



# The Jewish Veteran

*A Jewish Voice for Veterans; A Veteran's Voice for Jews since 1896*

## Second Gentleman Speaks at NEC Meeting

By Bryn Garick, Managing Editor

JWV was honored to host Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff at the annual NEC conference on February 21, 2024. Following a meet and greet with Jewish War Veterans, Jewish War Veterans National Ladies Auxiliary, and National Museum of American Jewish Military History leadership, National Commander Barry Lischinsky and Emhoff had a fireside chat.

Lischinsky began the conversation by thanking Emhoff for his participation at the NEC meeting and for his representation as the first Jewish White House principal.

Emhoff emphasized that it was an honor to participate in this event and that he takes his role in the White House very seriously.

Emhoff stated, "Coming into office a little over three years ago, I wanted to just live the way I had: open, proud, Jewish, and celebrate our faith and our culture."

He elaborated on some of the events that he's participated in such as the White House Hanukkah parties, and Seders. Emhoff detailed that he wants to continue to share the joys of being Jewish.

"And as well to fight against hate and antisemitism," he continued. "In connection with

that, one of the things I'm most proud of is the 'National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.'"

Emhoff noted his work with the administration and with Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt to develop this plan, the first of its kind. He explained that one of the elements of this plan is education.

"A lot of the antisemitism out there is because of a lack of knowledge, a lack of education," Emhoff said.

He went on to explain that since the terrorist attacks of October 7, his work to combat antisemitism and all forms of hate has increased.

"Since then, I have basically been working nonstop to push back on this crisis of hate, this crisis of antisemitism that has arisen in conjunction with the administration," Emhoff explained.

He detailed that he's been working with the administration to make sure that Jews and all people are safe and secure to live their daily lives amidst this growing hate.



From left: NVC Ginsburg, NMAJMH President Bernstein, Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, NP Zak, NED Greenberg, NC Lischinsky, and PNC Magidson  
(Photo Courtesy of Office of the Second Gentleman)

Lischinsky emphasized JWV's members readiness to assist him and the administration in any way that they can.

Lischinsky asked Emhoff about his transition from private citizen to Second Gentleman.

Emhoff explained it as quite a transition and everything changed once his wife, Kamala Harris,

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## VA Deputy Secretary Bradsher Gives Keynote Address at NEC Meeting

By Bryn Garick, Managing Editor

JWV welcomed Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Deputy Secretary Tanya Bradsher to speak at our Policy Committee during our NEC Meeting.

Bradsher began her remarks by thanking JWV, JWVA, and NMAJMH leadership, members and patrons for the invitation to speak, and their "selfless service to the country."

She then brought up JWV's work combating antisemitism, bigotry and hate, "Your work and the mission of JWV has never been more important than it is right now. The world was reminded of that fact after the depraved terrorist assault on Israel, which brutally reinforced the stark, sorrowful reality that antisemitism is rising here in our country and abroad."

She continued, "Secretary McDonough has stated this often, but it bears repeating. So let me be clear. The Department of Veterans Affairs



NC Lischinsky presented Deputy Secretary with a certificate to thank her for her remarks.

stands with you during this tragic time for the Jewish people in Israel, in the United States, and around the world. Discrimination, prejudice, and hatred in any form have no home at VA and no place in our great nation. At VA, we are committed

to advancing an inclusive environment that values and supports the diverse communities we serve. It's our individual and collective responsibility to do the work that's necessary to counter antisemitism. *Together*, we reject those who distort history and peddle racist conspiracy theories. *Together*, we teach future generations so that they can stand up to injustice and defeat the scourge of antisemitism once, and for all. *Together*. Because that's what humanity demands."

She pivoted to discuss how VA has been delivering on their promise of serving veterans.

"When it comes to the benefits Vets have earned and deserve, we're processing their claims faster than ever before. Altogether, VA processed nearly 2 million claims in 2023—shattering last year's record by 16%. We're also providing more care to Veterans this year. VA delivered more than 116 million health care appointments to Veterans,

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# D'verei HaShomrim

## Bringing Jewish Culture Expands Our Community

By LT Steven A. Ballaban

Ten months ago, my wife and I were blessed with a grandson who lives only a few miles from us. It has been a joy to experience the wonder of a new child without the exhaustion of being a new parent! His mother and father are loving and nurturing and they are a gift to him, as he is to them. They are particularly careful about feeding him healthy and nutritious food, so when his mother asked if I could bake him sourdough bread I said, "of course."

I couldn't find anyone who had a sourdough starter, so I spent three weeks cultivating the wild yeast that is the "secret ingredient" to sourdough. My first few loaves were appreciated, but not Instagram-ready! But finally, after about two months, I could bake loaf after loaf of perfect sourdough. For those of you who haven't had the experience, it is nearly miraculous. Just a few cups of flour, some water, and a bit of salt. Plus a bit of starter – and 12 hours later you have amazing bread that fills the house with an aroma that makes it feel like home, and a chewy but air-bubble filled loaf that demands to be eaten right away.

As I reflect on the world and our people since October 7, I realize that we are the sourdough starter for every civilization and culture in which we make our homes. And Israel is the bowl in which our culture first began, and is preserved. Our Torah, our unique relation with G-d, our devotion to a fragile and fertile land, our passion for life, justice, and ethics... We bring these everywhere we go and somehow, miraculously, they inspire and infuse those around us to grow into a civilization that is richer, more diverse, and more productive.

The military is no different. When I first joined the Navy almost 39 years ago, I heard – as so many of you may have - "what are you doing? Jews don't volunteer for the military?" Over the years I have met so many Jews in uniform, proud Jews who have made an outsized contribution to the success of our nation. Like the yeast in the sourdough, they have brought an understanding of the diversity of our country, they have been leaders in their units, some have been Lay leaders who ensure that there is the richness of Jewish life to nurture the hearts and souls of the other Jews around them. I will never forget my first visit to Stein Hall at the US Naval Academy, and seeing the exhibits of all of the Jews who have changed the Navy and made it what it is today. Albert Michaelson, the physicist who made the work of Albert Einstein possible and who was awarded the first Nobel Prize given to a military member in the US. Or Paul Shulman, who established Israel's Navy after her independence. Or Hyman Rickover who imagined and created our Nuclear Navy program that is the heart of our submarine service and nuclear carriers. That is our past. But our future is in the hands of the two Jewish Midshipmen who were awarded the Rhodes Scholarship during my four years at the Academy. And the hundreds of other dedicated Jews whom I met, who educated their peers on the importance of the ideals of our faith and the need for religious tolerance and diversity for the



survival of our nation. I have come to realize that the sense of service, honor, commitment to duty, professionalism, and patriotism that can be seen when military Jews gather is a strong yeast indeed!

At this time, when the future of our nation and the future of Israel are being tested more than at any time in my life, I know that no matter what happens, the Jewish people will continue to inspire many more loaves in the centuries to come. Because of people like those I have met during my service. Because of people like you.

*LT Steven A. Ballaban was born in New York. He received his BA in English Literature from Vassar College in 1981. He continued his studies at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio and received his Masters of Hebrew Letters in 1985, and his Rabbinic ordination in June 1986. In 1989, he returned to Cincinnati, and earned a Masters of Philosophy in 1994 and a Doctor of Philosophy in 1995. Following a 20-year career as an educator, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He began his training as a clinical chaplain in 2011 and received Board Certification as a Clinical Chaplain from the Association of Professional Chaplains in 2013, and was the 5th chaplain to earn a Clinical Concentration in PTSD from the National Association of Veterans Affairs Chaplains in 2014. His publications include 14 articles in the Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion and an article on the treatment of trauma in the Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling.*

*He was commissioned as an Ensign (Chaplain Candidate Program Officer) in 1985 and entered Active Duty service in June 1986 following ordination. He continued his service as a drilling reservist until 1995, earning promotion to LCDR. His commission expired in 2002.*

*After receiving his credentials as a clinical chaplain at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Portland, OR, he returned to the Navy as a chaplain and was commissioned as a LT in August 2014. Following completion of training at Officer Development School in Newport, RI and Naval Chaplaincy School Basic Course at Fort Jackson in Columbia SC, he reported to Commander Naval Air Facility Atsugi Japan in December 2014. Afterwards, he served at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD from 2017-2022 as Second Battalion Chaplain, as well as the Rabbi at the Academy and also taught Leadership. Following his tour at the Naval Academy, he returned to the Reserve Component where he serves as the Chaplain at COMSUBLANT.*

*Chaplain Ballaban and his wife, Lynda, have been married for 17 years and together they have 7 children and 3 grandchildren.*



## THE JEWISH VETERAN

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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](mailto:editor@jwv.org).

You can find more information about guidelines for article and photo submissions on [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org). The deadline for the next issue of The Jewish Veteran is May 31<sup>st</sup> at noon, EDT.

## Do you receive the weekly newsletters?

JWV regularly sends out a newsletter with important information regarding JWV updates, events, federal government updates, and current news.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This system is how JWV sends all communications including NEC and Convention schedules, press releases, and more. If you are not on the list, you will not receive these updates.

If you do not receive the newsletter, please contact Bryn Garick at [bgarick@jwv.org](mailto:bgarick@jwv.org) to get on the list.

# NC Lischinsky Testifies Before Congressional Committees

By Bryn Garick, Managing Editor

On March 13, 2024, National Commander Barry Lischinsky testified to present our legislative priorities to the Joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC). Prior to the hearing, JWV submitted a written testimony that can be read here: [www.jwv.org/programs/legislative-priorities/](http://www.jwv.org/programs/legislative-priorities/)

Gathered in the Hearing Room of the Cannon House Office Building, more than 20 JWV leaders, members, patrons, and staff watched as NC Lischinsky delivered his five-minute oral testimony designed to be a summary of the previously submitted document.

Lischinsky opened his remarks detailing his extensive military career spanning more than 34 years and his roles after retirement, including as the superintendent of Chelsea Soldiers Home.

Later, he emphasized the Jewish War Veterans' commitment to fighting all forms of hatred, discrimination, and bigotry, particularly antisemitism, and their support for Israel.

"JWV condemns the Hamas terrorist attacks against Israel and emphasizes that terrorist actions anywhere are never justified," said Lischinsky. "JWV stands with Israel, its military, and its citizens and calls on all Americans to join us in condemning the terrorist attack. The remaining hostages must be immediately released and reconstituted with their families."

Lischinsky highlighted JWV's spearheaded effort to show unity and solidarity for Israel.

"We secured the signatures of 26 VSOs and MSOs representing millions of current and former uniformed service members, veterans,

and their families to stand against terrorism and with our brothers and sisters in the Israeli Defense Forces," Lischinsky continued.

Lischinsky also discussed other JWV legislative priorities including delivering timely, high-quality benefits and services to all veterans, fixing VA's electronic health record system, supporting the Major Richard Star Act, and improving veteran suicide prevention/mental health care.

The written testimony also referenced JWV's priority to remain "committed to addressing the specialized health care needs of our women veterans including increasing cancer screenings, improving mental health care and access, addressing infertility, and reducing intimate partner violence."

This legislative priority prompted Representative Mike Levin (CA-49) to ask Lischinsky, "Why is it so important that we train providers to provide gender specific care?"

Lischinsky answered, "Women veterans are the fastest growing in VA enrollment with the rate to shortly match those in service, at almost 20%. Our sisters have fought for this country, and it is important to provide the right medical care, that they be recognized and respected for their contributions," he continued, "We support the VA and their Women Veterans Health Mini-Residency three-day education and training course."

Chairman Mike Bost (IL-12) also took the



Photo by Ashley Cross

opportunity to ask NC Lischinsky a question regarding a VA employee's antisemitic remarks (See Page 16) and if Lischinsky was happy with the VA's response and handling of the situation.

Lischinsky responded that on January 29, 2024, he and NED Greenberg met with VA Secretary McDonough to discuss this incident. Secretary McDonough assured them that there were no biases or prejudice in the employee's work.

Lischinsky continued, "JWV would be glad to work with anyone who wants to deal with antisemitism, bigotry, and hate. When freedom of speech is brought into the workforce and it has a connotation of antisemitism, bigotry and hate, and it affects your employees, customers or stakeholders, it's no longer freedom of speech."

## JWV Celebrates 128th Anniversary in NYC with Ceremony and Service

By Bryn Garick, Managing Editor

On March 15, 2024, JWV celebrated its 128th anniversary as the longest-serving active Veterans Service Organization. In honor of this anniversary, JWV leadership, members, patrons, and staff celebrated at a ceremony as well as at Central Synagogue's weekly Shabbat Service.

Post 1 organized their annual JWV Anniversary event at the Found Study, a private college residence hall formerly known as the Lexington Avenue Opera House. The Lexington Avenue Opera House was the site for the first JWV meeting back in 1896.

Honored at the ceremony were the seven Jewish Civil War Veterans who organized that first meeting of the Hebrew Union Veterans Association which later became the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. The seven honored were Jastrow Alexander, Isadore Eckstein, Isadore Isaacs, Jacob Jacobs, Joseph Steiner, Joseph Unger, and Joseph Wolf.

The keynote speaker was NC Lischinsky. Other speakers included NVC Ginsburg, DC Sidney Goldberg (NY), and JWVA President Shirley Zak (NY).

JWV's 2023 Education Award recipients

Michal Epstein of Texas A&M University and Aliza Rutenberg of Barnard College also attended and were recognized. The two were classmates at Plano East High School in Texas.



From left: Post 1 Commander Edward Hochman, NC Barry Lischinsky, NVC Gary Ginsburg, and DC Sidney Goldberg (NY)

Also among those attending were Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager Eric Hoey, VA New York Harbor Healthcare System Director Timothy Graham and Assistant Director Rosemary Cancel.

NEC Jerry Alperstein (NY) presented NC Lischinsky with a copy of the minutes from that first meeting and with a custom-made kippah by Avi the Kippah Man from

Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem.

NC Lischinsky spoke about the importance of our national organization, "We are here because people need to know that Jews serve."

The ceremony concluded with *Mourners Kaddish* recited by Post 1 member David Goldstein.

Following this event, JWV members were encouraged to attend Shabbat Services held at Central Synagogue. Central Synagogue organized JWV members to have reserved seating for

the services. More than 20 Jewish veterans and members of the Ladies Auxiliary were present from New York, Massachusetts, Florida, and New Jersey. JWV members and patrons from around the country also watched these services streamed by the Jewish Broadcasting Service (JBS).

Apart from JWV, the Synagogue was nearly full with approximately 500 people present

JWV was announced by Senior Rabbi, Angela Buchdahl, in her welcome remarks and people stood and applauded. JWV's 128th birthday was also mentioned by Rabbi Maurice Salth before the Shehechayanu and the congregation was receptive.

NED Greenberg, who streamed the event via JBS, stated, "The Shabbat Service was filled with energy and moved along at a fast pace and was uplifting as a virtual participant. I am sure those in-person must have felt the same way."



From left: DC Sidney Goldberg, Jerry Alperstein, PNC Alan Paley, Eric Spinner, NC Barry Lischinsky, Gary Glick, Paul Rosenfield, NVC Gary Ginsburg. Seated: SVP Leslie Emack, PNP Petra Kaatz, and NP Shirley Zak.

# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

## National Commander Barry Lischinsky

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Jewish War Veterans (JWV), the National Ladies Auxiliary (JWVA), and our National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) that attended our recent National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting during the week of February 20-23, 2024, in Washington DC. Whether you attended in person or on Zoom, we thank you. I also want to acknowledge our JWV staff at National Headquarters for their commitment and dedication to help make this event a memorable event for our organization.

Special thanks to our NED Ken Greenberg for extending the invitation to both the Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff and the Honorable Tanya Bradsher, Veterans Affairs' 10th Deputy Secretary. Both distinguished guests expressed their gratitude and support of JWV and will continue to be a leading partner in our advocacy for all veterans, and their families. Ken was also responsible for achieving the support of twenty six (26) Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) and Military Service Organizations (MSOs) representing more than 6 million current and former uniformed service members, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors to stand with Israel in support of humanitarian and military funding.

Today, our organization is leading this effort to demonstrate solidarity and unity from the larger veteran and military community in the United States.

Many of our members asked during the NEC, how can we as members of JWV counter the rise of antisemitism?

Begin by reading and understanding our National Constitution Preamble. Our Preamble dates back to 1896, when the legacy of our organization first began. Throughout the years there have been some minor changes until 1984 when we were first chartered by Congress as a VSO. Since that time no changes or modifications to our Preamble have been made. One of the tenants of our Preamble, "...to encourage the doctrine of universal liberty, equal rights, and full justice to all men and women; to combat the powers of bigotry and darkness wherever originating and whatever their target..."

The upcoming month of May provides our JWV echelons with an ideal opportunity to promote our Preamble. Events such as Jewish American Heritage Month (May 1-31), Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) later to become Women's Army Corps (WAC) (May 15), Armed Forces Day (May 18), and Memorial Day (May 27) are a few examples where military members of our organization can assist by telling our story in our local community schools. High schools, middle schools, and elementary schools together we must foster the fact that members of the Jewish faith served in every war, dating back to the American Revolution. That we continue to serve proudly, with honor and distinction beside all service members of our armed forces and our allies.

Today, our organization continues

to serve and advocate for all veterans, and their families. This message must be

incorporated in everything that we do, and with every speech we give. Now more than ever we must educate the young. Should we fail to educate our young, our adversaries will teach our young the hateful trope, "...that Jews do not serve."

We must continue to fight for democracy. Now more than ever, we must stand against terrorism and the atrocities committed by Hamas and their associated proxies. We must continue to support our brothers and sisters in the Israeli Defense Forces. May the names and the memories of victims and the fallen be blessed. May we continue to support the safe return of all that were taken from their families and friends.

This March 15 marked our 128th Anniversary as an organization. We have come a long way since that first meeting in 1896. We must continue to tell our story, and lead from the front to counter antisemitism, bigotry, and hate, as our generations before us.

To you and your family members, Happy Anniversary!



## Second Gentleman Speaks at NEC Meeting

By Bryn Garick, Managing Editor

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became the Vice President. Though he emphasized that he proudly stepped away from his career to support her.

He continued, "It was all hands on deck and I raised my hand. And it was three plus years of representing this country. The way you all [the Jewish War Veterans] have represented your country in your roles, I had and still have that honor of being able to go around the country and go around the world saying 'I represent the United States of America.' It's an honor of a lifetime."

Lischinsky asked Emhoff about the 'National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism' that he had alluded to before. The 'National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism' was released in May 2023

Emhoff described that the idea was born at the end of 2022 following a rise in antisemitism. He cited Charlottesville and the Tree of Life synagogue murders as examples.

"At the end of 2022, I knew I needed to do more. This was in the era of Kanye West was saying all these horrible things. I was in LA, and there was a billboard that said 'Kanye was right about the Jews.' I went back to the office and told my team we have to do something more. That something more lead to a convening of Jewish leaders at the White House, which then led to President Biden creating an interagency group to look at the issue and develop a plan," Emhoff explained.

He continued that it was really a group effort to

look at all forms of hate, but that the first deliverable was the 'National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.'

Emhoff paraphrased that the plan is based on four pillars: 1) education, 2) safety and security, 3) resources to counter growing online misinformation and 4) hate, and coalition building.

Emhoff further explained that since October 7, the group has done everything they can to uplift the plan including hosting continuous meetings and providing dedicated resources to communities.

Lischinsky noted that JWV was founded on similar principles including education to combat antisemitism, bigotry and hate. He continued on to ask Emhoff what keeps him up at night, which earned a laugh from the audience and Emhoff.

Emhoff replied, "Saving our democracy."

He continued that it's protecting the oath that the Vice President, service members, and all other United States representatives take to protect the Constitution and protect the country from enemies both foreign and domestic.

"That oath must be honored, each and every day. And sometimes, I know you all probably shake your heads at some of the things you're seeing out there right now. Disregard for our rule of law, disregard for our Constitution, disregard for that oath. We all need to fight back and stand up for that, and you know what, sometimes that keeps me up at night," Emhoff stated.

Lischinsky concluded by asking Emhoff if he had any additional thoughts on how his work combatting antisemitism and all forms of hate has

changed following the October 7 attacks.

Emhoff responded, "The only thing I'll add is the personal toll it has taken. Just like every other Jewish person and a lot of people who saw what happened on October 7. The shock, anger, rage. That coupled with the unfair blaming of Jewish people here in America, and just equating any action by Israel that they may not agree with and taking it out on all Jews."

He continued, "But we have to keep talking about it, we have to keep reminding people, this happened. My wife, the Vice President, has been great. There are days I don't want to do this, there's days I do not want to speak about this. Every time I need to, she pushes me out there and says, you have a responsibility to do this and speak up about not only antisemitism, but about hate of all forms because it's important."

Emhoff closed by mentioning his father who served in the National Guard. He stated, "It's something he was so proud of, and I loved when I was a kid, looking at pictures of him looking impossibly fit and young with his medals. It's something that I am so proud of as his son to be say that publicly."

He continued, "I came late to public service, I wish I could've done this earlier on, but I'm taking full advantage of this opportunity to do this public service. I love this country, I'm a patriot. So, to be able to serve and express my love for my country as the first Second Gentleman, and the first Jewish person in this role, it's just an honor."

## National Executive Director Ken Greenberg



The first three months of 2024 have been extremely busy for J WV especially in the advocacy arena with Congress, the Executive Branch, and the White House. This issue of the *Jewish Veteran* contains individual entries on events with the Second Gentlemen, Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, J WV's 128th Anniversary Celebrations on March 15 in New York City, and J WV's Congressional Testimony presented by NC Barry Lischinsky. While our efforts highlighted legislative and policy priorities, I want to focus on J WV's actions to combat antisemitism, hatred and bigotry and reemphasize that J WV will continue to stand against them wherever and whenever they occur.

As incidents of antisemitism, hatred and bigotry continue to rise, the J WV mission becomes even more important and must be kept at the forefront of our actions. I am going to borrow from National Commander Barry Lischinsky's testimony to the Joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on March 13, 2024. The special focus entry was the first subject discussed to underscore its importance and to be sure that our members, patrons, donors and all Americans understand J WV's core mission of countering antisemitism, bigotry and hatred. Below is the excerpt from the testimony.

### Special Focus on Hatred, Bigotry, and Antisemitism

As the only Jewish VSO, J WV opposes all forms of hatred, discrimination and bigotry but is especially outspoken on antisemitism. J WV officials participate in roundtables and express J WV's strong position against antisemitism by calling out University officials and Amazon officials on events and merchandise. J WV is also proud of our advocacy for William Shemin and Tibor Rubin to receive the Medal of Honor after they originally faced antisemitism and were denied nominations.

The world changed on the morning of October 7, 2023, when Hamas terrorists attacked Israel and its citizens by launching a heinous, unprovoked, and vicious surprise attack on Israel, killing over 1,200 innocent civilians, and wounding many more Israeli civilian men, women, and children. In my statement published after sundown October 7, 2023, "J WV condemns the assault against Israel and emphasizes that terrorist actions anywhere are never justified. J WV supports Israel, offers condolences to all who lost loved ones, offers prayers for the wounded and all who have been kidnapped by Hamas."

J WV stands with Israel, its military, and its citizens and calls on our members and all Americans to join us in condemning this terrorist attack. The remaining hostages must be immediately released and reconstituted with their families.

J WV urges Senators and U.S. Representatives to stand with Israel and in support of humanitarian and military funding. J WV is leading this effort

to demonstrate solidarity and unity from the larger veteran and military community in the United States. We are proud to have led the effort of securing the signatures of 26 veterans service organizations and military service organizations representing millions of current and former uniformed service members, veterans, and their families to stand against terrorism and with our brothers and sisters in the Israeli Defense Forces. The November 3, 2023, letter is included as part of our official written statement (Attachment A).

As instances of antisemitism continue to rise across the country, J WV asks all Americans to be vigilant, learn, and educate our fellow citizens. J WV is doing its part by coalition building with organizations like Foundation to Combat Antisemitism (#JWV) and Combating Antisemitism Movement across the Nation. We are partnering with StandWithUs to address antisemitism at colleges and universities.

J WV also supports the National Strategy for Countering Antisemitism and its four pillars: 1) Increasing awareness and understanding of antisemitism, including the threat to America, and broaden appreciation of Jewish American Heritage; 2) Improving safety and security for Jewish communities; 3) Reversing the normalization of antisemitism and counter antisemitic discrimination; and 4) Building cross-community solidarity and collective action to counter hate.

We commend House Veteran Affairs Committee Members Representatives Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Juan Ciscomani for their work in addressing hate and bigotry. In December 2023, the bipartisan Commission to Study Acts of Antisemitism in the United States Act was introduced to address the rise in antisemitic violence and attacks on our Jewish communities. J WV urges you to cosponsor this important bipartisan legislation.

Descriptions of J WV actions are highlighted in the two-page summary of our efforts and are included in our official written statement (Attachment B). J WV asks all Americans, including Senators and Representatives to be vigilant, learn, and educate our fellow citizens.

J WV asks House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) members to join with us in combating hatred, bigotry, and antisemitism targeted at veterans and military service members. J WV stands ready to be a resource for you and your staffs in helping to educate Americans. We feel that education is the key to reducing antisemitic actions and incidents in America and around the world. <End of Excerpt>

### Eligibility for Toxic Exposure Benefits Expands for Veterans Effective March 5, 2024

J WV applauds VA for expanding toxic exposure benefits to additional veterans on March 5 to include veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11 will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Additionally, Veterans who never deployed but

were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States will also be eligible to enroll. Millions of additional veterans will have access to VA health care. J WV urges all veterans to take advantage and enroll now based on this new eligibility.

### Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals Visits J WV and NMAJMH

In February, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals Jaime Areizaga-Soto and his VSO liaison Adi Thampi visited J WV. The Chairman discussed the status of veterans' appeals and met with NED Ken Greenberg and other members of the J WV team to discuss his background, and J WV's work on



From left: Chairman Areizaga-Soto, NED Greenberg, and NMAJMH Docent Goldberg.

combating antisemitism. Following the meeting, Chairman Areizaga-Soto and Thampi took a tour of NMAJMH escorted by NMAJMH Docent and J WV Member Sheldon Goldberg. J WV appreciates the Chairman's leadership at the board and the opportunity to show him J WV operations.

### Ghost Army Receives Congressional Gold Medal

NED Greenberg represented J WV at the Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony on March 21, 2024. Hosted by Speaker Mike Johnson, with remarks from Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, the Ghost Army story and mission from World War II was told. Their mission was kept secret for decades, but Congress' highest



Awards were presented to Seymour Nussenbaum, and Bernard Bluestein (Shown respectively).

civilian honor the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded at a ceremony in Washington, DC.

The Ghost Army included about 1,100 soldiers in the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, which carried out about 20 battlefield deceptions in France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Germany, and around 200 soldiers in the 3133rd Signal Company Special, which carried out two deceptions in Italy. Using inflatable tanks, trucks, and planes, combined with sound effects, radio trickery, costume uniforms and acting, the American military units helped outwit the enemy. Three of the seven known surviving members attended the ceremony at the U.S. Capitol: Bernard Bluestein, 100, Seymour Nussenbaum, 100, both Jewish and John Christman, 99. For more information see the Ghost Army Legacy Project at <https://ghostarmy.org/>.

I and HQ staff look forward to hearing from you on issues of concern. Chag Pesach samech!

# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

In February, the Membership Committee met at the NEC in Washington, DC.

We reviewed the current membership statistics for the past year and since our last convention. What they showed was that we are still losing members at a greater rate than we are recruiting. A significant number of these losses are from non-renewal of membership. Why did they not renew? There are many reasons, foremost is lack of engagement by the recruiting member and gaining post.

Once a new member is signed up, you don't have to wait for their membership card from National to arrive to have them start attending meetings or participate in Post community activities. Get new members involved, younger members have to juggle family and work time with community service time. There is an oft quoted line from a movie, "... build it and they will come..." Build relationships with your new members and they will return. This is where post leadership must step up to have meaningful activities to cover a

wide range of dates and times to make it easier for our younger members to participate.

We must remember that retention is a key part of membership. We need to communicate with our current members, so they realize the value of continued membership. We need to contact those who have let their membership lapse and find out why. It is up to the leadership of each Post to encourage their members to remain active, and to keep every member engaged in some manner.

With antisemitism at the highest levels since World War II, there are many reasons to participate in community functions. Speak at synagogue functions, sponsor Kiddushs, and don't forget Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day events.

People often ask, "What will JWV National do for me?" My response is, "This is what JWV National does for ALL veterans." We need to remember that first and foremost, we are an organization of Jewish veterans who advocate for ALL veterans. This is how we recruit and retain members by showing everyone in our communities

what we do and why it is important.

The committee is very excited to announce the winners of the National Commanders Membership Contest;

**1st Place** - William Davidson - Post 655 New York;

**2nd Place** - Gary Ginsburg - Post 41 New York;

**3rd Place** - Gary Gordon - Post 508 Massachusetts.

Many thanks to ALL of those who recruited new members. During this contest 85 new members were recruited!!

Reminder: Good Standing Forms are due soon.

For details on Good Standing Forms visit:  
[www.jwv.org/membership/for-members/post-management/](http://www.jwv.org/membership/for-members/post-management/)



**Kim Queen**  
Membership Chairman

## Constitution & Bylaws Committee

By National Judge Advocate, Peter Nickitas

The Jewish War Veterans Constitution & Bylaws Committee has met, under the administrations of National Commanders Jeff Sacks, Alan Paley, Nelson Mellitz, and Barry Lischinsky, to update the governing internal documents of the JWV. The Committee recommended significant changes to the Constitution and Bylaws in 2021, 2022, and 2023. Since the 2023 National Convention, the Committee has met every two to three weeks, to revise the Manual of Ceremonies, the third internal governing document of the JWV.

The Committee members have included PNC Harvey Weiner; NEC-TALO Scott Stevens; DC(WI) Kim Queen; DC(FL) Larry Jasper; DC(NJ) Charles Greenberg; DC(MD) Erwin Burtnick (obm); NEC(MD) Sheldon Goldberg; NEC(MD) Dan Berkovitz; PNC David Magidson; PNC Larry Shulman; NEC(IL) Bruce Chudacoff; National Officer of the Day Allan Cantor; and JWV-NJA Peter Nickitas. NED Ken Greenberg has provided leadership and recommendations from the vantage point of headquarters operations. JWV staff members Greg Byrne, Bryn Garick, and Brenna Van Stone have set up and attended these meetings as well.

Drawing upon the practical expertise of its members in operations and rituals, the Committee recommends, first to the National Advisory Council, National Executive Committee, and then to the National Convention, revisions to all three internal governing documents, to eliminate contradictory provisions, update phraseology, and clarify operations of JWV.

The Committee has completed one-half of the Manual of Ceremonies. The Committee has addressed line-by-line the rituals for conducting post meetings and the installation of new echelon officers. The Committee recommends delineation of the elected and appointed officers at each echelon installation, and a special charge for installation of the Echelon Commander.

The Committee will meet regularly up to

## Update from the JWV VSOs

By Raiana Berman, National Service Officer

The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs will allow any veteran exposed to toxins and other hazards in what's being called the largest ever expansion during military service to be eligible for VA healthcare without first having to apply for VA benefits. The expansion takes effect on March 5th, which the VA says is years earlier than originally called for in the PACT Act.

The bipartisan PACT Act is a historic bill that fundamentally reforms and improves how veterans exposed to toxic substances receive health care and benefits from the VA. When Congress passed the law, directing the expansion through a phased-in approach would have taken up to eight years to implement. President Joe Biden announced this accelerated PACT Act eligibility timeline last November, on Veterans Day. Eligibility includes individuals with exposures to toxins during deployment, active duty,

or training; that includes all veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11. Veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States will also be eligible to enroll.

"If you're a Veteran who may have been exposed to toxins or hazards while serving our country, at home or abroad, we want you to come to us for the health care you deserve," VA Secretary Denis McDonough said in a statement, adding that "once you're in, you have access for life." Under the PACT Act, more than 100,000 new veterans have enrolled in VA health care since the legislation was signed in August 2022. More than 500,000 veterans have enrolled in the department's health care since the PACT Act was signed into law, according to the VA.

## Constitution & Bylaws Committee (Cont.)

the Convention. The Committee will publish its recommended changes to the Manual of Ceremonies in *The Jewish Veteran* and weekly updates thirty days in advance of the Convention. While revision of the Manual of Ceremonies has taken the priority in the 2023-24 year, the Committee has accepted proposed Bylaws amendments, and remains open to proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Constitution, as the Constitution provides. Proposed Bylaws changes will include the requirement for Echelon Commanders, Echelon Vice Commanders, and Echelon Quartermasters to have email addresses and computer communications with Headquarters as a requirement for office. Another recommended change for all Echelons comes from PNC Alan Paley in the institution of Echelon bank account continuity and accountability, to keep Echelons' resources from disappearing in the cracks of banks who hold only signature cards for deceased Echelon Officers. Please see the Post 606 Bylaws as a template for any Echelon's Bylaws.

I commend all members of the Department of Maryland who have attended Committee meetings faithfully as a group. Erwin Burtnick, who passed November 25, served twenty seven years as Department Commander of Maryland; his legacy includes Maryland members who show up and carry their weight in the JWV. I have singular praise for TALO NEC member Scott Stevens for his intricate knowledge of the inner workings of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Manual of Ceremonies on a par with the most skillful author of Chilton's Auto Repair manuals. IL NEC member Bruce Chudacoff has kept the running minutes of the corrected Manual of Ceremonies as a work in progress. I see each and every member of the committee as one who willingly and cheerfully brings unique talents, be they wordsmithing, legal scholarship, or battlefield logic to the scene. This fits perfectly into our shared tradition of bearing a hand and a share of the burden in fulfillment of our common mission.

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Stewart Mednick

By Larry Jasper, National Editor

Meet the current Department of Minnesota Commander Stewart Mednick. When asked why he joined JWV, he says his friend, Peter Nickitas (current National Judge Advocate), invited him to join. Like so many others, until that time he had never heard of JWV.

Mednick is a Chicago native. He lost his father while a high school senior and that had a profound impact on his life. His plans for college took a back seat as he had to work to help his family. He finally started Junior College majoring in music and after 3 semesters transferred to the Chicago Conservatory of Music where he earned a full scholarship in music.

While at the Conservatory, he recorded his compositions and gained an appreciation for studio work. This led him to decide to shift his focus to Recording Engineering. He then transferred to Ball State University and realized that he needed additional courses, so his 4-year degree program became 7 years of study.

At the age of 23, Mednick was married with one child and decided to begin his military career in the Navy. He trained in electronics. He served



**Department of Minnesota  
Commander Stewart Mednick**

on subs specializing in inertial navigation, satellite navigation, and missile guidance systems. He served multiple deployments and was assigned to the Weapons Department Quality Assurance where he qualified as a Chief Inspector and was in charge of missile transfers to the subs from the tender armory. He was later stationed in Minnesota where he decided to stay after discharge.

Mednick's awards included Admiral's Letters of Commendation, Navy Achievement Medals, Minnesota Governor's Certificate of

Commendation, and sixty various qualifications that includes the Submarine Warfare Qualification pin known as "The Dolphins."

Post military Mednick worked at a refinery job for about 5 years during which time he finished his degree and then an MBA in Financial and Strategy.

In 2007, Mednick felt a call to help his fellow veterans and left finance to become a County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) in Hennepin County, Minnesota, home to over 70,000 veterans.

His work as a CVSO evolved into working with veterans with mental health issues and eventually started a court diversion program in Minnesota. He

was the only VSO to receive a Leadership Award for his work.

This experience led him to Hewlett Packard Enterprise Services, the largest government technology contractor in the United States. He participated in the pilot program for the Veterans Administration's Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record Program, then digitizing DD-214s, and biometrics for facial, fingerprint, and retinal scanning.

Mednick currently works as an independent technology consultant, specializing in Business Analysis, Program Management, Requirement Engineering, and on digital enhancement and application integration and testing.

Since joining JWV as a life member, he served as Post 354 Commander, Department of Minnesota Vice Commander, and now as Department Commander. His goal is to work for better community relations. Currently, he is working with other Veteran Organizations in Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs. He was instrumental in getting a few hundred sets of sweats for the Minnesota Veterans Home. He is currently planning a dinner for clergy and Jewish community leaders to introduce JWV to the greater Jewish community.

Mednick has been married to his wife, DuAnne, for 40 years and has three children and four grandchildren. His son served in the Army National Guard and deployed to Iraq for 16 months.

Quite an accomplished life!

## Deductibility of Contributions to JWV

By PNC Paul D. Warner, JWV National Audit Committee

There were comments made at the NEC meeting on February 22, 2024, about contributions to our Foundation and NMAJMH. These are charities under Sec 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRS). They are totally inappropriate to be used for organizing posts. Any contributions made to them are charitable contributions and 100% deductible. These contributions are not subject to the 90% war veterans requirements imposed by Section 170(C) of the IRS (see below).

There are a number of 501(C) sections under which veterans' organizations can be organized. The most common ones are 501(C)(4) and (C)(19). JWV and its posts are (C)(4)s which classifies them as social welfare organizations, not as veterans'

organizations. The (C)(19) was not available when JWV obtained its IRS tax exempt status.

The deductibility of contributions made to the JWV and its posts are governed by Section 170(C) (3) of the IRS, which requires that at least 90 percent of the members must be war veterans for the contributions to be deductible. Substantially all the other members must be veterans, cadets, or spouses, widows, or widowers of war veterans. Note that Patrons are not included. They are not members of the JWV. They are simply contributors.

"War veterans" are defined as persons who have served in the United States Armed Forces during the following periods of war:

1. April 21, 1898 through July 4, 1902.
2. April 6, 1917 through November 11, 1918.
3. December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946.
4. June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955.
5. February 28 1961, through May 7, 1975, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period.
6. August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975.
7. August 2, 1990 and ending on the date prescribed by Presidential Proclamation or by law.

If you want more information, the IRS TAX GUIDE For Veterans' Organizations, Publication 3386 is available from the IRS.

## NEW MEMBERS

**DEPARTMENT AT LARGE**  
Matthew Sharkey - Post 100

**DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND**  
Ari D. Schiff - Post 380  
Adina White - Post 380  
Zachary A. Flash - Post 690  
Samuel J. Goldman - Post 690  
Michael C. Groden - Post 690  
Jennifer H. Hepps - Post 690  
Ezra S. Klein, DO - Post 690  
Christina L. La Croix - Post 690  
Arielle Lee - Post 690  
Adam Saperstein - Post 690

**DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
Arthur M. Rose - Post 220  
Christopher Y. Burns - Post 508

**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN**  
Majorie E. Levine - Post 135

**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST**  
Zachary D. Huff - Post 210

**DEPARTMENT OF TALO**  
John M. Aronstein - Post 755  
Andrew R. Collins - Post 795

## MILITARY BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

The Military Basketball Association (MBA) Game is coming up on May 26, 2024. Commissioner Mike Meyers is of Jewish descent. He initially developed the Military Basketball Association in 2017 to give Military Athletes an outlet to enjoy themselves and relieve stress after growing veteran suicide rates.

The next issue of *The Jewish Veteran* will feature a more detailed look into MBA, their events, and work in education and awareness of veteran suicide, and what they've accomplished in their 8 year history.

Make sure to tune into CBS on May 26 to watch their Championship Game.



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## MARKETING COMMITTEE

By Chairman Steve Krant

The Marketing Committee briefed current project status and new initiatives to leadership and attendees at the annual National Executive Committee (NEC) gathering held late February in Washington, DC. Among the subjects covered:

**Portable Signage:** the initial order of Retractable Banners first shown at National Convention in August have been deployed across the country and are being used to increase awareness and visibility of the JWV brand. Posts & Departments can order one through JWV for \$240 each.

We introduced new Blade-style Banner suitable for outdoor events such as Poppy Drives, Chili & BBQ Cook-offs, and similar well-attended activities. They're double-sided, windproof, 7-1/2 ft tall when assembled, and come complete with a ground spike, refillable water ballast, and soft carrying case. JWV will buy and deploy the first 10. Additional units can be purchased for \$282 (shipping & handling included) – details and ordering information will be announced shortly.

Still in-the-works, the template for a multi-purpose rectangular cloth or vinyl banner with space for echelon information that can be produced locally.

**Advertising:** We're exploring opportunities to amplify our message through electronic and print media. It's on-hold until the website refresh goes "live" with a public-facing landing page that better informs and motivates visitors to become a part of JWV. To that end, Marketing is working closely with the IT Committee to ensure the revised site is user-friendly and mission ready.

**Branding, Publicity & Awareness:** Customizable Trifold brochure templates with "how-to" instructions are available for download in the Resource Center. Ditto, official JWV Letterhead and Business Card templates.

**Jewish American Heritage Month (May):** PDC Greg Lee (CA) is leading a project to create a series of short video clips, one for each day of the month, highlighting the contributions of Jewish Medal of Honor recipients and noteworthy members of JWV.

The Committee welcomes Brenna Van Stone to our marketing support team as JWV Programs, Outreach, and Events Coordinator.

We meet monthly via Zoom; fresh faces and ideas are welcome and encouraged. Please reach out to [marketingcmte@jwv.org](mailto:marketingcmte@jwv.org) if you're interested in participating or to 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 Lischinsky, National Vice Commander Gary Ginsburg, 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.

Post-9/11 members who wish to be featured in the JWV calendar for 2024, please reach out to Bryn Garick at [bgarick@jwv.org](mailto:bgarick@jwv.org).

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 Chair Jeffrey Blonder.

## VIETNAM VETERANS COMMITTEE

By Chairman Robert Jacobs

At the NEC in February, Vice Chairman Jerry Alperstein (NY) gave a report regarding progress on the proposed traveling "Jewish Americans in Military Service During Vietnam" exhibit. After much discussion, it was agreed that we needed more specifics on the contents & cost of the exhibit.

A zoom meeting to start the process occurred on March 4. We were joined by Mat Millen (CA) who expressed interest in participating in the exhibit's development. We will have specifics on the exhibit to report at our committee meeting at the National Convention in September in Atlantic City, NJ.

Also at the September meeting, we will discuss whether to change the day of the week for our Vietnam Night Out (Not for this year!) It has traditionally been on Wednesdays, but with the National Commander and National President banquets being combined into one event, we will have to coordinate with Convention Chairman PNC Alan Paley to see what will work out best. While on the subject, reservations for this year's Night Out are coming in and the seating will be limited to 60 seats. You should have received the reservation form by now, but if not, contact Jerry at (212)477-3131 or [alperstein300@gmail.com](mailto:alperstein300@gmail.com).

## WOMEN IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE

By Chairman Carol Miles Berman

On behalf of JWV's Women Committee (WC), we are hoping that you all had a great start to your 2024.

Over the past three months, there has been many great things JWV has done to promote the service of Jewish Women and showcase their past achievements and accomplishments. For instance, you all should have received the 2024 JWV Calendar that highlighted the military careers of our women veterans. This beautiful calendar contained decades of information and adorable pictures of our members - in and out

of uniform. As leaders who were there for the fight, these women demonstrated how crucial their military participation was in obtaining victory or supporting our service members.

At the February NEC, DC Rochel Hayman, (Department of the Southwest) provided a report outlining the development of the "Women in the Military" exhibit that will enshrine the history and dedication of these veterans. Spearheading this effort, Rochel is working with Pam Elbe to ensure that women are properly represented in the collection. These are just a few instances that have occurred over the last 90 days.

The following are a few of our present agenda items for the 2023-2024 WC:

- Increase Women Veteran and Patron membership in JWV by 3%. Currently, we have an estimated 519 Women members – this is across all the types of JWV membership. This represents approximately 6% of total active membership. Therefore, our committee's intent is to get this number to 9% across the board. We will be working with Melody Harrison (Membership) and Baruch Fogel (Information Technology) for information and guidance on the National level. Meanwhile, we will formulate partnerships with other committees, such as the newly formed exploratory committee for the possible formation of the Descendants of JWV to attract prospects for the women membership increase.
- Develop and train all leaders, including women, for various (and applicable) JWV leadership positions. There is a need to grow future leaders for all JWV positions. During the last five years, JWV has had two women ascend to Department Commander – Selina Kanowitz (NJ) and Rochel Hayman (Department of the Southwest). Overall, having competent leaders, regardless of gender, is crucial for our successes.
- Increase the voice of the Women's Committee in JWV. There will be more consistent information provided to the women members of JWV as well as increased presence. Over the next 12 months, the approximately 100 women veteran (Regular) members will be asked to participate in various projects and attend meetings. The visibility of women is important to our organization and reflects our current military population. It is time that we lead from the front, because we will no longer be just in the kitchen.

According to NC Lischinsky, the future of JWV is dependent on the actions of Women members. Therefore, the WC will assist the National Leadership in developing paths that will start at post level to help all members ascend to great levels and in the best interest of JWV. The past is our future at JWV.

**Again, Happy Women's History Month from your JWV Women's Committee.**



By Bryn Garick, Managing Editor

*Continued from page 1*

**The world is a mess. And so is our country.** There are two major wars raging, several minor wars in progress, and at least one major war on the horizon.

On top of that, our country is more heavily divided than in recent history. There are numerous ongoing protests supporting both Israel and Hamas. Politicians cannot agree on any basic need or aid package. We have two presidential candidates who take every opportunity to denigrate one another and their supporters. One is accused of being senile and the other is accused of many crimes. Both deny the claims.

On the presidential scene, are we ready for a rerun of 2020? Or is it time for two new, younger, candidates to run? Should there be a mandatory retirement age?

Airline pilots have a mandatory retirement age of 67. Congress, in 2022, introduced legislation to raise the age to 67 - it failed. In February 2024, the Senate Commerce Committee voted 14-13 to reject the retirement age hike after the FAA said it would prefer additional research be conducted before Congress raised the age. Current international rules would still prevent pilots older than 65 from flying in most countries outside the United States. The age cap is because of the concern over a pilot being able to manage the stress and safety of the passengers.

So, what about the stress of being President and the safety of the American people? Does it not seem logical that if a pilot must retire at 65 that we need a mandatory age for Presidents? We have a minimum age but not a maximum. Any logical person would agree that the President of the United States has a significantly more stressful job than a pilot.

We also have a border that all political parties now agree is a problem. They, however, blame one another for the condition. Meanwhile, crime perpetrated by undocumented immigrants continues to rise exponentially. An example is the fourteen young men here illegally from Venezuela who mercilessly beat two New York City Police Officers and all but one were released on their own recognizance – and they fled. A church group posted the \$15,000 bail for the one arrested and provided bus tickets for some others to travel back to Mexico. Does anyone think an undocumented immigrant would stick around for a trial after committing a serious crime?

One side says we need more legislation and the other says we already have a law to stop the illegal entry at the southern border. It is perceived that the President has the responsibility to protect the citizens of the country. This is not delineated in the Constitution, but derived from Article II, Section 2(1) which states that “The President shall be the Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States.” As such, some believe that with the existing laws pertaining to immigration, we do not need more laws only for the President to enforce existing laws.

Some members of Congress have stated that we need a law to compel the President to enforce the existing laws. To me, that is absurd – Article II, Section 1(8) prescribes that the President, before taking Office, shall “Solemnly swear (or affirm) that

I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

As such, the President has a responsibility to uphold the laws passed by Congress and no additional law is needed to compel such action.

There is also a lot of debate about the 14th Amendment. Section 3 states “No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military...” if they engaged in an insurrection or rebellion against the United States. To date, no one has been charged or convicted of either. Only one person has been accused.

The term elector pertains to anyone voting for President or Vice President. The amendment does not state that it applies to the President. This may be implied under the “hold any office” statement but it is interesting that the framers of this amendment did not name the positions of President or Vice President.

The 25th Amendment, ratified in 1967, has also been kicked around. There is an interesting sequence of events delineated in Section 4: when the Vice President (VP) and a majority of the principal officers of the executive departments submit to both houses of Congress that the President, in their opinion, is incapable of continuing his/her duties, the VP shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

However, the President may submit his/her own declaration to both houses that no inability exists, and the President may resume the powers and duties of the office.

It does not end there. The Vice President, with the same requirements as previously stated, has 4 days to certify why the President should be removed. Then both houses of Congress must, within 21 days, by a two-thirds majority, decide.

Not so simple. The framers of the Constitution and the amendments went to great length to ensure fairness and protection from ill intentions.

The leading politicians need to stop pitting the people against one another and realize that our nation works best when they amicably resolve their petty squabbles before they ruin our nation.

I for one would like to hear how each candidate will make the country and the world a safer place as opposed to how terrible the opposition is.

I urge all to take a moment to put aside political bias and look closely at the real issues and the motivations behind the actions, take a moment to see the bigger picture.

We must all make an intelligent decision as to who should lead this country.

Our future and safety are at stake.



Larry Jasper, National Editor

exceeding last year’s numbers by more than 3 million appointments.”

She explained an expansion in PACT Act benefits, “Starting in March—all toxic-exposed Vets will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care under PACT Act. That means any Vet who served in the Gulf War, in Iraq, Afghanistan or any other combat zone after 9/11 is eligible for VA health care. Millions of additional Veterans will get access to VA health care.”

Bradsher closed her remarks with two personal stories.

“I grew up down the street from Lieutenant General Sidney Weinstein, known today as the ‘Father of Modern Military Intelligence.’ I’ve been thinking a lot about General Weinstein as I prepared for tonight’s remarks. He played a key role in my decision to join the Army. His story of service inspired me in other ways, too. His daughter and my friend, Halee, has written about what it was like for her dad to endure discrimination, bigotry, and violence as a young Jewish man in environments where he often felt like an outsider. I’m sure many of you have felt the same. He made it his mission to create an Army, an America, and a world that were fair and just to all. For me, his example stands as a symbol of humanity at its best one person supporting another, making the future better for the generations that follow,” Bradsher explained.

Bradsher continued, “There was a woman, Rosalie Flasiński, whose parents immigrated from Poland. Rosalie had a daughter in 1950, and another in 1954. Sadly, she passed away shortly after giving birth in 1954. So, her two daughters, Linda and Susan, were both put into a Catholic orphanage in Boston. Linda grew up in Arlington, VA, and met this guy, and they had a kid named Tanya. In 2002, my mother gets a call, and she finds out that she’s the daughter of Rosalie Alice Flasiński. And so, I stand here before you as Deputy Secretary Tanya Bradsher, and her granddaughter.”

She concluded, “That is what I see as the long-standing legacy at J.W.V. That is what you have been about since the Hebrew Union Veterans Association first waged war on antisemitism defending the rights of all service members and Veterans. That is what we are about at VA, too. This work takes all of us working together. VA can’t—and doesn’t—keep the promise to Vets alone.”

### 2025 J.W.V. Calendar

The theme of J.W.V.’s 2025 calendar is Post-9/11 and Gulf War Veterans. Are you or someone you know a Post-9/11 or Gulf War Veteran? If so, we want you to be featured in next year’s calendar.

Please contact Public Relations, Outreach, & Graphic Design Coordinator Bryn Garick by May 1. If you have any questions, call (202) 448 - 5403 or email [bgarick@jwv.org](mailto:bgarick@jwv.org).

# Welcome to Atlantic City, New Jersey!

Information on this Page Provided By: Doreen Prinzo, [www.atlanticcitynj.com](http://www.atlanticcitynj.com)

September 8 - 13, 2024



Atlantic City is abundant with activity, like strolling or taking a bike ride on the Boardwalk, lounging on the beach, or swimming in the healing Atlantic Ocean, enjoy a visit to Atlantic City's award-winning spas, have a meal at one of our world class restaurants. Dining options from celebrity chef owned restaurants like Gordan Ramsay to independent restaurants like Mexico and famous chain restaurants like Dave & Busters. We have hip neighborhoods like the Orange Loop that provide unique dining, yoga studio, an Irish Pub, Anchor Rock Club, and many street festivals and marketplaces. If you enjoy monuments, we have them from the Civil Rights Garden to the Korean War Memorial, and more; Atlantic City is well known for live entertainment with popular entertainers playing at the Casinos and the Historic Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall, artists like Rod Stewart, Jasen Aldean, Pitbull, Stevie Nicks, Bocelli and many more. The fun never stops in Atlantic City.

## CASINOS

Atlantic City boasts 9 casinos, each with a different theme, where you will find gaming, premier restaurants, nightlife, spas, year-round pools, shopping, accommodations and world-class entertainment.

## BEACHES AND BOARDWALKS

Atlantic City Beach activities include surfing, kayaking, windsurfing, and fishing. Explore the many NJ beach activities here and plan for some summer fun at Atlantic City, New Jersey beaches today!

Construction on Atlantic City's world-famous Boardwalk began in 1870, and from then on it has become an America icon. Stroll along the Boardwalk and enjoy ocean views on one side and shopping on the other, ranging from high-end retail to saltwater taffy shops.

## LUCY THE ELEPHANT

Lucy the Elephant was built by real estate developer, James Lafferty, in 1881, as a gimmick to attract potential buyers to his land holdings along the coast of South Atlantic City (now Margate). Eventually, a popular hotel business was built around Lucy. Presidents and royalty came from around the world to stay at the neighboring Elephant Hotel and climb the stairs to Lucy's howdah. Lucy was designated a National Historic Landmark by the United States government as the oldest surviving example of a unique form of "zoomorphic" architecture, and the oldest "roadside" attraction in America. Today, she stands as the most popular non-gaming attraction in the greater Atlantic City region.

## Travel to Atlantic City

### Atlantic City International Airport (ACY)

- Atlantic City Airport has a very limited number of flights.
- Check out all of their flights here: <https://www.acairport.com/#BookTravel>

### Philadelphia International Airport (PHL)

- PHL is about an hour drive from the airport.
- PHL Airport Regional Rail and Atlantic City Rail Terminal connect via Amtrak and NJ transit, the transportation time is around 3 hours with costs ranging from \$18 - \$30.

### Shuttles to/from PHL

- Joe's Transportation Services  
(800) 931-JOES or (609) 457-8807  
[www.joeslimoac.com](http://www.joeslimoac.com)  
Call for costs. Arrangements must be made at least 72 hours in advance.
- Rapid Rover  
(856) 428-1500  
[www.rapidrover.com](http://www.rapidrover.com)  
\*Approximate price is \$120.00 per vehicle with a \$2.00 charge per person, one way.  
\*FINAL COSTS BASED ON NUMBER OF RIDERS IN VEHICLE.
- Tropiano Transportation  
(215) 352-3735  
[www.tropshuttle.com](http://www.tropshuttle.com)  
Approximate cost is \$55.00 per person, one-way to any Atlantic City hotel or casino hotel. Payment must be in form of cash. Try to schedule 48 hours in advance.

*All Philadelphia International Airport to Atlantic City arrangements must be made in advance of travel.*

### Amtrak to Atlantic City

- Amtrak has a number of trains that go to Atlantic City
- Philadelphia 30th St. Station connects to Atlantic City via the NJ Transit, allowing for easy train travel from via Amtrak to Atlantic City.

## GOLF

Atlantic City boasts more than 20 championship-caliber courses within a short 30-minute drive. Golfweek Magazine puts many Atlantic City courses in the Top 10 New Jersey golf experiences.

## SHOPPING

You don't want to miss the opportunity to shop in Atlantic City. Each casino has a shopping district with fun stores to explore, the Noyes Arts Garage sells local artisan products, and Tanger Outlets boasts almost 100 retail outlets such as Coach, Michael Kors, and Nike, restaurants like Applebees, Starbucks, WingCraft, Ruth's Chris, and Dave & Busters can be found.

JWV and JWVA members will be able to attend the convention online. To register for the online version of the 2024 convention,

**Resorts Casino Hotel**  
1133 Boardwalk  
Atlantic City, NJ  
08401

you must log onto our website, [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org) and fill out the online form.  
**This form will NOT be accepted as registration for the virtual convention.**

JWV Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 JWVA Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Aux. #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Arriving on: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Departing on: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Total nights: \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel registration deadline is Friday, August 16.**

**A one night (\$170 single or double) deposit is required for all hotel registrations.**

**There is a \$175 Convention surcharge for members not staying at the hotel.**

**Local members living within a 25 mile radius are exempt.**

**Hotel reservations can be canceled without penalty up to two days before.**

Registration for both JWV + JWVA	Cost	QTY	Amount
Rooms: Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> Double <i>ADA rooms are first come, first served</i> <input type="checkbox"/> ADA Compliant <input type="checkbox"/> Third Person in Room	\$170.00 per night		
<b>JWV Member Convention Registration Fee</b>	\$90.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel National Commander and President's Banquet • Thursday, Sept. 12 _____ Roast of Chicken _____ Salmon _____ Kasha Sugar-free Dessert	\$125.00 per member		
<b>National Ladies Auxiliary Registration Fee</b>	\$90.00 per member		
Partners Club (See new members 1525 renewal) • Monday, Sept. 9	\$50.00 \$25.00		
Double Chee Club Breakfast • Wednesday, Sept. 11 _____ This is my first Double Chee Breakfast I am happy with the Double Chee Part I have now I have _____ on my pin and will need one more (13 stories max)	\$16.00 per person		
Raffle Tickets: \$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00	JWVA JWV		
<b>Total \$</b>			
All events and raffle tickets must be pre-paid in full. <b>Amount paying now \$</b>			
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, scan or mail this completed form, along with your payment to:  
 Jewish War Veterans  
 1811 K Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20009

Self Parking Per Visit: \$10  
 Valet Parking Per Visit: \$20

**If you have any questions, please email Brenna Van Stone at [soon2024@jwv.org](mailto:soon2024@jwv.org) or call 202.295.6280 ext 413.**

**Vietnam Veterans Night Out**  
**Dock's Oyster House**  
**Wednesday, September 11**  
 6:30pm - 9:30pm

\$65 per person if check received by September 5.  
 \$75 per person if paid in cash at National Convention (if available).

NOTE: Attendance is limited to the first 60 reservations received.

Contact Jerry Alperstein at (212) 477-3131 or (646) 825-1694 for more information.

**Purchase an Ad in the Convention Journal**

- Show your support for JWV
- Show your support for the veteran community
- Give a shout out to a friend
- Thank someone for a job well done
- Acknowledge a milestone
- Send Congratulations to someone
- Advertise your post or department
- Advertise your business

**Ad Rates**  
 Full Page 7" w x 9" h \$350.00  
 Half Page 7" w x 4.25" h \$200.00  
 Quarter Page 3.5" w x 4.25" h \$100.00  
 Business Card Size 3.25" w x 2" h \$75.00

**Important Details:**  
 Black+White Ads only-except for inside front and back inside covers  
 Ads submitted without payment will not be included.  
 Contact Mikaela Naby-Hill for more information: [acon2024@jwv.org](mailto:acon2024@jwv.org) or ext: 410

**Voting Eligibility at the 2024 National Convention**

- To be in good standing and eligible to vote at the National Convention, all Posts must have done the following:
- Completed IRS Form 990-N (or 990 or 990 EX) and submitted a copy to National Headquarters.
- Submitted a completed Installation Form (Warrant) to National Headquarters.
- Submitted a completed Financial Report, which must then be approved by the Finance Board Chairman.
- Provided proof of Fidelity Bond and Post Liability Insurance to National Headquarters.

# JWV NATIONAL STAFF

## Meet JWV's National Staff

JWV National Staff works to support members, and patrons. They work with committees to implement their ideas, answer questions about the organization, plan the details of Convention and NEC, manage donations, assist with membership, complete mailings as well as so much more.

The JWV National office can be reached at 202.265.6280 or at [jwv@jwv.org](mailto:jwv@jwv.org). The information below shares details on each staff member's roles and responsibilities as well as other details about them.

**Ken Greenberg** is the National Executive Director of JWV since 2021. He manages JWV headquarters staff, including all administrative operations, leads JWV advocacy, and oversees the activities of the NMAJMH. Ken serves as JWV's chief advocate in representing JWV on Capitol Hill, at the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, and the White House, focusing on legislative and policy priorities for veterans, service members, their families, caregivers, and survivors. He advances JWV efforts in combating antisemitism by working with and developing partnerships with Jewish community organizations.

Within the Veterans Service Organization community, he provides leadership on veterans and military issues by serving as the Co-Chair of The Military Coalition (TMC) Veterans Committee and Retired Affairs Committee, as well as being the Co-Director of the National Military Veterans Alliance (NMVA).

Ken and his wife, Janet, live in the Washington, D.C. area.

He can be emailed at [NED@jwv.org](mailto:NED@jwv.org) and at ext. 406.



**Greg Byrne** is Director of Operations for both JWV and the museum.

He was born in northern New Jersey and graduated from Villanova University outside of Philadelphia. Following college, Greg moved to Washington, D.C., and now lives in Silver Spring, Maryland with his wife and two young daughters. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his kids, cooking, fishing, and following college football and basketball.

Greg joined the staff of JWV in 2005. As Director of Operations, he is responsible for overseeing all activities of the staff at National Headquarters and ensuring they have the resources needed to complete their work. Greg works closely with NED Ken Greenberg to execute the directives of JWV and museum leadership and keep them apprised of the daily work of the staff. He also provides direct oversight to our headquarters building's maintenance, Accounting, Development, the editing of *The Jewish Veteran*, the Convention,

the NEC meetings, insurance policies, contracts, and Veteran Service issues. Greg can be contacted with any questions or comments about the performance of the National Headquarters Staff. He is also the point of contact for questions regarding planned giving to JWV or the museum. He can be emailed at [gbyrne@jwv.org](mailto:gbyrne@jwv.org) or at ext. 408.

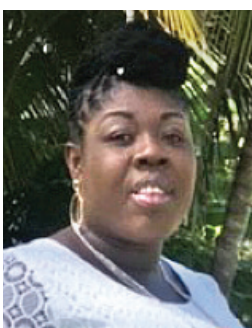


**Iryna Apple** is our Communications Director. She was born in Kyiv, Ukraine and has a Master's Degree in hydrogeology from National Taras Shevchenko University. She worked as a hydrogeologist for the Ukrainian government, assessing underground water reserves. She moved to the United States in 2002 and became a U.S. citizen in 2007. Apple started working for JWV in 2005. In her free time, she enjoys going for long walks, visiting new places, and cherishing moments with her grandson.

As Communications Director, she maintains, updates, and coordinates changes for JWV's website and the JWV Foundation website. Additionally, Apple is responsible for maintaining our marketing software for email campaigns. Furthermore, she supervises all mailroom operations. You can reach her at [iapple@jwv.org](mailto:iapple@jwv.org).

**Raiana Berman** is our National Veteran Service Officer. After completing her Bachelors in Sociology from Coastal Carolina University in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, she moved back to her home state of New Jersey to finish a degree in Criminal Justice. Then in 2019, she moved to Washington, DC to work in our headquarters. When Raiana is not working, she enjoys traveling, eating Chinese food, and hanging out with her grandpa (who is a longtime JWV member and past museum president PNC Michael Berman).

As a Veterans Service Officer, Berman assists veterans and their families with filling out claim forms, filing for service-connected disability benefits, assisting with military burials, and much more. Her email is [rberman@jwv.org](mailto:rberman@jwv.org).



**Andria Clarke** is JWV's Membership & Accounting Assistant. She is the proud mother of two beautiful girls, Adia and Alana. She loves spending time with family and friends - they mean everything to her.

She is a devoted Christian and loves studying the word of G-d. Clarke also enjoys cooking and taking walks with her girls.

She started her career at JWV in 1999 as a Data Entry Clerk in the Membership Department. Her current job includes sorting and depositing all in-house checks and credit cards and distributing background copies to each department head. She also enters all new members into the database, and updates and processes all in-house renewals. She makes adjustments and does all inquiries for checks and credit card payments for the membership department. You can contact her at [aclarke@jwv.org](mailto:aclarke@jwv.org).

**Vincent Edwards** is the Assistant Communications Coordinator. He joined the staff in 2016. He handles mail receipts and distribution. He also handles banking deposits, printing, building maintenance, electrical issues, lighting, set up for special events, garden maintenance, repairs, painting, back-up security, and snow removal. His email is [vedwards@jwv.org](mailto:vedwards@jwv.org).

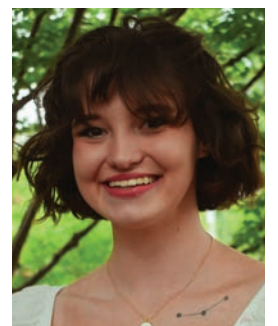


**Baruch Fogel** started in 2023 as JWV's National IT Coordinator. He oversees the development of the new system.

Born in South Africa, Baruch went on to serve his country in the Middle East before moving to Canada to pursue other activities. Working as both a business owner and as a consultant, Baruch specializes in projects with challenges and works to bring them back in line with expectations.

He first got involved with JWV when he moved to New Orleans though he ultimately settled in Frisco, TX. He has continued his work with JWV as the Chaplain for his local Post 256. He continues to serve in this role along with his role at JWV National. He can be reached at [bfogel@jwv.org](mailto:bfogel@jwv.org).

**Bryn Garick** is the Public Relations, Outreach and Graphic Design Coordinator for JWV starting in 2023. She received her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Media Studies and Production with a concentration in Communication Scholarship from Temple University. Following her education, she moved to Washington, DC to work for JWV. When she is not working, Bryn enjoys watching sitcoms,



# JWV NATIONAL STAFF

listening to music, hanging out with her goldfish, and playing board games with her family.

She oversees *The Jewish Veteran*, Monday newsletter, public relations, press outreach, crafting statements for media and marketing. She is also the primary in-house graphics design staff. Bryn supports the Constitution and Bylaws Committee as well as the Marketing Committee and is responsible for the Resource Center. She can be reached at bgarick@jwv.org and at ext. 401.

**Melody Harrison** has served as JWV's Membership Director since January 2023. She is the main point of contact at National Headquarters for membership questions and can assist you with paying your dues or updating your contact information. Melody works directly with the Membership Chairman on recruitment and retention strategies, and to produce the annual membership renewal notices. She also provides staff support at Membership Committee meetings at National Convention, NEC, and throughout the year.



Melody helps commanders and quartermasters with managing their echelons, including providing assistance with 990s and IRS questions, distributing quarterly rosters and dues rebate payments, and processing installation forms. She works with the National Finance Board and National Credentials Committee to ensure posts submit their required annual documents to remain in good standing. She can be contacted at mharrison@jwv.org and at ext. 414.



**Mikaela Nabity-Hill** is JWV's Staff Assistant and newest hire. She has a Bachelor's in kinesiology and Spanish from Iowa State University and recently completed her Master's degree in international relations from Harvard University.

She is an Army veteran spouse and enjoys spending her free time with her husband and son.

She handles administrative tasks including accounts payable, travel arrangements, coordinating vendor requests, supporting the Gulf War Committee, and answering questions from members and the public regarding JWV and its operations. She can be reached at mnabityhill@jwv.org and at ext. 410.

**Brenna Van Stone** is JWV's Programs, Outreach and Events Coordinator since 2024. She will be working on events like the NEC and Convention, supporting the Marketing Committee



and Constitution and Bylaws Committee, reaching out to and planning with Jewish organizations, and handling questions from members and the public regarding JWV and its programs.

Brenna was born and raised in Fresno, California. She graduated from the University of the Pacific with a Bachelor's degree in Communication, the University of South Dakota with a Master's Degree in Human Resources, and Amberton University with a Master's Degree in Family Studies. Additionally, she obtained a certificate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace from the University of South Florida and is a Certified Air Force Master Resilience Trainer. In her roles as a community volunteer, Brenna has been a board member for numerous philanthropic organizations including Rebuilding Together Warner Robins, Junior League, and base spouses clubs. She currently lives in DC with her Active Duty husband and four children.

She can be reached at bvanstone@jwv.org or ext. 413.

## Who to Call at JWV National?

Questions about JWV Donations, *The Jewish Veteran*, Calendars, Press/Media Inquiries, Monday Newsletters, or the Resource Center?

**Call Bryn at ext. 401**

Questions about Membership, Good Standing Documents, Contact Information, Alpha Rosters, and Renewals?

**Call Melody at ext. 414**

Questions about Convention, NEC, ROTC, Jewish Warrior Weekend, or other JWV events?

**Call Brenna at ext. 413**

Questions about Claim Forms, Assistance with Military Benefits, or Filing for Service-Connected Disability Benefits?

**Call Rai at ext. 405**

Questions about the JWV website or JWV Foundation Website?

**Call Iryna at ext. 103**

Questions about Donating to the Museum, or Historic Related Research?

**Call Pam at ext. 201**

Questions about Touring the Museum, Museum Donations, Museum Membership?

**Call Mike at ext. 104**

**All staff, including Ken and Greg, are available to answer any questions by email or phone.**

## The National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) Staff



**Michael Rugel** is the museum's Director of Programs and Content. Mike manages all of the museum public programs regularly featuring historians, authors and veterans in programs at the museum or online webinars. He creates

contents for the website, social media, and other online platforms. This includes designing and maintaining the museum website. He manages all aspects of visitor services including coordinating all tours. He creates educational materials for students and adult learners. He coordinates all of the museum's development and membership programs including the Memorial Garden, Our Heroes Photos, Yahrzeit program, Honorial Wall, certificates, and general donations. He manages the museum's Lieutenant Joseph I. Goldstein's Ship's Store including sales and all inventory both in-person and online.

Rugel frequently writes about Jews in the American military and has produced a series of videos featuring Jews in the military. He regularly speaks about the history of Jews in the American Military at museum programs as well as to local schools, synagogues, community centers, and other groups. He's been featured as an expert in documentary films including *GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II* which aired on PBS and *Stabbed in the Back*.

He lives with his wife and twelve-year-old daughter in Dunn Loring, Virginia.

**Pamela Elbe** is the Collections, Archives and Exhibitions Coordinator. She is originally from Wisconsin and has a BA in History from the University of Wisconsin and an MA in Museum Studies from George



Washington University. She lives in Baltimore County with her husband Matt and dog Ralphie.

She has worked at the museum since 2002. She is responsible for anything that has to do with the museum's collections, including artifacts, photographs, and archival materials, as well as the exhibits. She handles potential donations and new acquisitions, cataloging and housing the collections, incoming and outgoing loans, conducting research, and helping staff, scholars, and the public with their inquiries. She also maintains the archives for both JWV and the museum. Contact her at pelbe@jwv.org if you have something you are interested in donating to the Museum or if you have historic research related question.

# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

Murray Solomon Post 243 hosted a picnic at Markham Park in Broward County, Florida. The picnic was planned and presented by Post Quartermaster Dan Fischer and Jennifer Brande.



PNC David Magidson and granddaughter of late post member Ike Heller (obm).



Pictured: Veterans from Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, and their families.



In January, Department of Michigan Sr. Vice Commander Emeritus Art Fishman celebrated the long-suffering Detroit Lions finally making the playoffs by posing at The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial in Royal Oak, Michigan with a statue clad in a Detroit Lions T-shirt.



From left: Department of Michigan Commander Mark Weiss, Rep. Debbie Dingell, Kate Melcher, Executive Director Fisher House Michigan, and JWV-Department of Michigan Sr. Vice Commander Emeritus Art Fishman.

Fisher House Foundation and the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit celebrated a construction milestone of the new Fisher House during a “Topping Off Ceremony.” The ceremony, hosted by Medical Center Director Chris W. Cauley and President of Fisher House Foundation David A. Coker, marked a pivotal moment of the building process as the final beam was placed over the entrance of the new Fisher House that is currently under construction.

Fisher House Foundation is best known for its network of 96 comfort homes where military and Veteran families can stay at no cost while a loved one receives medical treatment.



From left: Department of Michigan Sr. Vice Commander Emeritus, Art Fishman and Commander Mark Weiss sign the final beam of the new Fisher House.



NC Lischinsky swears in TALO Department Commander Steve Krant.



JWV members, JWVA members, and families enjoy food during the TALO Conventon held in Austin, TX from January 19 - 21, 2024.

# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

On January 27, 2024, four members of **Post 41 JWV Rochester NY** attended the legislative breakfast with nine local, state, and federal officials.

JWV was present along with representatives of 16 veteran service organizations.

The conversation focused on NY state veteran concerns to include property school tax breaks for veterans, local resources for veterans, and an update from Congressman Joe Morelle (NY - 25).



From left: Monroe County NY commander of the American Legion John Compitello, NY State Senator Jeremy Conney, and NVC Gary Ginsburg.



From left: Post 41 members Lou Babin, Mort Stein, and PNC Larry Schulman.

At **Post 118 Santa Monica, CA** Darrell Blocker, former CIA Operative, spoke to JWV members about his 28-year career with CIA where he rose to Deputy Director of the Counter-Terrorism Center. Blocker spoke on the Israel-Hamas War, 9/11, and his journey of faith to Judaism.



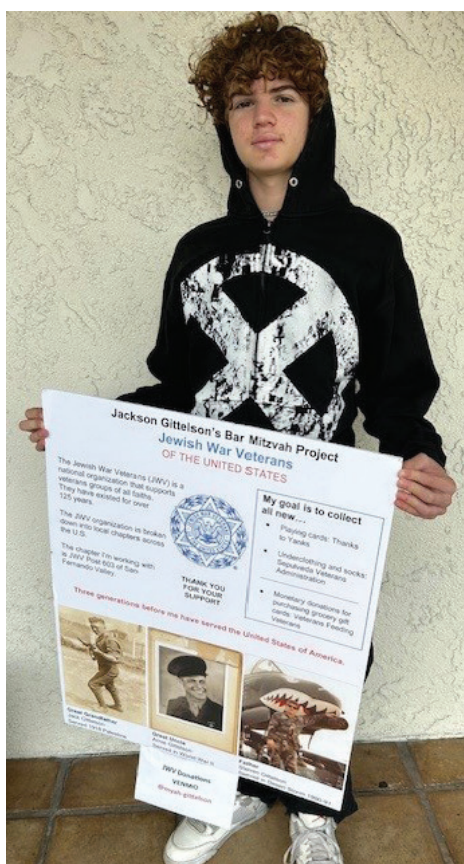
From left: Post 118 Adjutant Murray Kalis, Former CIA Operative Darrell Blocker, and Post Commander Mathew Millen.



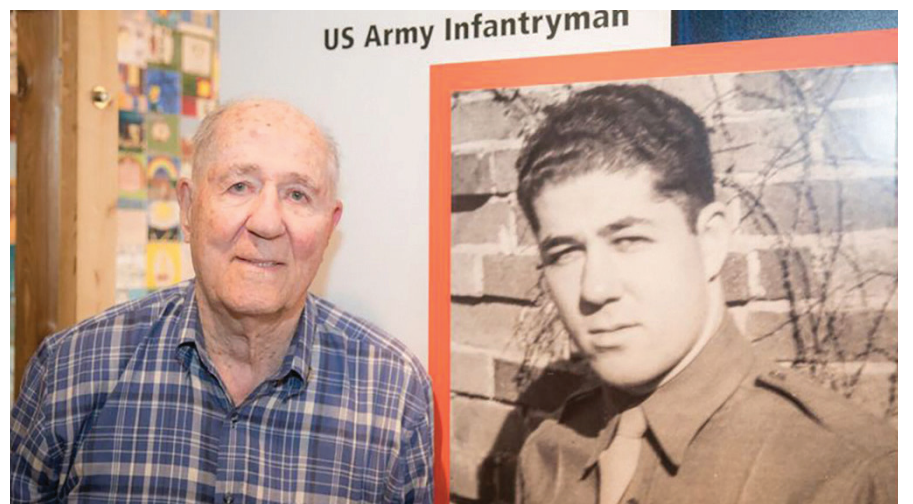
From left: Rabbi Vernon, Ed Freeberg, and Post Commander Gary Glick.

**Post 652** Member Ed Freeberg and Commander Gary Glick presents Rabbi Vernon, President of the Long Island Board of Rabbis, with a plaque at his Installation. The plaque contained the names of Jewish Rabbis killed in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The original plaque is in Arlington. The plaque will be passed on to each new LIBOR president when he or she is installed and will be an ongoing Legacy from JWV.

Bar Mitzvah boy Jackson Gittelsohn of Temple Adat Ari El in North Hollywood, CA. Jackson did his Bar Mitzvah project to support the **Jewish War Veterans Post 603** and veterans of all ethnicities. Temple members donated new playing card decks which went to Building 99 Hospitalized Vets at Sepulveda, VA in San Fernando Valley, California. He donated new socks and grocery cards went to veterans in the Post's Veterans Feeding Veterans program. Jackson's family legacy of military service dates from his great grandfather serving in the Russian army to his father serving for the US military in Iraq. Thank you and Mazel Tov Jackson.



Jackson Gittelsohn with his Bar Mitzvah Project board.



World War II Combat Veteran and Liberator Hilbert (Hibby) Margol celebrated his 100th Birthday with the **Atlanta Jewish War Veterans** at their February 18 Meeting at Berman Commons in Dunwoody. Hibby turned 100 on February 22 and spent that day with his family.

By Ken Greenberg, National Executive Director

This page serves as the third addition in a series focusing on JWV's work combating antisemitism. JWV opposes all forms of discrimination and bigotry, but is especially outspoken on antisemitism. JWV will continue to be a strong voice to combat antisemitism wherever and whenever it occurs.

As instances of antisemitism increase, especially following the terrorist attacks of October 7, JWV monitors, reports, and responds on instances of antisemitism. Some of these instances, and JWV updates regarding them, is provided in the information below.

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

## NC and NED Meet with VA Secretary McDonough Regarding General Counsel Employee January 29, 2024

National Commander Barry Lischinsky and National Executive Director Ken Greenberg met with VA Secretary McDonough to discuss the incident regarding a VA General Counsel employee's antisemitic remarks and antisemitism. Secretary McDonough confirmed the employee's duties do not involve matters of eligibility for VA benefits and that the employee's work products would be reviewed to ensure there was no bias. Additionally, in the coming weeks, VA will launch a new antisemitism training for its employees.

## NC and NED Meet with HVAC Chairman Bost and SVAC Staff January 29, 2024

NC Lischinsky and NED Greenberg also met with HVAC Chairman Mike Bost to discuss antisemitism and the incident. Chairman Bost expressed concern about VA's response and stated the Committee will continue to hold VA accountable. The Chairman acknowledged there is no place for hatred, bigotry, and antisemitism at any government entity and reaffirmed to continue to work with JWV to combat antisemitism.

A similar meeting was held with Ranking Member Moran's SVAC staff to exchange information on the incident and discuss antisemitism. Staff Director Shearman, Deputy Director Gonzalez, and General Counsel VanderPlas noted that Senators Moran and Manchin sent a letter to the Secretary expressing concern on VA's decision. They agreed to continue to work with JWV on combating antisemitism.

## JWV Participates in An Evening of Solidarity at the Israeli Embassy February 6, 2024

NED Greenberg attended *An Evening of Solidarity* hosted by Ambassador Michael Herzog at the Israeli Embassy. The event marked four months since the October 7 attacks. Other participants included Speaker of the Knesset, Amir Ohana, as well as members of Knesset from both sides, members of Congress, and representatives of the families of the hostages. Greenberg thanked Representative Dan Goldman (NY) for his discussion on Emergency Aid for Israel and support for veterans. JWV was honored to be included in the event and continues to advocate for the safe return of all hostages and a secure Israel.

## NC Lischinsky and PNC Blum Attend ADL's Conference "Never is Now" March 6 - 7, 2024

NC Barry Lischinsky and PNC Jerry Blum participated in ADL Conference's "Never is Now." According to ADL, this conference is the world's largest summit on antisemitism and hate with more than 3000 guests and more than 100 experts. It featured programming on moderating social media, local implementations of 'National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism' and combating antisemitism in the workplace.

## Hamas Weaponized Sexual Assault to Deliver a Message to its Enemies The following article was initially published in The Hill on March 8, 2024.

By Paul Becker & Joel Poznansky,

The world was shocked on Oct. 7 not just by the scale of the Hamas attack on Israel but by its brutality and the sexual atrocities committed against women. Secretary of State Antony Blinken described the sexual violence as "beyond anything that I've seen."

His comment, and others like it, lead to three critical questions: Were the terrorist actions, including the sexual atrocities, indeed unprecedented? If so, were they planned? And, if premeditated, what was the motivation for these new Hamas tactics?

Initial Israeli investigations of the Oct. 7 attack have focused on establishing details of the atrocities, gathering more than 1,500 testimonies from witnesses and medics. The investigation may take some time, given the few survivors and the need for forensic evidence, since so many of the rape victims were killed and many victims' bodies were burned.

What is clear is that Hamas crossed the Israeli border for what was designed to be a speedy, horrific, one-day incursion. The attack reportedly was planned in detail and rehearsed for two years, including the deployment of standard Hamas tactics of hostage-taking, the killing of civilians and the destruction of property. The narrative promulgated by supporters of Hamas and some others is that the sexual atrocities, the burning of bodies and the social media distribution of real-time video images of the enthusiastic perpetration of this butchery were the spontaneous actions of individual terrorists carried away in the disorienting mayhem and inspired by their hatred of Israel.

But was that the case? A second stage of the Israeli inquiry has just begun and is being further developed. Unpleasant as it seems, it is important to differentiate between the "standard" terrorist actions of Hamas and these additional heinous actions. We propose that the tactics involving extreme sexual violence and barbarous acts meted out against Israeli women, children and babies were new and deliberate.

While atrocities such as rape are among the well-known horrific aspects war, they are not a standard aspect of the first wave of an intense day-long battle. Hamas terrorists may have been surprised by the freedom of action they experienced, and it is possible that some of the terrorists were untrained, undisciplined, and exhilarated by the killing, and thus became carried away by hatred. But it is much more likely that these terrorists, intensively trained and rehearsed, had been purposefully instructed to perform outrageous acts of sexual violence and to publish them on social media.

It absolutely does matter whether the sexual atrocities and social media dissemination committed by Hamas were unprecedented in this military context and planned rather than

spontaneous. Terrorism by its very nature is a political language; when it changes, we need to understand the message.

A question then follows: What did Hamas commanders believe they might achieve strategically with that increased, outrageous and broadly transmitted level of sexual violence and brutality meted out against Israeli civilians?

There are several possible explanations.

Hamas leaders may have believed that these outrages, if publicized graphically, would cause debilitating fear and traumatize all Israelis. Hamas leaders may have believed that the Israeli public had grown accustomed to rockets, civilian death and hostage-taking and that this new level of horror would persuade a significant segment of the Israeli population to feel defeated and, in some cases, to leave their country.

We believe it is more likely that Hamas leaders gambled that without the outrage caused by their brutality, they would not succeed in luring Israel into what they believed would be an unwinnable urban war in Gaza, similar to the one that occurred in Lebanon in 2006. A variation on this is the possibility that Hamas believed these excessively violent tactics might even be necessary to achieve a sufficiently aggressive Israeli reaction, so that the world's attention would continue to be on Gaza and the humanitarian crisis that followed as Israel retaliated. There is precedent for this type of anticipation of overreaction, most recently from al-Qaida actions masterminded by Osama bin Laden, in which the overreaction ultimately drowned out the horrors that incited it.

Finally, an important possibility is that, with these additional violations, Hamas planners were simply telegraphing explicit articles of their 1988 Hamas Covenant and Hamas Principles and Policies of May 2017, which express no interest in any negotiated settlement or two-state solution, but only in total victory over Israel or death. The atrocities committed by Hamas terrorists have effectively prevented any way back for either side to a peace negotiation. This certainly is a message that would serve Hamas's Iranian backers and the mission of Hamas's political manifesto.

For Hamas's own troops and active members, such a tactic serves Sun Tzu's maxim: "Throw your forces into positions whence there is no escape, and they will prefer death to flight." For Hamas terrorists and leaders who actively planned or participated in the Oct. 7 attack — as with Germany's Einsatzgruppen troops during World War II — their actions have placed them in a legal position where there can be no way back for them individually, no negotiated peace and no surrender.

In time, and with the various investigations currently underway, it should be possible to determine for certain whether the new Hamas tactics were intentional. It will take longer to fully confirm the purpose behind them, although it is likely that, even now, Hamas leaders are claiming credit for the evil innovation and incorporating this into their terrorist playbook.

For us in the West to misinterpret the extreme sexual violence, butchery and real-time social media sharing committed by Hamas terrorists as abhorrent but merely unplanned and mindless war crimes committed by individual terrorists, rather than as new tactics adopted by Hamas leaders with an underlying rationale, is to underestimate and misunderstand the enemy. To paraphrase Sun Tzu again, that would be a losing strategy.

*Rear Adm. Paul Becker, USN (Ret) is a former director for intelligence of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Joel Poznansky served as a captain in the British Army. He is currently Chairman of CBIS, a Washington publisher. Both are active with the Jewish War Veterans of America.*



# Post 580 recognizes Louisiana Medal Recipients

By Carol Berman, Post 580

On Sunday, December 24, 2023, the Ben Katz Post 580 hosted a Louisiana Honor Medal Ceremony at Congregation Shir Chadash in Metairie, Louisiana Post 580. Post Commander Lt. Col. Carol Miles Berman (USA, Reserve) presented recipients with the medal on behalf of Louisiana. Post Quartermaster Joel Picker assumed the role of Acting Commander for this special meeting and ceremony. Acting Chaplain Rabbi Scott Hoffman gave a speech titled the "Jewish Warrior's Sacrifice." Penina Berman sang the National Anthem, and Hatikvah. Karen Sher, the daughter of World War II Veteran Hal Baumgarten and member of Congregation Shir Chadash, led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Joke of the Day was provided by Dr. Sol Heiman.



**Elliot Bain and Carol Miles Berman**

There were approximately 15 veterans who were awarded the medal, including two given to families that received medals on behalf of deceased WWII Veterans. Each medal came with a letter from Governor of Louisiana John Bel Edwards thanking the veterans and their families for their courage and sacrifice for our state and nation. The names of honorees were submitted by Ben Katz Post 580 to the State of Louisiana for approval and receipt of the medal.

"The Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal is an award created by former Governor Bobby Jindal that is only given to Louisiana Veterans who served the country during peacetime or wartime. In order to be eligible, the veteran must have been honorably discharged or killed in action," said Post Commander Carol Berman.

Elliot Bain was among the veterans honored. An Ensign with a specialization in Auditing, his first assignment in New York led to him being

instrumental for two major societal changes. The requirements for seatbelts in automobiles was due to one his audits – which started as an Army contract in the Spring of 1956. Another was when Dr. Georgios Papanicolaou was awarded a contract to conduct his famous Pap smears in New York. In Spring 1957, Bain was the auditor that approved the expenses for pap smears at two New York Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals.

Another veteran honored was Umika Cohen, a retired Army Sergeant First Class, who is currently a VA employee at the Southeastern Louisiana Veterans Healthcare System, where she continues to serve beside veterans. Another is John Shallet, who served on Active Duty during the Vietnam Era, but continues his service to country and community as a social worker and mentors future social workers. And there is Hugo Kahn – who fled Germany with his family after Kristallnacht when he was seven years old, he is now a husband, father, and G-dfather to hundreds of Jewish children through his support and work at the Jewish Community Day School in Metairie, Louisiana.

Dr. Sol Heiman was the oldest recipient of the day. He was President Eisenhower's pilot's optometrist during his service. Dr. Sol will be 95 years old this year. Born and raised in New Orleans, he joined Air Force in 1951 as an enlisted man. His first assignment was in the Pentagon's

Reading Improvement Lab in Washington DC. Dr. Sol taught officers with third grade-level reading comprehension during the five-week intervention – he helped them pass tests and increase reading comprehension significantly. He later received a Direct Commission and became an Air Force optometrist.

Dr. Sol witnessed and experienced antisemitism during his career. He testified as the treating optometrist on the behalf of a Jewish American airman during the airman's bad conduct trial. Dr. Sol produced documentation to show how the Airman had an eye condition interfering with his duties – the charges were dismissed. However, the Post General decided to reinstate the charges and the person was dismissed from the military regardless. Dr. Sol was also given menial jobs due to antisemitism. When in 100-degree Texas weather, his senior sergeant gave him a wheelbarrow and told him to pick up rocks. Nothing was done with the rocks, of course.

If you or a loved one served in the US Military and is/was a resident of Louisiana,

please contact Post Commander Carol Berman at [commandernolap580jwv@gmail.com](mailto:commandernolap580jwv@gmail.com) or Post Adjutant Judy Newman at [jnewman85@cox.net](mailto:jnewman85@cox.net) for more information. Please allow Ben Katz Post 580 to give honor to you and your family, as it is deserved.



**Umika Cohen and Carol Miles Berman**



**Dr. Sol Heiman and Carol Miles Berman**

# JWV Post 105 Presents 59th Annual Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award

By Richard Goldenberg, Post 105

Members of the JWV across the Capital District joined with Albany Post 105 to remember the World War II service and sacrifice of the Four Chaplains and present the annual Brotherhood Award to Justine Crowley-Duncan of Latham, NY, on February 25, 2024 at the First Reformed Church of Schenectady.

The annual event honors four Army chaplains who gave their lives in the sinking of a troopship. The Brotherhood Award honors those whose service and devotion in the practice of brotherhood are deserving of community recognition.

"We honor people who have given selfless service that is commensurate with the legacy of the Four Chaplains," said Albany Post 105 Commander Fred Altman.

Albany Post 105 have held the ceremony to remember the Four Chaplains and recognize those who live up to their legacy since 1966.

"The ceremony and program was outstanding and I extend my thanks to all JWV personnel involved," said NVC Gary Ginsburg.

The Four Chaplains were Reverend George

Fox, a Methodist minister from Lewiston, PA, Rabbi Alexander Goode from Brooklyn, NY, Dutch Reformed Reverend Clark Poling, from Schenectady, NY, and Father John Washington, a Roman Catholic priest from Newark, NJ.

The ship was torpedoed shortly before 1 a.m. on February 3, 1943. The chaplains provided comfort and direction to soldiers as the ship rapidly sank. They gave their own life jackets to others and calmly prayed as the ship slipped under the North Atlantic waters.

"In their legacy, we chose this year's honoree for her selfless service to others that these Four Chaplains exhibited 81 years ago this month," Altman said.

Nearly 100 attendees filled the Poling Chapel at the First Reformed Church. The diverse group included Gold Star Mothers, local veterans organizations, representatives of the First Reformed Church, the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York, members of the New York State Assembly and Senate, and the region's congressional representative, Congressman Paul Tonko.



**From left: Former U.S. Representative Michael McNulty, Post 105 Commander Fred Altman, JWV Capital District Council Commander Richard Goldenberg, U.S. Representative Paul Tonko, NY Representative Pat Fahy, Justine Crowley-Duncan, Jeff Jamison, Bruce Hidley, NY State Senator Jim Tedisco & NY State Senator Jake Ashby.**

"Lieutenant (Chaplain) Clark Poling ministered to this very congregation within the walls of that historic old sanctuary up until his final and fateful deployment aboard the troopship *Dorchester*,"

*Continued on page 22*

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

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT SHIRLEY ZAK

I recently returned from a very interesting and productive NEC which was held in Washington DC from February 20 – 23, 2024. I thank PNP's Elaine Bernstein and Petra C. Kaatz for organizing a fantastic NEC. During a joint session with JWV, the keynote speaker was the Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff. He answered many questions from those submitted by the audience facilitated by National Commander Barry Lischinsky. The questions were mostly regarding antisemitism; what the administration is doing about it, and what we as individuals can do. Following the question session, he made it a point to greet as many audience members as possible. I had the honor of taking a picture with him. That evening, at another joint session with JWV, the audience met VA's Deputy Secretary Tanya Bradsher. She gave a most interesting speech about what efforts the VA is making to enhance the delivery of benefits to our veterans and ease the backlog of claim applications. She answered questions submitted by the audience and asked by Ken Greenberg, Executive Director of the Jewish War Veterans. She too had a meet and greet with the audience where she took pictures and answered questions from the attendees. Both individuals were straight forward with their comments and thoughts.

From Saturday, February 10 - 12, 2024, I made my official visit to the Department of Florida. Before I go any further, I live in upstate New York where it is COLD, visiting Florida was a welcome change for me!

I saw many sisters I have not seen for a long while and greeted new sisters who I just met. In addition, I went to the Department of Florida meeting where the agenda included the Draping of the Charter for Jan Berg. My compliments to the sisters and especially PDP Verna Rosenzweig who ran this part of the program. After the meeting, I visited PNP Charlotte Steinberg, it was a pleasure speaking to my longtime friend. The next day, I was escorted by several sisters from the Department to the Jacobson Kosher Food Pantry. The staff

was great and courteous.

This establishment looks like a supermarket rather than a Food Pantry and one does not have to be Jewish to use the Pantry's products. I thank the sisters of the Department of Florida for a GREAT time. I specifically want to thank PDP Verna Rosenzweig and Department President Ilene Yashpeh for being wonderful hosts during my visit.

I wish you all a Happy Purim and Suisen Pesach.

Loyally yours,  
NP Shirley Zak



From Left: PNP Ellen Robbins, DP Ilene Yashpeh, PDP Verna Rosenzweig, Bonnie Serle, NP Shirley Zak, PNP Joanne Blum and Julie Weisberg - Food Pantry Representative.

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

By Sandra Cantor, Editor

Sisters, I feel very fortunate to have attended the recent NEC in Washington DC. In light of the situations concerning the Israel-Hamas war, hostages still captive, and antisemitism in the U.S. and around the world, two programs stood out. The two speakers I am referring to were informative and very moving. First, NC Barry Lischinsky led an interview and discussion session with Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff which focused on Mr. Emhoff's relationship with Judaism, his response to what is happening here and around the world, acting as an advisor and emissary concerning

antisemitism, and of course being a supportive partner to his wife, Vice President Kamala Harris. He was very gracious and accessible, talking and taking pictures. Second, we heard from Deputy Secretary of the VA Tanya Bradsher. She reported on how the VA continues to serve Veterans, increasing benefits etc. The most moving segment of her address to the audience, at least for me, was her very personal and emotional connection to Judaism. Genealogy sites were instrumental in her finding out that her grandmother was a Jewish child, rescued from the Nazi's during WWII. Thank you to National Executive Director Ken Greenberg and the National Staff for acquiring these speakers and for putting on an exceptional NEC conference!



## ACTION AND JEWISH AFFAIRS

By Debbie Mellitz

In America and around the world antisemitism is a big problem. In light of current events and the Israel/Hamas war, whether in the community, on a college campus, at work, school, and especially on social media we need to be vigilant and address the problem head on! Thankfully, JWVA and JWV are not helpless in the face of antisemitism and there are actions our members can take.

1. If it sounds like antisemitism - call it out! Many people are ignorant about antisemitism, it exists everywhere. Particularly within political circles, if you engage in a discussion constructively, you may change their mind.

2. Report incidents of antisemitism to the correct agencies such as school/college administration, law enforcement, the ADL, Stand With Us, and your local Jewish Federation.

3. Educate yourself on current contemporary manifestations of antisemitism.

4. Remember we are not alone. There are good people in faith and ethnic communities that despise all forms of bigotry. We need to stand with all our citizens when any group is threatened if we expect them to stand with us.

5. Support Israel and its people, even if you disagree with some of its government policies. Israel is the only Jewish country, so visit, meet the varied population of Jews, Muslims, Christians, and Druze. Learn about Israel's politics, hardships & challenges as well as their advancements & achievements.

## VAVS/CDCE

By PNP Petra Kaatz

Sisters,

I am delighted to be able to report that the veterans' facilities have opened to volunteers that work to service our veterans. With the continuing presence of Covid, Flu, and RSV, most facilities have modified restrictions for volunteers to access the facilities. Most in-person meetings and visits are permitted. Most hospital facilities have eliminated "masking" requirements except certain units. The State Veterans' Homes are now consulting with medical personnel as to how they will proceed. Please check with your local Federal veterans' hospital, Community Living Center and/or State Home for Veterans to determine any restrictions.

REMEMBER, you can still sponsor a Bingo Game, Ice Cream Party, Pizza Party, or other event, even if you are unable to attend the event. CDCE and Recreation staff are more than willing to work with you for the benefit of our hospitalized and long-term care veterans.

**National President and  
National Commander's  
Banquet**

*honoring*

**Shirley Zak &  
Barry Lischinsky**

**Thursday, September 12**

Everyone is welcome to join us  
for a delicious meal and delightful  
celebration!

**\$70 per person**



**Rita Panitz Memorial  
Teddy Bear Program**

Bears here, Bears there,  
big bears, small bears!

**Bears bring big smiles and happy faces!**

The children of our country are our most important asset and we need to provide for them. We live in a world that is constantly changing and it is sometimes difficult for them to cope. Each day children may be subjected to violent or emotional situations through no fault of their own. The Rita Panitz Teddy Bear Program was established to help children deal with these unfortunate events.

Our donations of Teddy Bears or Stuffed Animals during our National Convention to the local Fire Department, Police Department, Children's Hospital, and Ronald McDonald House has made a difference in these communities. Providing a new friend for a child to hug can put a smile on their face and is a true mitzvah.

Each item that is donated to the first responders and other organizations has a tag attached to it recognizing JWVA as a donor. We need the support of all our members to continue putting smiles on children's faces.

If you would like to make a donation for the Bear Program, please send a check payable to: PNP Elaine Bernstein, 9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville, NJ 08872.

♥ **Let's make this the BEST  
Bear Convention ever!** ♥

**DOUBLE CHAI CLUB**

**Join Us For Breakfast!**

Wednesday September 11 at 8am

The Double Chai Club has a special meaning for all of us. We rededicate ourselves annually to our purpose -- service to the veteran and his/her family.

Become a member of  
our "Double Chai Club."

**This breakfast is open to everyone.  
We look forward to seeing you there!  
\$36 per person**

**Join Us in Atlantic City • September 8 - September 13, 2024  
96th Annual Convention**



When most of us think of Atlantic City, our thoughts immediately go to gambling at one of the many casinos or enjoying a concert, probably at the Convention Center. Next, our thoughts may head off to the amazing Boardwalk where almost any kind of entertainment is available. And don't forget the delicious saltwater Taffy in all its variety of flavors.

However, Atlantic City is so much more. It has a rich history even before the Casino Years beginning in 1977. The original inhabitants of Absecon Island, on which Atlantic City rests, were the Lenni-Lenape Native

Americans. They would travel over the Old Indian Trail to spend the summer months which were cooler on the island. Over the years, hunters and farmers joined the Native Americans on the island. The first licensed business was a tavern owned by the widow Millicent Leeds called Aunt Millie's Boarding House, located at Baltic and Massachusetts Avenues. The Leeds family, along with a civil engineer from Philadelphia worked to improve the island and so the Camden-Atlantic City Railroad was established and on July 5, 1854 when the first train arrived, opening the island to tourism. In the late 1800's Atlantic City became the "place to go and be seen" at the many vaudeville and Hollywood shows. After WWII, Atlantic City lost most of its sparkle. The Casino Gambling Referendum in 1976 once again made Atlantic City a world-renowned tourist attraction.

Today, there are many restaurants offering a variety of menus and prices that allow for everyone's taste buds. For those interested in marine life, dolphin watching tours and lighthouse tours are available.

**Partners Club**

**Please join us at the Convention for  
a wine and cheese get-together.**

The purpose of this program is to help our administration function. The funds collected help keep our Washington office operating. Remember, anyone can be a partner member. If you know people who would like to support our cause, please ask them to join.

The cost to join is \$50.00, and \$25.00 to renew every year after the first year. I hope all the members who originally joined will renew and continue to help our National Ladies Auxiliary.



**Rhea Sahl  
Memorial Baby Shower  
For Pregnant Military Women  
Monday, September 9**

We're holding a baby shower for pregnant military women during our National Convention in Atlantic City on Monday, September 14. It is one way that we can say "Thank You" to these women for serving our country.

We would like to fill baskets for each pregnant mom-to-be with items needed for a newborn, such as: diapers, bath towels, wash cloths, bibs, onesies, bottles, baby lotion, pacifiers, burp cloths, crib sheets, receiving blankets, night clothes, etc. Each basket averages at least \$125.00 and we plan on presenting 12. If you would like to purchase these items yourself, you may do so.

If you would like to make a donation for the baby shower to purchase any items for the Rhea Sahl Memorial Baby Shower Program, send a check payable to: PNP Elaine Bernstein, 9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville NJ 08872.

Please send your items for the Baby Shower and/or the Teddy Bear Program to Elaine Bernstein by August 18, 2024

**Address packages to:**

Elaine Bernstein  
c/o Michael Berman  
7 Rosewood Dr  
Lakewood, NJ 08701

**Let's do it again!**

Our Pound Auction is always a popular event at the convention. Everyone has such a great time and so we are going to do it again.



Please bring a pound of anything, and put it in a brown lunch bag. If you don't have a brown bag, we'll have extras.

Start looking now!  
Examples are candy,  
erasers, popcorn, etc.  
Use your imagination. As  
long as it weighs a pound.

You won't know what you are bidding on.  
Follow the clues of the auctioneer.

See Joanne Blum at the convention or  
call her at 860-869-2982, and give her  
your item for the auction.

Admission is \$2.00

*It will be an evening of fun and laughter!*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Thursday, February 22, 2024, we held a meeting of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in conjunction with the meeting of the JWV National Executive Committee.

Our meeting was well attended with many members of the Museum present either in-person or online. I thank all who attended.

I am excited to announce that our exhibit "Jewish Women in the Military" will be opening at our NEC meeting in 2025. It has a long and arduous journey that appears to be reached. I need to thank Carol Berman who initiated the project, Rochel Hayman who has put her heart and soul into it and our staffer, Pam Elbe, who will be doing the day-to-day operational duties to bring the exhibit to fruition. The project would still be a pipedream but for all the enthusiasm of these outstanding individuals.

We continue to work on our Memorial Garden and ask the departments to purchase pavers in the Garden in memory of their departed Past Department Commanders and Presidents. This is a terrific means to remember their contributions to their departments while demonstrating an allegiance to the Museum. These pavers are a permanent reminder of the men and women who

served the Jewish War Veterans and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans in tangible and visual ways. These pavers will forever be front and center as visitors enter our museum building.



Museum President  
Elaine Bernstein

If you have not recently visited our website, I ask you to check it out. We have had some fascinating guest speakers discussing their latest books. Our next topic will be about Admiral Hyman Rickover, father of the nuclear submarine. I am certain you will find this presentation both educational and interesting.

Hope to see you all at our next Museum meeting.

Elaine Bernstein, PNP, President

## Updates By Michael Rugel • Director of Programs and Content

Our final program of 2023 was our annual Hanukkah celebration. It was the first time since 2019 that we were in the building to remember the victory of the Maccabees and acknowledge Jewish military tradition. We welcomed the U.S. Army Klezmer Ensemble as musical entertainment at the event. The musicians are all members of the US Army Band. Their performance was a highlight of the night. Special thanks to M/Sgt Martin Gold for leading and coordinating the band's appearance. It was also a pleasure to have our friend Rabbi Arnold Resnicoff, retired Navy chaplain, recite the Hanukkah blessings and share stories of observing Hanukkah in the military. This party is one of our most popular events and a great opportunity to connect with the local Jewish community.



U.S. Army Klezmer Ensemble performed at the annual Hanukkah celebration.

On February 8, we welcomed historian Robin Judd for a webinar. She spoke about her new book "Between Two Worlds: Jewish War Brides after the Holocaust." She discussed marriage between Jewish women Holocaust survivor and American, Canadian and British military personnel as a way to move forward after unspeakable loss. The book has many connections to subject matter in the museum, and people connected to the museum like Mort and Helene Horvitz. Mort Horvitz was the guest curator for two of our most important exhibits "GIs Remember: Liberating the Concentration Camps" and "Rescue and Renewal: GIs and Displaced Persons." It's great to see the story of his marriage featured in the book. Another key figure in the book is Flory Jagoda who

gained fame as a singer of Sephardic music. It was an honor to meet her when she visited the museum in 2016 and spoke lovingly of her American soldier husband, Harry Jagoda. The video recording is available at [www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg](http://www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg).

It was also an honor to have Judd's presentation as an opportunity to remember Hannah Deutch.

Hannah was a war bride herself. Born in Dusseldorf, she escaped Germany in 1939 via Kindertransport to England. She served in the British Army as a nurse, and married a Canadian soldier. Hannah shared her story with students and adults around the world. In addition, to being an important Holocaust educator, Hannah was a

great friend to the museum and a key fundraiser. She will be greatly missed. May her memory be a blessing.

Since International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we've been hosting an art exhibit from our friends at Sephardic Heritage – DC. Coming Out of Hiding includes images by Anton Witsel, a non-Jewish Dutch artist who depicted Jewish life in Amsterdam during and after WWII. It will be available to view Thursdays through May 9.

We continue to bring some good groups through the museum for tours. In the past few months, this has included groups from the Bender JCC, Brandeis National Committee, Jewish Social Service Agency, and student groups from United Hebrew Congregation of St. Louis, and Or Chadash of Kensington, MD.

Featured Items From:  
Lieutenant Joseph I.  
Goldstein Ship's Store  
<https://nmajmh.org/shop/>



**Poppy Mezuzah Case**  
Acrylic floral mezuzah case from the Israel Museum featuring poppy flowers. For 7 cm scroll.



**Heart/Star Necklace**  
Sterling Silver gold-plated heart/star Necklace



**Star of David Necklace**  
Sterling Silver with Gold-Filled rim Star of David Necklace



**Ahava Bookend**  
Bookend inspired by the Israel Museum's Ahava sculpture

**Translucent Color Pirouette Dreidel**



Translucent colors. Handcrafted using an epoxy resin cast and gold-plated accessories. Each item is individually handmade with unique characteristics and color. Size 4 x 4 x 7 cm.

## Beyond the Home Front: Honoring the Forgotten Jewish Servicewomen of World War II

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

In honor of National Women's History Month, the NMAJMH recognizes the Jewish women who volunteered for service and made the ultimate sacrifice. During WWII, more than 500 US military women lost their lives while serving their country, and at least eleven Jewish women were among this number. In celebration of WHM, here are the stories of six lesser-known Jewish women who lost their lives in the service of their country in World War II.

### Rachel "Rose" Brohinsky

Rachel "Rose" Brohinsky was born in 1914, just a year after her parents emigrated from Russia. She grew up in New York with her parents and four sisters. This Yiddish-speaking immigrant family became more Americanized as some of the girls took English versions of their names. Rachel became Rose, while her sister Lena became



**PFC Rose Brohinsky died when her plane disappeared over the Gulf of Guinea off the coast of Africa.**

Lee, and Bertha became Betty. When World War II began, Rose was working as a fashion model. Following the death of her father in June of 1944, Rose decided to leave her modeling career to join the Women's Army Corp (WAC). Private First Class Rose Brohinsky served in the 1202nd Army Air Force Base Unit as a radio technician. In November of 1944, Rose was one of 159 WACs in Accra, British West Africa (now Ghana) to serve with the Air Transport Command. Their job was to deliver troops and supplies as well as transfer aircraft. On May 30, 1945, a C-47 Skytrain transport aircraft with three crew members, carrying Rose and seventeen other WACs to a new duty station, took off from Accra enroute to Roberts Field, Liberia. Radio contact was made over the first checkpoint at Takoradi on the Gold Coast. Approximately an hour and a half later, personnel at Roberts Field received a radio distress signal from the aircraft. The distress signal was loud and clear, lasting five minutes. The C-47 never reached Roberts Field and was not heard from or seen again. A search was conducted by aircraft and surface craft over a wide area of the French Ivory Coast, but no crash site and no remains were ever found. PFC Brohinsky is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the ABMC North Africa American Cemetery in Tunis, Tunisia.

### Beatrice Hutorins Memler

Beatrice Hutorins' early life was likely very similar to Rose Brohinsky's. Both were born to Russian immigrant parents who arrived in the US shortly before the start of the First World War. Both grew up in a family of girls. Beatrice was born in Philadelphia but was raised in New York, where she trained as a nurse. On August 8, 1941, Beatrice married Julius Memler. Both served in the US military during the war, with Beatrice serving with the 804th Medical Air Evacuation Squadron of the Army Air Forces as a Second Lieutenant.

On March 12, 1945, a C-46D Commando took off on an air evacuation flight from Elmore Field, Mindoro, Philippines. Its four crew members were scheduled to transport 28 injured passengers and two medical attendants to Tanauan Field, Leyte Island, Philippines. Flying conditions were poor and weather conditions in the weeks leading up to the mission had grounded or delayed several other intended flights. Midway through this flight, the crew radioed to report they were turning back to Mindoro. The aircraft failed to return to its home base and made no further radio contact. Search and rescue teams did not locate the aircraft or any of the 34 people who were on board. 2LT Memler's remains were never recovered; she is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

### Mary Landau

Mary Landau was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1906 as Marjem Landau. The Landau family came to the US in 1920 and settled in New York where her father worked as a dry goods merchant. Marjem adopted the more American name Mary and became a US citizen in 1940. She enlisted in the Women's Army Corps on March 1, 1944. At 37, she was older than many of the other WACs but there was always a need for skilled stenographers and typists like her. She was sent to the Pacific, where she died in a plane crash in the last months of the war.

The Gremlin Special, a Douglas C-47 Skytrain, crashed May 13, 1945, during a sightseeing flight over the Baliem Valley (also known as Shangri-La) in New Guinea after it crashed into the side of a mountain. The flight carried 24 Army personnel, with five passengers initially surviving the wreck before two succumbed to injuries the following day. Because of the remoteness of the crash site, there was great difficulty reaching the survivors. The rescue team could not remove the bodies as the crash involved a WAC lost in a "strange and primitive land, peopled by... natives who carry spears," the press reported widely on the story.

So, they were buried at the crash site. In 1958, Dutch authorities found the wreckage and burial plot. The US Army was able to disinter the bodies and bury them in a common grave at the Jefferson



**Beatrice Memler (foreground) with Etta Moskowitz (center) and another nurse at the Air Evacuation School in Lexington, KY in 1944.**

Barracks National Cemetery in Missouri. In 1959, the Landau family spoke of how the second burial reopened the wounds the family suffered in 1945 when the Army notified them of the death of Mary.

### Lisa "Betty" Zucker

Lisa Zucker was born in New Jersey around 1912, one of at least eight children. By the start of the war, Lisa had moved across the country and settled in Los Angeles, where she worked at the Slenderella Shop and was known as Betty. She volunteered to join the Women's Army Auxiliary

Corps (WAAC, the predecessor of the WACs) in 1942. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation on July 1, 1943, changing the name of the WAACs to the Women's Army Corps (WAC) and making it part of the Army of the United States and conferring all the rank, privileges, and benefits of their male counterparts to the WACs. Zucker was with the first detachment of WACs to go overseas. In the fall of 1943, she landed in North Africa and later transferred to Italy, where she was attached to the 15th Air Force. She was killed on April 20, 1945, during the Battle of Bologna, when a German bomb struck the 15th Air Forces Headquarters near Bologna, Italy. In honor of Zucker's sacrifice, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA formed Post 355 in Los Angeles, the first West Coast "all-girls" post, and named it in tribute to her in 1945.



**MAJ F. H. Cratheron awards a Good Conduct medal to PFC Lisa Zucker.**

**Elizabeth Korensky**

Elizabeth Korensky was born on January 20, 1923, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Victor and Sarah Korensky. She worked in a war plant before enlisting in the US Navy Women's Reserve, known as Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) on March 5, 1943. After completing her training, she was stationed at Norfolk Naval Air Station in Virginia. On September 17, 1943, just before 11 AM an explosion caused by a trailer carrying depth charges killed

## Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award (cont.)

By Richard Goldenberg, Post 105

Continued from page 17

Altman said.

"We are truly honored we are to be in this beautiful chapel that is named for one of the Four Chaplains," Altman continued. "His spirit, and through him, the spirit of his three comrades, is in these walls. Can you just feel it? We can."

"We chose Justine because her character and her more than 30 years of dedicated advocacy for our veterans, meets the profile of the Four Chaplains admirably," Altman said.

She served as Veteran Service Chair with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A. for more than 13 years, supporting her lodge, her district, and the state. She organized a statewide

Elks raffle fundraiser for the Fort Drum United Services Organizations, raising close to \$14,000.

"As she expressed to me, it was one step at a time. One rung of the ladder at a time," he said.

It began with a simple offer to be a pen pal to a service member deployed the Persian Gulf War in 1990, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Altman explained.

"It is a little thing, but it means a lot, that's how Justine got started," he said.

Crowley-Duncan emphasized her spirituality as a bedrock of her commitment to helping others.

"Every morning I read scripture, this morning the passage that I read started with 'I am leading you, step by step, through your life, hold my hand in trusting dependence, letting Me guide you through this day.' This was a step-by-step journey."

"Spirituality can and should bring us all together, so today is very special," said New York State Senator Pat Fahy in presenting a citation to Crowley-Duncan. "Justine, at such a difficult time in our world, I think it is truly wonderful you have

been chosen to receive this award."

New York State Senator Jake Ashby, a former Army Reserve captain thanked Crowley-Duncan for her support.

"If you were in remote areas, you wouldn't come into contact with chaplains very much. When I came back, it was not easy, and Justine was there," Ashby said. "She was there for many veterans and their families. And continues to do that work. Continues to inspire me."



Executive Director of the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation Bill Kaemmer presents a challenge coin to Justine Crowley-Duncan.

Crowley-Duncan has been the Secretary of the Not-For-Profit Capital Region Veterans Memorial Legacy Project. She raised funds for the project to create a museum, veterans café, resource center, and monuments listing our Capital Region military personnel killed in combat. The Legacy

Project will be built on six acres in Glenville, NY.

"Justine, I know you've done some wonderful and miraculous thing for our veterans. You go above and beyond that, you go across the state of New York and we thank you for that," said New York State Senator Jim Tedisco.

Crowley-Duncan said she was humbled and emotional to learn of her selection for the award, having volunteered alongside prior awardees.

"I had 30 years of memories that just came rushing back. I never thought I'd be standing here today for this award. For years, it was all about thanking the people that paved the way for us. This was my way to say thank you."

Crowley-Duncan ended with a piece of advice for others.

"When I joined in the Elks, my kids were small and I said I'm gonna start small. And I said I'm going to give what I can give," she said. "When people come to join the Elks, I tell them, 'Start slow because then it will be a journey that will be forever.'"

## Honoring the Forgotten Jewish Servicewomen of World War II

Continued from page 21

S2c Elizabeth Korensky. The explosion killed 24 people and injured 250. A witness saw a convoy of trailers moving ammunition toward a hangar. A broken bracket meant to support the bombs in transit broke, leading the bomb to drag on the pavement. As the trailer moved along, it began sparking which led to a fire. The fire set off the depth charges before reaching a cargo truck of aviation fuel. The explosive force of the 24 bombs gouged a crater five feet deep and twenty feet long through the thick concrete pavement, according to a Fifth Naval District report.

### Esther Richards

Esther Richards was 46 years old when she died at Anzio in Italy, having lived a life of service. Esther was born in Nebraska in 1897 and later moved to the San Francisco Bay area. She attended the University of California Berkeley and studied nursing. She enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps on August 5, 1918, in the last months of the First World War. She was discharged in September of 1919. She returned to San Francisco where she worked for the Welfare Department as a social worker.

During World War II, Esther tried to volunteer to be a nurse with the Red Cross but was a year over the age limit. They were, however, eager to have her as a social worker. Esther applied to the Civil Service Commission for War Leave but was denied. The CSC deemed that she would not be using any "special skills" and therefore was not entitled to leave. She resigned from her position and joined the Red Cross. She went overseas, survived the sinking of a hospital ship and the bombing of a hospital, and was instrumental in saving the lives of five other women. She became the first American Red Cross female worker killed in action when she was killed December 7, 1944, at the Anzio beachhead. She was in the receiving tent of an evacuation hospital when a German plane dropped anti-personnel bombs in the hospital area, killing two nurses, six patients, and fourteen members of the hospital personnel.

## TAPS

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Wolfert Pores - Post 385  
Steven Ross - Post 385

### DEPARTMENT OF D.C.

Fred C. Gross - Post 58

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Neil Crystall - Post 631  
Karl Rettig - Post 819  
Ivan Saiff - Post 819  
Neil Sisselman - Post 819

### DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

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Gerald Lake - Post 567  
Marshall L. Sneiderman - Post 692

### DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Sydney Gold - Post 220

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# Hello Spring!

**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!**

**In Loving Memory of My Wife Sheila**  
*PDC Allan Abramson 697*

**US Army Howard A. Berger & USMC Dorothy G. Berger**  
*US Forces Austria ('44 - '55) - 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**  
*PA PDC Larry Holman*

**Good Health to All!**  
*Petra C. Kaatz*

**In Memory of Marty Kessler**  
*Leon Kutcher*

**Health and Happiness to All**  
*PDC Steve and PNP Arlene Lodgen*

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

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

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

**In 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**

**In Memory of WWII Veterans**  
*Philip, Benjamin, and Abraham Gelfand*

**In Loving Memory My Wife, Virginia**  
*Queens County PCC, CDR 648 Ron Peters*

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