



# The Jewish Veteran

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

## Congratulations to Incoming JWV & JWVA Officers!



**JWV**  
**National Commander**  
**Dr. Barry J. Schneider**



**JWVA**  
**National President**  
**Linda P. Singer**

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a JWV Member**  
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## From Generation to Generation

By Lance Wang, National Editor

A group of tired Infantry 2nd Lts. climbed onto the yellow school buses that were being used to transport them back and forth from their quarters to the field for training. The year was 1994, and I was at my basic course at Fort Benning, Georgia. I was a few years older than the rest, having attained the rank of Staff Sergeant prior to going to Officer Candidate School – most of them were straight out of ROTC. A young blond Lieutenant, a corn-fed middle-America type, sat down next to me on the bus and made some small talk, concluding with an inquiry as to the status of my personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I politely mentioned that I was Jewish, and was not interested in abandoning my faith. He paused for a second, clearly not expecting this turn in the conversation. Then he said something along the lines of scripture calling for



**Lance Wang Fort Dix B-4-39 Basic  
Training in 1988.**

the Christians to “take care of their Jews,” and then remarked that “Jews were great fighters.”

That conversation stuck with me for a while, for that was the first time that I’d heard Jews referred to as

“great fighters” from a non-Jew. More often it was like the line from the eponymous medical drama “House,” where Dr. House makes a wisecrack about the Jewish lack of athletic prowess to Dr. Taub, to which Taub retorts “Sandy Koufax is Jewish. Greatest left-handed pitcher of all time.” House then says, “Sandy Koufax is all you Jews go on about...”

Great athletic prowess and “great fighters” are treated as notable exceptions in American-Jewish culture. I’ve always found this curious. Where did this become part of the hand-me-down nature of Jewish culture? How come the stereotypical Jewish mother’s kvelling is “my son, the doctor,” not “my son, the soldier”?

This dichotomy is represented in the way the Torah treats Jacob and Esau. Esau was an outdoors man, and “a cunning hunter.” He is described as

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## Empowered Young Veterans Make Changes at JWV's 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention

By Anna Selman, Programs and  
Public Relations Coordinator

The 123rd Annual Convention was one of the youngest conventions JWV had in recent years. About 1/5th of those that attended were from the Gulf War Era (1991 - 2000) or the Global War on

Terrorism (GWOT) Era (2001– present), and many of those Gulf War and GWOT members were attending our convention for the first time.

“This was my first convention, and I am glad that I attended. Meeting my peers from the different states’ depart-



ments, learning how the upper echelons work, and attending (and participating) in the panel discussions were all very beneficial to me. I left feeling empowered and more confident

in overcoming the challenges we are facing,” said Joshua Ochs, a member of JWV Post 243.

At the convention’s opening ceremonies, the local post, Albert S. Aronovitz Post 373 provided the Color Guard for the event. PNC David Hymes, who just turned 101, lead attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Afterwards, we were honored to host BG Cindy Jebb, Representative Gus Bilirakis and VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. All were amazing speakers, and we even learned that West Point is opening up a new Space major.

“My favorite speaker was the young Brigadier General from West Point. She was absolutely amazing, and now I

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# D'verei HaShomrim

## Our Service Never Ends

When we serve as Soldiers, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Airmen, and Sailors, we sacrifice a great deal. We are away from our homes, communities, friends, and loved ones for extended periods of time. We are in a calling that inherently places our lives on the line which is why some of us have to go to places like Arlington National Cemetery to visit our friends, and some of the things that we experience stay with us long after we take off our uniforms. No one can blame a veteran for wanting to be left alone after having given so much.

Toward the end of the book of Deuteronomy, in parsha Ha-azinu ("Listen"), Moses delivers a lengthy sermon, often called "The Song of Moses." He details what will happen to the Israelites if and when they sin, and how they will be redeemed. After this powerful declaration, he tells the people, "Take to heart all the words with that I have warned you this day. Enjoin them upon your children, that they may observe faithfully all the terms of this Teaching" (Deuteronomy 32:46). The 16th-century Italian Rabbi Obadiah ben Jacob Sforno elaborates on this verse, writing, "At the end of your lives, when you pass on an ethical will, enjoin these words upon them."

In his famous pamphlet series, The American Crisis (written in support of the patriot cause during the American Revolution), the English philosopher Thomas Paine declares, "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot, will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman." Almost two centuries later, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country".

If Moses, Sforno, Paine, and Kennedy were separated by so much time, distance, and circumstance, what could these men and their words possibly have in common? Perhaps it is this: our service can never end, because the eyes of our descendants are upon us. As Jews and as American fighting men and women, we are forever obligated

to serve. That is simply who we are at our core. But we can't be soldiers all our days, nor were we meant to be. Taking off our uniforms does not mark the end of our service, nor is it the closing of a book; rather, it is the ending of one chapter in a lifetime of selflessly giving back to our communities and our nation. As members of the armed forces, we demonstrate to future generations why serving in uniform is so vital to embracing and upholding our national character. Now as veterans, no longer in our dress uniforms or battle fatigues, but sporting our civilian attire, we must find new ways to serve. We must continue to be role models for the impressionable young people in our communities, in whose hands the fate of our nation rests.



Rabbi Aaron A. Rozovsky

Sforno's commentary on Deuteronomy 32:46 (courtesy Carasik, Michael. The Commentator's Bible-The Rubin JPS Miqra'ot Gedolot: Deuteronomy. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society. 2015. p.236)

<sup>ii</sup>Paine, Thomas. "The American Crisis" (Vol 1). Pennsylvania Journal. December 23, 1776. (courtesy ushistory.org)

<sup>iii</sup>Kennedy, John F. Inaugural Address. January 20, 1961. (courtesy ushistory.org)

*About the Author: Rabbi Aaron A. Rozovsky is a 2018 ordainee of the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He is the Director of Rabbinical Services at the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life in Jackson, Mississippi. Rabbi Rozovsky is also a Chaplain with the rank of Captain in the Rhode Island Army National Guard. He has been in the military for over 12 years and has deployed to both Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.*



## THE JEWISH VETERAN

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National Commander Dr. Barry S. Schneider  
National Editor Lance Wang  
Managing Editor Anna Selman  
Graphics/Production Editor Christy Turner

### EDITORIAL OFFICE

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

Telephone (202) 265-6280 x504

Fax (202) 234-5662

E-mail jvw@jvw.org

Web Site www.jvw.org

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# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Dr. Barry J. Schneider

Dear Friends,

First let me say how honored and humble I am to serve as this year's National Commander. I will do my best to live up to your expectations. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions and/or questions at [nationalcmdr@jwv.org](mailto:nationalcmdr@jwv.org).

The High Holy Days are a time for reflection and new beginnings. As we usher in 5779, I challenge you to reflect on the many good things we at JWV do for our veterans and service members. This time of year we ask G—d for the strength to make ourselves better than we were last year and remove the burden of regret from last year. My personal wish is for each of you and your families to have a sweet, healthy and successful new year.

The year started off with a bang! The Tampa convention was one of the best in memory. The revised format has put new emphasis on workshops which will help us improve efficiency in delivering our various programs. Should you have suggestions for workshops, best practices sessions or speakers, please contact Anna Selman at National Headquarters or email me at the above address. Congratulations to our National staff and Convention Committee for all their hard work.

August saw me in New Orleans and Shreveport to say hello and offer assistance to the Posts in both cities. In early September, I joined Post 256 in Dallas for their annual BBQ luncheon for homeless veterans. Over 120 veterans were served a delicious lunch. Later in September, I had the opportunity to visit the Capt. David Greene Post 344 in Denver. In Boulder, Colorado, I met with the University of Colorado ROTC Cadet Corps and the University Veteran Assistance Officer. This fall

will be equally busy with Veterans Day activities in Washington, DC. As we remember the end of WWI, let us not forget the heroes of that war. I encourage each echelon to develop a remembrance in your own community.

This year's Allied Mission trip to Israel has been totally revamped! Please review the itinerary located elsewhere in the paper. With the help of David Dinour and Aviatours, a very special trip has been planned. We believe it will appeal to military and civilians alike, as well as those allied veterans our various Departments will be sending on this exciting trip. As an added bonus, an extension tour to Egypt has been scheduled. The itinerary is certain to excite the senses and enlighten the mind. Please register now!

I am pleased to announce the renavigations of the Gulf War veterans committee under the able leadership of Rochel Hayman from Arizona. She is very attuned to the needs of our younger active duty personnel and veterans. I know she will do much to bring them into the fold.

To the ladies of JWVA, congratulations to President Singer. I look forward to working together for the mutual benefit of both organizations. Together, united, we stand stronger and more efficient in carrying out our common mission.

Membership continues to be a major goal. We need more, new and younger members. They are out there. Your job is to find them and let them know, regardless of age, that JWV has meaning and value to them and their families. At last count there are over 50,000 Jewish veterans waiting to be asked to join JWV. All they need is to be asked. Please ASK THEM! Let us not forget about our museum.

The museum is our face in DC. It tells what we have done and what we do. Every member of JWV should be a member of the museum. Post Commanders

take hold of the issue and ensure new and renewing members are encouraged to join. Talk to your synagogues, JCC's Federations and insure they make the museum a priority stop when they take students to Washington.

As a final comment, remember it is now time to renew for 2019. Review your membership roster. Call, email or write those members in arrears. Your voting strength and NEC delegation is based on paid membership.

As we march into the future, please know that I appreciate the efforts put forward by each of you.



NC Dr. Barry J. Schneider serving homeless veterans at Post 256's Annual BBQ for the Homeless.

## Update on Jewish Iraqi Artifacts

By Julian Haber, Post 755

In 2002, U.S. and other intelligence services informed President George Bush that Iraq was hiding weapons of mass destruction with intent to use them.

In March 2003, an American coalition unleashed a massive bombardment of Baghdad. By April the Third Infantry Division entered the Iraqi capital. Soon thereafter, the army sent a Special Forces search group to explore Saddam's Intelligence Services building. Their objective was the basement. Dark and flooded, what secrets or new and strange weapons did it hold?

Many Jewish soldiers saw combat in Iraq in the following years. Little did most of them realize they were traveling over a land with a rich Jewish history and heritage. Any outward signs of Hillel, Ezra, the Mincha, Babylonian Talmud, Abraham, Sarah and other signs of that antiquity had long ago disappeared on the winds of hatred and despair.

The area in and surrounding Iraq is one of the most ancient, important and interesting histories of the diaspora. It technically extends back 2700 years to when Abraham of Ur, his wife Sarah and family migrated from the area that is now part of Iraq to the land of Canaan.

When the Assyrian Army defeated the Kingdom of Israel in 722 BCE, some of the defeated soldiers and their families fled to areas occupied currently by Iraq. This part of the globe was in constant flux, and soon the Babylonians occupied

the territory. The Israelites under Babylonia's early occupation were permitted to occupy and, under supervision, rule the area. However, a series of revolutions attempted to establish self-government with consequences changing our history forever.

In 597 B.C.E., the king of Babylonia, Nebuchadnezzar, responded to an Israelite revolt by laying siege to Jerusalem. He partially despoiled the temple and deported the Hebraic King, his court and thousands of his followers to Babylonia. Eleven years later Judaic armies once again revolted. A second siege of Jerusalem lasted eighteen months. So angry were the Babylonian rulers that the temple and city were burned to the ground. What was left of the population was deported.

Eventually, the Persian Empire overran the



Books set out for drying.  
Photo: Iraqi Jewish Archive.

area. King Cyrus gave the Israelites an alternative to return to their native land and rebuild their temple. Only forty thousand of a population of one-hundred and twenty thousand went back. The remainder lived in an environment of cultural innovation. They established learning academies. The key work of these academies was compilations of the Babylonian Talmud. Here, Hillel established the authority of the mincha or oral law. A foundation was laid for the pharisaic movement and what would later become rabbinic Judaism.

Thereafter, a succession of Islamic, Arab and Mongolian governed. Most were antagonistic to the Jews living there and much of the freedom and progress under Persian rule was eroded.

The Ottomans began to rule the area in the sixteenth century and, with the exception of fifteen years, their control extended until the end of World War I. While overall they were considered tolerant, they ruled by Muslim law where Jews were considered inferior. They enacted a poll and protection tax. Jews on occasion held government jobs and were drafted into the Ottoman army. In 1919 some 90,000 Jews lived in Iraq.

The League of Nations under English and French influence created several mandates. Among those was the Mesopotamia mandate. In as much as ancient Arab literature used the name Iraq for the area, its name was changed. Twelve years later

*Continued on page 14*



## L'Shana Tova from President Donald Trump

By Sabrina Fine, Communications Intern

Ahead of the Jewish New Year 5779 (2018), Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. participated in a phone call with President Donald Trump. The President was introduced by his son-in-law and senior advisor Jared Kushner.

"As we enter the final days of the month of Elul on the Jewish calendar the Jewish tradition calls for the month leading into Rosh Hashanah to be one of introspection and reflection," said Kushner.

After the brief introduction the 45th President joined the call.

"To many Rabbis, Jewish leaders and friends who are on the line I am delighted to wish you L'Shana Tova, a sweet new year and you will have many others," said Trump.

Trump expressed his deep gratitude to the Jewish people. Despite the Jewish people's history of suffering and persecution, they have continued to thrive and contribute to the world.

Trump also stated his close personal connection to the Jewish people. His daughter Ivanka and her husband Jared are Jewish and the President is proud of and loves his Jewish grandchildren.

During the High Holidays, reflection, atonement and remembrance are important, and the President reflected on some of his achievements for the Jewish people.

"As we hear the sound of shofars called this year we have much to celebrate as a nation," said Trump. "Opportunities for all Americans are soaring, record numbers of Americans are working."

Another of Trump's administration's accomplishments was moving the US embassy to Jerusalem on May 14, 2018 at 4 p.m. The date and time is noteworthy because David Ben-Gurion declared Israel's independence the same date and time 70 years ago.



President Donald Trump on call.  
Photo: The Times of Israel

David Friedman, the United States Ambassador to Israel, also participated in the call and praised the opening of the Embassy as a significant and joyous moment.

"The embassy in Jerusalem has become a major tourist site in Israel," said Friedman. "People just pull-up their cars, they get out, they take pictures. I have seen some people praying there. I have actually seen many people crying there."

Another credit given to the Trump administration was the withdrawal from the United Nations Human Rights Council. In June, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley announced the decision. One of the reasons was stated by Haley to be the council having a "chronic bias against Israel".

During the call, Trump also mentioned a long-overdue success with the deportation of the last known Nazi war criminal from the United States in August. Ninety-five year old Jakiw Palij was a guard and associated with terrible atrocities during the Holocaust. Palij's deportation was ordered in 2004, however for 14 years American of-

ficials could not find an accepting country for Palij.

"We renew our pledge to confront anti-Semitism and hatred in all of its forms," said Trump.

Alan Dershowitz, a participant in the call, thanked the President for doing what others have not been able to do.

Dershowitz asked, "Mr. President, should the Jewish community be optimistic that you can help bring about a peaceful resolution of the conflict that we all pray for all the time?"

Referring to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict the President responded with a strong yes. Trump stated that while it is a challenge, his administration is working diligently on getting a deal.

Norman Coleman, chairman of the Republican Jewish coalition, also participated in the call.

"In the spirit of introspection and reflection that we as Jews are called upon to do this time of year, please allow me to thank you for the courage and wisdom you've demonstrated in the promises made and promises kept this year that have really strengthened the U.S. Israel relation."

Coleman questioned the President.

"Where do we go from here with Iran? What more can we do to neutralize Iran's ongoing effort to destabilize the gulf region and continually threaten Israel's existence?"

Trump said we will see what happens down the road and Iran is different now than before he became President. Trump stated that pulling out of the Iran deal was good for Israel and world peace and has demonstrated he has Israel and the Jewish people's safety and security in mind.

"May you be inscribed in the book of life," said Trump. "I send my warmest wishes to the Jewish people in the United States and around the world as we approach the high holidays."

## Space Force?

By PNC Carl Singer

The United States military must have a well-defined mission and capability in space. Briefly the military needs to consider both offensive and defensive requirements:

- Space is the high ground for observation – satellite imagery and sensors provide valuable information.
- Space is a communications platform – many forms of communication and GPS rely on space-based satellites.
- Space possibly can serve as a weapons platform.
- We need to defend against disruption of the above space-based capabilities / assets.

I've jumped the gun – what is "space" – where does "earth" or "sky" end and where does "space" start? This is an interesting boundary question. Is it the troposphere? Is it the stratosphere? Does it matter?

### Force Structure:

By design, there is significant specialization and capability overlap within the United States Military. For example, the mission against Osama bin Laden, which took place over 750 miles from the nearest ocean, was conducted by Navy Seals. Recently Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Chapman, a combat con-

troller, posthumously received the Medal of Honor for his efforts in ground combat saving the lives of Army Rangers in Afghanistan. Ted Williams, as some of you may recall, was a pilot – in the Marine Corps. Similarly planes that take off from aircraft carriers belong to the Navy, not the Air Force.

Those of you who are members of the greatest generation remember that during World War II there were only three branches of service: the Army, The Navy and the Marine Corps. (Note: the Marine Corps was tethered to the Navy for much of its logistic support.) Not to be overlooked there was also the Coast Guard and the Merchant Marines whose wartime roles were significant. You will note that there was no Air Force. There was, of course, the Army Air Corps.

On September 18, 1947 after considerable analysis and planning The National Security Act of 1947 established the Department of Defense with the Joint Chiefs of Staff (to replace the War Department and the Navy Department) and also the U.S. Air Force as a separate branch of service.

Here is the question that needs deep analysis – is the above mission best accomplished by a separate "Space Force" or by levying these requirements on the Air Force and the other branches?

Currently, the Air Force has ten distinct commands, including: the Air Combat Command,



Air Force Space Commander Headquarters.  
Photo: Air Force Times

the Air Force Material Command, and the Air Mobility Command. And, yes, the Air Force has the Air Force Space Command! Its mission is the "Development and operation of military space and cyberspace technologies."

Would the mission be better accomplished with a separate branch of service? In a word, NO! The integration, interdependence and cooperation among the various commands would be severely hampered. There is nowhere near the critical mass appropriate to warrant the creation of a separate branch – the Space Force. Perhaps twenty years from now there will be a need to spawn a space force – similar to the transition of the Army Air Corps to the Air Force – but that time is not now. The Space Force idea is lots of sizzle, no steak.

## 2019 National Defense Authorization Act

By Sabrina Fine, Communications Intern

The senate has approved the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for the fiscal year 2019. The NDAA specifies the annual budget and expenditures of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). The budget is \$716 billion for defense and has been named for Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John S. McCain (R-AZ).

"This year's NDAA represents an important opportunity to implement an effective approach to confront a growing array of threats around the world. The administration's National Defense Strategy outlined a framework for identifying and prioritizing these threats. Through the NDAA, Congress is fulfilling its duty to provide America's service members the resources and tools they need to succeed," said Chairman McCain in a statement about the bill.

This particular NDAA is meant to aid in aviation readiness, repairing equipment, readiness at sea and building a modern force. It allows for the construction of 13 new warships, \$225.3 million to modernize Army combat vehicles and \$170 million to invest in missile defense.

The funding has risen. Last year \$613.8 billion was authorized in base funding. This year's raise was largely approved with a bipartisan vote of 87-10. According to the NDAA conference summary on the [armedservices.house.gov](https://www.armedservices.house.gov) website the funding will "improve military agility, while simultaneously restoring readiness and increasing capability and capacity in a force that has been asked to do too much with too little for too long."

The NDAA conference report emphasizes the need for retention and growth in the size of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Naval and Air Reserve, and Air Guard as requested by the services. Recruitment would alleviate some overworked service members. The budget also allows a 2.6% pay raise for troops, which is the largest raise in nearly



House Armed Services Committee member Mac Thornberry talking about legislation. Photo: HASC.

a decade. It also extends special bonuses for retention in high-demand areas.

"Every day, the Army is fighting for us, and now we're fighting for you," said President Donald Trump. He signed the defense bill in Fort Drum, New York. In an address to troops he detailed his support of the bill and commended the military.

Additionally it means increased training funding for each service. In 2017 nearly 4 times as many members of the military died in training accidents as were killed in combat. Twenty-one service members died in combat while 80 died as a result of training accidents. As of May 2018, 25 service members died in military aviation mishaps.

The Arleigh Burke-Class destroyer USS John McCain (DDG-56) and the guided-missile destroyer USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) both suffered from collisions in the span of two months, tragically causing 17 Sailors to die. It also cost millions of dollars in repairs.

Navy investigations found that both accidents were related to ongoing Navy readiness problems. According to the NDAA "the committee believes that the conference report will begin to restore the

Military's strength while also ensuring training and readiness preparations are much safer."

After reading the investigation on the incidents Sen. Ben Sasse, (R-NE) said, "We are dangerously underinvesting in our military," he said. "Training, readiness and maintenance are hit the earliest -- and tragic errors like this are the canary-in-the-mine warning bells."

The increase will also allow the Army to conduct 20 Combat Training Center rotations and 4 rotations for the Army National Guard. The Marine Corps is also allocated full capacity for training exercises.

"Training across all services have benefited by dramatic training provisions of the McCain NDAA '19. For example, the Army will get additional rotations at its various Combat Training Centers and the Marine Corps will be able to improve their full-spectrum collective training exercises. These large-scale, large-unit training exercises are critical for being able to succeed in planned deployments and to be ready for presently unknown contingencies," said Retired Army Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein

Secretary Mattis stated in the NDAA conference report that "countries like Russia and China are reasserting their power and leveraging new technologies, our competitive edge has eroded in every domain of warfare, air, land, sea, space, and cyberspace and it is continuing to erode."

To address threats the DoD must invest in emerging technologies and cyber policies as well as operations.

Overall, the John S. McCain NDAA will further the effort and strengthen the DoD. McCain's work on the NDAA was one of his last contributions to our country.

McCain was a Vietnam War hero and Prisoner of War (POW), a Senator and a presidential nominee. He died August 25, 2018 after suffering from a malignant brain tumor called glioblastoma.

## Changes in Retiree Dental Plans Coming Next Year

By Anna Selman, Programs and Public Relations Coordinator

In July, all military retirees received a postcard from TRICARE in their mailboxes. "Get Ready: You may enroll during Open Season -- from Nov. 12 through Dec. 10, 2018 -- visit [tricare.benefeds.com](https://www.tricare.benefeds.com) to learn more about FEDVIP open season and to sign up for email alerts," the postcard stated.

Military retirees are facing a big question this holiday-season: which Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) to pick for the next year. The current TRICARE Retiree Dental Program will end on December 31st, and those who were eligible for the old plan must pick from 10 dental carriers available through FEDVIP. The enrollment period will begin on November 12th, which gives retirees a little over a month to choose.

The FEDVIP program has been in place for quite some time and Federal employees, like those who work at the VA, are already using FEDVIP, and since the quickest growing group of retirees are from the Global War on Terror, many of these retirees are already using the program.



A retiree gets his teeth examined, Nov. 15, 2013. Photo: U.S. Air Force/Senior Airman Matthew Lotz.

Retirees are definitely getting more choices. However, the costs of those choices are another thing entirely. In 2018, health insurance premiums for FEDVIP increased by 6.1 percent, but since Federal employees received a pay raise in 2018, the inflation was minimal for them.

However, military retirees do not get the same "pay raises" as Federal employees, and these premium increases should be looked at carefully. The nearly two-thirds of FEDVIP enrollees that

are covered by the insurance carrier Blue Cross/Blue Shield paid \$7.17 more per biweekly pay period than the previous year for self-only coverage, \$17.04 more for self plus one other person, and \$17.72 for self and family coverage. This is a lot for military retirees on a fixed income, but for Global War on Terror Veterans, they may be able to absorb the costs because they are still working.

One of the greatest advantages to this change is the ability to pick a vision plan for military retirees. This comprehensive vision coverage, including eyeglasses or contacts, is in addition to the routine eye exams.

There is one significant disadvantage to this change. If anyone in your family is receiving orthodontic care through the TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan, many plans will have a year-long waiting period before they will cover orthodontics. Just because you are receiving that care under your current plan, it does not mean it will automatically be available for you without a wait under every new plan. So, you must be extra careful to select the right plan.

*Continued on page 17*



# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

## How to Run A Veterans Day Ceremony at Your Local Jewish Community Center, Synagogue or School

What is the purpose of JWV Posts running Veterans Day ceremonies?

Veterans Day is an excellent opportunity for JWV Posts to interact with their local Jewish communities - to remind them that Jewish veterans exist and live among them. We must capitalize on this opportunity by reaching out to our local JCCs, synagogues and schools in order to remind the Jewish community of their proud and historic service to the United States.

### What is Veterans Day?

Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I (WWI). Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

What is the importance of the 100th anniversary of the Armistice of WWI?

This Veterans Day is the 100th anniversary of the Armistice (the peace agreement) of WWI. WWI remains America's forgotten war, even though more Americans gave their lives in that war than the wars of Korea and Vietnam combined. More than four million American families sent their sons and daughters to serve in uniform during WWI, and 225,000 American Jews served in that war – many of them new immigrants. It was also the first time women were formally introduced into the Army, and we are proud to say that the first female doctor in the US Army, Kate Karpeles, was a proud Jewish woman and the daughter in law to a Jewish Medal of Honor Recipient. By learning and teaching our community about our service, we are not only teaching the next generation, but we are also making a promise to this generation of soldiers and sailors that their service will not be forgotten 100 years from now.

### How do I run a Veterans Day Ceremony?

The ceremony itself consists of 8 parts: (1) Posting of the colors, (2) Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem, (3) Introductory Remarks, (4) Introduction of Special Guests, (5) Principal Speaker, (6) Special

Reading, (7) TAPS and (8) Closing Benediction.

**1) Prelude and Posting of Colors** — A procession and posting of the Nation's colors (the American Flag) is always a moving event. Local veterans service organizations or JROTC programs often participate with their impressive array of military banners and American flags.

**2) Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem** — The program chairperson should invite the audience to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem.

**3) Introductory Remarks** — Brief introductory remarks can set the tone for the program. This year, it would be appropriate to give a brief history of WWI and the impact that it has had through our nation. A guide on WWI can be found at the WWI Centennial Commission website, and information about Jewish soldiers during WWI can be found at the National Museum of



Mike London speaking to group.

American Jewish Military History website.

**4) Introduction of Guests** — Dignitaries selected as special guests may include local government officials, distinguished military personnel and veterans from your community, all of whom should be introduced at the event.

**5) Principal Speaker** — Your principal speaker should be invited far enough in advance to allow adequate preparation for your program. JWV is able to provide speakers

through our Project Maggid program. Please contact JWV's Programs Department if you are interested in getting a speaker.

### 6) Selected Reading

—A reading of a well-known patriotic address by a famous military hero by a talented student can be effective. Selected readings are available from the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

**7) Moment of Silence, Taps** — While Veterans Day is primarily a tribute to America's living veterans, and should be observed more as a celebration than as a somber remembrance, it is always appropriate to include a moment of respect for those who gave their lives for their country. This year, the Jewish community lost two American heroes in the line of fire – Captain Samuel Schultz and SFC Christopher Celiz. It is important to remind the Jewish community of their stories and the stories of the other 15,000 current Jewish service members.

**8) Closing Benediction** — Inviting a local Rabbi or a lay leader can be a meaningful way to end the ceremony. The Prayer for America's military personnel is appropriate. A link to the lyrics and musical accompaniment can be found at the JWB Jewish Chaplain's Council website.



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky  
Membership Chairman



Bob Shay taking Jewish youth to cemetery for Veterans Day 2017.

## Working With Your Local JCC

By Larry Jasper, Commander, Post 373

For those who were able to attend the 123rd Annual Convention of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, you had the privilege of hearing Heidi Shimberg, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Programs and Services for the Tampa Jewish Community Centers and Federation, speak about the relationship possibilities between the JWV and your local JCC.

I had the honor of speaking with Heidi Shimberg, the Executive Director of the Tampa JCC, prior to her speaking at the Convention. We discussed various ways in which that relationship could be expanded beyond the JCC providing a meeting space. One of the ideas I proposed to Heidi was to provide some wall space for a permanent JWV display. Heidi then communicated with her counterparts around the country to see what they have done and are doing.

One location in Delaware sent the following photo of a JWV display they have. Congratulations to the Department of Delaware!



JWV Delaware Board at their local JCC.

I recently had Heidi send out a message from my Post about what we do and why. This went out to the 7,000 people on the JCC mailing list. I am hoping to get some interest from this.

Currently, there is no Jewish Chaplain available at MacDill Air Force Base. I am working on a plan to enlist the aid of local Rabbis to provide services on a rotating basis for the Jewish personnel at MacDill. Part of my plan is to discuss with Heidi the possibility of partnering with us to provide the Oneg following the services.

I would encourage all Post Commanders and/or State Commanders to reach out to their respective JCCs and see what can mutually be done to benefit both organizations. A display as shown above can be a great advertising tool and may help bring in new members. I would like to hear of anything that other Posts are doing with their JCC.



**Member:** Joshua Ochs

**Post:** JWV Post 243 FL

**Current Residence:** Miami, Florida

**Military Service:** 1993-2017

**Member Since Year:** 2002

### 1. When and why did you serve in the military?

Back in 1993 I was twenty years old, working full-time as a cashier in a major supermarket while also going to school full-time. When I lost my job, I lost my means to pay for my education. So, I set out to find my next work opportunity. I happened upon a recruiting office for the New Jersey Army National Guard, already somewhat aware of the monetary benefits. Three days later I was sworn in. I left for basic combat training at Fort Jackson, S.C. two months after that, followed by Advanced Individual training in Fort Gordon, GA. The lifestyle fit me so well that when I became eligible, I transferred into the Regular Army, never looking back.

### 2. How did you get introduced to JWV?

When I was stationed at Fort Monmouth, NJ, someone made me aware. I don't remember the conversation or circumstances.



### 3. What is a program that JWV offers, in which you would like to be more involved with, and why?

I am definitely focusing my time on increasing membership. I'm using my platform to improve relations with the local JROTC programs, supporting the US Navy Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) Training Division NAS Richmond, and advertising with so-

cial media and actual shaking hands with folks.

### 4. What is an American tradition that makes you the proudest?

Seeing our National Colors flying in the local communities, where it is not a requirement but a choice.

### 5. What is the best military Jewish holiday story you have?

Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, 2007. As the Jewish Lay Leader, my Company Commander was able to secure everything we needed for Passover services, including some Manischewitz. He led the seder, we all embraced the significance of the moment, and finished off the wine.

### 6. What is your favorite movie about the military and did it relate with your experience in the military?

I don't have a "favorite" military movie, I don't enjoy them as I once did. But the last military movie I watched was *American Sniper*, and it was pretty spot on. Definitely relatable to my time in Iraq.

### 7. What song gets you pumped up for a work out?

My workout playlist contains Chevelle, System of a Down, Avenged Sevenfold, a few others. Depending on what exercise I'm about to perform determines how much motivation I really need.



### Registration now open for Jewish Warrior Weekend

Calling all Jewish cadets, midshipmen, and junior officers: registration is now open for Jewish Warrior Weekend!

Jewish Warrior Weekend is a Shabbaton for all Jewish cadets, midshipman and Junior officers in the U.S. Armed Forces. The mission of Jewish Warrior Weekend is to reaffirm the participants commitment to the military, create a support network of Jewish military personnel, change the general perception about Jewish participation in the American military, empower participants to talk about their Jewish identity with their non-Jewish peers and teach participants about historical contributions of Jewish service members in the American Armed Forces.

Registration, housing and meals are all covered by one fee, and the cost of the weekend is determined by which type of room you will be requesting. There are scholarships available, and they will be given out at the weekend upon need and attendance. No scholarship will be awarded before the weekend.

Jewish Warrior Weekend will take place from Thursday, November 8th, 2018 to November 11, 2018 at the Kimpton Carlyle Hotel in Washington D.C. To reserve your spot, please register no later than November 2, 2018. For more information, or to register, please visit <https://jwvusafoundation.org>. If you have any other questions or comments, please direct them to JWVF staff at [aselman@jwv.org](mailto:aselman@jwv.org). Thank you and we are excited to see you there!

## NEW MEMBERS

### DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Fleischer, Bernard - Post 344  
Komitzsky, Elyse M. - Post 100  
Meizius, Hershal L. - Post 100  
Scheer, Andrew - Post 1  
Shapiro, Michael S. - Post 100  
Silberman, Fred - Post 686

### DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Anderson, Walter J. - Post 65  
Meisel, Arthur - Post 64  
Mendelson, David A. - Post 65  
Zeidner, Cynthia - Post 65

### DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Axe, Norman G. - Post 118  
Baliber, Neil D. - Post 603  
Echeverria, Victor E. - Post 138  
Graf, Gerald - Post 385  
Litwack, Morris J. - Post 138  
Markowitz, Paul J. - Post 385  
Rosenberg, Max - Post 118  
Silbermann, Barry D. - Post 118

### DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Abrams, Michael A. - Post 352  
Elson, Leon O. - Post 941  
Feingold, Alfred - Post 243  
Gold, Jack S. - Post 631  
Gortz, Richard P. - Post 941  
Grebler, Melvin - Post 440  
Lieberson, David - Post 631  
Marcus, Mike H. - Post 639  
Schinkevitz, Norman G. - Post 440  
Schwartz, Harold - Post 941  
Singer, Herman B. - Post 698  
Steamer, Donald - Post 243  
Stern, Bryan C. - Post 373

Stern, Howard L. - Post 352

Warshawsky, Rudolph - Post 631

### DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Deutch, Myron J. - Post 29  
Gonzalez, Manny - Post 29  
Price, Selwin E. - Post 710

### DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Erllichman, Raymond S. - Post 605  
Katz, Eliot J. - Post 644  
Kodner, Ira J. - Post 644  
Kolker, Stanley S. - Post 644

### DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Hillman, Richard L. - Post 380  
Miller, Allan R. - Post 567  
Salenger, Norman S. - Post 567  
Speier, Peter M. - Post 380

### DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Adler, Edward - Post 474  
Anchill, Allan - Post 474  
Wagner, Donald A. - Post 135

### DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Jewett, Richard E. - Post 354  
Renalls, Carl E. - Post 354  
Rosenblum, Freeman N. - Post 331

### DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Fritts, David F. - Post 695  
Goldberg, Harriet E. - Post 651  
Goldstein, Beatrice E. - Post 651  
Krischenbaum, Jack - Post 609  
Rock, Jamie J. - Post 740  
Schulman, Harold - Post 609  
Sternthal, Lawrence H. - Post 39  
Weil, Sandra J. - Post 178

### DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Ani, David - Post 6  
Dougherty, Kevin - Post 2  
Finkelstein, Joshua J. - Post 425  
Stracher, Donald G. - Post 106  
Weinbach, Jay - Post 425

### DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Birnbaum, Alan L. - Post 44  
Males, U. H. - Post 44

### DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Soltroff, Jeremy - Post 98  
Soltroff, Rhonda - Post 98

### DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Aragon, Jesse - Post 194  
Eisenberg, Billy - Post 210  
Eisenberg, Judy A. - Post 210  
Kass, Karen R. - Post 194  
Lipsman, Frances W. - Post 210

### DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Berman, Harold B. - Post 256  
Cohen, David C. - Post 256  
Cohen, Murray L. - Post 755  
Fried, Adrienne B. - Post 256  
Garrison, Eric - Post 256  
Hansen, Bryce J. - Post 256  
Kusin, Melvin S. - Post 256  
Meier, David R. - Post 256  
Olivo, Andrew C. - Post 256  
Roberts, Lewis S. - Post 256  
Thomas, John L. - Post 256  
Zimmerman, Brian - Post 755

### DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Blatt, Richard - Post 299

### Post Management

To make things easy, all forms for running your post can be found in one spot on the JWV website. Go to [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org), and you will see a **Membership tab** on the top navigation bar. Click it and then click on **Member Resources** from the drop down menu. On the sidebar on the right, in a grey box, you will see links to all sorts of information. The link you need is **Discover the Ins & Outs of Post Management**. This link will take you to a page that contains forms for Installation, everyday business, Financial Administration, and official Membership memos. The 2019 Finance Board Report will be found here closer to the start of 2019.



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

## Supreme Act of Respect Is What Jewish Veterans Do

By Greg Lee, Department Commander of California  
Every day, people enquire, “what does JWV do?” The answer varies because there are more than 300 local posts that represent the organization.

One of our missions as Jews and Jewish War Veterans is to ensure that every single one of our service members receives a dignified and proper burial. Usually that happens without a problem, but sometimes we must get involved.

What do you do when the person who needs to be interred has no identification? What do you do when the person has been missing since World War II?

Sgt. David Rosenkrantz had no identification and he was missing since WWII. He was a true airborne hero, dropped behind enemy lines, never to be seen again, but thanks to modern technology and DNA testing, Sgt. Rosenkrantz was finally identified. His remains that had been in cold storage for 70 years have been cleared for interment.

He was to be transferred to Riverside National Cemetery and buried just like the 35-50 burials that take place there every day. We also learned that the ceremony was not going to be a Jewish ceremony, which we can assume Sgt. Rosenkrantz would have wanted.

When Jewish War Veterans learned of this monumental event, they sprang into action.

National Headquarters reached out to the



CSM Sam Yudin at SSG Rosenkrantz Internment.

Department of California echelon. Commander Greg Lee made some phone calls.

The most important call was to the Tibor Rubin Post 786 Commander Sam Yudin. CSM Yudin is not only an active JWV member but an Active Duty soldier in the US Army. Rabbi David Becker from the California National Guard also answered the call to help make sure that this Jewish soldier received a Jewish burial, and without either of their help, this soldier would not have the burial that he deserved.

Yudin immediately stepped up and contacted

his Commanding Officer with a request to delay his reporting for duty by one day so he could attend the funeral of Sgt. Rosenkrantz. The CO immediately affirmed that action and Yudin was set. CSM Yudin then coordinated the order of battle at the cemetery services by contacting the cemetery director, the Family of Sgt. Rosenkrantz, and some local Rabbis.

CSM Yudin then “suited up” in his military dress blues and drove 75 miles to the Riverside Cemetery on one of the hottest days in California history. He proudly represented Jewish War Veterans as he paid his respects to a Jewish hero. He represented JWV, the Jewish people and himself in the finest tradition of service and Mitzvot.

So in case you ever wondered - this act of supreme respect represents one thing that Jewish War Veterans does!

## JWB Survey to Provide Insight Into Needs of Jews Who Serve

By Marla Cohen, JCC Association

To better understand the needs of Jews in the United States military, Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) Jewish Chaplains Council is surveying those who serve or have served our country in uniform.

The survey, which is being conducted in conjunction with other endorsers of Jewish chaplains, Aleph and Pirchei Shoshanim, is the first of its extent and kind, according to Rabbi Irving Elson, director of JWB Jewish Chaplains Council.

“This will give us a better understanding of what exactly Jews who serve want from a Jewish perspective, and allow us to serve them better,” said Elson, who formerly served in the U.S. Navy. “That all the endorsers of Jewish chaplains are behind this effort and support it, indicates a broad need, one that we hope this survey will fill with the support of the military branches.”

The survey takes about 5-10 minutes to fill out and is anonymous. In addition to asking such basics as gender, age, current military status, and duty station, JWB drills deeper, asking for how survey participants identify as Jews, whether or not they belong to a synagogue or JCC, whether there are Jewish educational opportunities available for them or their children, and if they would use them, and what kind of services are available to them wherever they are stationed.

“Hearing directly from the Jewish men and women who serve in our military and who need our services will help us tailor JWB’s work to meet them,” Elson said.

JWB is not alone in anticipating how beneficial the survey results will be. In addition to the other endorsers, the different military branches will benefit and learn from the findings.

“I am so appreciative of JWB ‘leaning forward’ with this survey and working with us in serving our Jewish airmen,” said Maj. Gen. Steven A. Schack, Chief of Chaplains in the U.S. Air Force.

To take the survey, visit <http://jcca.org/what-we-do/jwb/survey/>.

## Eagle Scout Ceremony in Florida

By Scott Wilson, Post 639

On Sunday July 15th, I was given the great honor and pleasure to present Eagle Scout Benjamin Chafetz a certificate of achievement and letter of congratulations on behalf of the National Commander Paul D. Warner PhD., and a plaque and a gift card on behalf of the Department of Florida Commander Alan Paley. The Eagle Scout is the highest level in Scouting; the Jewish War Veterans of the USA has a great yet under used program to support scouting. Every post should have an active scouting program, this includes our virtual posts.

The Eagle Court of Honor was held in the chapel at the Jacksonville Jewish Center, Jacksonville, Florida. This is also the home of the once thriving and slowly reorganizing Lt. Meyer Leibovitz Post #199

Jewish War Veterans of the USA. Each portion of the ceremony was symbolic of Benjamin’s journey through scouting and the principles of the Eagle Scout. After the ceremony Benjamin’s family hosted a meal in the social hall.

While being introduced to Benjamin in a group of people I was surprised that a young man that had just turned 16 was the person standing to my right in the group who had a beard that was fuller than my own. Not many that have known me over the

years believe that many can grow a better beard, but I even say his beard is better. Benjamin is well spoken and an over achiever in all aspects of his life to include excelling in not one but two forms of the martial arts.

Having grown up in a scouting family myself and not progressing to Eagle Scout, I perused



Scott Wilson presenting Eagle Scout Benjamin Chafetz with a certificate of achievement and letter of congratulations.

Jewish youth groups in its place. I see the structure and discipline that these young scouts have that would make wonderful members of our military in the future if that is their choice, then later become

members of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. Promoting scouting is the first step in recruiting future members, when we start with structure and team building in our Jewish youth with mentoring from our members / post(s) we impress on young minds and hopefully have family members eligible to become members. Some of those who become members surprisingly may never have known that the Jewish War Veterans of the USA was there to fill their needs in a veterans organization.



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

## Department of Massachusetts Jewish War Veterans Participate in Annual Stand Down

By Barry Sobel, Post 74

‘Taking a Stand for Veterans’ was the slogan for the 2018 Annual Greater Boston Stand Down. On Friday, September 7, 2018, The New England Center and Home for Veterans located at 17 Court Street, Boston, hosted the Annual 2018 Greater Boston Stand Down on Boston City Hall Plaza. More than 100 service providers, employers, and community organizations, including the Department of Massachusetts Jewish War Veterans, joined in to provide essential supportive services to veterans.

Services included employment, educational, and housing assistance, medical, dental and wellness care, and legal services to more than 3,000 homeless or at-risk veterans. Veterans could get a haircut, get a state ID from the Registry of Motor Vehicles, get a basic Veterans Affairs (VA) check-up and dental care, pick up needed clothing items,



Ben Heffron, JWV 211, Barry Sobel PDC, JWV 74, State Commander Jeffrey Weitzenkorn, JWV 735, Dave Westerman PDC, JWV 74, at our Stand Down.

and find out about housing and employment opportunities all in one place at one time. All the veterans, both male and female, needed to do to reg-

ister for services was show proof of service, such as their DD214. A free meal by Tex's BBQ and entertainment was also provided.

The Department of Massachusetts JWV was housed in the personal care tent and distributed approximately 1,100 pairs of white crew socks to male and female veterans. JWV Homeless Veterans Chairman Barry Sobel said “The veterans visiting our table were so appreciative to each receive three pairs of new socks. Some had no socks at all before arriving that day. It is the feeling of giving back to those who have given so much to our country and ask so little in return that gives you pleasure – a true mitzvah has been once again accomplished by our volunteers.” JWV has donated personal comfort care kits, underwear, and more than 21,000 pairs of socks to veterans in over 12 years of service at the Annual Stand Downs.

## JWV MA Participates in Rutstein Commemoration

By Barry Lischinsky, JWV Membership Chairman  
One of our biggest missions at JWV is to remind the Jewish community that Jews do serve in the U.S. Armed Forces and in so doing, we remind the world that Jews have served in the Armed Forces of many nations. So, with the 100th anniversary of the Armistice fast approaching, we are speaking to Jewish communities across the nation about



Representatives from the Jewish War Veterans Post 157 were the Honor Guard for the ceremony.

the vast and great history of Jewish service during World War I.

On July 15, 1918, Private Benjamin Rutstein, a Boston native, was killed in action fighting the German army on the French-German border. Pvt. Benjamin, served in the 167th Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division, and was 23 at the time of his death. Before volunteering for the army, Pvt. Rutstein had

worked as a newsboy for the Boston Globe. Pvt. Rutstein is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American military cemetery, near where he died.

In his memory, a memorial was erected on 20 Staniford Street in downtown Boston, and it is named the Benjamin Rutstein Square.

In commemoration of the centennial of his death, there was a ceremony at the memorial, at 20 Stanford Street, on Friday, July 20th at 11:00 AM. At that time, the Consul General of France, Mr. Valery Freland, offered

remarks to honor the deceased. Additional speakers at this event included representatives from both the City of Boston and the State of Massachusetts, as well as his nephew, 100-year old WWII veteran David Levenson, a long-time resident of Framingham. Representatives from the Jewish War Veterans Post 157 were on hand to present the Honor Guard. They played an essential part in the service, all in order to remember and teach the next generation that Private Benjamin Rutstein was not merely a street sign in Boston.

It is because of the sacrifices of Jews like Private Benjamin Rutstein that we have the freedoms we enjoy today, and it is our duty at JWV to teach this important history to the next generation. This is why we are asking you to call your local JCC, synagogue, school or other Jewish center and tell them to get a speaker through JWV's Project Maggid program completely free. We are trying to teach this next generation about the proud service of Jews in World War I and beyond. If you need any help, contact the JWV Programs Department.

## Post 126 Assists Veterans and Shelter Dogs to “Rescue” Each Other

By Ann Black, Pets for Vets

The Jewish War Veterans of USA Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey held a successful fundraising event March 10, 2018 at The Fountains at Cedar Parke, Atco, NJ to benefit Pets for Vets, Inc.

Commander Selina Kanowitz ensured it was a fun and entertaining evening with the Winslow High School JROTC Color guard and a special performance by Denna's Wave Dance & Fitness. The Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Curtis Miyamoto, Temple University Hospital. Keynote Speakers were Dr. Charles Munyon, Neurosurgeon, Temple University Hospital and Cathy Lile, Secretary/Treasurer, Pets for Vets, Inc. Board of Directors. Therapy dogs Ty and Gus were highlights of the event visiting with all attendees. There were over thirty enticing raffle “baskets” donated by local establishments delighting winners when their ticket numbers were called. Commander Kanowitz and her committee did an outstanding job raising over

\$6600 for Pets for Vets®.

The mission of Pets for Vets is to help heal the emotional wounds of military veterans by using the power of the human-animal bond to provide a second chance for shelter animals by rescuing, training and pairing them with America's servicemen and women who could benefit from having a companion animal. Pets for Vets provides its program through 30 chapters throughout the US. It is a personalized match-making process resulting in a Super Bond™ between the veteran and the companion animal. One veteran who suffered from PTSD and TBI was no longer dependent on medication just one month after receiving his Pets for Vets companion dog. Another Veteran who suffered from PTSD was able to finally turn her lights out at night shortly after receiving her companion dog.

Pets for Vets, a 501(c)(3), does not receive any government funding and relies

on community support for its chapters. Volunteers are always needed, especially experienced animal trainers and foster families in our chapter areas. The program is provided at no cost to the Veterans. For more information, please visit the website [www.petsforvets.com](http://www.petsforvets.com).



Post Commander Selina Kanowitz presents a check to Pets for Vets.



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

## June Brunch Features New Officers in Maryland

By Fred Shapiro, Post 567 Commander

Located in Leisure World of Maryland, the Charles Krieger Jewish War Veterans Post 567 held its end of the season brunch June 10th featuring the election of new officers for the coming year 2018-2019. The post is the only veterans organization located in a senior community of 8500 residents and is in the process of rebuilding its membership and activities in the community.

Membership in the Post is not restrictive to residents of Leisure World, but to veterans living in the proximity including Silver Spring, Aspen Hill and Olney. With the aging of our World War II and Korean veterans, the broader area is intended to bring more members into one of the two JWV posts in Montgomery County of Maryland.

With the election of the new officers, the post is looking to expand not only its activities for the veterans living in Leisure World and its vicinity but to add a Women's Auxiliary to its membership. Recognizing the predominance of women in Leisure World who served in the military or were

married to veterans, the addition will enable those interested to help plan for the future of the post.

The installation was performed by Sheldon Goldberg, a JWV member and Commander of the Department of the National Capital Region of the Military Order of the World Wars. He has also been an advisor to the incoming officers.

Following in the path of the leadership provided in past years by Herb Alpert, Marvin Franklin and Milton Loube, the new officers are reaching out to the community in many ways. In addition to its monthly brunches, the Post will be hosting programs of interest to both the Jewish residents and to all the veterans living in Leisure World. Working in partnership with other Leisure World organizations, the Post will take a leadership role in helping to organize such things as the Memorial Day program, Veterans Day luncheon and a census of the veterans living in the community, as well as programs updating all veterans on legislation and VA reorganizations that will affect them.



Sheldon Goldberg installing new officers of Post 567.

## Don't Wait!

By Mark Weiss, Post 474

JWV Michigan is proud to say that we have a great Honor Guard. Our members are out in our community serving those that gave so much to us when called upon. We have a great relationship with our local military cemetery, Great Lakes National Cemetery, and our Commander, Art Fishman, is always willing to give them a call when needed. When JWV Michigan's Honor Guard was asked to accompany an American hero and our friend to his final resting place after Memorial Day, we automatically agreed without a second thought. Our members have sacrificed a lot, and somebody has to show up to do something like this for them. It is one of the greatest mitzvahs you can do in the Torah.

However, he did not make it easy on us or his family to honor him. The family could not find his DD-214, and even though the family insisted that he was a veteran, the Great Lakes National Cemetery insisted on having the DD-214 before going ahead with the burial. In addition, the post office would not issue his flag without the DD-214 as well. His family scrambled to find his paperwork, but could not find it within the two days of his passing.

JWV MI's Honor Guard had to improvise, and with a little help of the funeral director at Great Lakes, we were able to hold a Memorial Service for him, and when the family found the paperwork (which they eventually did), he would be buried with full

military honors. At the Memorial Service, we said a prayer, had the presentation of the colors, a three-volley gun salute and the playing of TAPS. The funeral director even gave the family one of his flags.

I highly recommend that you save your family and friends this heartache by being prepared for your funeral. Make sure that you give a copy of your DD-214 to your family, your lawyer and your funeral director. If you are the child of a veteran, make sure you get a copy of your parent's DD-214 and file it away. Do not put your family in this position! It is heartbreaking. Funeral directors and Honor Guards can only do so much. Please, be prepared.



JWV Michigan's Honor Guard.

## Army Reserve Ambassador receives public service award

By Richard Castelveter, U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador Coordinator

U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador Myron J. Berman received the Public Service Commendation Medal from Maj. Gen. Troy D. Kok, commanding general of the U.S. Army Reserve's 99th Readiness Division, during a ceremony Aug. 3 on Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.



Myron Berman being pinned by Gen. Kok.  
Photo: U.S. Army Reserve.

The Public Service Commendation Medal is the fourth highest public service decoration the United States Department of the Army can bestow upon a civilian, ranking directly below the Meritorious Public Service Medal.

The Army Reserve Ambassador Program was established in 1998 to promote awareness of the Army Reserve, its goals and objectives, and to serve as a vital bridge in our states/communities to further educate and garner support for the Army Reserve. Ambassadors are a powerful means of message delivery to the American people.

The function of the ambassador is similar to that of civilian aides to the Secretary of the Army, and carries a protocol status equivalent of a major general that is a key means by which ambassadors are able to effectively execute their responsibilities. Ambassadors are Special Government Employees who represent the Chief of the Army Reserve without salary, wages or related benefits.

Ambassadors provide community outreach assistance to Army Reserve members/families, other military personnel/families as needed, and provide feedback on plans, programs and needs to the commander of the Army Reserve, the Readiness Division commander and to local Army Reserve commanders.

Additionally, ambassadors build relationships and strive to improve the understanding and knowledge of the Army Reserve within the business and social sectors of communities across America. They help to educate the public, community leaders, and congressional staff offices about the capabilities and values of the Army Reserve and the Soldiers who live and work in their communities. They establish open lines of communication with the local communities; and they work to support recruiting efforts by assisting community and business leaders in recognizing that the Army Reserve strengthens the soldiers, the community, and the nation.

While not all ambassadors have military experience, many are retired officers or senior non-commissioned officers who wish to remain engaged in military affairs. Each state and territory has at least one Army Reserve ambassador.



# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

## JWV NJ Offers Reward for Vandals Who Destroyed Jewish Veteran Headstone

By Jeff Sohn, Department Commander, New Jersey  
On August 26th, JWV was made aware that the headstone of a Jewish veteran along with three other Jewish headstones in the Agudath Achim cemetery in Freehold, New Jersey had been toppled over the weekend. None of the headstones were damaged, according to the Executive Director Michael Berman.

However, it is our job to look out for our fellow brothers and sisters in arms whether in life or death, and we knew we had to do the right thing for this Jewish Veteran. Our museum was able to find his JWB Card from World War II, and we learned that SGT Larry D. Berman served at the tail end of World War II and helped during the occupation of Germany.

Jack Small, my chief of staff, and I met with Michael Berman at the Freehold Jewish Center. They were very happy that we got involved and very impressed. They were honored we were thinking about them. We discussed the fact that one of my platforms when I was appointed Department

Commander was that I wanted to combat anti-Semitism.

Last year PNC Mike Berman, who is our Resolutions Committee Chairman, fought a case of anti-Semitism in Lakewood, New Jersey. Vandals put

anti-Semitic banners over the front of a local synagogue, which was eventually linked to the white supremacists group Vanguard America.

Four stones were toppled, and the police were hesitant to call it an anti-Semitic act. We know that this doesn't happen by accident. Mike at the Freehold Jewish Center explained that the headstones were not broken, and they just needed to be righted. He explained that it took \$50 to fix the headstone of the Jewish veteran, and we were happy to help out.

JWV New Jersey is also offering \$500 for the capture of the perpetrator, and we are arranging a meeting with the police department soon to discuss the details of the reward. Freehold Township Police are actively investigating the incident as a bias crime, and request anyone with information to contact this agency at 732-462-7500 or 732-294-2110.



SGT Larry Berman's headstone.



Jeff Sohn and Jack Small present check to Mike Berman of the Freehold Jewish Center.

## Jersey Shore Post 125 Launches Labor Day Poppy Drive

By Sid Marshall, Post 125

Many veterans' groups organize poppy drive fundraisers on key U.S. holidays like Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day. But let's face it, unless you're in the deep south or the sun belt, Veterans Day in November can be uncomfortably, even dangerously cold for a bit-past-millennial age fundraising volunteers not fortunate enough to be hosting an effort in a sheltered location. Jersey Shore Post 125 has been there. Its members know this first hand. So, when a Memorial Day rainout earlier this year curtailed fundraising, and a suggestion was made to try a poppy drive on Labor Day weekend, the Post's dedicated volunteers

thought, "Why not?" Vacation crowds would still be at the shore for summer season closing events and hypothermia would be unlikely.

Through the able organizing efforts of Post 125's poppy drive leader and National Aide-de-Camp, Gerald Levine, and the sincerely appreciated cooperation of the Saker ShopRite supermarket's West Long Branch, NJ location and its Human Resources Manager, Lisa Hoffman, as well as the participation of the Hot Bagel Bakery, Monmouth Road, Oakhurst NJ, Post 125 staffed its first three-day, Labor Day weekend fundraiser (Shabbat excepted of course). The results for the veterans' benefits programs supported by the Post's efforts were rewarding. "125" was able to catch up with its annual goal. JWV Post 125 specifically designates New Jersey's veterans' homes and hospitals as well as bonafide veterans' causes as the beneficiaries of funds raised from these efforts. Innovative programs are planned for the coming year.

Jersey Shore Post 125's participating team members for its initial Labor-Day poppy drive in 2018 included: Dr. MaryJane Celli, Ray Cohen, Monty



Post 125 Members at their Poppy Drive.

## PA Post Runs Memorial Day Service at Their Local Synagogue

By Sanford Barth, Post 305

About 60 persons attended Ohev Shalom's Memorial Day service. The program included: welcome, singing the Star Spangled Banner, Invocation, Psalm reading, speech by guest of honor – Post 305's own Quartermaster Sandy Barth, JWV remarks by Adjutant Frank, wreath laying by Post Commander Jeff Hill, 3-shot salute, Taps, "A Soldier's Prayer," El Malei Rachamim, Mourners' Kaddish, and singing "God Bless America." After the ceremony, we sold some poppies and gave out several applications for membership. Both Quartermaster Barth and Adjutant Frank called out the "Jewish Exponent" (our local Jewish newspaper) for two omissions: The article on "Jews in the Military" neglected to mention the existence and mission of JWV. In addition, the "Community Calendar" for May 28, Memorial Day, omitted mention of any ceremonies, but did include two mahjong "events."

Following a lunch break, Post 305 conducted ceremonies at our four monuments: Har Yehudah, Mt. Sharon, Mt. Jacob, and Mt. Lebanon. Present at all four ceremonies were: Marty and Shirley Birenbaum, Adjutant Henry Frank, Post Commander Jeff Hill, Chaplain Lyn Linker, Joanne Nathanson (re: Birenbaum), and Patron Member Michael Schaeffer. At each cemetery, we followed the JWV Ceremony Manual, plus read the Iraq-Afghanistan Jewish deaths, and the Post 305 extended family deaths (since last Memorial Day).

Our deaths: Larry Edelstein, David Feldman, PDP Bernice Fishman, Rubin Gansky, Elaine Hoffman Watts, Richard Horwitz, Saul La Kier, Sylvan Merwitz, Past Long-time Post 305 Quartermaster Al Moskowitz, Bennett Nathanson, Roselyn Ozer, PDP and long-time Post 305 Auxiliary President Shifra Pincus, Samuel Schultz, George Smith, Burton Taub, Morton Wachs, and Mike Wagner.



L to R Marty Birenbaum, Chaplain Lyn Linker, Patron Member Michael Schaeffer, ADJ Henry Frank, CDR Jeff Hill

Fisher, Norman Ginsburg, Michael Gordon, Sam Kaye, Jerry Kessel, Henry Lewis, Sid Marshall, Burt Resnic, Marc Rubenstein, Larry Snider, Dr. Allen Solden, and Paul Weinstein. Sincere thanks go out to all of them. The Labor Day experiment was a great success. Unless rapid onset climate change softens the normal forecast for November, or there is a robust shift in the snow-bird demographics of Post 125, now celebrating its 82nd year, the prospect of repeating a September fund drive is warmly appealing.



# JWV Convention Highlights

## Women Veterans of JWV Take an Active Leadership Role

By Sheila Berg, Chairwoman, Women in the Military Committee

Jewish War Veterans has organized a subcommittee specifically focused on women's issues. Presently there are 336 women veterans registered with JWV. This includes active duty and veterans. According to 2016 veteran's administration profile, female veterans represent 15 % of active duty service. This is a great beginning to recognize our contributions.

The Women's Committee met at the convention. There were (10) persons in attendance. After the introductions, issues of interest were discussed. In addition to sexual assault, medical care with the Veterans Administration, homelessness within the context of the female veteran including children, services for aging female veterans and clothing to fit the female body. Example of clothing issues are body armor, helmets and work uniforms.

The lifting of restrictions for combat assignments has broadened the scope of opportunities. Projected enlistment is expected to increase. As well as the exposures that are aforementioned. The Women's Committee expects to address these



From left: Jennifer Brande, Rochel Hayman, Sheila Berg, and Georgi Jasper met to discuss issues of interest to woman veterans.

and future concerns in a timely manner.

Presently JWV has a representative on the Veterans Administration Committee for female veterans. JWV has an opportunity to effect change through advocacy for female veterans.

## Important Resolutions Passed at Convention

By Herb Rosenbleeth, National Executive Director  
At every convention, the JWV Resolutions Committee evaluates, discusses and then presents proposed resolutions to the Convention. Our Resolutions Chairman, PNC Michael Berman, provides the leadership to keep this important committee on track and leads the convention discussions.

One of the most important resolutions passed this year concerns burn pits. Since the Gulf War, the U.S. military has burned thousands of tons of waste at bases in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Iraq, and at other sites.

As a result, the VA has created a Burn Pit Registry. This registry is open to all veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and certain others who served after 9/11. Two veterans in Congress, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) and Rep. Brian Most (R-FL), have introduced bill H.R. 5671, the Burn Pits Accountability Act, which would require the Department of Defense to conduct periodic health assessments for U.S. troops who were "stationed at a location where our open burn pit was used." We must contact our members of Congress to support bill H.R. 5671.

Another resolution passed this year is one calling for a "First Responders Appreciation Day." First responders are the men and women who answer the call when a crisis occurs. While most individuals run away from danger, first responders run toward a dangerous situation. The JWV calls upon Congress and the President to set aside one day each year to recognize the self-sacrifice and heroic acts that first responders perform every day. Please contact your member of Congress and the White House to support this resolution.

The VA operates 170 Medical Centers and 1,082 out-patient clinics. There continues to exist a shortage of qualified medical personnel within the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare

system. The VA Inspector General has found inadequate staffing in the areas of primary care, psychiatry, psychology, and medical technology.

The general-consensus is that these shortages are related to non-competitive salaries offered by the VA. As we go to press, it has been announced that federal employees will not receive the 2.1 percent pay raise they were supposed to get. This will serve to exasperate the problem. JWV calls upon Congress to authorize such salaries and benefits as to make employment with the VA a viable career path. We need you to contact your Senators and your Representatives on this subject.

Recently, the alleged remains of 55 soldiers killed during the Korean Conflict were turned over to American authorities. These remains were repatriated on the 65th anniversary marking the effective date of the Armistice ending the shooting war on the Korean peninsula. While many issues still exist between these two nations, North Korea has said it will cooperate and assist in the repatriation of additional sets of remains. The possibility of future cooperation and assistance is a positive sign for the families of men missing in action since the signing of the Armistice in 1953. The return of these remains is the start of the healing process and a sense of closure for possibly 55 families.

Every year, usually in March, our National Commander testifies before a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs. Our resolutions, which pertain the Veterans Affairs committees, are included in the commander's testimony.

All JWV resolutions passed at the 123rd Annual National Convention can be found on the JWV website at: <https://www.jwv.org/programs/legislative-priorities/policies-and-resolutions/>

Each member of JWV is asked to contact your members of Congress concerning these resolutions.

## Gulf War, Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans Committee Report

By Rochel Hayman, Chairwoman, Gulf War Committee

The Iraq & Afghanistan (I&A) Committee and new Gulf War (GW) Veterans Committee held a joint session at the National Convention. It was an excellent interactive group, with several members attending the convention for the first time. Chairs Marc Wolf (Commander Post 4 NY) of the I&A Committee and Rochel Hayman (Commander Post 210 AZ) of the GW Committee moderated the session, highlighting the committee's purpose, structure and goals. A critical discussion point centered around JWV's future and the responsibility and role that the members of the Volunteer Era have in that evolution.

This convention's meeting was a small stepping stone in the development and work of these two committees, as conference calls and communications from during the year are increasing. Regular, consistent communication is a critical component to brainstorm, flesh out, and implement goals and programs. There are many strong workers and leaders coming together in these committees who were not at the convention but who are at the table with us.

It was recognized in the session, just as it was mentioned at several other junctions in the convention, JWV must evolve into the active organization which fills not only the wants and needs of our current membership, but that of today's active duty members and veterans 50 and younger.

Some ideas brought up were to encourage Posts to welcome "younger" members and be inclusive of them and their ideas, offer them the opportunity to take on responsibilities and leadership positions, and choose guest speakers and social events which would be of interest to them and their families. But there is an additional option to bridge the generations as well - Post 4.

Today's veteran of the Volunteer Era heavily emphasizes communication, networking, and activity; they have different social needs and outlook. Marc Wolf and Nelson Mellitz made an excellent presentation explaining the evolvement of Post 4 to the members. Post 4 is a nationwide JWV community, in many ways a virtual community, which initially began as an alternative place for people who were not engaged in Jewish War Veterans but who did have a want/need for veteran comradery with a Jewish tie. Voted and chartered at last year's national convention, it is a unique entity in which one can have dual membership with it as well as their local traditional brick & mortar post. So our existing geographic posts can and should encourage this dual membership for younger potential members.

The weighty point was made that the current leadership echelon and membership from previous conflicts who have raised up JWV to where it is today, with their blood, sweat, and tears, need to be assured that there is a cadre of those coming up from the ranks with equal fervor and dedication in assuring that Jewish War Veterans can continue and create a new legacy they can be proud of.

*Find out more about getting involved with the committees by emailing Anna Selman at [aselman@jwv.org](mailto:aselman@jwv.org) or Rochel Hayman at [RochelHaymanJWV@gmail.com](mailto:RochelHaymanJWV@gmail.com).*



# JWV Convention Highlights

## JWV Award Winners

### Feureisen-I. T. Rockman Award

#### Council Level

Nassau-Suffolk District Council-NY

#### Post Level

Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256-TALO

### National Commander's Award

Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein-Florence  
Greenwald Post 1-NY

### Judge Lawrence Gubow Memorial Award

Colonel Nelson Mellitz, NJ

### Joseph Demiany Memorial Award

#### Department Level

Department of Massachusetts

#### Council Level

Nassau-Suffolk District Council-NY

### Post-9/11 Veteran Support Award

Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein-Florence  
Greenwald Post 1-NY

### Edward D. Blatt Award

#### Department Level

Al Adler, Department of NJ

#### Post Level

Selina Kanowitz, Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126-NJ

### Brenner – Jaffee Memorial Awards

#### Best Monthly Publication

Scottsdale Post 210-SW

#### Best Bi-Monthly Publication

PFC M. Chwatsky-SGT W. Farber Post 717-NY

#### Best Quarterly Publication

Department Level - The Beacon, NY  
Council Level - South Jersey County Council, NJ

### Outstanding Email Newsletter Award

Department of Massachusetts

### Most Improved Online Engagement Award

Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126-NJ

### Recruiter of the Year Award

Gary Glick, Post 652-NY

### Post Growth Award

#### Small Posts – 4 – 15 members

Samuel D. Turteltaub Post 237-SE

#### Medium Posts – 15 – 30 members

Prince-Strauss-Groman Post 161-MA

#### Large Posts – 31–50 members

Greenspun-Radin Post 21-SW

#### Bountiful Posts – 51 members and up

Ensign Lawrence D. Solowey Post 652-NY



**David Zwerin, of Post 652 NY,  
recipient of the  
Murray L. Rosen Award.**

### Isadore Heiman – Al Berger Award

Department of Florida

### Wolfson Award

Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256-TALO

## Empowered Young Veterans Make Changes at JWV's 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention

*Continued from page 1*

know there is a Jewish general at West Point. I felt bad for the VA guy, however, because he had only been in the office for one week and had to answer all our questions, but he did the best he could considering," said Ed Hirsch, Department Commander of Michigan.

We also worked on new panels and workshops that engage our Gulf War and GWOT Veterans, while also meeting the needs of our Vietnam and Korean veterans.

"We tried to change things this year by giving our members workshops and the panels that gave them a chance to interact and learn what is going on," said Membership Chairman Barry Lischinsky.

"This was only my second convention. It was a great opportunity to network with other Posts and Departments and share ideas for programs. I really enjoyed the JROTC workshop. It really opened my eyes to some possibilities of our Post working with local JROTC units. I previously thought that JROTC units had to be Jewish or a big portion of the JROTC unit Jewish, but that is not the case. It is something Post 256 is going to look into," said Steve Krant, Post Commander of Post 256.

"I really like the 'Revamping Your JWV Programming' panel. It really gave me some ideas that I need to bring up to my Post to implement," said TALO NEC Art Kaplan.

During the Convention, the Resolutions Committee met several times during the weekend to discuss important legislative priorities. sixteen Legislative Priorities were passed, and topics included Burn Pits, military retiree benefits, Preserving Jewish Iraqi Artifacts and many more.

"The Resolutions Committee was very inter-



**Andrew Wolkstein and Jay Shapin**

esting. We hammered a bunch of resolutions. My favorite was the resolution about working with military children. These kids get moved around from place to place, and they deserve help," said Larry Pollak, member of Post 44.

On Monday, the Scouting Committee convened to introduce about new ideas to shape the program to fit our mission of teaching American Jews about Jewish American military history. We announced to the membership the Benjamin Kaufman Jewish Heroes Patch and the Tibor Rubin Jewish American History Patch. Both of these patches will be introduced at the 2019 National Council on Jewish Scouting meeting.

"We went to the Scouting meeting that NC Barry Schneider conducted, and we have formed a Shomer Shabbat family Cub Scout Pack here in Arizona. It was extremely helpful, and the committee was very helpful in forming this new Cub Scout Pack," said Michael Chambers.

The last workshop of the convention was "Where Do We See JWV in 5 Years?" We had Norman Rosenshein, Elaine Bernstein, Rochel Hayman, Andrew Wolkstein and Isaac Greenberg on the panel. They all served at different times, and they all have different levels of involvement within JWV. The panelists were able to give their unique perspective on questions from the audience.

"The panel for 'Where Do We See JWV in 5 Years?' was especially important because we got to hear from different generations with different opinions of what our future will look like. It is important that we listen to all generations of veterans," said Membership Chairman Barry Lischinsky.

The Convention culminated with the National Commander's banquet. Outgoing PNC Paul Warner said his goodbyes as we welcomed new NC Barry Schneider as our new leader. The event was a blast as PNC Maxwell Colon swore in NC Schneider in his own unique way. Then, National Commander Schneider gave a rousing speech that motivated everyone in the room.

"We must engage our younger veterans and not only show but demonstrate to them that JWV has value to them as veterans and as Jews. We need to look to their needs and we must adapt to them rather than try to make them fit our mold," said NC Barry Schneider in his acceptance speech.

Overall, JWV's 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention was a great success, and we know that the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention will be just as great in Richmond, Virginia. Information about the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention will be coming out soon, but in the meantime, please contact the Programs Department if you are interested in helping plan for the 2019 Annual Convention.



## JWV Must Look to the Future

By Ben Kane, Programs Assistant

L'Dor V'Dor is one of the most repeated idioms in Judaism. It translates to "from generation to generation" and stresses the importance of bridging the divide between the old and the new for the betterment of all. It is important to strive towards solving the problems that our organization faces, and in doing so ensure that new veterans are interested in joining JWV. In all organizations that exist thanks to its membership, certain guidelines should be followed to ensure success.

For starters, keeping current and maintaining relevancy is crucial to long-term survival. It helps ensure that ties between posts and headquarters are strong, as well as promotes an air of competency necessary to draw new members into the fold. The mantle of collective ownership of the organization should be passed down from generation to generation. The old guard maintains the ways of the organization for a while and is gradually replaced by the next generation. These newer members would have a better sense of how to reach their own peers. Gradually, the young become old, and they too are replaced by the following generation with their own innovative ideas.

Prospective members may not at first understand how this organization operates, what posts can do for them, and what they can do for posts. However, as Jewish veterans they are entitled to be part of and help improve the organization that promises to support them. They should learn from their predecessors to get an idea of how things are and how things once were. Knowing about the traditions of our organization is important to the process of successfully moving forward into the future.

JWV must not be afraid of change. That is not to say that all aspects should change or that it should occur just for change's sake, but innovation that benefits the company and improves its services should be embraced, rather than feared. It is important to nurture a desire for youth and new, good ideas- as frightening as it may be to alter things that have been done a certain way for a long time.

Secondly, communication within our organization- like in all organizations- is paramount to greater success. Prospective veterans who get in touch with a post or HQ and inquire about membership and about what programs are offered, should they see that there is good communication between all parties within JWV, would surely be more likely to become members than if no dialogue existed between posts and HQ. Communication between the posts and HQ is important when determining how successful our organization is currently, and where improvements should be made. Periodically we will even discover that a post has been defunct for some time, but because HQ was not notified by the post, we did not know to update our databases accordingly. Through cooperation and communication, we can circumvent these easily avoidable issues.



Post 112 Members Sign Up Jewish Basic Trainees at Fort Benning.

And lastly, another way that the JWV can go about fulfilling the tenet of L'Dor V'Dor is in a literal sense- the sharing of members' past experiences to the youth and other interested citizens of their communities. Through our new Project Maggid program, we aim to be able to provide a relevant speaker for any organization that requests one. Letters to schools across the country are written and sent on a yearly basis, inviting educators to get in touch with JWV. We invite our members to let us know if they would be interested in volunteering their time for this very worthy cause. We fervently believe that with your help, we can fulfill the renowned phrase "L'Dor V'Dor" and ensure continued success for our organization, and for Jewish veterans across the nation.

## From Generation to Generation

*Continued from page 1*

a hairy infant, covered with red hair, almost animal like. Jacob is considered simple, quiet, and quite literally, a "Mama's boy." He was different enough from Esau that he needed to cover his arms with animal skins in order to deceive his blind father as to which son he was. Jacob (Israel) would become the father of the 12 Tribes. Esau would become the father of the Edomites, but the glory of Israel was not with Esau, the hairy hunter.

Perhaps it was because the Jews found that their culture's embrace of education, learning, and knowledge was the way to succeed in the many nations that the diaspora found itself in. Not that there was a lack of skilled tradesmen and soldiers, but a Jewish stereotype rooted in fact was the focus on learning. This of course led to its own challenges – Koufax was initially deemed "too intellectual" to be a successful baseball pitcher. When I was a Battalion Operations Officer, I received that same label from one senior officer. It's part of being Jewish. But that same analytical bend turned Koufax into an astute student (one might say pioneer) of the science of pitching. Ted Williams was the same about hitting – however, Williams didn't carry the baggage of being a Jew, and was simply treated as, well, a student of the science of hitting. He was never considered too bookish nor intellectual.

Perhaps a better way to look at our martial

inheritance is not the either/or of Jacob and Esau - a better parallel for the Jewish martial strain is King David. A warrior from younger days when he confronted the mammoth Goliath, he rose to become a warrior, musician, poet, and King. Although he conquered Jerusalem and helped establish the Kingdom of Israel, he also is considered the author of many Psalms still included in Jewish liturgy. History is replete with examples of Jews who did both – achieved prominence in the defense of their nation, and then succeeded in numerous other pursuits.

Of course, these representatives of our inheritance as fighters, defenders of our freedom, and servants of our adopted homelands are not well publicized as role models to our own people or outside, hence the need for organizations such as Jewish War Veterans of the United States to remind not only the citizens of our adopted home countries but our fellow Jews that we are, as the young 2nd Lt. told me years ago "great fighters." And it is not a choice between intellectual pursuits and martial skill – it is, as in the case of King David, "all of the above." JWV exists to remind all that we are the sons and daughters of David.

## Jewish Iraqi Artifacts

*Continued from page 3*

in 1932 it became an independent state.

For a short time the Jewish population thrived. A few years later the fate of that community faded significantly. Nazi propaganda influenced the local populace. The nation of Iraq dismissed Jews from public service. Teaching Jewish history and Hebrew was banned. Looting, beating and killing of Hebrews was prevalent.

Upon the creation of Israel in 1948, Zionism became a capital crime. Finally, in 1950 the Iraqis allowed Jews to immigrate to Israel. More than sixty thousand left for the Holy Land. Only six thousand remained. By the time Saddam Hussein ascended to power there were less than 400. Currently, a marker at the Jewish Heritage Center in Israel declares, "The Jewish community in Iraq is no more."

As American Mobile Exploitation Team Alpha entered Saddam Hussein's Intelligence building basement, they checked their safety equipment. In front of them was a basement flooded with four feet of black filthy water. As they reached down into the murky mess, instead of weapons, they found a treasure trove of Jewish documents, dating back to the 1500s.

The collected artifacts were placed into a drying and preservation process and then placed in the U.S. Archives. An agreement with the Iraq government will return them in 2018. Several American legislators are trying to get the State Department to renegotiate this date.



## Sons Inspire Dad

By Anna Selman, Programs and Public Relations Coordinator

The story of Nathan and Bill Krissoff is an amazing story, but it is not the typical generational military story that you are likely to hear. Nowadays, Jewish service members, like the rest of the United States, tend to serve in “generational military families” – that is people who serve tend to have a parent or both parents that serve. However, the story of the Krissoffs is a bit different.

Nathan Krissoff, a Jewish native of Nevada, joined the Marines after being told that he was too young to work at the CIA - he wanted to be on the “front line” of the Global War on Terror. Nathan was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Marine Corps in August of 2004.

In August 2006, 1st Lt. (1LT) Nathan Krissoff and his unit deployed to Iraq. Shortly after arriving in Iraq, 1LT Krissoff wrote home: “Almost five years to the day after September 11, 2001, I have the chance to put my money where my mouth is in terms of service.... I’m constantly reminded of that famous quote from Tom Hanks’ character at the end of Saving Private Ryan: “Earn this.” Earning it will mean sacrifice, determination, doing my job to the best of my ability. I chose this, and I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

During his deployment, Krissoff led a Human Intelligence Exploitation Team sub-team on eight different battalion operations and participated in 30 combat patrols. During one mission, his intelligence skills were key to freeing an Iraqi national who was held hostage by terrorists. On December 9, 2006, Krissoff volunteered to participate on an intelligence mission in the Al Amiriyah and Al Faris area of Fallujah, Iraq. As his unit was returning to base, Krissoff’s vehicle was hit by an IED when the Humvee drove over explosives that had been buried in a dry riverbed. Nathan, who was sitting in the



Lt Cmdr Bill Krissoff’s official swearing in ceremony. Photo: Task and Purpose

right rear seat, took the brunt of the blast. He was only 4 months into his nine month deployment.

His funeral was held in his hometown of Reno, NV. His brother, Austin, had just graduated from Marine Officer Candidate School when Nathan deployed. Austin, his parents, grandparents and hundreds of Reno natives were in attendance at Nathan’s funeral.

After the funeral, there was a message on Dr.



Nathan Krissoff with the rescued hostage. Photo: The Krissoff Family.

Bill Krissoff’s orthopedic office. It told patients that Dr. Krissoff was no longer seeing patients because he had joined the U.S. Navy in order to finish his son’s mission to take care of Marines. This came about after President Bush went to Reno to give a speech months after Nathan had passed away, and he met the Krissoffs afterwards. President Bush asked the family if there was anything that he could do for him, and Nathan’s father, Bill told him that he wanted to enlist to finish his son’s deployment.

Leaving his profitable practice, Dr. Bill Krissoff was sworn in as a Lieutenant Commander (Lt. Cmdr.) in the U.S. Navy in 2007. After completing his training with the U.S. Navy, Lt. Cmdr. Krissoff arrived in Iraq to finish his son’s seven month deployment. According to Krissoff, it was a culture shock to be there – the C-130s spiraling in to avoid getting shot, the blast walls surrounding the hospital “like something out of Mad Max.” Most of the surgeries Krissoff saw weren’t that different from what he was handling back in Truckee – knees and shoulders injured in training.

After weeks from getting back from his deployment to Iraq, Lt. Cmdr. Krissoff signed up for another deployment, but this time to Afghanistan. Krissoff arrived at Camp Bastion in southern Afghanistan as the battle for Marjah was kicking off in February 2010. In his time in Afghanistan, Krissoff served as the primary or assistant surgeon on 225 serious casualties, including countless amputations. Marines coming into Bastion with a heartbeat had a 97 percent chance of making it to the next facility alive.

Lt. Cmdr Krissoff continued to serve for six years, and he feels that he did finish what Nathan started. “In most families, dad inspires sons. In our family, sons inspire dad,” Krissoff said. One thing is definitely known, Lt. Cmdr. Krissoff definitely did “earn it”.

## JWV’s 32<sup>nd</sup> Mission to Beautiful and Historic Israel March 31 - April 10, 2019

**If you promised yourself that you will see Israel one day....**

JWV visits places most tours don’t get to, and provides an opportunity to meet with Israeli leaders and military. This year our tour will include a visit to a secret underground bullet factory in operation during Israel’s struggle for independence, a visit to the innovative Weizman Institute of Science, one of the world’s leading multidisciplinary basic research institutions, Katzrin, to see the remains of a Talmudic Jewish town, and other fascinating historical and religious touchstones that will make your trip to Israel a uniquely memorable one. *You don’t have to be Jewish or a veteran to travel with us, so bring your friends and family!*

**From JFK \$4499.00 / DFW \$4250.00 / Based on double occupancy.**

### Package includes:

- Round trip coach class tickets from JFK (New York) or DFW (Dallas Ft. Worth). Call for other cities.
- Transfers to/from airport and hotels (if you fly with the group).
- Superior First Class hotel accommodations (similar to Sheraton or Crowne Plaza in the US).
- Full Israeli buffet breakfast and dinner daily, except for three dinners on your own.
- Daily sightseeing tours in an air-conditioned deluxe bus with licensed English speaking guide.
- All entrance fees to sites as per program.
- All taxes and service fees as imposed by hotels.
- Earphones so you can easily hear the guide.
- Tips per day, per person, for guide, driver, hostess, and hotel restaurant staff.



For more information about this trip, please visit the JWV website or contact Christy Turner at JWV Headquarters: 202-265-6280 [cturner@jwv.org](mailto:cturner@jwv.org).



## Chaplain Saves Stranger's Life

By Staff Sgt. Maricris McLane

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Washington - The U.S. Army Chaplain Corps plays a vital role in improving the spiritual well-being of soldiers and family members within the organization. Chaplains assist in improving morale, providing religious services, and supporting the Army's Suicide Prevention programs.

The 1-229th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion's chaplain found himself directly involved in one such situation, though the individual needing his assistance was a civilian and the chaplain was off-duty.

"It was 1300 [1 p.m.] this past Sunday [August 26, 2018], I was driving a friend to the airport," said Ch. (Capt.) Michael Harari, a Jewish Rabbi with the battalion. "When we got near the 56th Street overpass, I saw an individual on the other side of the guard rail. He was reaching out to the other side just above traffic."

Harari saw the man standing close to the edge of an overpass and quickly made a decision to turn around and assist.

"I told my friend to call 911," said Harari. "I took the next exit and back-tracked to get to where that person was."

In short order, the chaplain located the man.

"Come over here," said Harari. He asked the man to step over the rail and get close to him so he could speak to him, he explained.

During their conversation, the man shared that he was a veteran.

"Hey, you know I'm a chaplain over at JBLM," mentioned Harari to the man, seizing the opportunity to connect with the stranger.

Harari provided him reason and understanding. He continued to keep the veteran occupied with their conversation while waiting for the police, he added.

"He was talking about his service; he wasn't so coherent," said Harari. "As we're talking back and forth, it felt good that he was further away from the edge and that physically I would be able to restrain him if I needed to. But it didn't come to that."

It is normal for Harari to look for indicators of a potential suicide. In this case, without hesitation, he knew he needed to be there for the person.

"It feels humbling that God would use me for things of such importance," said Harari. "It makes me feel that I am doing what I'm supposed to and my eyes are looking out."

It was no coincidence to Harari. He believed that he was in that position for a purpose. In the same breath, he mentioned how his peers would react in the same way.

"As a chaplain, we believe that God puts us in places for a reason," he commented. "Any of my peers would have done the exact same."

Even though his actions occurred during off-duty hours, he received recognition. Harari downplayed the feat, but others saw it differently.

"His care for his fellow man goes well beyond his responsibilities of the Army," remarked Lt. Col. John B. Davis III, 1-229th ARB commander. "His small amount of compassion saved that man's life."



Capt. Michael Harari receives an award from Col. Matthew Braman for his actions to prevent suicide. Photo: US Army.

Chaplains and Unit Ministry Teams provide essential services to prevent suicides.

"We all have to look out for each other...not only here on-post but also off-post," said Harari. "We have to be everyone's battle buddy."

As a chaplain, Harari plays a vital role in the success of a healthy unit's morale and welfare.

"He also commits his free time to his family, unit, and the JBLM community as the only chaplain on-post of the Jewish faith," noted Davis. "He is an integral part of the spiritual health of our unit."

Harari, provides Jewish-specific religious services throughout the installation.

"I provide the Sabbath services every week," added Harari. He also has the Jewish High Holidays schedule for JBLM, as well as providing the services for the Battalion while at Yakima Training Center conducting field training exercises.

## JWV Member Chosen to Become Hologram in the Shoah Foundation's New Project

By Anna Selman, Programs and Public Relations Coordinator For JWV members going to the opening night of the Dallas Holocaust Museum next year, they will see a familiar face. That is because JWV Member Max Glauben was chosen by the Dallas Holocaust Museum and the USC Shoah Foundation to be the face of their new interactive Holocaust exhibit.

"They'll get to have a conversation with Max," says USC Shoah Foundation Program Manager Kia Hays, "to maybe ask Max a question they might have had about the Warsaw ghetto after going through that or they might have had about the camps, or survival or coping...and get an answer and really connect with him on a very personal level."

Glauben, born in Warsaw, Poland, survived the Warsaw Ghetto, multiple concentration camps and a death march as a young teenager. Since coming to America, he has committed his life to telling his story to ensure that the Holocaust is never forgotten.

"I have devoted my retirement to telling my story, and starting the seed for the Holocaust Museum that is scheduled to be finished next year around September 2019. It is going to be a fine museum with, of course, the Hologram Exhibit that was made with the USC Shoah Foundation," said Max.

Glauben is one of the few remaining Holocaust survivors living in Dallas. As with most Holocaust



Max Glauben being filmed for the new interactive exhibit. Photo: Texas Jewish Press.

survivors, Max is realizing that there will be no one else to tell their story after he is gone. This new innovative project will allow students to interact with a life-like hologram that hopefully gives the students the ability to speak with a Holocaust survivor.

However, he also visits schools as a Jewish War Veteran. "I come to speaking events when asked because I am a Jewish War Veteran. I love going to the schools and speaking with the children to tell them about my service," said Max.

He was drafted during the Korean War in 1951. Max served for the next four years in different locations state-side as a mess hall sergeant.

"When I was liberated, the Americans gave us uniforms and had us help out. While I was at the DP camps, I would run the mess hall and I would drive the cars. So, I had a little experience coming. When I came to the states in '49, I registered for the draft and I was picked up in 1951," said Max.

"I remember running the mess hall. I had the walls painted and had pictures of Mull Mullens up on the walls. At Fort Hood, I was awarded for the best mess hall. I don't think anyone knew I was a Holocaust survivor. I just went with the flow. In those days, being a Holocaust survivor didn't mean much, but I didn't want to be treated any differently. I just wanted to be a normal person; I didn't want anyone to feel sorry for me," said Max.

"When I came to the country, I was not a citizen. I was grateful for what I did, and I became a patriot to the United States. They gave me citizenship. I feel that if you live in a country, then you should love that country and the people in that country. I honored my commitment to the country that saved my life, and I feel good and I don't care how anyone else feels about that."

Max is now able to go back to the places that he served in order to tell his fellow soldiers about his experiences.

"I went to Fort Hood and Fort Sill for their Holocaust remembrance ceremonies a couple of

*Continued on next page*



OPERATION FINALE: EICHMANN CAPTURED! TRIED! EXECUTED!

By Harrison Heller, Membership Coordinator  
 On June 1, 1962 Adolf Eichmann was hanged in Ramla, Israel. His body was later cremated, and his ashes were spread at sea, so there would be no memorial. But how did this happen? How did a Nazi get to Israel to be tried by the people he so wanted to destroy? The film *Operation Finale* tells this incredible story.

To understand the film, you must understand Eichmann’s past and how he got to Argentina.



Ben Kingsley Playing Adolf Eichmann.  
 Photo: MGM Pictures.

Eichmann was born in Germany on March 19, 1906 to a blue-collar family. Eichmann was not the strongest student while attending school, so he eventually dropped out and began working in his father’s mining company in Austria. In 1932 he joined the Nazi Party and the SS, where he rapidly rose through the ranks.

In 1933, Eichmann was recalled to Germany where he was appointed the head of the Department of Jewish Affairs. His primary focus was emigration, arranging for Jews to leave Germany and the German Reich. To ensure this, he finalized the “taxes” that the Jews and their families had to pay. This money went straight into his pocket. In September 1939, he drew up the plans for the organized ghettos across the major cities of Europe. His hopes were to build a Jewish reservation in Far East Russia and in Madagascar. He wanted to have the main transportation center in Nisko (southeast Poland). These plans were to never be carried out.

After the invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941, representatives from several Nazi government ministries arrived for a meeting, known as the Wannsee Conference on January 20, 1942. Reinhard Heydrich and his new lieutenant, Adolf

Eichmann, shared their new plan for solving the “Jewish problem”. They laid out their plans for “The Final Solution,” organized railroads that lead to extermination camps, where death was manufactured. Eichmann was credited for designing the railway network and gas chambers. He noted that the gas chambers would make it easier for the troops to carry out their “orders” of mass murder. At the height of the Holocaust, the commandant of Auschwitz-Birkenau said, “he was sending more human freight than I can kill.”

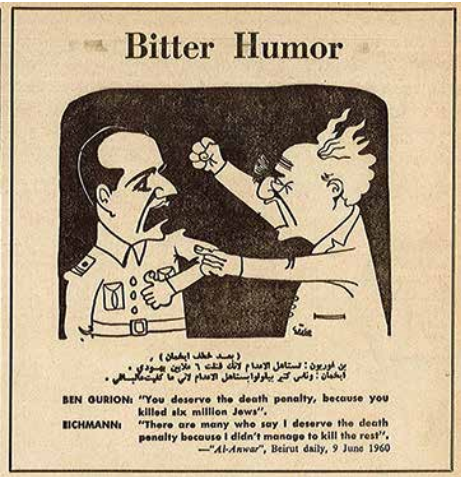
May 1945, World War II was over. Eichmann was captured by American forces. Using forged documents, he went under the identity of Otto Eckmann. Knowing that SS officers had tattoos under their arms, he had his forcibly removed before escaping. He fled to Austria where he hid in relative safety for five years, before fleeing to Argentina. 1950’s Argentina was a safe haven for many Nazi war criminals, due to the fascist sympathetic government of President Juan Perón. (1997: a DAIA, Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas, investigation discovered 22,000 documents that proves a “network” managed by Rodolfo Freude, advisor to the President. Freude had an office in the Casa Rosada (the President’s official residence) and was close to Eva Perón’s (Evita) brother, Juan Duarte). *Operation Finale* picks up ten years after Eichmann’s arrival in Buenos Aires.

Sightings of Eichmann in Argentina began as early as 1958. Messages were being sent to Mossad, and they were being paid very little attention to, as Mossad was paying more attention to future matters. As more sightings came in, they saw the urgency to capture the fugitive war criminal. In May 1960, a plan was hatched to smuggle Eichmann out of Argentina. Israel knew going in that the Perón government would not extradite Eichmann for a trial in Israel. Coincidentally, this was also the time of Argentina’s 150th anniversary of their revolution against Spain. Tourists were coming in from all over the world. Mossad agents snuck into Buenos Aires and began monitoring Eichmann at his home on Garibaldi Street in San Fernando (about 20 miles north of Buenos Aires). They took notes of the neighborhood and his commute to and from his work at a Mercedes-Benz factory. On May 11, the agents posed as stranded tourists with a broken-down car. They see Eichmann exiting a bus and making his way towards them. One of the agents bumps him and asks him for a cigarette. 3 agents tackle Eichmann to the ground

and subdue him. Once arriving at a safe house, the Mossad agents ask for his name, and he replies “Roberto Clement”. An agent asks him in German, “Wie heissen Sie?” Eichmann says, “Ich bin Adolf Eichmann” (“I am Adolf Eichmann”).

The agents had to wait another 9 days before smuggling Eichmann out. During this time, they had to get a sworn statement from him saying that he is willing to stand trial in Israel. On multiple occasions he refused. One of the agents was able to work with Eichmann and got him to sign. Upon signing, they dressed Eichmann up in an El-Al pilot’s uniform and drugged him, to appear drunk after a night out in Buenos Aires. On May 23, 1960, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion announces to the world that Israel has captured Adolf Eichmann.

April 11, 1961 the trial of Adolf Eichmann begins, and becomes the first trial to be televised in history. He was charged with 15 crimes, which



Eichmann Trial Cartoon from The Jewish Veteran in December 1960.

include crimes against humanity, crimes against the Jewish people, and various war crimes. On December 15 he was found guilty on all counts and was sentenced to death. On May 31, 1962 Eichmann was hanged and cremated in a custom oven. His ashes were thrown to sea.

*Operation Finale* is a great film. There are some parts of the story where Hollywood took their liberties, but it was to help the pacing of the film. The film features a great young actor in Oscar Isaac and comedian Nick Kroll. Sir Ben Kingsley picks up the role of Adolf Eichmann. Kingsley, known for such roles as Ghandi, Otto Frank, Yitzhak Stern, tells the Associated Press, “... didn’t portray Adolf Eichmann out of love or admiration. Rather, he wanted to ‘nail him to the gates of Auschwitz.’”

Shoah Foundation’s New Project

Continued from previous page

years ago. I think it is important to tell our military about the Holocaust. They incorporate some of the things we went through into their practice about how they should handle certain things,” said Max.

“I think it is important what myself and the other holocaust survivors are doing right now. We need to fight hatred, bigotry and racism,” said Max. “We need to ensure things like freedom of speech, freedom of religion are not broken. Unless we tell the people like it is and how things can change rapidly if we act the way we are acting right now, what goes around comes around...but you never know,” said Max.

Changes in Retiree Dental Plans

Continued from page 17

To sum it all up, the TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan is going away and being replaced with FEDVIP, whether you like it or not. The positive thing is that you will have more choices, but you might have to pay more for those choices. Some of our older retirees might not be able to absorb that cost, so we will have to look into that in the future.

In addition, you must pick a plan during the enrollment period or you will not get care. You can either go online to pick a plan at [Tricare.benefeds.com](http://Tricare.benefeds.com) or call the BENEFEDS customer ser-

vice at 1-877-888-FEDS (1-877-888-3337). This must be done before December 31st or there is a possibility your coverage will lapse next year. For our retirees that are uncomfortable with computers, they should clear out their day to be on the phone. Wait times are expected to be long during the enrollment period, and you must be patient.

If you’re retiring before Dec. 31, 2018, and want dental coverage before that date, you’ll need to enroll in Tricare’s retiree dental plan and select a new plan during open enrollment.



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



## National President Linda P. Singer

I bring greetings from the National Ladies Auxiliary to our Sisters and Comrades throughout this great Nation.

As I visit many Auxiliaries and Departments I will learn how they uniquely do our programs. However it is done, I am proud of their accomplishments.

I will tell them about the national programs and what we do. Our student awards help promote education and maybe future members. This year Israel needs our help as we donate to the Aid to Israel program.

Past National President, Iris Goldwasser instituted a new program called NICU/PICU which stands for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. When parents bring their child to an emergency room and the child has to stay, often parents don't have necessities with them. The NICU/PICU kits, which you can obtain from the national office, contain many toiletry items needed by parents. Our sisters and comrades can bring these kits to a children's hospital for the parents. It's a mitzvah!

At our convention we will do more good

deeds when we collect bears for the Rita A. Panitz Memorial Teddy Bear program and baby shower items for the Rhea Sahl Memorial Baby Shower program.

We must never forget our Museum in Washington, DC. It is a wonderful place and everyone should be a member. You don't have to be Jewish to join.

Fundraising items will be on display at the NEC and at our convention in Richmond, Virginia. It is a valuable source of revenue. Please visit our tables and see what you wish to purchase.

At this High Holiday time I want to wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life. Shalom.

Loyally yours,  
Linda



Linda P. Singer

## Thank You

By Elaine Bernstein, PNP, Convention Chairman

Thank you to all our delegates for attending our 90th Annual Convention in Tampa, Florida.

Our presentation to our Grant-A-Wish recipient was so heartwarming. We presented over 1500 teddy bears to our Rita A. Panitz Memorial Teddy Bear Program and to the Police and Ronald McDonald House. We presented 12 baby baskets to pregnant Veterans who were so appreciative. We donated Gift Cards to the Ronald McDonald House. We contributed a gift to two Veterans for Operation New Start. We also made a presentation to the VA Medical Center in Tampa. All of this would not have been possible if not for all of your generous donations.

This year we had a Constitutional Convention and changes were made to our Constitution and By-Laws. We will be selling updated versions of our Constitution and By-Laws. They will now be in 8-1/2 x 11 soft binders in larger print. We will be selling them for \$10.00 and hopefully they will be available at our NEC in February.

We had more people join partners this year and a good time was had by all who attended the Wine and Cheese Get-together.

The Chai Club Luncheon was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who attended.

National President Iris Goldwasser's Testimonial was the highlight of our Convention.

Thank you to everyone who purchased the 3 for \$10.00 raffles.

I thank every chairman for working so hard to make this an outstanding convention. Special thank you to JWV Convention Chairman, Ed Goldwasser for all of his help to me and the Ladies Auxiliary. I thank JWV and JWVA for supporting this Convention. Without all of you this convention would not have been the success it was.

I am looking forward to seeing each and everyone of you in Richmond, Virginia, in 2019.



Installation of JWVA Officers for 2018-2019: President Linda P. Singer, Sr. VP Sandra Cantor, Jr. VP Natalie Blank, Chaplain Esther Rosenshein, Treasurer Joanne Blum, Executive Secretary Shirley Zak (sitting) and not pictured Conductress Roz Kaplan, Assistant Conductress Louise Baraw



Rhea Sahl Memorial Veterans' Baby Shower: Then National President Iris Goldwasser and Chairman Carol Adler joined some of the 12 female veteran recipients of overflowing baby shower gift baskets.



2018 National Grant a Wish Recipient and his wife are joined by then National President Iris Goldwasser and program Chairman Sandra Cantor for presentation of his wish.

## HEARTS AND HANDS HELP THOSE IN NEED



## THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

By Harriet Epstein, PAP, Legislative Chairwoman

Every legislative body, be it your Town Council, State Legislature, or the U.S. Congress, has its own legislative process. The general idea of each process is similar, but the actual steps vary considerably from one body to another. So be sure to know the exact process with which you are dealing so you will know when to rally the troops for support. Google can usually find you a good local chart.

Here are simplified basic steps of the process, not necessarily in the order you may find:

1. An individual or group finds a legislator interested in the subject to introduce a bill.
2. Bill is drafted in appropriate legislative language and assigned a number.
3. Bill is referred to a committee of the chamber where the sponsor sits.
4. Committee votes to support, amend or reject the bill. If supported (see 5).
5. Bill is placed on calendar, then debated and voted on by the first chamber.
6. If it passes, bill is then referred to the other legislative chamber's committee.
7. Bill is then placed on calendar, debated and voted on in second chamber.
8. If there are differences, a conference committee negotiates a compromise.
9. If bill passes both chambers, it goes to the head person-Mayor, Governor, President.
10. Head person either signs (bill becomes law) or vetoes bill.
11. If the head person vetoes the bill, there is a process for overriding the veto.
12. If the overriding process succeeds, the bill still becomes a law.

Be aware that more bills fail than pass. Some are just ignored in committee. Some may be carried over to the following year. Overriding a veto can be difficult. Differences between political parties may create opposition to the bill. *Wishing you good luck in your advocacy!*



By Sandra Cantor, NSrVP, Fundraising Chairman

Let's put the **FUN** back in **FUNDRAISING**!

**Lottery Tickets, Raffles, Grab Bag Sales, Pound Auctions, White Elephant Exchange, Silent, Chinese, & Standard Auctions**

Use these and other **FUN** activities to motivate your members to spend their money and help our organization grow financially.



Chairman Joanne Blum, left, and PNP Iris Goldwasser present a gift to this year's Operation New Start recipient.

## CHILD WELFARE

By Elaine Bernstein, PNP

Children are the future of this country of ours. Their parents have the responsibility of providing them with a loving and safe environment that, among other things, instills an importance of an education. Unfortunately, far too many children do not live in a perfect world and suffer accordingly.

Next year JWVA will visit Richmond, Virginia. Most likely it will have more than its share of children who have been traumatized by events that would frighten most of us.

During the National Convention, JWVA will provide teddy bears to the police and fire departments, Ronald Mc Donald houses and a children's hospital.

JWVA has received many letters of appreciation from families that received a stuffed animal during their time of need. Each item donated has a "donated by JWVA" tag affixed.

Whether your donation is large or small, you know it will be most appreciated. Send your donation to:

PNP Elaine Bernstein  
9 Dogwood Court  
Sayreville, NJ 08872.

Make the check payable to Elaine Bernstein.  
Thank you.



## Veteran Transportation Pilot Program Announced



By Petra C. Kaatz, PNP  
National VAVS Representative

The VA Voluntary Services has announced a new pilot program that will aid our veterans with transportation home when they have been discharged from the hospital.

The program, Courtesy Transportation Program, is for Veterans who do not meet the criteria for VA Beneficiary Travel.

In order to qualify for this pilot program, the Veteran must be ambulatory without the assistance of another person and have full decision-making capability.

JWVA can help get this pilot program started by purchasing Lyft Gift Cards and Uber Gift Cards and presenting them to their local VAVS office for distribution. These cards are readily available at Target, Walmart, Stop and Shop, CVS and other locations.

So, if your Auxiliary or Department is looking for a new program to support, here it is! Ask if your JWV Post would be willing to join you in support of this pilot program for Veterans.

Contact your local VAVS Chief for further details or questions.

## SCAM ALERT! SENIOR CITIZENS CHARITY SCAMS

By Barbara Steiner, PDP

Scammers posing as charity workers will call senior citizens and offer up sad, hard luck stories, which of course, conclude with a plea for funding. Seniors are frequently taken in by these tales and send money because they want to help.

Charity scams often carry a note of urgency - a telemarketer might insist that money has to be given right then, or request a senior provide their credit card number in lieu of mailing a check. This gives a senior no time to investigate the supposed charity and decide if they should give. Such scams takes advantage of a senior's compassion, which can make it especially hurtful.

Never give money or provide your credit card number to any organization before you know more about them. Don't be scammed! Below are two excellent sites you can go to learn more about a charity before deciding to give.

- [charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org)
- [charitywatch.org](http://charitywatch.org)

## HEARTS AND HANDS HELP THOSE IN NEED



By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

At our recent National Convention, we premiered our new video, *Spirit, Courage and Conviction: A Tour of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History*. It's a 26-minute video that takes the viewer through both our building and over 350 years of the history of Jews serving in the American military. The documentary-style video was sponsored by the Department of New York. It features Medal of Honor recipient and NBC News military analyst Jack Jacobs introducing the video. The video will bring the museum and our stories to you.



Screenshot from *Spirit, Courage and Conviction: A Tour of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History*.

We encourage JWV members to share it in your local communities. The video can be a valuable tool for JWV posts to use in coordination with synagogues, community centers, or other local groups. It can help promote JWV, NMAJMH and educate people about the history of Jews in the American military. We're counting on you to help share it and spread the word about the museum. We know not everyone can make it to Washington, D.C., this is a way to bring the museum to you wherever you are in the world.

At this time, the video is available for free to JWV Department and County Commanders. Please contact Michael Rugel at [mrugel@nmajmh.org](mailto:mrugel@nmajmh.org) or 202-265-6280 to receive a copy.

We also had the opportunity to screen the PBS documentary *GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II* at the convention, and we had Battle of the Bulge Veteran Boris Stern there to tell his story as well. We've been hearing great feedback on the film since it first aired on PBS in March. It was import-

ant that the museum had a role in this film. DVD copies are available in our museum stores. It also continues to play on PBS stations and is available through streaming video services.

One of the more fascinating family visits happened at the museum in June when the family of Aaron Kliatchko came for a reception following a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Kliatchko served in the Russian Army in the



Family of Aaron Kliatchko.

Russo-Japanese War and was taken prisoner by the Japanese. He came to the U.S. and enlisted in the Army in 1910. During World War I, he was stationed in the Philippines. He stayed there after the war working for an American engineering firm. When the Japanese occupied the islands, Kliatchko returned to action at age 55 working as an American spy.



Boris Stern at JWV's 123rd Annual Convention.

He was captured and became a prisoner of the Japanese once again at Cabanatuan Prison Camp where there were 121 Jewish prisoners. Kliatchko had trained to be a cantor as a young man. When he saw the need in the camp, he led Jewish services and funerals. With his long white beard and powerful singing voice, he soon became known as the "Rabbi of Cabanatuan." He was killed in 1944 after the Japanese "hell ship" he was on was hit by

American bombers.

His descendants were raised Catholic in the Philippines. They knew very little about their Jewish heritage and not much more about Aaron's military service but were fascinated by it. A cantor sang at the museum reception, reciting the same prayers that Kliatchko sang in Cabanatuan. As they learned about Kliatchko's military service, the family also learned about their own Jewish roots.

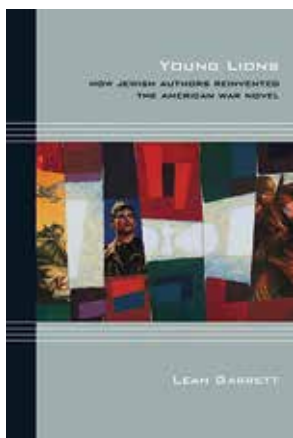
We've had other interesting tour groups through the museum recently including a North Carolina teachers group in D.C. on a Holocaust education program. We had another teachers group come through a program arranged by the Friends of the National World War II Memorial that included a Q & A with two Jewish WWII vets. We want to continue to encourage educators to come to the museum. It's important to reach teachers who can bring our stories back to their classrooms or bring the classes here to the museum. Please let the schools in your community know about the museum.

## Coming Up

### Alan S. Brown Scholar Series

October 18 • 7:00 pm

Leah Garrett, author of *Young Lions: How Jewish Authors Reinvented the American*



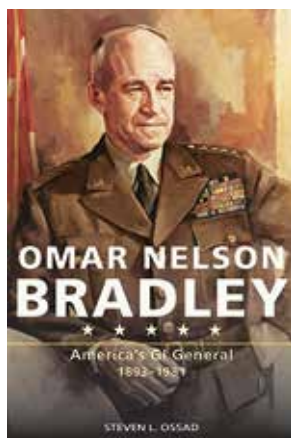
*War Novel*. Garrett will discuss the writing and war service of Norman Mailer, Joseph Heller and more famous Jewish authors who were veterans.

## Coming Up

### Alan S. Brown Scholar Series

November 4 • 1:00 pm

Steven Ossad author of *Omar Nelson Bradley: America's GI General*. Ossad will



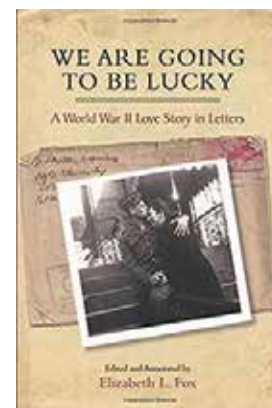
talk about not only Bradley, but his interactions with Jewish officers Maurice Rose and Mickey Marcus.

## Coming Up

### Book Talk: Author Elizabeth Fox

November 29 • 7:00 pm

Elizabeth Fox, author of *We Are Going to Be Lucky: A WWII Love Story in Letters*, will



discuss her book which presents the correspondence between the author's parents when Fox's father served in World War II.



By Pamela Elbe • Collections, Archives & Exhibitions Coordinator

## Be A Part of the Exhibit: Request for Stories

One of the great things about the multimedia pieces in the Museum's new permanent exhibit is the ability to add material as stories and photos find their way to us. The number of veterans in our "Service Around the World" interactive computer touch table has continued to grow since the exhibition opening. We would love to add more stories from around the globe to the touch table, and to do that we need your help.

The theme of this interactive map is American



Visitors from around the world learn about the proud history of Jews in the American military.

military service around the world (1948 to the present) and it includes the personal stories and photographs of those who have served. The information and images that you submit will be included in the interactive map in our permanent exhibition, and potentially used in future exhibitions. We need your help to show how Jews have contributed around the globe while serving in the American military. This includes the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, but we also want to include the many, many smaller operations that are so often overlooked. Whether you were a nurse in Korea, served in Kuwait, or recently returned from serving in Afghanistan – we want to document just how varied Jewish military experience has been in the past 70 years.

We have already received many wonderful submissions, but we have room for more. We want to document as many veterans as possible. To have your story and photograph included, please send an email to Pamela Elbe (pelbe@nmajmh.org) with all of the following info:

- Your name and contact info
- Your branch of service and rank at the time
- Military operation
- Location
- Dates of service
- A brief statement. This does not need to be anything elaborate—it can be as simple as why you joined the military. Or describe a specific, memorable incident that occurred during your

military service. How is it representative of your overall experience? Were you stationed somewhere remote, or have an interesting military specialty or duties?

- Provide an image with a caption. You can send more than one image from your time in the service, but please include at least one as this is a visual interactive medium.

Women who served in the US armed forces anytime from 1948 to the present, we need your help! In our ongoing effort to document as many Jewish veterans as possible, we are currently focusing on female representation within these ranks. We need stories and images from female veterans (service from 1948 to the present), and anyone (male or female) who served from the 1980s to the present.

In order to be able to use your images, we ask that the digital photo file be higher quality resolution (file size of at least 1 MB). If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Elbe.

If you are a Jewish veteran who has served in the US military any time since 1948 to the present, you can be included in this display. You do not need to be a member of JWV to be included (though we would love to have you as a member). No need to resubmit your story if you previously sent it in to the Museum. Please help us show visitors that Jews have served—and continue to serve—in the US armed forces around the world!

## The Skeer Family's Armistice Ordeal

Abraham Skeer of Brooklyn, NY, was drafted and entered the service on May 28, 1918. He served with Company E of the 313th Infantry Regiment 79th Division and was sent to France in July of 1918. He participated in several battles, including Avocourt, Marlancourt, and the Verdun sector of the Argonne Forest. He went over the top at Montfaucon during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

On November 10, 1918, Abraham's sister Lillian wrote him a hopeful letter about the potential end to the war:

*We are making arrangements for your homecoming. The papers say that we are going to have peace. President Wilson says that Monday Nov. 11, 1918 we will have peace. So maybe you can come home soon.*

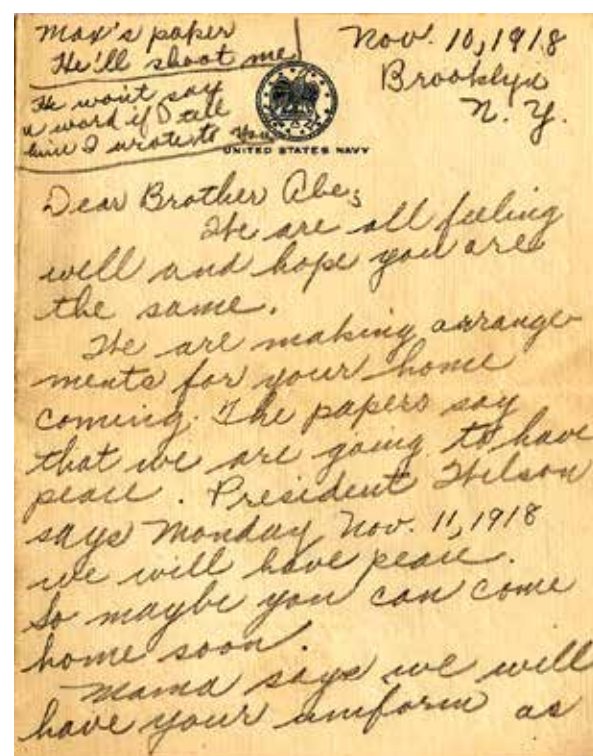
*Mama says we will have your uniform as a remembrance and shall hang it on a wall for everybody to see....*

*We have not received a letter from you for several weeks. I guess it is due to the fact that your time was taken up by fighting. Are you well? Has anything hurt you? I hope not. God will take care of you, I know. Papa and Mama pray every day and they put in a word for us too. I am sure He has heard our prayers and is answering them for maybe before you get this letter we shall have peace.*

Though peace came as predicted when the armistice was signed on Nov. 11, 1918, it would be

months before the Skeer family would hear from Abraham. Just days before the peace agreement, while fighting in the Argonne Forest on Nov. 7, 1918, Abraham was gassed and shot. The War Department initially reported him as missing in action, but he was later found in a hospital, severely wounded, near the scene of the battle. In January of 1919 he was able to be reunited with his family. Abraham went on to marry, raise two children, have a successful career as a civil engineer, and

lived to be 97 years old despite the wounds he received in the war.



Letter from Lillian Skeer to her brother Abe, written not knowing that he had been severely wounded days earlier.

Pvt Abe Skeer, who was wounded in the Argonne Forest just four days before the armistice.



# Remembering Christopher Celiz

By Anna Selman, Programs and Public Relations Coordinator

Over the summer, we lost another one of our brothers in arms. Sergeant First Class (SFC) Christopher Celiz, a member of the 1st Battalion of 75th Ranger Regiment, died July 12 of wounds suffered as a result of enemy small-arms fire in eastern Afghanistan’s Paktiya province. He was 32.

“While conducting combat operations in Paktiya province, Celiz was wounded by enemy small arms fire,” stated a U.S. Army Special Operations Command press release. “He was treated immediately and medically evacuated to the nearest medical treatment facility where he died of his wounds.” He was part of a team of Army Rangers supporting the CIA in an intensifying effort to kill or capture top militant targets.

“The 75th Ranger Regiment suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of SFC Chris Celiz,” Col. Brandon Tegtmeier, the 75th Ranger Regiment’s commander, said in the release. “Chris was a national treasure who led his Rangers with passion, competence, and an infectiously positive attitude no matter the situation. He will be greatly missed.”

Celiz deployed from 2008 to 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and from 2011 to 2012 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). He was on his fifth deployment with 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment when he was killed. He deployed to war zones a total of seven times with the U.S. Army.

Celiz was born in 1986 in South Carolina, and he was a native of Summerville, SC. He attended



Sergeant First Class Christopher Celiz.  
Photo Credit: US Army.

Summerville High School, where he participated in JROTC. According to one of his JROTC battle buddies, they would spend weekends together competing at drill meets and hanging out at one another’s homes. It was at Summerville High School where he also met the love of his life, with whom he shared an 8 year old daughter.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in September 2007 after completing two years at the Citadel. In 2013, Celiz was selected to serve with the 75th Ranger Regiment as a combat engineer. He served with 1st Battalion as the Battalion Master Breacher and engineer and then later as a mortar platoon sergeant with Company D. At the time of his death, Celiz was serving as the battalion mortar platoon sergeant.

“SFC Chris Celiz was a great Ranger leader, and he will be sorely missed by 1st Ranger

Battalion. He had an incredibly positive attitude that inspired Rangers throughout the formation,” his battalion commander, LTC Sean McGee, said in the release. “SFC Class Celiz led from the front and always put himself at the decisive point on the battlefield. He was a loving husband and father, and he and his family have been an important part of the fabric that represents 1st Ranger Battalion and the Savannah community.”

His funeral took place Wednesday afternoon at Congregation Mickve Israel in historic Savannah. Flags were lowered at half-staff throughout the state in his honor. Hundreds of mourners filled a Savannah, Georgia, synagogue to remember a Jewish soldier killed in action in Afghanistan on July 12.

The Governor of South Carolina, Henry McMaster, ordered flags at half-staff on July 18th. “As you look at the flag today and see it at half-staff, please take a moment to remember Sergeant First Class Christopher A. Celiz, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country in Afghanistan, and pray for his family and friends as they, and our entire state, mourn his loss,” McMaster wrote on Facebook.

The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV) mourns the death of SFC Christopher Celiz, and we promise to remind the Jewish community about his service and to remind the world that Jews have and will continue to proudly serve the United States – some, like Celiz, have given their lives. It is our duty to remember them and to tell the next generation of their sacrifice.

## TAPS

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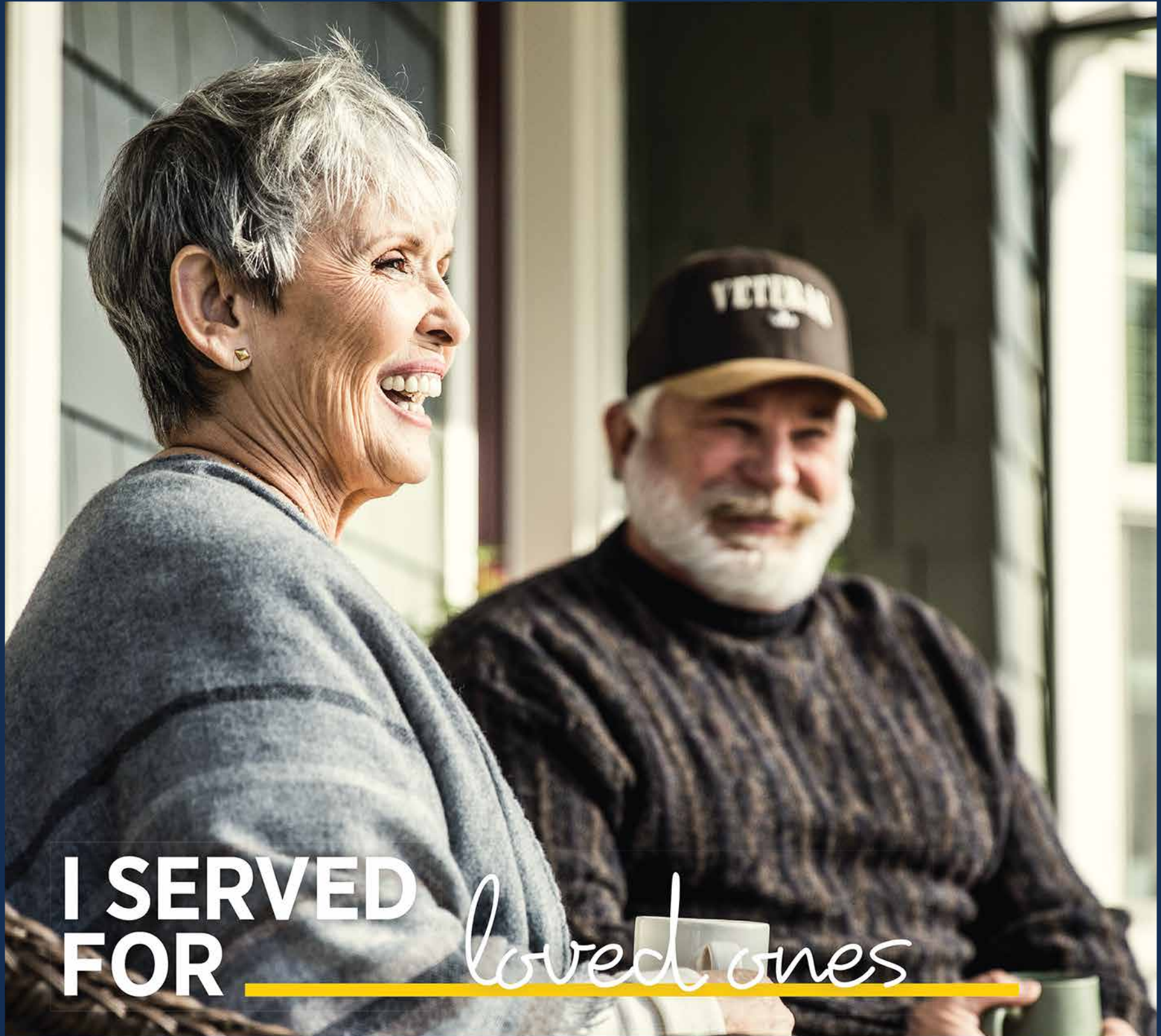
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# Happy Veterans Day ★ Honoring All Who Serve

<b>Allan &amp; Sheila Abramson</b> <i>Good Health &amp; Happiness to All</i>	<b>In Memory of Lt. Jack S. Gardner</b> <i>U.S. Marine Corps, 1952-54</i>	<b>Dr. Jack N. Porter • Post 211-MA</b> <i>In memory of my dad, Irving Porter</i>
<b>PNC Lou &amp; PDP Gloria Abramson</b> <i>Good Health &amp; Happiness to All</i>	<b>David Goldberg, K.C.C.</b> <i>In memory of Sam Goldberg</i>	<b>Herb &amp; Francie Rosenbleeth</b> <i>Happy Holiday to You and Yours!</i>
<b>SFC Lillian Aronson, USA (Ret)</b> <i>I'm grateful for reaching 101 years!</i>	<b>Sidney B. Goldberg, PDC • Post 510</b> <i>Abe Cohen - Lehman Memorial</i>	<b>PNP Freda &amp; PNC Norman Rosenshein</b> <i>Good Health &amp; Happy Holidays</i>
<b>Chag Sameach</b> <i>Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ</i>	<b>PNC Nate &amp; Selma Goldberg</b> <b>In Honor of PNC Nate &amp; Selma Goldberg</b> <i>In Memory of Leo &amp; Anita Gilbert</i>	<b>Stephen &amp; Helen Sax</b> <b>Harriet &amp; Norman Schnitzer, PDC</b> <b>In Memory of Ralph Leon Shear</b> <i>Lubert/Shear Families - All 22 of us!</i>
<b>PDC Ed &amp; PDP Louise Baraw</b> <b>Eugene Baraw • Post 336</b> <b>Allan &amp; Nikki Berger</b> <i>In Memory of Bert Stoler</i>	<b>PNC Edwin &amp; PNP Iris Goldwasser</b> <i>Honoring Veterans</i>	<b>Irv Schildkraut • JWV Post 440</b> <i>Proud Vet of USMC, USN, USA</i>
<b>Howard A. &amp; Dorothy G. Berger</b> <i>USF Austria/USASETAF Italy</i>	<b>Alan J. Gould Post 105</b> <i>In Memory of Sam Gould, Post Cmdr.</i>	<b>NC Barry J. Schneider</b> <i>Best Wishes to all JWV &amp; JWVA members</i>
<b>Post 202 • Naples, Florida</b> <i>Warm Greetings to All JWV Members</i>	<b>PNC Sam &amp; PNP Barbara Greenberg</b> <i>Happy Holidays to All</i>	<b>PNC Lawrence &amp; Judith Schulman</b> <i>Our Very Best Wishes to All</i>
<b>In Memory of PDP Adele Bilker</b>	<b>Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321/69</b> <i>National Adjutant • 2017-2018</i>	<b>NP Linda Singer &amp; Stuart Singer</b> <i>In loving memory of PDC Bill Singer</i>
<b>PNC Jerry &amp; PNP Joanne Blum</b> <i>Good Health &amp; Happiness to All</i>	<b>PNP Petra C. &amp; Jason A. Kaatz</b> <b>Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health</b> <i>Happy Holiday!</i>	<b>PPC Norman &amp; Toby Smith • Post 129 NY</b> <b>CH Murray Stadtmuer • Post 648</b> <i>In loving memory of Clare Stadtmuer</i>
<b>PDC Jack &amp; Ruja Cohen • Post 749</b>	<b>CMDR Laurence &amp; Marilyn Kaufman</b> <i>Saluting the Men &amp; Women of Post 46</i>	<b>Shalom &amp; Mazel Tov to all Veterans</b> <i>Greta &amp; Jerry Stolar • Post 346</i>
<b>PDC Jordan Crosby • Post 440</b> <i>In memory of PDP Edith Crosby</i>	<b>Jack Kent (Kantrovitz)</b> <i>In Memory of wife Marilyn Shapiro Kent</i>	<b>The Tarnofsky Family</b> <i>In memory of Len Klanit - Post 440</i>
<b>PDC Elliott Donn &amp; PAP Elissa Donn • CT</b> <i>Best Wishes &amp; Good Health to All</i>	<b>MA PDC Stanley R. Light</b> <i>In memory of Shirley Hersh, PPC Post 26</i>	<b>NC Paul and Norma Warner</b> <b>NJA Harvey &amp; Linda Weiner</b> <i>Be Well!</i>
<b>Diane &amp; Marshall Duberstein</b> <b>Greetings • Gerald Elkan</b> <b>In Memory of Lorraine Engelmann</b> <i>Loving wife, mother, grandmother</i>	<b>In Memory of Morty Kessler</b> <i>Bell-Oak Post 648, Queens-NY</i>	<b>In Memory of Joan &amp; Louise Weinstein</b> <b>Major Stuart Adam Wolfer Institute</b> <i>www.msawi.org</i>
<b>Greetings! Jerry Farris, PDC-PA</b> <b>PA PDC 98 Donald Feldman</b> <i>In Memory of my wife, Edith</i>	<b>Eva Mangeim, WWII</b> <i>Walkie Talkie Quality Control Inspector</i>	<b>Jeri Zweiman</b> <i>In loving memory of PNC Robert Zweiman</i>
<b>In Memory of Carol C. Frank</b> <i>In Memory of Fred Hiendrick</i>	<b>Best Commander - George Marshal</b> <i>Post 211, Newton-MA</i>	<b>David S. Zwerin, PDC</b> <i>Post 652 • Merrick, NY</i>
<b>Jim Friedlander, PC • Post 99-ME</b> <i>In memory of Mel Stone, Late QM/PPC</i>	<b>PNC Sheldon &amp; Judith Ohren</b> <i>L'Chaim - To Life</i>	<b>Any Jewish WWII person captured, sent to Auschwitz, etc., and survived</b>
<b>In Honor of all who have served!</b>	<b>PNC Ira &amp; Shelley Novoselsky</b> <i>Happy Holidays</i>	

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

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