



# Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America

*Chartered By an Act of Congress*

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 2026

**TO:** Echelon Commanders  
National Executive Committee members  
National appointees

**FROM:** Jerry Alperstein [NY], Awards Committee Chair  
Allan Cantor [TALO], Awards Committee Vice Chair

**SUBJECT:** 2026 National Awards Guidelines

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The instructions and categories for the 2026 National Awards are enclosed. All submissions for awards must reach the Awards Committee Chair Jerry Alperstein and Vice Chair Allan Cantor **by 4 p.m. Eastern Time on Sunday, July 26, 2026**, four weeks before the start of the Jewish War Veterans National Convention. All judging of submissions will be completed before the National Convention.

**Please read the instructions carefully. Awards submissions will not be accepted unless all instructions are followed. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.**

## **2026 Award Submission Instructions**

For the 2026 JWV National Awards, please send all award submissions **electronically** to **Jerry Alperstein** at [alperstein300@gmail.com](mailto:alperstein300@gmail.com) and **Allan Cantor** at [acantor0299@gmail.com](mailto:acantor0299@gmail.com).

- 1. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.**
2. In the subject line of the email, indicate the number and title of the award being sought and the name of the echelon or individual the submission is for,
3. In the body of the email, include only the Submission Form [See next page.] completely filled out [except for the Online Engagement Award].
4. **The rest of the submission must be attachments to the bottom of the email in one PDF form** [except for the Online Engagement Award]. Adobe PDF is preferred. Adobe Acrobat Reader can be downloaded at no cost.
5. All submissions must be attached in one email. If your file is too large for one email, contact Committee Chair Jerry Alperstein for assistance.
6. The deadline for all submissions is Sunday, July 26, 2026, at 4 p.m. Eastern Time.
7. **All awards are only for the 2025-2026 member year except for Award No. 10. The member year is defined as from the 2025 National Convention through the deadline for submitting submissions by Sunday, July 26, at 4 p.m. Eastern Time.**

## NATIONAL AWARDS SUBMISSION FORM

Complete a separate form for [each](#) submission. Each filled-out form must be the body of the email for each submission.

Award Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Echelon [post or department] or individual being considered for the award:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person at National Convention if submission wins award: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# NATIONAL AWARDS DEADLINES AND COMMITTEE RULES

**Important Deadline: All award submissions must be received by Sunday, July 26, 2026, at 4 p.m. Eastern Time.**

## **Committee Rules**

1. Consideration by the Committee for listed awards can be given only to the individuals, the posts and the departments that have submitted submissions by the deadline. Verbal additions to submitted submissions or verbal submissions cannot be given consideration.
2. If the Submission Form is not completed or not submitted properly, the Awards Committee Chair and Vice Chair will determine what award the submission will be considered.
3. Judging is completed online prior to the National Convention.
4. Submissions submitted with information from before the 2025-2026 membership year will be disqualified except for Award No. 10 which has different requirements.

# 2026 NATIONAL AWARDS LIST

## Echelon Awards

1. **Wolfson Award** – Outstanding work in community building
2. **National Commander's Award** – Going above and beyond
3. **Joseph Demiany Memorial Award** – Best implementation of JWV programs
4. **Herman-Berger Award** – Greatest increase in CDCE volunteer hours
5. **Feureisen-I.T. Rockman Award** – Doing most for veterans in hospitals and long-term care facilities other than VA facilities
6. **Ben Kaufman Award** – Doing the most for underserved veterans
7. **Post-9/11 Veterans Support Award**
8. **Brenner-Jaffee Award** – Best newsletter/bulletin/newspaper
9. **Online Engagement Award** – Best use of website and/or Facebook

## Individual Awards

10. **Edward D. Blatt Award** – Most outstanding Commander
11. **Recruiter of the Year Award** – Member who enrolled the most new members
12. **Judge Lawrence Gubow Memorial Award** – Greatest promotion of Americanism
13. **New award: Bernard Becker Memorial Award** – Greatest promotion of Judaism

# 2026 NATIONAL AWARDS CRITERIA

## Echelon Awards

### 1. Wolfson Award

This award is presented to the echelon with the most outstanding record of building community and strengthening relationships with other organizations.

The winning submission must meet the criteria for the award. The submission must contain a written summary followed by documentary evidence [pictures, clippings, letters, emails, official documents, receipts, etc.] in support of the criteria for the award.

### 2. National Commander's Award

This award is presented to the echelon that has performed outstanding service in any general or specific endeavor above and beyond the line of duty.

The winning submissions must meet the criteria for the award. The submission must contain a written summary followed by documentary evidence [pictures, clippings, letters, emails, official documents, receipts, etc.] in support of the criteria for the award.

### 3. Joseph Demiany Memorial Award

Lila Demiany, widow of Joseph Demiany, sponsors this award. It is given to the echelon that has implemented the most outstanding effort **in each of the JWV national programs**. Eligible national programs are:

**A. Scouting** (Scouts and Girl Scouts)

**B. JrROTC**

**C. VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement  
[formerly known as VAVS for all echelon activities  
at VA facilities]**

The winning submissions must meet the criteria for the awards. The submission must contain a written summary followed by documentary evidence [pictures, clippings, letters, emails, official documents, receipts, etc.] in support of the criteria for the award.

#### **4. Isadore Herman-Al Berger Award**

This award is presented to the department with the greatest increase in VA volunteer hours as determined by the JWV National CDCE Committee. **Submissions are not necessary.**

#### **5. Feureisen – I.T. Rockman Award**

This award is presented to the echelon that has done the most for veterans staying in hospitals, hospice, retirement facilities, state veterans homes, or other long-term care facilities **other than VA facilities.** [Submissions involving VA facilities are for Award No. 3C.]

The winning submission must meet the criteria for the award. The submission must contain a written summary followed by documentary evidence [pictures, clippings, letters, emails, official documents, receipts, etc.] in support of the criteria for the award.

#### **6. Ben Kaufman Award**

This award is presented to the echelon that has done the most for underserved veterans. Underserved is defined as those veterans most in need in your community. This could include those who are homeless, impoverished, women, minorities or those in need of mental-health treatment.

The winning submission must meet the criteria for the award. The submission must contain a written summary followed by documentary evidence [pictures, clippings, letters, emails, official documents, receipts, etc.] in support of the criteria for the award.

#### **7. Post-9/11 Veteran Support Award**

This award is given to the echelon which has been the most active in support of Post-9/11 veterans.

The winning submission must meet the criteria for the award. The submission must contain a written summary followed by documentary evidence [pictures, clippings, letters, emails, official documents, receipts, etc.] in support of the criteria for the award.

## **8. Brenner – Jaffee Memorial Awards**

This award goes to the echelons with the most outstanding newsletters/bulletins/newspapers. Posts and departments will be judged and awarded separately. **Indicate on the Submission Form which award is being sought.**

- a. **Best monthly printed publication**
- b. **Best bi-monthly printed publication**
- c. **Best quarterly printed publication**
- d. **Best monthly online publication**
- e. **Best bi-monthly online publication**
- f. **Best quarterly online publication**

## **9. Online Engagement Award**

This award is presented to the echelon for the best use of social media and/or an echelon website to engage with members and the public. Attach links to the body of the email immediately following the Submission Form. Posts and departments will be judged and awarded separately.

# **Individual Awards**

## **10. Edward D. Blatt Award**

This award in memory of Past National Commander Edward D. Blatt is presented to the most outstanding Commander **during the commander's approximate one-year term of office which ends during the 2025-2026 member year.** Post commanders and department commanders will be judged and awarded separately.

The winning submission must meet the criteria for the award. The submission must contain a written summary followed by documentary evidence [pictures, clippings, letters, emails, official documents, receipts, etc.] in support of the criteria for the award.

### **11. Recruiter of the Year Award**

This award is given to the member who recruited the greatest number of new members. Transferred or reinstated members are not included for this award.

Each post may submit one list of new members recruited by one member of that post.

### **12. Judge Lawrence Gubow Memorial Award**

This award is given annually in memory of Judge Lawrence Gubow to an outstanding individual in the field of Americanism [Patriotic or civics]. Any member in good standing is eligible.

The winning submission must meet the criteria for the award. The submission must contain a written summary followed by documentary evidence [pictures, clippings, letters, emails, official documents, receipts, etc.] in support of the criteria for the award.

### **13. Bernard Becker Memorial Award**

***New Award:*** This award is given annually in memory of Past National Commander Bernard Becker to an outstanding individual in the field of Judaism [religion or culture]. Any member in good standing is eligible.

The winning submission must meet the criteria for the award. The submission must contain a written summary followed by documentary evidence [pictures, clippings, letters, emails, official documents, receipts, etc.] in support of the criteria for the award.