was hosted at an IDF Armor Battalion Command Base.

Ben grew up in New York City, but moved to Israel later in his life. He is an IDF reservist who was reactivated following the Hamas terrorist attack on October 7.

The couple had announced their engagement on October 7.

The wedding was planned with 20 hours' notice. It was attended by Ben's entire platoon, friends, and some family from Israel.

As Ben and Dvorah stated in their emailed wedding invitation in Hebrew: "It is with an excited and thrilled heart that we have decided to announce in a loud voice that 'The Nation of Israel lives' and the mitzvah of the hour is to build a new home in Israel."

JWV Leadership participates in Veterans Day Events

NC Barry Lischinsky attended a White House breakfast hosted by President Joe Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden. NC Barry Lischinsky and NVC Gary Ginsburg, along with NED Ken Greenberg and wife Janet, Jodi Harman, and Bryn Garick attended the Official National Veterans Day event on November 11. NC Barry Lischinsky, NVC Gary Ginsburg and Jodi Harman attended the reception hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



USB Joshua Jacobs, NC Barry Lischinsky, and Chairman BVA Jaime Areizaga-Soto.

Museum President Elaine Bernstein (PNP JWVA,) and PNC Michael Berman laid a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.



Museum president PNP Elaine Bernstein and PNC Michael Berman.



Crowd at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day.

JWV Annual
Event

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**

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

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

Address: _____ **Dept.:** _____

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

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Room will be shared with: _____

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

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

2025 National Convention Site

We want your input on where we should hold our National Convention in 2025. All requirements for submitting a proposal can be found under the National Convention page on JWV's website.

If you need additional information, please reach out to either PNC Alan Paley at adpaley@aol.com or Jodi Harman, Events Coordinator at jharman@jwv.org.

JWV Member Honored by Atlanta Community

By Robert Max

On Wednesday, December 6, Robert Max was honored as one of the nominees for the Cobb Collaborative Jack Vaughn Jr. Human Services Award. The Georgia Cobb Collaborative engages and empowers local organizations to improve outcomes for families in Cobb County. Robert was nominated by Helen Scherrer-Diamond for his tireless work with the Jewish War Veterans. Robert has been the Commander of the Department of the Southeast of the JWV for over eight years and served concurrently for several years as Commander of Atlanta's Post 112.

Robert has been with the Atlanta JWV Jewish War Veterans Post 112 for over 40 years. He is a proud leader and proud supporter of all military branches and reservists of all faiths. Robert has attended most National JWV organizational events. He is very personable, proud, and professional. Robert has brought in many new members, both Patrons (non-military members) as well as those who served in all military branches and/or in the reserves. Robert represents JWV at many other organizations' events to honor those who served. Robert still works at Novelis as a Senior IT Manager. He has helped JWV with many presentations, bringing in military presenters and using his skills with social media. He has developed many new programs and initiatives in concert with the Atlanta Post Board. Board Meetings and member meetings are consistent and well attended and professionally handled. Robert is a very well-known, well-respected, generous, and kind Leader.

The Jewish War Veterans Post 112 has volunteered at the Veterans Atlanta Medical Center by hosting pizza parties and games. They have donated holiday gift cards to veterans in need, identified by the Atlanta VAMC Community Outreach Department. They donated a new big screen television to the VA Nursing home in Milledgeville. The JWV Post has raised funds for Veterans Support Organizations including the United Military Care (UMC) and the Veterans Empowerment Organization (VEO). Post members include holocaust survivors, veterans, active-duty servicemen and patrons. They organize placement of U.S. Flags at the Jewish Sections of Georgia Cemeteries and coordinate Poppy "Sales" at several Kroger locations on Veterans and Memorial Day holidays to honor those who have served. The post participates in the Yom HaShoah programs every year, held at Greenwood Cemetery, to honor holocaust victims. This program is sponsored by Eternal

Life Hemshech. Robert also attends and staffs a volunteer table at the annual Atlanta Kosher BBQ Festival event at Brook Run Park in Dunwoody, representing his organization and donating his time and money. He meets and greets the 4,500 people that attend and who visit the JWV table.

The JWV also attends the "We Care Veterans" at the Cobb County Civic Center each year and donates time and money. In the last two months, JWV Post 112 has recently raised funds for donations both to Israeli Defense



Robert Max recognized at Piedmont Church.

Forces to purchase protective equipment and the VA Medical Center's Community Outreach Veterans in Need.

The current Post 112 Commander is Henry Levine. He and Robert can be contacted at (jwvpost112@gmail.com) for further opportunities to join the JWV as a member or patron, to participate in the excellent work, and attend presentations offered by the Atlanta Jewish War Veterans.

REVIEW: The Psycho Boys (Continued)

Continued from page 8

author. It tells us the previously unknown story of their participation in the war in Europe chronologically from their Camp Sharpe training to D-Day in Normandy to the surrender of Germany and beyond. It concludes in describing, often in the participants own words, the role they played, in and out of uniform, in the democratization of the erstwhile Nazified German population. In doing this, the author introduces us to a number of the Psycho Boys who were at one time academics, diamond cutters, meteorologists, writers, authors, and musicians. One was even a Disney artist while another was a prominent gossip columnist and yet another a Harvard University Literature professor.

All of them became students of Lieutenant Hans Habe, a Hungarian-born newspaperman who fought with the French Foreign Legion, was captured by the Germans and escaped before coming to America. Here, his exploits became a novel that became a Hollywood film. Beyond that, his proven skill at interrogating prisoners of war and writing effective propaganda pamphlets led him to become the trainer for all four MRB companies.

In each of the book's nine chapters, which follows the progress of the U.S. forces from Normandy to the German homeland, the author provides a narrative, often in the soldiers' own

words of actions taken to conduct their mission which was, armed only with truth, to convince enemy soldiers to surrender, often at the cost of the MRB soldier's life. These narratives, combined with photos of MRB soldiers, make for an interesting and easy reading experience.

For this reviewer, however, the last three chapters, "Confronting the Camps," "Going Home," and "Working for a Democratic Germany," are the most interesting. The author makes clear that as horrific as it was to enter the concentration camps without knowing beforehand of their existence, it was worse for the foreign-born MRB men, many of whom had family and friends among the survivors. The descriptions of what the MRB men found in the camp, and of the atrocities that took place, often only hours before the Americans arrived, remain even today difficult to read and comprehend. Several of the German-born MRB men who personally experienced Nazi brutality before escaping Germany, describe tours they gave to German locals who claimed innocence and not knowing despite their proximity to the camps. One MRB soldier said that they seemed "not to have had the slightest qualms about living in the smoke of the Nazi crematoria."

Again, through the words of the author's interviewees, we experience what it was like for some of the foreign-born MRB men to

return to the cities in which they had lived, e.g., Leipzig, Augsburg, Nuremburg, and Berlin, were but a few. Lastly, she describes how many MRB men remained in Germany after the war to focus their efforts on denazification and re-education. The several different newspapers they produced in the German style became the biggest newspaper concern in the world with a circulation of over 8 million. Similarly, some reactivated radio stations while others culled the professional and cultural arenas, deciding who could continue in their professions and who were banned as a result of the Nazi affiliation.

Toward the end of the book, the author objectively makes clear that the efforts of many of these former MRB men were making to bring democracy to Germany ran counter to U.S. government policy. Initially, criticism of the Soviet Union was not allowed, but with the beginning of the Cold War, this began to change and despite the Nuremburg trials, the de-Nazification programs slowly ended.

The book concludes with brief descriptions of what a number of the MRB men did after leaving the Army or government service. She closes the book by writing "As paragraph troopers, who chose words over rifles or other weapons of choice, the psycho boys had fought to preserve ideals rather than extinguish lives."

As one who served two tours in Post-war Germany, I saw the fruits of their labors.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

Thank You Poppy Party for the volunteers at **Jersey Shore Post 125** in appreciation of their many hours of faithful fundraising. This was taken October 29th at the Imperial House in Long Branch, NJ.



L to R standing: Michele Tauber, Michael Steinhorn, Burt Resnic, Larry Snider, Norman Ginsburg, Steven Mandel. L to R seated: Marty Guberman, Jeanie Guberman, GB Levine, Marilyn Snider, and Marc Rubenstein.
(Photo Courtesy from Gerald Levine)



Patrons Roz Benjamin and Phyllis Winger solicited poppies for JWV Post 603 during the week of Veterans Day.
(Photo Courtesy from Earl Roth)



Post Commander Don Price and member Crystal Galloway, explain the significance of the various parts of the USS Colorado, SSN-788, Battle Flag to the third-grade class.
(Photo Courtesy from Don Price)

On November 12, 2023 members of the **Denver Post** of the JWV, **Capt. Ellis David Greene Post 344**, spoke to students in the Sunday School classes at Temple Sinai in Denver about serving in the military.

Post 118 members distributed socks and beanies to veterans at West Los Angeles V.A. standdown on October 25th.



L to R: Larry Loughlin, Mathew Millen and Marty Zinser.
(Photo Courtesy from Mathew Millen)



The Jewish War Veterans **Post 652** participated in a drive to collect medical supplies and bandages to send to Israel. Combat medics in Israel are working tirelessly to treat the injured, however, their medical supplies are running low and need to be replenished.

Jewish War Veteran Ed Freeberg, collected medical supplies for the drive and brought them to the Sid Jacobson JCC which is the collection point for the supplies. He also publicized the drive online and spoke to numerous people about participating. A plane has been charted to fly the medical supplies to Israel.

Ed Freeberg with collected medical supplies.
(Photos Courtesy from Ed Freeberg)



SPC Rachel Baker, Michigan Army National Guard and JWV Department of Michigan, stands by a Chinook helicopter during her recent deployment in Syria. Baker was providing intelligence and risk assessment.
(Photo Courtesy from Alan Muskovitz)

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



In November, north of Gaza, JWV-MI Ethan Gross, presented a **Department of Michigan** flag to the IDF at an abandoned facility used for urban combat training. The flag was signed in support of the IDF by members of the department.

(Photo Courtesy from Alan Muskovitz)

The Baltimore City Veterans Day Parade was held on November 10, 2023.



L to R adults: Post 167 Quartermaster Dan Berkovitz, Post 167 Commander Stanley Fishman, Post 167 Member Elliot Lehem, Post 167 Member Aharon Venegas, Post 692 Commander Michael Glick, Baltimore City's Mayors Office Jewish Community Liaison Rebecca Mark, Junior Vice Commander Department of Maryland Michael Zippert.
(Photo Courtesy from Dan Berkovitz)



L to R adults: National Vice Commander Gary Ginsburg, Post 41 member Saul Rasnick, Post 41 Adjutant Mort Stein, Post 41 Quartermaster PNC Lawrence Schulman, Post 41 Commander Stuart Blume. Post 41 members enjoyed lunch and conversation with the 8th grade student council leaders.
(Photo Courtesy from Gary Ginsburg)

Rochester NY Post 41 participated in a Veterans Day Ceremony and Veterans Recognition Day celebration on November 9, 2023 in Brighton, NY. The audience was about 150 8th grade students from the Brighton, NY public middle school.



On November 11, 2023, Bill Glogower and Art Fishman with Fisher House Michigan Executive Director Kate Melcher at the future site of Fisher House Detroit.
(Photo Courtesy from Alan Muskovitz)

The Governor's Military Review of The New Jersey National Guard on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Military Training Site in Sea Girt, NJ.



On November 7, 2023, **Posts 167 and 888** staffed a recruiting table at the Myerberg Center Veterans Celebration in Pikesville, MD. The guest speaker was Post 888 Commander Barry Steelman, and Post 167 member Marshall Sapperstein received an award for his many years of volunteer service at the Myerberg.
(Photo Courtesy from Charley Jay)



L to R: PNC Nelson Mellitz, PNC Michael Berman, PNP Elaine Bernstein, PNCOS Larry Rosenthal, Governor Phillip Murphy, Merci Silverman, General Lisa Hou, PDC Selina Kanowitz, Steven Silverman.
(Photo Courtesy from Larry Rosenthal)

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



West Suburban Post 54 with 9th grade students and teachers.



Students placing flags and cleaning headstones.

West Suburban Post 54, Glen Ellyn, IL, met with 9th grade students and their teachers of Congregation Etz Chaim, Lombard, IL, at Oak Ridge Jewish Cemetery in Hillside, Illinois. November 5 was a sunny day for the students to perform a mitzvah by cleaning headstones and placing U. S. A. flags on the graves of readily identifiable veterans. After returning to the synagogue the students and several post members talked about the veterans' experiences in the service.

(Photos Courtesy from Leslie Turner)



Department of Illinois Commander and Post 54 member Bruce Mayor with students.



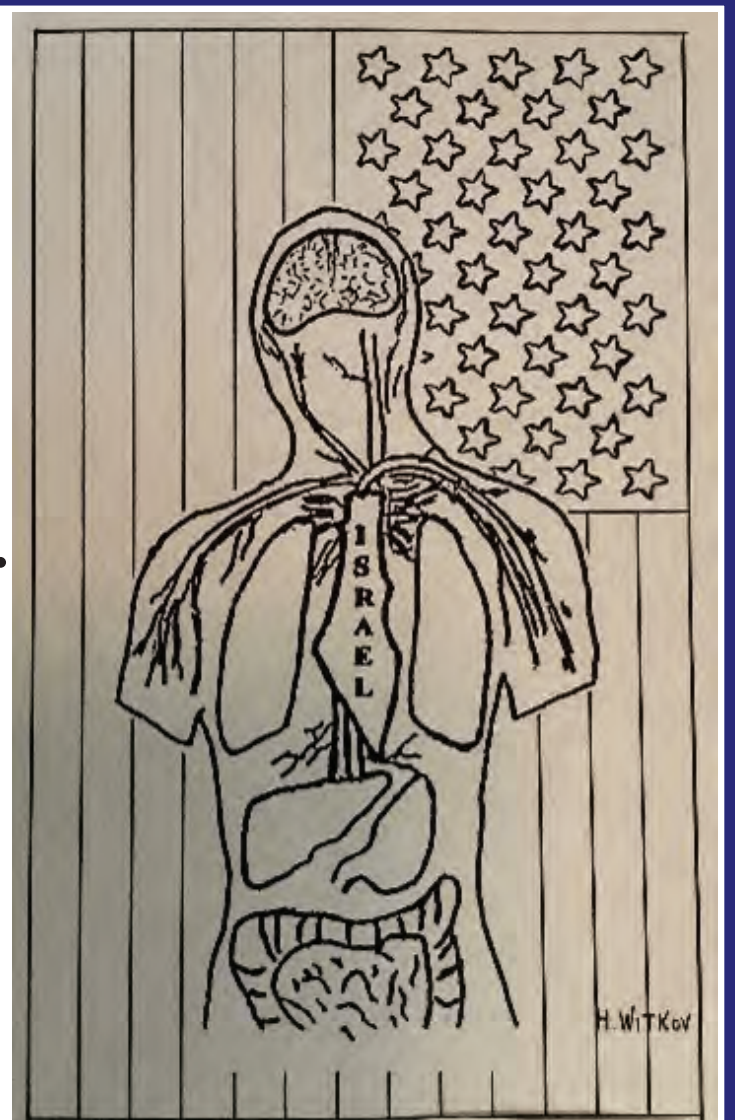
L to R: David Finkelstein, Allan Berg, Leda Davis, David Meyers
(Photo Courtesy from David Meyers)



US Army Service Member Mark Hardie as stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas.
(Photo Courtesy from Mark Hardie)

HOW I'M FEELING.

Cartoon by
Harold Witkov



JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

San Fernando Valley resident and Jewish War Veterans **Post 603** lifetime member Lance Gordon has been volunteering at an Israel Defense Forces base in southern Israel.

A former US Navy officer previously deployed in the Middle East wars, Lance stands by Israel in the bravest form.

Post 603 is proud of Lance and prays for his safety and well-being.

(Photo Courtesy from Earl Roth)



(Photos Courtesy from Gerald Levine)



Jersey Shore Post 125 Poppy Activity for Veterans Day, participating were: Michele Tauber, Michael Steinhorn, Burt Resnic, Larry Snider, Steven Mandel, Marc Rubenstein, Myron Samuels, Henry Lewis, Mike Gordon, and Jerry Levine.

On November 12, **Post 692**, Rockville, Maryland held its 8th Annual Veterans Day program at the American Jewish Veterans Memorial built by the Post in 2016. Guest speakers were Maryland's Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Anthony Woods, and JWV National Commander COL Barry Lischinsky. Keynote was provided by Colonel David Brog, USAF (Ret), a veteran of 98 missions against North Vietnamese Surface-to-Air missile sites as a "Wild Weasel." Col Brog spoke about his career and dealings with the Israeli Air Force during the 1970 Yom Kippur War. Lastly, he made known the names of four Jewish airmen who had been Prisoners of War in North Vietnam and his desire to have their names enshrined in the National Museum of American Jewish Military History's Vietnam exhibit. Lastly, a tribute was paid to the recently deceased world-renown artist and sculptor, Mr. Phillip Ratner, whose sculpture, "American Jewish Veterans Memorial" stands in the center of the Veterans Memorial plaza, flanked by the names of living and deceased Jewish veterans engraved on plaques affixed to the memorial's Wall of Honor.



American Jewish Veterans Memorial built by the Post in 2016.

(Photos Courtesy from Sheldon Goldberg)



L to R: MD Secretary of Veterans Affairs Mr. Anthony Woods; Post 692 Commander Michael Glick; Colonel David Brog, USAF (Ret); JWV National Commander Colonel Barry Lischinsky, USA (Ret); Rabbi Colonel Ari Soussan, USA; Post 692 Adjutant and program MC Lt. Colonel Sheldon Goldberg, USAF. (Ret).

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've previously issued statements condemning antisemitic events and speeches. As instances of antisemitism across the country increase, especially following the terrorist attacks of October 7, JWV has continued to remain dedicated to the cause issuing a statement to Amazon regarding antisemitic product sales. JWV continues to remain active in the fight against antisemitism, monitoring and reporting on instances of antisemitism across the nation. These instances and JWV updates regarding them can be found in the information below. JWV direct action is marked blue and awareness is marked yellow.

JWV asks all Americans to be vigilant, learn, and educate our fellow citizens.

House Congressional Hearing on Campus Antisemitism

On December 5, 2023, the House Committee on Education & the Workforce heard from three university presidents regarding the rise in antisemitism on college campuses. JWV has continued to monitor the widespread instances of antisemitism on college campuses. Details related to actions of University of Pennsylvania, and Harvard are below.

University of Pennsylvania's President and Chair Resign

In September 2023, JWV wrote to University of Pennsylvania's President Elizabeth Magill and Chair Scott Bok regarding Palestine Writes Literature Festival. Following the Congressional Hearing, University of Pennsylvania's President, Elizabeth Magill, and Chair, Scott Bok, submitted their resignation on Saturday, December 9, 2023. Julie Platt, the chair of the Jewish Federations of North America, was named the interim chair of the board of trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

Harvard President Retains Support Following the Congressional Hearing

More than 500 Harvard faculty members supported University President Claudine Gay in a letter to the school's board December 10, following intense blowback from a congressional hearing about the rise in antisemitism on campus, where Gay failed to clearly state whether calls for the genocide of Jews violated the Ivy League school's rules.

New York Governor Releases Letter Condemning Antisemitism

JWV commends Governor Kathleen Hochul of New York on her strong statement on antisemitism. JWV urges it members to contact their Governors and ask them to make similar statements against antisemitism in their states and educational institutions.

JWV, Auxiliary, and Museum Leaders Call on Amazon to Remove Items Expressing Hatred November 6th, 2023

Dear Mr. Jassy:

The Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, (JWV), National Ladies Auxiliary (JWVA) and the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) write to express concern on the critical issue of terrorism, hatred, bigotry, and antisemitism. Now more than ever, Americans must demonstrate solidarity and unity in standing against all kinds of expression of hatred. Officials from government, corporations, universities, nonprofits, and individual citizens are leading the effort.

We call on Amazon and its leadership to recognize a product that is offensive to many in your customer base and in the world. JWV, JWVA, and NMAJMH urge Amazon to stop selling and distributing offensive merchandise, including apparel, stickers and items on your website and commercial platform. The merchandise contains the phrase "From the River to the Sea Palestine Will be Free" and its meaning calls for the destruction of Israel and annihilation and elimination of the Jewish people. The attached is a sample from your website.

While we recognize the First Amendment provides for freedom of speech, terrorism and hatred are never justified. The slogan appeals to hatred, incites violence and bigotry and is deeply offensive across the global community. This is especially true since the terrorist attacks by Hamas on October 7, showing atrocities of innocents being beheaded, whole families randomly being executed, women being raped, and people being kidnapped and held hostage. All entities and individuals have a responsibility to prevent and not facilitate hatred and violence.

JWV, JWVA and NMAJMH have a long and extensive history of combatting antisemitism, hatred, and bigotry, advocating for America's veterans, service members, their families, caregivers, and survivors since 1896 and supporting Israel. We urge Amazon to join us in combatting hatred and bigotry, advocating for veterans and service members, and supporting Israel, the lone democracy in the region.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. We look forward to working and partnering with you in the future.

Questions should be directed to our National Executive Director, Mr. Ken Greenberg by email at (kgreenberg@jwv.org) or 202 265 6280, extension 406. Sincerely,

COL Barry Lischinsky, USA, Ret.
JWV National Commander (2023-2024)
Shirley Zak
JWVA National President
Elaine Bernstein
NMAJMH President

Attached image of sample product shirt



Veterans Affairs Lawyer Under Fire for Mocking Israelis November 2023

JWV was alerted of behavior of a VA employee in the Office of General Counsel that was posted on Instagram and has been circulated in the Jewish press.

Shakeba Morrad, the employee in question, serves as an appellate attorney at Office of General Counsel for U.S. On November 12, 2023, Morrad posted a video on Instagram where she can be seen mocking Israelis pleading for the return of their citizens being held hostage by Hamas. The video was later deleted.

A Veterans Affairs spokesman confirmed to the *Free Beacon* that the agency is investigating the incident and that it does not tolerate antisemitism.

"We are aware of this incident, are investigating the matter, and will take any appropriate action," said Terrence Hayes, the department's press secretary. "There is no place at VA for antisemitism or any expression of bigotry or hatred."

JWV Suspends Use of X (Formerly Twitter) Following Antisemitic Remarks November 2023

JWV recently suspended use of the social media platform, X, formerly known as *Twitter*. This comes after X's owner, Elon Musk, gained notoriety for public antisemitic comments.

On November 15, 2023, Musk agreed with a tweet that said, "Jewish communities have been pushing the exact kind of dialectical hatred against whites that they claim to want people to stop using against them" stating that the user was telling the "actual truth." His response to this antisemitic tweet continues his ongoing support for the Great Replacement conspiracy theory, as well as providing implicit support for Nazism.

Coalition Building

JWV is strengthening our efforts by partnering with organizations like the Jewish National Fund, Anti-Defamation League, Hadassah, Hillel,

as well local JCCs and Synagogues by reaching out and expanding our message of combating antisemitism, sharing the legacy of Jews in military service, and telling the stories of 18 Jewish Medal of Honor recipients.

We also partner with VA and DOD officials on Holocaust Remembrance Day and Jewish American Heritage Month programs to educate their employees and constituencies and conduct programs at our Museum highlighting the service of Jewish veterans and service members.

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 and in preserving the legacy of Jews in the military.



The Jewish War Veterans Want You!

By Stuart Israel, Post 474

I recently became a life member of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. JWV is "a Jewish voice for veterans and a veteran's voice for Jews."

Whether or not you served in the military, you can join and support JWV.

JWV "defends the rights and benefits of all service members and veterans, fights anti-Semitism, and supports the State of Israel," provides educational scholarships for veterans and family members, participates in memorial events and educational activities, and in other ways "affirms that Jewish men and women serve honorably and heroically in the military forces of the United States during peacetime and war."

My younger son, Nick Israel, recruited me to JWV membership. He is a U.S. Army Armor and PSYOP veteran. He enlisted after college, completed basic training and officer candidate school, learned to operate tanks, speak Russian, and jump out of airplanes, and deployed to the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Nick eventually returned to Michigan and now serves in the Air National Guard.

Before Nick recruited me to JWV, I didn't know I was eligible.

I was in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1969 to 1975. I became adept at typing with two fingers and driving a Jeep and won a medal for exemplary attendance. During basic training at Fort Knox, I achieved the distinction of getting KP—"kitchen police" duty—four times. The average basic trainee got KP twice. Nick may be an accomplished soldier, but he never learned to peel potatoes, scour pots, empty grease traps, and mop up mess halls. The Army did away with KP and mess halls. They now have culinary contractors and DFACs—"dining facilities."

It turns out that I was eligible for JWV membership. In fact, everyone is eligible—those who serve or served on active military duty in any branch, or who serve or served in the reserve or national guard, and anyone else who wants to be part of JWV's good works. There are veteran and non-veteran JWV membership categories and various participation and support opportunities.

Jews serve in the military in numbers well above their percentage in the U.S. population. Jews have made immeasurable contributions to the American military before and since the Revolutionary War. Two (of many) cases in point: Raymond Zussman and Sidney Shachnow.

Raymond Zussman (1917-1944) was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for valor in France during World War II.

Zussman graduated from Detroit's Central High, attended Wayne, studied metallurgy at DIT, and was a Teamsters Local 337 steward. He joined the Army in 1941, became a tank commander, and saw combat in North Africa, Italy, and France. His selfless and heroic actions against the Germans on September 12, 1944, detailed in his Medal of Honor citation, were "above and beyond the call of duty" and saved American lives. He was killed by German mortar fire days later, on September 21, 1944. He is buried in Machpelah Cemetery in Ferndale.

There is a Zussman playground in Detroit and a Zussman park in Hamtramck. My reserve unit was based at the Raymond Zussman United States Army Reserve Center in Inkster. Nick trained at the Zussman Urban Combat Range at Fort Knox.

Sidney Shachnow (1934-2018) was a highly-decorated Vietnam veteran and a legendary special operations commander. He retired as a major general in 1994 after almost 40 years of Army service as an enlisted soldier and later as an officer, as a paratrooper, ranger, and green beret.

Shachnow was born in Lithuania. When the Germans invaded in 1941, Shachnow and his family, with all 40,000 local Jews, were confined to the Kovno concentration camp. Shachnow was seven. Against all odds, he and family members escaped after three years and survived. Most Kovno Jews were murdered by the Nazis and Nazi-collaborators. Shachnow came to the U.S. as a teenager in 1950, attended school for the first time, enlisted in the Army, and went on to a storied military career.

Shachnow died in 2018 at 83. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. His autobiography—*Hope and Honor* (2004)—tells his inspiring life story.

My wife Cheryl and I met the gracious Shachnow at Nick's graduation from the JFK Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg in 2014. Shachnow was at one time the JFK commandant and maintained a connection with the center and school after his 1994 retirement.

Shachnow posthumously received the U.S. Special Operations Command's highest honor, the award named for Col. Arthur "Bull" Simons (1918-1979), a celebrated special forces pioneer, also a Jew. Simons is memorialized by a 12-foot bronze statue on a granite base facing the JFK center. The statue depicts Simons in action in Vietnam, pressing forward. One side of the statue's base is inscribed with the passage from Isaiah 6:8 which ends with this answer to a call to service: "Here I am; send me."

JWV was founded in 1896 by Jewish veterans of the Civil War to honor and support service members and veterans and, in particular, the many American Jews who, before the Revolutionary War and since, have answered the call to military service.

For information about JWV membership categories, support opportunities, and activities, go to jwv.org, mharrison@jwv.org, or call (202) 265-6280.

JWV wants you!

JWV Achievement Awards

JWV is now accepting applications for the Veterans Achievement Awards and Youth Achievement Awards for 2024. Applications are due June 1, 2024. To submit applications or obtain more information, email Jodi Harman at jharman@jwv.org.

To view more details visit: <https://jwvusafoundation.org/home-page-2/grants/>

Veterans Day Ceremony (Cont.)

Continued from page 6

because it was felt that the most serious threat to those assets was sabotage, not foreign invasion. Grabbing a helmet and his .45 caliber sidearm, Lou raced outside to help move the planes into their hangars. As he did so, Japanese Zeroes strafed the field. Standing his ground, he fired his handgun at a low-flying plane coming straight at him, and was mortally wounded.

Schleifer became the first son of Newark – and possibly the first New Jerseyan – to die in World War II. For his gallantry, he was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, our nation's fourth highest military decoration.

At the other end of that "bookshelf" stands Murray Sklar. Murray joined the Marine Corps after graduating from Weequahic High School in 1943, and was deployed to the Pacific in time for the Battle of Saipan. Soon after, he participated in the final – and perhaps bloodiest – battle of the entire war – Okinawa, in which more than 12,000 American servicemen died and three times as many were wounded. Murray was then tasked for the planned invasion of the Japanese home islands, which – it was estimated – would extend the war well into 1946, at a cost of a half million more American casualties and many millions of Japanese lives. But President Truman's decision to use atomic weapons brought the war to a sudden and decisive end in August 1945, and Murray returned home the following year.

At about that time, the Jewish War Veterans commissioned a monument to the memory of Lou Schleifer, to stand in a memorial park named for him in Newark. On a stone base, with his ode engraved, would stand a sculpture of Pegasus.

In succeeding years, as the neighborhood changed and the meaning of the memorial park faded, Lou's family looked for an appropriate new home for the monument. Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston raised its hand, and the monument was moved to its courtyard, probably around the late 1970s. The president of Temple Beth Shalom at about that time was Murray Sklar.

Murray was a leader in the local Jewish community, and active in veterans organizations as a member of the JWV and the Marine Corps League. He initiated Livingston's Veterans Day ceremony in 1988, and personally conducted it until his passing nearly 30 years later.

These two "bookends" to World War II were born in Newark about four years apart in the early 1920s. Lou died young, just four days after his 21st birthday, on December 7, 1941. Murray passed away 75 years later, almost to the day, on December 12, 2016. Each, in his time, was laid to rest, with full military honors, at the same Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, in Iselin, NJ. Two brave Jewish sons of Newark, now reunited for eternity.

Jewish War Veterans is proud to announce our newest partner!



JWV members, patrons, and friends, as well as Museum members, can enjoy an annual digital subscription to the publication for 50% off. Use code JWV50 or go directly to <https://www.stripes.com/?view=select&coupon=JWV50> to take advantage of this fantastic deal!

We are grateful to Stars & Stripes for the opportunity to work together for the betterment of this country's military-connected community.

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

NATIONAL PRESIDENT SHIRLEY ZAK

Time does go by very quickly. I cannot believe that the Holiday Season is upon us. Before we blink an eye, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving will come and go. Before you know it, Chanukah is here. Hopefully, our families will get together to eat, drink, and celebrate an endearing holiday. We light the menorahs, play with the dreidels and exchange gifts. It is a WONDERFUL time of the year.

On a sadder note, as of this writing, the war between Israel and Hamas is still going strong. The march in Washington, DC, held on November 14, 2023, was extraordinarily strong with JWV participation. Along with approximately 300,000 supporters of Israel from all over the United States and even some from foreign countries.

I joined in a zoom meeting led by National Commander Barry Lischinsky where many participants had their say about the war and the terrible upsurge in antisemitism. Plans to combat this antisemitism were discussed and each echelon was asked to have their members contact their local synagogues and legislators for support in this effort. It was most interesting to hear the thoughts and suggestions of so many people. JWV & JWVA sought donations from their members to support Red Magen Dovid during these difficult times.

JWVA will be having our annual National Executive Committee meetings from February 20, 2024 through February 22, 2024. It will be held again in Washington, DC. It is a chance to meet one another and know what is going on in our great organization. Get your reservations in as soon as possible. The reservation form is available

in the most recent edition of The Veteran.

I recently made my first official visit to the state of Minnesota. I want to thank National Chaplain Tamara Michaels, Lou Michaels and all the sisters and comrades of the auxiliary and posts of Minnesota for a wonderful visit.

Again, I want to wish everyone a Happy Chanukah and a Happy, Healthy New Year.



NP Shirley Zak addresses the Membership Dinner guests at the Department of Minnesota.



AID TO ISRAEL PROGRAM

By PDP Verna Rosenzweig

From its humble beginnings in 1948 as Israel's first military hospital, consisting only of a cluster of Quonset huts, to being named by Newsweek Magazine as one of the 10 best hospitals in the world, Sheba Medical Center has come a very long way.

Sheba Medical Center provides services to patients from across the Middle East, including many patients (especially children) from the Palestine Authority. It also provides guidance and mentoring in the planning, construction and operation of healthcare systems and hospitals around the world.

Sheba is noted for its modern medicine and amazing medical advances. It is revered for its global humanitarian missions, as it sends doctors to areas that require emergency humanitarian aid and disaster response.

RECENT INNOVATIONS BY SHEBA

A group of physician-entrepreneurs at Sheba Medical Center have developed a product that harnesses the power of artificial intelligence (AI) to diagnose a patient's cardiac problem on the spot.

Sheba Medical Center announced the publication of new research in the Journal of Clinical Medicine from Sheba's Lung Transplant Program, providing valuable insights into the optimal timing for considering a lung transplant in patients with severe lung injury related to COVID-19.

The Safra Children's Hospital is a genomic platform, meaning they use genetic data for all steps of patient care. The first level is diagnosis. If a child is born with puzzling symptoms, before they launch major tests, the child's genome goes to lab for analysis. In fact, Sheba does the most genetic workups for inpatient pediatrics in Israel. They also do a genomic analysis of all cancer patients, and can design treatments tailored to the genetics of each case of cancer. Sheba also uses genetics to decide on medication – some genetic profiles cannot handle certain antibiotics, etc. Sheba is a leader in this field, called precision medicine.

We are grateful to Sheba Medical Center for their devotion and hard work. JWVA is proud to have supported Sheba Medical Center from their beginnings in 1948. We are asking for your support of our Aid to Israel Program and your prayers for their safety.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

By Sandra Cantor, Editor

As the war in Israel rages on and the innocent hostages remain captive, it is with a heavy heart, I write this column.

I am afraid as I see Pro-Palestinian rallies in most American cities and they chant "From The River To The Sea" near defense facilities, city government buildings, state capitals, and most concerning- universities throughout our country.

I am afraid, witnessing misinformation and disinformation against Israel is the "norm" on Social Media and many mainstream media outlets.

I am afraid that although there are a small number of U.S. legislators that promulgate anti-Israel resolutions, it is contributing to our citizens seeing Israel in a different light as in previous decades.

I am afraid when I see a sixty-six-year-old man in California holding an Israeli flag near opposing protesters pushed down, resulting in his death.

I am afraid when I see the UN call for a ceasefire and continuing to paint Israel as an Apartheid State, therefore condemning Israel in "the court of world opinion".

I am afraid when I see government
Continued on next page

VA CHANUKAH DECORATIONS

By Sandra Cantor, Editor



Post 256 Commander Eddie Garcia, Sandra Cantor, Chaplain Roberts, and Allan Cantor with the VA Chanukah Display.



Sandra Cantor setting up the VA Chanukah Display.



Head Chaplain Patricia Roberts with distributed decorations.

Aux. 256 (President Jo Reingold & PNP Sandra Cantor) delivered Chanukah decorations to the Dallas VA per the Head Chaplain, Patricia Roberts' request. It will be the first time that Chanukah will be featured at our VA.

She thanked us for decorations that will be distributed to other VAs in the area as well.

CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM

By Roz Kaplan, National Child Welfare Chairman

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

Also, please consider supporting our National Child Welfare Program. The Rita Panitz Teddy Bear Program provides Teddy Bears to first responders, local Children's Hospitals, Ronald McDonald Houses etc. and are presented every year at the JWVA National Convention. These gifts provide a new friend for any child to love and cherish in a time of need. The Rita Panitz Teddy Bear Fund needs the support of all our members to continue putting smiles on children's faces. Please send your donations to PNP Elaine Bernstein, 9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville, NJ 08872-2126 and make your checks payable to Elaine Bernstein as she purchases the bears. Any donation will be greatly appreciated.

EDITOR'S COLUMN (CONT)

By Sandra Cantor, Editor

Continued from previous page

officials such as Senator Chris Coons badgered and harassed on an Amtrack train by passengers to call for a ceasefire and many other officials called out for their support of Israel.

I am afraid when I hear of a restaurant that put up posters of hostages only to have food delivery companies refuse to deliver the orders.

I am afraid when March For Israel participants from Detroit could not get transportation to the largest, peaceful, Pro-Israel rally in DC, and when less than 72 hours later, a violent protest occurred in DC.

And it goes on and on... **I AM NOT AFRAID** for me, but for our own existence as civilized people!

I so appreciate America's Government Leaders from both sides of the aisle; however, these leaders will not be the leaders of tomorrow. Our Universities are "educating", or I shall say what it is, brainwashing the next generation! I pray something can combat this trend and that all reasonable people will educate themselves with true facts and not give in to hate. G-d bless Israel, G-d bless America, G-d bless us all!

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

By: PNP Linda P. Singer

As someone wrote "It takes a village to raise a child," it also takes a community to help those in need. One day a woman and her friend decided to volunteer at a Senior Center a few times a week. Each time they came back with interesting items to discuss and marvel at the activities the "seniors" participated in such as nutrition classes, learning to Line Dance, sew and knit. The knitters even made blankets of many colors that they donated to a shelter for abused women and children. The two friends enjoyed helping in whatever way they could, and the "seniors" were thrilled to have them. Both the Seniors and the volunteers benefitted from their involvement!

We can benefit from being involved in the community too. You may visit other veteran organizations and together advocate for veterans and their families. You could volunteer at a Blood Drive or a Hospital. You could help out at a local school or donate toiletries to a shelter. You could help new citizens acclimate to your city or give of your time and money when natural disasters occur. These are all examples of how, as a JWVA member, you can affect those in your community and represent us in a positive way.

There are always needy individuals living within arms reach so let's try to care for as many as we can, remember your community needs your help.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In this message I will feature several ways that you can support our National Museum of American-Jewish Military History.

We have our Memorial Garden. You will find pictures of the Memorial Stone and Eternal Light here. This beautiful and serene area in front of the Museum offers us the opportunity to purchase pavers and trees



in honor of the men and women who served as well as family members whose names you want to preserve in perpetuity.

We have in the building “Our Heroes” photographs. Here we offer you the opportunity to post a photograph of

a loved one, departed or not, and often in uniform. Their photograph will be available for view by everyone who comes through the doors of our Museum.

We have a Yahrzeit program where, on the anniversary of the date of death, their Yahrzeit profile comes up on a dedicated display for all to see. This is available both in the museum and on the website yahrzeitremembrance.org to see wherever you are. Moreover, we mail to a designated recipient an email or letter with the



date of the upcoming yahrzeit.

We have an Honorial Wall located in the lobby of the Museum. Here we list donors on the glass wall of the lobby or the wall. Larger benefactors are listed on the wall in the front of the building. Either way, your donation is obvious

to anyone entering the building.

Strategic planning for our future continues. With the adoption of the Feasibility Study at our National Convention,

we established a process and continue to be guided by our expert fundraising consultant, Abe Wasserberger in developing a realistic blueprint for the future of the NMAJMH. I will continue to provide you with updates.

As you can see, we have many attractive ways for you to help the Museum grow and prosper. No donation is too small and, obviously, no donation is too large. Our Museum needs to grow and rebrand itself. These lofty goals can only be achieved with the help of every member of the Museum as well as outside benefactors.

Be well, stay safe and have a happy, healthy and successful New Year.

Elaine Bernstein, PNP, President



Museum President Elaine Bernstein

Updates By Michael Rugel • Director of Programs and Content

On October 22, it was a great honor to recognize, the 40th anniversary of the 1983 bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut. We had Rabbi Arnold Resnicoff for a program to share his story. Chaplain Resnicoff was in Beirut to conduct a funeral when a suicide bomber set off two bombs at the barracks killing hundreds. After the explosions, Rabbi Resnicoff went to help wounded Marines. His kippah had gotten lost after becoming bloodied while Resnicoff was caring for wounded Marines. Nearby, was a Catholic chaplain, Father John Puciarelli. Seeing that Rabbi Resnicoff was without a head covering, Father Puciarelli cut a patch off his uniform and gave it to Rabbi Resnicoff to wear as a kippah.

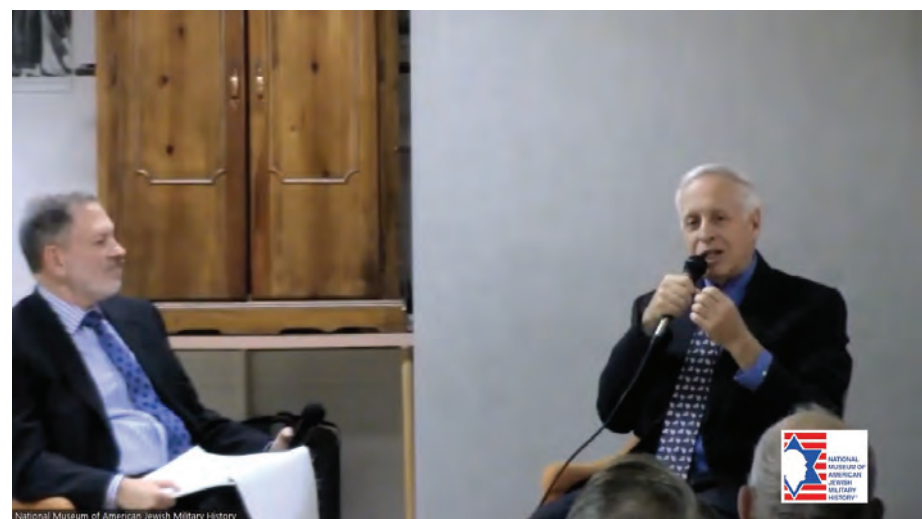
Howard Mortman, author of the book When Rabbis Bless Congress served as our moderator leading a powerful discussion with

Rabbi Resnicoff discussing the events of Beirut and Rabbi Resnicoff's career in the Navy. The program was a reminder of both the horror of terrorism and the potential for unity and inspiration following a truly horrible situation. It was unavoidable to think of the events of October 7th in Israel. We are proud to be able to provide a place for community and discussion. The video recording is available on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg>.

On November 10th, we returned to our annual Veterans Day program where



NMAJMH Veterans Day program filled about 75 bags to be delivered to VAMC.



Howard Mortman and Rabbi Resnicoff discuss the events of Beirut and Rabbi Resnicoff's career in the Navy.

we put together care packages to go to patients at the DC VA Medical Center. We produced around 75 bags filled with books, games, toiletries and more. The packages were delivered to the voluntary services office at the VA Medical Center (VAMC). Thanks to all the volunteers who came throughout the day to help out with

the service project. It was a pleasure to show our exhibits while visitors contributed for hospitalized veterans.

We've had some good groups through including a young Jewish families group through the DCJCC JFamilies program. It's always good to work with the JCC and have kids in the building. They helped to make cards for the Veterans Day care packages. It was also good to have a recent visit from the Dupont Circle Villagers, a neighborhood seniors' organization. On November 9th, we had the 8th grade class from Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School. They toured the exhibits and also helped with the Veterans Day project making cards for our care packages.

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

How Many Served? A Simple Question With a Not So Simple Answer

One of the most frequently asked questions we receive at the NMAJMH is how many Jews have served in the US armed forces. Sometime the question is asked broadly, interested in the total number of Jews who have served in the American military throughout our history. Frequently, the question is asked about a specific conflict or period and occasionally the inquiry is very specific, wanting numbers from a certain community. Unfortunately, the answer in most scenarios is, “We don’t know.”

We do know that Jews have served since day one. The Museum’s core exhibition opens with the story of Asser Levy, one of the first Jewish inhabitants of what is now New York. In late summer 1654, two ships—the Peereboom and the Sint Catrina—anchored in New Amsterdam, carrying the first Jews to set foot in the Dutch colony. The Dutch colonial governor, Peter Stuyvesant, was less than welcoming. The settlers first had to petition directly to Amsterdam to be allowed to stay, and then had to petition once again for further rights. Stuyvesant ordered the colonial council to bar Jews from serving in the volunteer home guards, levying a special tax on Jews to pay for others to serve in their place. On November 5, 1655, Asser Levy and Joseph Barsimon filed petitions with the colonial court asking that they either be allowed to stand watch with the other citizens or relieved of the tax. After an initial rejection and a two-year fight, Levy won the right to stand watch. Levy’s fight for the right to serve in the volunteer home guards is often recognized as having paved the way for other Jewish men and women to serve their country and communities.

As the colonies in North America grew and Great Britain claimed more and more land for its colonies, the Jewish population grew. Roger Williams’s staunch belief in religious freedom led to a group of Jews settling in Newport, Rhode Island in the late 1600s. The Jewish settlement in Georgia dates to the very beginning of that colony, with a thriving Jewish population in colonial Savannah. New York, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina also had relatively sizeable Jewish populations. When conflict arose with England and the American colonists opted to declare their independence, many Jews decided to join the fight. While we can’t say how many or what percentage of those who fought were Jews, we have many stories to demonstrate that Jews fought for American Independence. Philadelphia-born David Salisbury Franks served under General George Washington’s command; Francis Salvador of South Carolina was the first Jewish person to die in the Revolutionary War; Mordecai Sheftall was commissioned as a colonel, becoming the highest-

ranking Jewish officer in the fledgling American army.

Jews continued to fight for the nascent United States. One of the most well-known Jewish American military figures—Uriah Phillips Levy—was the first Jew to become Commodore of the United States Navy (roughly equivalent to the modern-day rank of Admiral) and a veteran of the War of 1812. Mendes Cohen, whose father served in the American Revolution, fought in the Battle of Baltimore in 1814. Again, we have stories of Jewish service, but not an accounting. We can safely say that Jews served, but not how many.

By the start of the Civil War, the Jewish population had grown to between 125,000 and 200,000, owing to an influx of Jews fleeing political unrest in Central Europe. Over 2 million people fought for the Union and roughly 1 million fought for the Confederacy, according to a Veterans Affairs fact sheet. Still, we cannot point to any official statistic to say how many of these servicemembers were Jewish. We have no shortage of stories of their service—from Frederick Knefler, who was promoted to brigadier general by brevet, to the many rank and file soldiers, sailors, and marines who formed the Hebrew Union Veterans Association (the organization now known as the Jewish War Veterans of the USA) in 1896—but still no official numbers.

The reason we cannot give statistics or numbers on Jewish service is that the War Department (and its successor, the Department of Defense) did not gather or publish information on religious preference of servicemembers. There are no lists of Jewish military personnel from the US government. In fact, military service members are not required to provide DoD information about their religious affiliation; members can self-identify as Jewish if they wish, but there is no requirement.

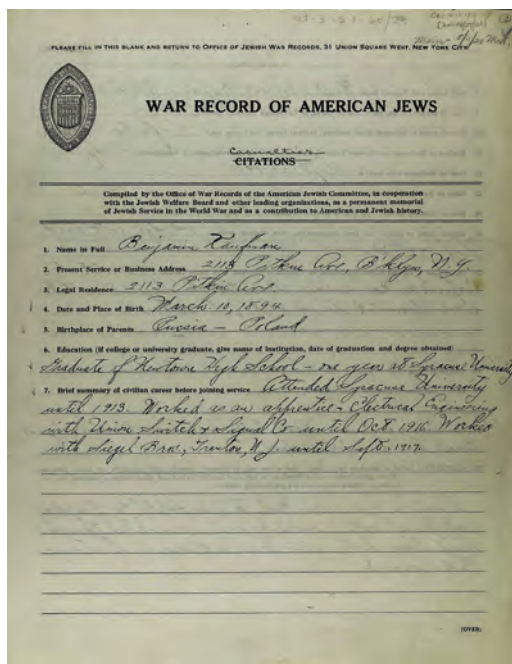
Since statistics on Jewish service are not available from official governmental sources, the few statistics that we have were compiled by non-governmental organizations or individuals. The best-known early attempt at an accounting was compiled by Simon Wolf. The American Jew as Patriot, Soldier and Citizen, first published in 1895, lists the names of thousands of Jews who served in the American military. He was prompted to compile this book by a December 1891 letter in the North American Review by a Civil War veteran who asserted that while in the service and after, he had never encountered a Jew. This is the same trope – Jews as unpatriotic and shirking service—that would lead to the formation of the HUVA in 1896. During and after the war, Wolf assisted soldiers and widows with pension claims and other legal issues, putting him in the perfect position

to wade through military records in an attempt to document Jewish service. For over a century Wolf’s book was the go-to reference for Jewish participation in the early American military. It is not without its issues, though.

A century later, the Shapell Manuscript Foundation used Wolf’s book as a basis for a reappraisal of Jewish participation in the Civil War, with one of the end goals being a roster of Jewish service. Wolf listed over 8000 names, but through their investigation the researchers at Shapell discovered that 451 are duplicate names, 40 did not serve in the Civil War, nearly 800 are not Jewish, and another 800 are names without a regiment (making identification difficult or not possible). They were also able to identify another 1500 Jewish servicemembers from the Civil War who were not included in Wolf’s book. If you are not familiar with the Shapell Roster, I highly recommend you visit Shapell.org to learn more. They have been able to take Wolf’s great work and build upon and refine it using today’s methodology and standards. It is a fantastic resource that helps us respond to that question of, “how many?”

Two great sources we can look to answer that question regarding the World Wars are the works of the American Jewish Congress (WWI) and Jewish Welfare Board (WWII). Both organizations endeavored to document Jewish participation in the US armed forces contemporaneously with their respective World Wars. Their methodologies were also similar, sending out surveys soliciting information on servicemembers they believed to be Jewish. Their staffs also combed casualty reports and newspapers, trying to identify who was Jewish. Both organizations felt it important to both record and publicize Jewish service—in particular casualties and decorated soldiers. The end product of the AJC’s labor was a series of reports stating that 150,000 to 225,000 Jews served in the American military during WWI. The JWB’s research into Jewish participation in WWII was published in two volumes, with the second volume containing a listing of the roughly 550,000 Jewish servicemembers they were able to identify in the US armed forces. While the books are long out of print, the records used to compile the books are available at the American Jewish Historical Society. The servicemember cards created by the JWB for each person have been digitized and are available online at Ancestry.com.

Unfortunately, no such programs were in place for post-WWII conflicts. We have no reliable source to turn to in order to determine out how many Jews served in Korea, Vietnam, or the wars in the Middle East. Since we cannot put an exact number on Jewish service for those periods, it is important to be able to show that Jewish American men and women were there, that they did and do fight for their country. Exhibits at the Museum like Jewish Americans in Military Service during Vietnam allow Jewish veterans to share their stories. While statistics are good at providing a quick overview, firsthand accounts are what make the real impact. So, although we cannot always say how many served, we can say that Jews have always served.



PNC Benjamin Kaufman's completed personal survey of Jews in the First World War.

50th Anniversary of the Yom Kippur War

By Itzhak Brook

The 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War occurred this year. The war was launched in 1973 in a surprise attack by Syria and Egypt on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. Even though the signs of an imminent attack were noted by the Israeli intelligence, the Israeli government decided to ignore them for political and strategic reasons. Consequently, the country's borders were very sparsely defended, creating a dangerous void on the front. The invading armies outnumbered the Israelis at a ratio of more than a hundred to one in manpower and ten to one in armor and artillery.

Because the bulk of the Israel army is comprised of reservists, it took two days to mobilize and deploy the forces. During these critical days it was up to the vastly outnumbered soldiers on the front and Israeli pilots in the sky to hold the line and stall the attackers. It was the heroism and determination of these men and women that saved the country. Their devotion and sacrifice compensated for the woeful lack of sufficient equipment and supplies. The strategic depth of the Sinai desert and Golan Heights also provided the country with the time needed to mobilize the reservists.

This war posed the most serious threat to the existence of Israel in modern history. Even though Israel was eventually able to achieve a military victory, the country paid a steep price, both in lives lost and in the citizenry's confidence in their leaders and themselves. Almost three thousand soldiers gave their lives -- a ratio of one death per one thousand Israelis, a painful price for a nation of three million. Over ten thousand individuals were wounded in the 17 days of fighting. Almost every household and neighborhood were affected. The pain and sorrow felt at the time continues to this day among affected families and the broader Israeli society. Deep within the psyche of the nation, this conflict shattered the conventional wisdom of Israel's invincibility. It also illustrated the importance of having secure and defensible borders, while highlighting the urgent need for a lasting peace between Israel and its neighbors. An

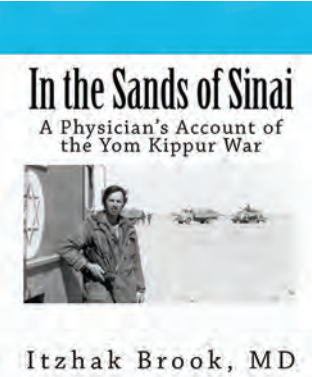
important outcome of the Yom Kippur War was the creation of the 1979 peace agreement between Israel and Egypt, ending more than thirty years of conflict between the two nations.

Assistance from the United States was instrumental in Israel's victory. Ammunition, spare parts, armor, and fighter jets reached the country at a critical moment, replenishing heavy losses and enabling Israel not only to repel the attackers but to go on the offensive, ending the war 65 miles from Cairo and 25 miles from Damascus. Moreover, the political and military commitments from the United States countered the Soviet Union which had threatened to intervene in the crisis on behalf of their Arab allies.

I was a battalion physician during the Yom Kippur War. Like thousands of Israelis, I joined my battalion which had been assigned to supply the armored corps with ammunition, fuel, water, and food. These soldiers risked their lives, replenishing tanks with fuel and ammunition under enemy fire. I watched them overcome countless difficulties and perform their mission, despite constant danger, many of them paying the ultimate price. It was a daily struggle for survival, requiring resourcefulness and performance despite the constant presence of fear and anxiety. This war articulated my personal definition of courage: the performance of one's duty despite one's fear.

For Jews who lived through the Yom Kippur War, the holiest of the High Holy days will never be the same. For us, it stands not only as a day of atonement but as day of gratitude to God for the miracle of survival. It is also a time for remembering those who paid the ultimate price for preserving and protecting Israel and will always commemorate a renewed commitment to preventing Israel from ever experiencing such a peril in the future.

Dr Itzhak Brook is a Professor at Georgetown University and the author of the book: "In the Sands of Sinai- A Physician's Account of the Yom Kippur War." The book can be read free and/or obtained at: yomkippurwarphysiciansaccount.blogspot.com/



JWV Member and Holocaust Survivor Shared Story

By Allan Cantor, Post 256

Ralph Hockley, born Rudolph Martin Hockenheimer, was a Holocaust survivor and Post 256 Jewish War Veteran member. Hockley was born on October 17, 1925 into a Jewish household in Karlsruhe, Germany. When Hockley was only eight years old, Hitler rose to power in Germany. In 1935, Hockley's family escaped to Marseilles, France where Hockley learned French and excelled in school. Shortly after France was invaded, Hockley's father was arrested for being an "enemy alien" and held in various concentration camps.

At only 14 years old, Hockley was expelled from school. Hockley became an interpreter for the American Friends Service Committee office (AFSC). Hockley used his connections in this position to secure his family, including his father, United States visas.

Ralph went to the draft board on his 18th birthday and began active duty on December 29, 1943. Hockley was a "Ritchie Boy" and was in Paris to celebrate the official end of World War II in Europe. Shortly after this, Hockley completed his service, but remained in the Army Reserve.

Hockley attended Syracuse University earning in BA in Soviet Studies in 1949. Following his degree, he returned to the U.S. Army before the start of the Korean War. Hockley served in seven campaigns in Korea where he earned a Bronze Star with a "V" device for Valor for service.

Hockley relocated to Dallas, TX where he became a member of Post 256. He published a book called *Freedom is Not Free*. This book detailed his experiences in Nazi Germany, and his service throughout the Korean War and the Cold War. In 2021, Hockley was awarded the Légion d'Honneur, France's top civilian honor, in recognition of his heroism and service with their units in Korea.

Starting in 2022, Hockley began working closely with the Dallas Holocaust and Human Right Museum sharing his story with adult and student groups.

On November 8, 2023, Hockley passed away at 98 years old. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, and his children, Cliff and Denise, stepchildren Kris, Heidi, and Kirk, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is predeceased by his first wife, Eva Frankel.

TAPS

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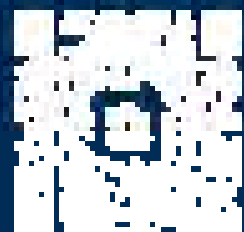
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Season's Greetings

**In Honor of All Our
Brothers and Sisters in Uniform**

In Loving memory WWII Vets
Daniel Levine and Hyman Lonky

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

Good Health and Happiness to All
Allan Abramson

Howard A. and Dorothy G. Berger
US Forces Austria ('44 - '45) - USASETAF Italy ('55 - '94)

In Memory of Eugene Baraw
PDC Edward & PDP Lousie Baraw

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
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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

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, PhD

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

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