



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Volume 70 • Number 1



JWV sadly announces the passing of Chairman Robert M. Zweiman, PNC, on March 17, 2016. Obituary is on page 5.

May his memory be a blessing.

Celebration Honoring Liberators

"We are honoring the liberators. They did not set out to be liberators. The role was thrust upon them. They were witnesses to man's inhumanity to man."

With these words, Major General Sidney Shachnow, USA (Ret.), began his keynote address. A child survivor of the Kovno ghetto, he witnessed firsthand the brutality of the Nazis. So did the four liberators sitting in the audience.

The Celebration Honoring Liberators, hosted by the Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Foundation on February 13 at the Crystal City Marriott in Virginia, honored these members of the Greatest Generation before they are no longer with us and it is too late to thank them.

Two children of liberators from Florida and Texas were present in addition to the four liberators. Bernhard Storch and Alan Moskin are both part of Post 756 NY.



**Keynote Speaker
MG Sidney Shachnow, USA (Ret.).**

Bernard Rothenberg is from Post 972 NJ, and Ben Cooper, clad in his World War II uniform jacket and hat, hails from Post 45 CT. Each was recognized to a raucous round of applause.

For many of the 115 attendees, the event was not only deeply moving but also incredibly personal. Some had family who did not survive the Holocaust, others survived because they were able to find freedom and safety in the United States before the Nazis sealed the borders, and some knew a liberator or Holocaust survivor.

Many Jewish War Veterans members were liberators of Nazi concentration camps. Often, as Yiddish or German speakers, they were the only ones who could communicate with the survivors. They led Jewish services in the centers of the camps, and they offered a sense of comfort and kindness the survivors had not seen for many years. Just as significantly, the liberators preserved and

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BOOTLESS: THOUGHTS ON TRANSITIONING OUT OF THE MILITARY

By Lance Allen Wang

I saw it time and time again throughout my 21 year career in the military. Peers, subordinates, and superiors – some who I respected a great deal – seemed utterly unprepared to transition out of the Army, for a variety of reasons. Some just could not wrap their heads around the idea that this stage of their life was coming to a close. Others truly felt that there was nothing else in life that they were capable of doing. Some just procrastinated until the last minute. The fact is, transition requires – administratively – at least a year. With six years of hindsight since my own retirement, my intent is to offer some thoughts on my transition out of the Army in the hope that it may help some of you still wearing the uniform. While my experience was retirement, much of what I offer can apply to any transition out of the military.

THE DECISION TO RETIRE

The military does NOT love you back (despite what the Retention NCO may tell you), no mat-

ter how much you love the military. Once you are no longer useful in the eyes of the bureaucracy, your days are numbered. Yes, we all know the story of someone who was able to get himself trapped in a nice loophole and stay on for another few years. What you don't know is the story of dozens who found themselves on the outside looking in during that same period. In many cases, you know when you're approaching the end. Maybe you're no longer deployable and have no hope of rectifying that anytime soon. Sometimes it is time to look back on a job well done, take the Honorable Discharge, put it in a nice frame, and move on to the next step in your life.

Make the decision as early as you can. I gave myself two years warning that I was hanging up



the boots (it became three years because Uncle Sam decided that a year in the desert sweating and dodging rockets would make an excellent retirement gift). The longer you give yourself, the more time you have to ensure you are prepared mentally, administratively, and financially for the giant leap into the unknown. In the rush to transition out of the service, don't forget to ensure that your medical conditions get documented. That can sometimes

be a very time consuming process with lots of appointments. Yes, it's annoying. But it is much more annoying to try and play catch-up years after you got that discharge put in your hand.

Remember that you don't need to go through the process alone. During this stage you have

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7:30 PM EST**

RFK Stadium

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Enter the full number, including the # sign.

All calls start at 8:00 PM EST

Call in!

**Your ideas
and opinions
count!**

April 7Leadership/Five Year Action Plan
June 2Convention Plans and Preparation
September 8.....Convention Review
October 27Outlook for the Coming Year — New National Commander

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THE JEWISH VETERAN

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Go to Amazon's website and sign in. Search for "AmazonSmile."

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*Every little
bit helps*

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**1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1**

The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

YOUR LETTERS

We Appreciate Your Support

On behalf of the Ft. Harrison VA Montana HCS patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of *The Jewish Veteran*. Your thoughtfulness reflects the concern that you feel for our Veterans and for the service they provided to all of us while in service to our country.

Without your support, we could not provide the smaller niceties that make hospitalization more bearable. Your thoughtfulness also reflects the concern and compassion that our community feels for our Veterans.

Thank you for your continued support.
Terrie Casey
Voluntary Service Program Manager

We Were All at Auschwitz

The article, "If we were all at Sinai, we were all at Auschwitz," by Lance Allen Wang, was timely and important. If we were all at Sinai, we were all at Auschwitz and we are all in Jerusalem. The anti-Israel bias in the media, the daily stabbings

in the country and the increasing threat from Iran should be of concern to all Jews. Those who hate Israel hate Jews.

It is our duty to use every interaction with others to impart knowledge and foster understanding. We might not always be successful, but it is in our best interest to try.

Emily R Sparks
JWV Post 753

92nd Bomb Group

While visiting the cemetery at Omaha Beach, I photographed the Star of David marking the grave of 2nd Lt Sidney Scheiman of the 92nd Bomb Group.

Lt. Scheiman came from Illinois, as the star had ILL on it. The reason I stopped and photographed his grave site was that he was killed on February 8, 1944, my 8th birthday.

I have carried the photo of the star marking his grave since 1994 in my Yom Kippur mazor so I can say a special Yizkor prayer for him.

An internet search has not given me any in depth information about the 92nd Bomb Group. I

would appreciate it very much if you could print a notice in [the] Jewish Veteran newspaper in an effort to get more information about the 92nd Bomb Group and Lt. Scheiman.

Thank you very much,
Maier Weiner

Mount Soledad Cross Case

I appreciated Harvey Weiner's article "The Mount Soledad War Memorial Cross Cases" in the most recent issue of *The Jewish Veteran*. Mr. Weiner mentions the pro bono legal assistance given by the American Civil Liberties Union. I am a long time member of Americans United For Separation of Church and State. Over the years, I recall articles in their publication regarding the Soledad Memorial Cross. I would have expected that AU would have partnered with JWV regarding the Mount Soledad matter. Is JWV aware of this organization? If so, why wasn't AU involved?

Thank you for a very informative issue.
Sam Simon
PFC Frederick Hecht Post 425



The JWV Department of New York is offering an educational award named after Past Department Commander Hyman Miller, from Syracuse, NY. He was a State Assemblyman and a well-respected member of the Jewish War Veterans both on a local, state, and national level.

The \$1000 award open to high school seniors and returning service personnel.

Please submit an essay of 350 to 500 words on the following topic: What can Veteran Affairs do to improve veteran benefits for returning service personnel?

Application must include:

- A cover letter with name, address, phone (home or cell), e-mail, and name of high school
- Official High School transcript
- Proof of acceptance to college for the coming year
- Three letters of recommendation
- Relationship to a member of JWV if applicable

Please mail completed information along with your essay to:

PNC Lawrence Schulman
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
105 Rockhill Road
Rochester, New York 14618-2725

Deadline is June 1, 2016.

..... JWV National Achievement Programs

National Youth Achievement Award Program

Are you aware that your National Organization has a program that offers monetary awards to graduating high school seniors who are a direct descendant of a member in good standing? If an applicant's relative is deceased, the member must have been in good standing at the time of his/her death. Posthumous members must be members since 2012. Applicants who are a descendant of Honorary members and Patrons are not eligible.

The applicant must be accepted into an Associates, Bachelor's or Nursing degree program from an accredited institution.

For further information or to secure an application that contains all the information about how to apply for these grants, contact Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org or 202-265-6280 at National Headquarters or go to www.jwvusafoundation.org.

Applications are due May 1, 2016.

Each Department is allowed to submit its top four applicants for consideration for the National Youth Achievement Program. Contact your Department Chairman for further information or to see if your Department offers additional grant opportunities.

National Achievement Program

Our National Organization is sponsoring an essay contest open to all current service members as well as veterans who plan to attend or are currently attending an accredited Associate, Bachelor's, Nursing, or Graduate Degree program.

Essay Theme: What was your military experience AND how will that military experience help you pursue your academic studies?

If you know of a current service member or a veteran who may be interested in entering the program, an application may be obtained by following the same procedure for the National Youth Achievement Award Program (see above) and click on the NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM. **Applications are due May 30, 2016.**

Our National Headquarters is planning to make the application available to Veteran Service Offices and Veteran Associations on college campuses throughout the Country.

This program is one of the many that JWV has instituted to assist our service members and Veterans.

We wish good fortune to all who apply and success in their academic endeavors.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Jerome Blum



This past February, I attended our National Executive Committee meeting. While I was there, I was thinking about 120 years ago when a group of brave men joined together. These were our predecessors. They were men who had served their country, and who would stand up and fight again to combat the stereotype that Jews did not serve. Thanks to Jerry Alperstein and New York Post 1, on March 15th I stood in close proximity to where they first met as JWV's first Post gathered to place a plaque on the site.

I would be preaching to the choir if I went on about what we need to do to grow membership, support our museum, and work with our Auxiliary. However, I must say this: how can we not be inspired? These men that formed this organization, and the Jewish War Veterans who initiated and marched through Manhattan on March 23, 1933 - this is our legacy. All of us who have visited the National Museum of American Jewish Military History have seen our history.

We have left some really good 'footprints' in our past. If you haven't been there, it is a must on your next trip to Washington, DC. Again I'll repeat: how can we not be inspired?

On the last night of the NEC the Celebration Honoring Liberators of the Nazi concentration camps was held. Thanks to PNC David Magidson, PNC Dr. Bob Pickard, PNC Ed Goldwasser, PNC Norman Rosenshein, and ALL of the JWV attending staff, the event was a huge success. Speaking just for Connecticut, we had one liberator who was able to make the event. We sponsored Ben Cooper. Ben along with his friend, Henny, a concentration camp survivor, and his son and his wife made the journey. I know that they were as pleased to be with us as we were to have them. Ben, dressed in his army uniform (he was a Medic), met and conversed with his fellow Liberators. It really sends a shiver down my spine when I think about what they did. I am certainly inspired.

Recently, I attended a memorial service officiated by my National Rabbi, Gary Atkins.

The service was in memory of Myron "Mike" Cohen. Mike was a Dachau liberator and JWV member. He had passed on in January, but was with us in spirit. Everyone who spoke, including me, testified that the military and especially Dachau had influenced the rest of his life. Mike was a great asset to the Jewish War Veterans.

In conclusion, I want to say how proud I am to represent the men and women of JWV, past and present. It was an honor representing our organization on March 16 when I testified before the Joint Session of the Senate and House Affairs' Committees on behalf of JWV to promote our legislative priorities and fight for the rights and benefits of all veterans.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Herb Rosenbleeth, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret)



VETERANS DESERVE MORE FROM THE VA

While the overwhelming majority of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employees are honest, dedicated, and hardworking, the VA continues to receive bad press.

The national news repeatedly runs negative stories on the VA. In late February, ABC evening news with David Muir carried a segment about a veteran who could not schedule an appointment at the VA. A week before that, CBS carried a story of the VA suicide hot-line not being answered and calls were going to voicemail. This is shameful! It is estimated that 22 veterans each month commit suicide. There is no acceptable reason whatsoever for the VA suicide hot-line not to be answered.

Timely processing of disability claims continues to embarrass the VA. For a long time the VA has promised to overcome the huge disability benefits compensation claims backlog. In fact, the VA promised to end this backlog in 2015. It is now 2016 and there is still a backlog.

A September 2015 report from the VA's Office of Inspector General says that costs for the development of VA's Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) increased from nearly \$579 million in September 2009 to almost \$1.3 billion in January 2015. The VA's own IG cited the huge cost increase to "inadequate cost control, unplanned changes in system and

business requirements and inefficient contracting practices." In a September 2015 report, the Government Accounting Office arrived at similar conclusions.

Obviously the VA is not effectively managing or controlling its own Veterans Benefits Management System. Nor is the VA processing disability claims to the satisfaction of many veterans.

There are seemingly endless reports of the VA's mismanagement and bureaucratic dysfunction. Some of these reports are probably exaggerated or completely false. However, there are far too many such reports to ignore them.

There are repeated discrepancies in the answers the VA gives about the number of employees fired for cause or misconduct. The variations are not even close. The Washington Examiner reports that the "VA employees accused of stealing money from the government and others found guilty of posting veterans confidential medical information on social media have kept their jobs."

In January, the Wall Street Journal published an article entitled, "Chronic Indifference at Veterans Affairs." A recent CNN article says, "Veterans still facing major medical delays at VA hospitals." And a December 16 Washington Post report says, "VA's own internal probe finds impunity of agency leaders at scandal-ridden

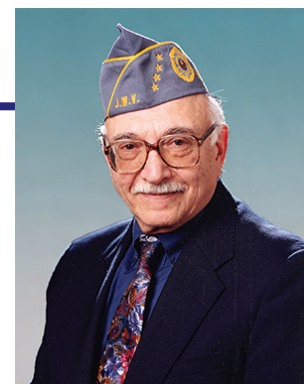
hospital."

Reports of failure to control finances frequently appear. In Denver, a hospital construction project is more than one billion over budget. The VA has overspent, possibly even wasted, millions of dollars on lavish art projects, exorbitant relocation benefits and bonuses for failing employees. Last July, the VA threatened to shut down hospitals because of a budget shortfall, prevented only by Congress providing an additional three billion.

Recent reports indicate that the VA has intentionally sought to discredit whistleblowers. VA employees have stated that veterans would often be forced to wait a long time, even months, for appointments and that this information would be kept out of the official electronic records system so that administrators could receive cash bonuses.

According to a review by the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, there is evidence that the VA targeted whistleblowers at Overton Brooks Medical Center and at the Hines VA hospital. These appear to be more examples of the VA working to discredit whistleblowers instead of fixing the problems hurting veterans.

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This immediate past National Executive Committee Meeting was one to be remembered. Combining winter weather with trips to meet our Congressional Representatives and Senators, along with regular Committee meetings, the Policy Committee, the NEC meeting and the meeting of the NMAJMH, certainly filled the days in Crystal City, VA. Capping the event, of course, was the JWV Foundation's Celebration Honoring Liberators. Several of them were present, and introduced to an appreciative audience.

As mentioned earlier, one of the most important tasks of the meeting was the visit to the members of Congress to point out JWV's views

on what we think should be covered by future legislation for veterans. That message was brought home to their local representatives and we look forward to the actions of the legislators based on our wishes.

The meetings within the hotel of our members are covered in this issue on pages 16-17, but the feeling is that they were well attended, and though different views are always expressed, those differences are the heart and soul of Jewish issues. Yet, after the meetings, the lobby is always filled with grateful members who look forward to seeing each other every year.

Our Ladies Auxiliary was present too, and we

were greeted by their President at our own National Committee meeting.

Membership is always a prime concern, and should be a major function of the local Posts, and the National Organization. Reports of other past activities by the organization's leaders and members were made at the NEC meeting; it all demonstrated that at the moment, JWV USA is alive and well.

IN MEMORIAM

PNC Robert M. Zweiman • 1928-2016

The Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV) expresses its deepest sympathies at the loss of our senior chairman, Past National Commander Robert Zweiman, who passed away on March 17th at the age of eighty-eight.

PNC Zweiman became a member of JWV in 1947, after serving in the United States Army in the Philippines. Following discharge from the service, he completed his education at New York University and attained his BS degree in Accounting and his Juris Doctor degree in law. As a lawyer, he was admitted as a sole practitioner in Federal courts and the courts of New Jersey and New York, and retired after 39 years of practice.

Bob served the Jewish War Veterans at every level of the organization- as Post Commander of North Hudson Post 76 in Union City, NJ, from 1954-1956, a Hudson County Council representative, and as the Department of New Jersey Commander from 1967 to 1968. He served as a Post, County, Department, and National Judge Advocate, and as chairman on several National committees including the Standing Committee and the Coordinating Committee.

He was instrumental in creating many of JWV's presently existing programs including the Allied Veterans Mission to Israel and the direct mail program, which is JWV's main fundraising initiative. He also developed the National Teleconference Program which holds monthly teleconferences to discuss issues relating to JWV and the veteran community. As the Editorial Fellow for The Jewish Veteran for 18 years, he authored numerous articles, columns, and press releases.



PNC Zweiman designed and coordinated the Museum and Headquarter building renovations providing an additional 50% exhibit space, study center, seminar rooms, and a lunchroom. He was also the Exhibits Chairman, and was essential in creating NMAJMH's most recent permanent exhibit. In between his two terms as National Commander, he served as the President of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington, D.C. from 1988-1990, and was re-elected as President at the 2007 National Convention.

Bob was awarded the Jewish War Veteran Life Achievement Gold Medal of Merit by the

2003 National Convention, and served two separate terms as National Commander; 1981 to 1982, and 1996 to 1997.

He served JWV since 1968 as a member of its Executive Committee and as a JWV Policy Committee member. Bob was the National Centennial Chairman for JWV commemorating its 100 years of service in 1996 as America's oldest active national veteran's organization, and delivered the JWV Host's address on Veterans Day at Arlington Cemetery in 1996.

In 2010, Bob helped create the Jewish War Veterans of the USA Foundation and served as its chairman until his death.

As a representative from JWV he served on the Executive Committee of AIPAC, the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, and has been on the Executive Committee of the Jewish Council of Public Affairs (JCPA), formerly NJCRAC. He was a member of the Board of Directors of The Military Coalition, an organization of 35 military and veterans organizations which represents the interests of the military community.

He was also active in many other veterans organizations, and was a life member of the American Legion, AMVETS, DAV, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Bob resided with his wife Jeri, a retired Learning Disabilities teacher consultant in Fort Lee, New Jersey.

An active member in JWV until his death, PNC Zweiman will be deeply missed.

The 2016 Capitol Hill / National Executive Meeting

The 2016 National Executive Meeting and conference was a success! Our members braved the extreme cold to storm The Hill to visit their representatives, and the Vietnam Veterans Committee visited the Vietnam Memorial Wall to lay a wreath and say a prayer. You can read more about specific meetings on page 16, and the

Celebration Honoring Liberators on page seven.

Major Patrick Walsh and Major T. Scott Randall, both Associate Professors at The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, VA, were the guest speakers at the annual Policy Committee meeting on February 11, 2016.



MG Jackson, USA (Ret.) of the Vietnam War Commemoration spoke to Vietnam Veterans committee members.

They spoke about their respective experiences in the reserves, and gave a very informative and entertaining presentation about the history of the reserves and its current status in terms of numbers and strength.

Major Walsh specializes in international and operational law, and is a military reservist currently serving on active duty. He deployed to Iraq in 2008 and served as a judge advocate advising commanders on international and operational law matters.

Major Randall works in the Administrative and Civil Law Department. A member of the Army Reserve, he has been serving on active duty for the past 10 years as an Active Guard Reserve Soldier;



PNC's David Magidson and Dr. Bob Pickard in front of the Capitol before meeting with their representatives.

he began his career as an enlisted infantryman in the Marine Corps Reserve. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2015 as the officer in charge of a rule of law team working closely with Afghan officials.

Special thanks to both of our speakers for traveling all the way from Charlottesville for the evening!



Members from New Jersey with their representatives during Capitol Hill Action Day.



Major Walsh and Major Randall taught attendees at the Policy Committee meeting about the reserves.

National Commander Jerry Blum presents JWV Legislative Priorities before Joint Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committee

National Commander Jerry Blum arrived from his trip to New York to testify on behalf of JWV at the Joint Session of the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committee on March 16. He touched on several of JWV's legislative priorities, but also ones that are near and dear to his heart including Blue Water-Agent Orange, veteran mental health care and veteran homelessness, equal standard of health care for female veterans and those currently in service, and naming the Long Beach CA VA Hospital after MOH recipient Tibor Rubin.

Learn more about JWV's legislative priorities for 2016 here on our website, at http://www.jwv.org/events/nec_capitol_hill_action_day.



Celebration Honoring Liberators

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Ben Cooper, Post 45 CT, recounts his experience as a liberator.



Alan Moskin, Post 756 NY.



PDC Bernhard Storch, also of Post 756 NY.

returned with evidence of the Nazi barbarity.

This evidence, pictures and recalled memories, was shown in a short video created by Past National Commander (PNC) Dr. Robert Pickard and the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Consisting of archival materials, photographs, and poignant interviews, viewers were taken on a journey from the horrors of the concentration camps to the celebration of Jewish survival despite overwhelming odds.

MG Shachnow noted that the GIs, young and battle scarred, “were ill prepared for that role as liberators. The challenge was overwhelming. They did the best they knew how.”

After liberation, he was reunited with his mother and younger brother. They spent six years in the ruins of Europe before they were able to obtain visas and immigrate to the United States, settling down in Massachusetts.

He was commissioned as a lieutenant in Infantry in 1960 and served as a rifle platoon leader, executive officer and company commander with the 50th Infantry, 4th Armored Division, in Europe. In 1962, he volunteered for Special Forces. His assignments during more than 34 years of commissioned service have been as a commander or staff officer with infantry, mechanized infantry, airmobile, and airborne units. He served as a Green Beret for 32 years, and rose to the head of Special Forces. He retired in 1994 after 40 years of service.

MG Shachnow also evoked his own experience as a Holocaust survivor:

“The human power of adaptation, both physical and mental, is very great, at least much greater than I would have thought possible. For instance, I would never have thought that a person who was given very inadequate nourishment, who was insufficiently clothed, who slept little, who lived in the worst possible hygienic circumstances and was exposed to all conditions of the weather, would still be able to perform heavy physical labor; and certainly I would have thought it impossible that he or she would go on living and not collapse from exhaustion. I know, indeed, that many broke down and perished, but the miracle is that, considering the horrible conditions of the concentration camps, there were still survivors. The conclusion is that the physical and mental powers of adaption and endurance of humans are much greater than they are believed to be.

The next observation is that, to a person who is starving, everything is made subordinate to the gratification of the hunger drive...This hunger drive sheds every psychic disguise, and then all that we call civilized succumbs to the drive.... Reaching the stage of the hunger drive ‘supreme’- there is no room for feelings of morality...I am persuaded that the hunger drive is the most vital of all drives of humans. One comes to realize the relative insignificance of what once they had

thought important; it puts life in perspective.

At the same time, fear is a great motivator. We are born in fear, we are reared in fear, and we pass our life in bondage to fear of want, pain, and death. Once imprisoned in a concentration camp, the greatest fear of all arises- will you survive? With discipline, you can manage fear and keep it from paralyzing you. At the same time, fear sharpens your senses and keeps you alert. Fear can cause you to find strength and capability you did not think you possessed.”

The liberators in attendance recognized this strength, but also witnessed the hunger and desperation in the survivors’ eyes. They were proud of their service, yet they have not been able to forget the smell of the camps and what they saw.

While there was no official diagnosis of PTSD in the years after World War II, each carried with them what they had seen and were unable to speak about their experiences for several decades. It was not until much later that many felt it was their duty to share their memories with the youngest generations to continue education of the Holocaust and the mantra of “Never Again.”

Liberator Ben Cooper shared his “lifesaving motto: No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” Like many of the liberators, he now speaks regularly about his experiences to school groups.

There are numerous liberators who either could not travel or are deceased. In the previous issue of The Jewish Veteran, we asked for your contributions with their names. The resulting list of over 40 liberators was read aloud by PNC David Magidson while the room stood at attention.

Special thanks to The United States Army Brass Quintet, led by Sergeant First Class Jon Voth, for providing patriotic musical support during the cocktail hour, and the Armed Forces Color Guard.

This event would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Co-Chairmen PNC Pickard and PNC Magidson, as well as PNC Ed Goldwasser and PNC Norman Rosenshein. Over \$80,000 was raised to help the JWV Foundation continue its mission of serving veterans and their families.



Bernard Rothenberg, Post 972 NJ.

Shofarim at the Vietnam Wall

By Alan Lewis, Post 692 MD



I think for the first time in my adult life, I didn't attend synagogue services on the first day of Rosh Hashanah in 2015. I had gone to the Erev Rosh Hashanah service and planned to attend our temple's second day service, but months ago I had made a commitment to serve as a tour bus guide to a non-Jewish organization on that day.

That group was Honor Flight Northern Colorado. It, and about 135 similar organizations across 42 states, brings World War II veterans to Washington to visit their memorials "before it's too late for them to see how the Nation remembers their service and sacrifice." (Ed. Note: *Honor Flights include veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, although priority is given to the oldest veterans and any that are terminally ill.*)

Seeking justification in my own mind for not cancelling my commitment to the Northern Colorado group, I thought about the Commandment to honor one's Mother and Father and I thought about these Rocky Mountain veterans as my spiritual parents who had gone into harm's way to save our world - to say nothing of European Jewry - from Fascism, militarism, Communism, and whatever other "isms" prompt our government to send our citizens into combat.

While at the Vietnam Wall - down on the eastern end where fewer people go - much to my amazement I saw not one but two ram's horns, shofarim, leaning against the Wall. One was big, about three feet long and equipped with a shoulder sling like a rifle. The other was small - perhaps the size of a big handgun. I knew that the family and friends of deceased veterans have been leaving objects at the Wall in remembrance of loved ones and comrade-in-arms, so I thought these objects

must be for a Jewish soldier killed or missing in action or one who had died of his wounds. I also thought this had to be an absolutely unique occurrence ... and on Rosh Hashanah, too!

Then I realized there were two gentlemen standing nearby watching me. I returned the glance and had a politically incorrect thought: "They don't look Jewish." I was correct.

We exchanged greetings, established the fact that these were ram's horns, that I was Jewish, this was the first day of the year 5776, and on the Jewish New Year we sound the ram's horn as part of our religious services. As it turned out, these were Christian gentlemen visiting Washington from South Carolina. They knew about shofarim and are followers of a Christian ministry based in the Midwest and the sounding of shofars is a frequent part of their practices. We didn't take our religious discussion any further.

Because of the absolutely unique sight of the two shofarim leaning against the Vietnam Wall, I hastened to another of our local Honor Flight volunteers, a professional photographer who was with us that day, to capture a couple of images of the scene: first the shofarim themselves leaning against the Wall and then with their two owners in "sounding position." They asked whether I'd like them to blow their shofars. I replied, yes, but softly please, since it might disturb the solemnity of this memorial site to others who didn't understand. They did, sounding a very soft Tekiah, one long, straight blast. We took a few more pictures, shook hands, and went our separate ways.

I did hear the shofar sounded on the first day of 5776 in a different kind of sacred place, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

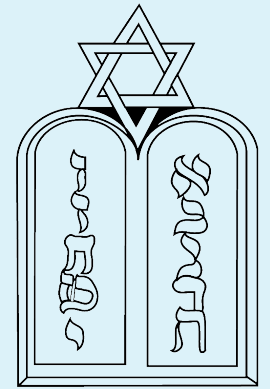
Tell Your JWB Story

Jewish Chaplains Council is turning 100 and wants you to tell your story!

Whether you are a chaplain who has served in the military, or your life was touched by a chaplain during your service, we want to include your personal memories in JCC Association's Centennial Celebration and the buildup to it. We have an online portal, where you can submit your stories, or you can contact us, and we'll help you turn your story from memory to told tale. And if you have historic photos, please share them as well.

The Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) was founded in 1917 as Jews headed off to serve in World War I. The organization proved so effective, that it stayed intact after the war, representing Jews in the military and the Young Men's Hebrew Associations that had come together to form the backbone of the group. That organization eventually became JCC Association, but we have never lost our connection to the military, today representing the chaplains who serve the Jewish men and women who choose to don a uniform.

You can submit stories and photos to the portal at <http://jcca.org/100stories/>, email mcohen@jcca.org, or call 212-786-5092 for more information and any assistance you might need.



Post 1 NY Celebrates Commemorative Plaque Unveiling

Post 1 NY held a 120th birthday celebration and plaque unveiling to commemorate the founding of what would become JWV and its first Post on March 15, 1896, at the Lexington Avenue Opera House, which was torn down in 1961. It was replaced by the Loew's Summit Hotel which now is the DoubleTree Hotel in New York City.

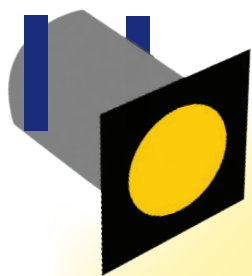
**On this site on March 15, 1896
In the Lexington Avenue Opera House
The Hebrew Union Veterans Association
Which became the
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
The oldest active veterans organization
In the United States
Was founded**

Plaque dedicated March 15, 2016
Jewish War Veterans Post 1

Special thanks to Post 1 and Jerry Alperstein for organizing this event, and to Howard Isaacson, the Vice President of Asset Management for the RLJ Trust which owns the hotel.



Howard Isaacson was presented with a JWV tie from National Commander Blum.



Spotlight on JWV Programs: JROTC 101!

Learn how the program works, ways to get involved, and methods to take it to the next level with your Post!

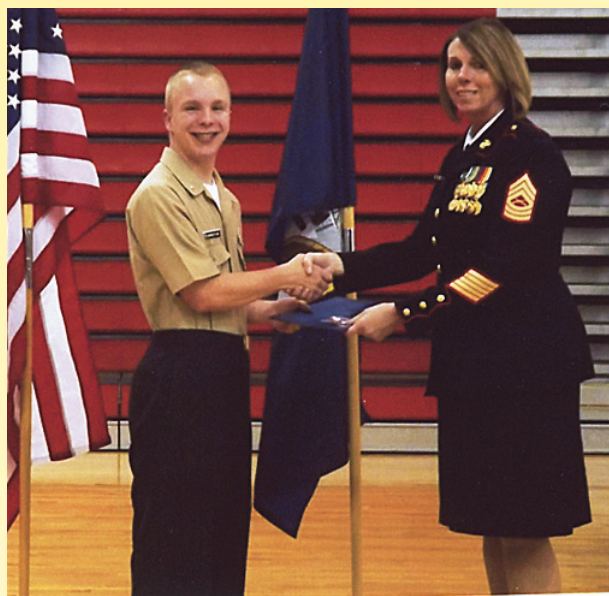
By Stan Levinson, Commander, Post 172 FL

There are more than 1,731 Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) programs across the country, with 314,000 Cadets and 4,000 Instructors. Chances are, a JROTC program may be included in your local high school's curriculum. If your Post is located within proximity to a program, it's a great way to both get involved in your community and reach out to the next generation!

The JROTC program is popular, with around 150 cadets per high school. It offers military skills and education, and also teaches students discipline, professionalism, mental toughness, and forward thinking. It instills camaraderie among the fellow cadets. This is a good substitution to fill the void of idle time, which can lead to misdirection in the life of a teenager.

If your Post is not currently supporting a JROTC program at a nearby high school, now is the time to get involved! Perhaps your Post hasn't considered a JROTC program, as it seemed difficult to establish the contact, or you don't know how to get started. If either of these reasons apply, please let me start you off with what worked for my Post.

- Contact the school and find out if they have a JROTC program. If so, obtain the name of the Senior Army Instructor (SAI), as well as his/her telephone number and email.
- Call him/her and introduce yourself as a member of JWV. Make an appointment to meet with him/her for about an hour, at the SAI's school, and at his/her convenience.
- When you meet with the SAI, explain what JWV stands for— to preserve the Jewish American military legacy, to protect veteran rights, to spread Americanism, and to promote community. Explain that your Post would like to be involved in the school's JROTC program.
- Further explain that your Post awards a medal to a JROTC student, usually identified jointly by the instructor and the JWV member/Post. Stress the fact that a MEDAL is involved, as this is the single most important item sought by the cadets. I usually specify that the nominated cadet be a sophomore or junior, as this allows the student more exposure within his peer group.
- Establish one Post meeting as an "Awards Ceremony" for the nominated cadet. Normally, if your Post has a breakfast or brunch, this is a good opportunity to invite the cadet, SAI, and mem-



Cadet Kacey Christian was presented with a certificate and Americanism Medal.



bers of the cadet's immediate family to attend.

- As far as ordering of the medal, these can be obtained through the JWV supplier, Pat Ennis (phone 703-763-3733) for \$10.00 per medal, plus shipping and handling. Unfortunately, the medal comes in a plastic bag, which is not really suitable for presentation. I went looking for a case that would fit the medal. I found one at a jewelry design store for under \$4.00 per case.
- JWV Headquarters provides a nice certificate to each nominated cadet, signed by the National Commander and leaving a space for the JROTC SAI's signature as well. These certificates can be obtained through JWV Headquarters, by contacting Jordana Green at jgreen@JWV.org. Give her about a month, in case changes need to be made. She will need the cadet's full name, as well as the SAI's full name and rank, date of ceremony, and a mailing address.

My Post is currently preparing to have its Awards Ceremony in April of this year. I have

contacted four JROTC SAI's in this area, and invited the nominated cadet, the SAI, plus two members of the cadet's immediate family to our April meeting. A separate table of eight will be set up for the four cadets and the SAI's, who will be in their "Class B" uniforms (for comfort and to be casual). Another table of eight will be set up for the cadets' immediate families. All sixteen people will be honored with a bagel-and-lox brunch, followed by each cadet receiving his/her medal depicting "AMERICANISM AND PATRIOTISM" pinned on by their respective SAI. They will be given the accompanying ribbon, with box, and the signed Certificate.

This ceremony is enjoyed by the JROTC participants and their families, as well as the JWV members in attendance. As Post Commander, I often get invited to re-present the award at the JROTC School Awards Ceremony at the respective high school. This gains visibility for the JWV and our local post. By hosting our own Awards Ceremony, the Post membership gets to see what they are supporting. They also witness the enthusiasm on the part of the cadets who receive the awards.

A few other things to consider. There is great flexibility in this program in terms of the level of Post participation. Why not build a mentorship program with the cadets? Invite them to your meetings, or involve them in one of your Post's community service projects. Create a pen-pal opportunity for members of your Post who may not be able to travel. Perhaps work with the SAI to develop a short set of criteria that cadets must meet to receive the medal. Whatever you do, we want to know! Contact myself and Programs Coordinator Jordana Green with your ideas or specific programs. Don't forget to send pictures of the cadets receiving their medals!

I hope I have raised your curiosity, if nothing else. I'm sure there will be questions, and you are welcome to call or e-mail me to discuss any aspects of the JROTC program. Good luck in this endeavor.

Contact Stan:

Phone: 941-907-6720

E-Mail: stanlevinson172@gmail.com

Does your Post/Department/Council have a program you want featured? Tell us about it! Articles should be no more than 500 words and include steps you took to get the program off the ground, how you work with other organizations and/or your community, and its impact. Send your stories to jgreen@jwv.org!

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By PDC Bob Richter, National Membership Chairman & Cindy Chambers, JWV Membership Coordinator

As your Membership Chairman, I always have JWV on my mind. What does being a member mean and how do we convey that meaning? To me, being a member means supporting my fellow Jewish veterans, taking care of all veterans, and telling our story to our townsfolk. What about you? I ask because it is at the heart of our current membership challenge - recruiting new members and keeping them interested.

Last year, when I saw the membership rolls had declined again, I thought we were simply losing our edge. We had become complacent. So at the 2015 National Convention, I set a national membership goal that I hoped would re-engage the group. Recruit one new member for every 15 current members. It seemed reasonable and a good way for every Post to get involved. Essentially, every Post needed to recruit at least one new member.

It is now 2016 and the rolls remain down. Our simple goal has not been enough. I see now that it was too simple. We were not considering the possible causes for the decline and how each would need addressing:

1. **Smaller pool equals fewer members.** The Department of Defense projects 1.3 million troops employed in 2016. If two percent of them are Jewish, or roughly the same percent of Jews in the general population, that is 26,000 potential and current JWV members. This is the smallest pool of recruits JWV has ever faced.

2. **Passive recruitment has become the norm.** Does your Post sell poppies on Memorial Day and bring member applications, just in case you meet a Jewish vet? Do you leave member applications at VA facilities? Has your Post given an annual presentation at your congregation for the last 20 years? What you might call "age-old methods" of recruitment like these are not timeless. In fact, they are outdated. They are passive tactics. Sure, you still get pleasure out of selling poppies on the same corner you have been selling for the last 30 years, but does it bring pleasure or spark interest for a possible new member?

On the other hand, does your Post hold annual recruitment fairs at events that attract a wide audience? Do you cultivate relationships with active duty service members beyond sending holiday care packages? Do you educate younger generations and the at-large community about JWV throughout the year, not just

holidays? When we talk about active recruitment, let's focus on the action. We must extend ourselves beyond our common meeting places and get out of our comfort zones to meet new people.

3. **Our publicity strategies are in need of revision.** Recruiting has generally been a word-of-mouth activity. Posts get the local newspaper to publicize their large events. National Headquarters sends press releases to major news outlets. But that is not enough. We must increase our online presence. Create videos to share on YouTube. Thirty years ago you would have thought that filming your Post delivering boxes of canned goods to the veterans' homeless shelter and showing the video to everyone you met, was boastful and unmannerly. Nowadays, that is exactly what you do on Facebook to publicize the Post. It is time to refresh how, where, and when we publicize JWV and our efforts to help veterans.



"How much fun we had!...The most rewarding thing was that we put our post on the map. There were many people that never even knew that we existed. They do now!" -Kenneth D. Klein, Post 755 TX. Members of Post 755 TX attended the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl(Air Force vs. Cal Univ.) at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX. This event sponsored all active soldiers and veterans, and there was a veterans village representing all the organizations that revolved around a soldiers life. Photo credit: Kenneth Klein.

4. **Post-9/11 veterans are not interested.** I do not believe they are not interested in joining a group, be it a VSO, congregation, or Junior League. They are simply more selective about how they use their time and with whom. The Internet allows individuals to research organizations, assess the spending and fundraising, learn personal opinions, and become involved before ever walking through the door of an organization's office. That means a possible recruit needs convincing. S/he must be compelled to join. And what compelled you to join may not be what compels them. Now more than ever, we must catalogue what we do for veterans and find different ways to advertise those



efforts to the next generation. The Post-9/11 veteran will get involved if s/he knows s/he will be actively helping veterans and taking care of their local communities.

We must strategize how to address these concerns in the long run and I believe the 120th National Convention, being held mid-August in Savannah, GA, is an ideal opportunity to do so. Join us or enter the conversation by sending your strategies to National HQ (membership@jwv.org).

For the near term, I tasked the Membership Committee to develop short-term strategies. We met at the National Executive Committee meeting last month and I reported our work to JWV leadership. The Membership Committee advises:

1. **Motivate current members to actively recruit.** JWV holds a place in all of our hearts. Take that love and use it to fuel some active recruitment. We just need a little motivation. Possible motivation incentives:
 - Give 10% off 2017 dues to a member who has not recruited a new member in at least two years, but does so before National Convention.
 - Recruitment patch or pin awarded to a member for recruiting five or more members in one member year
 - One free night at the hotel for National Convention for recruiting five or more new members
 - Feature top recruiters each month on the national Facebook page and in The Jewish Veteran
 - Post receives double portion of membership dues for all new members recruited that member year
 - Host raffles on the Department or National level to award recruiters with a year of free dues

We will take an official vote to decide our incentive campaign at National Convention.

2. **Continue crafting a uniform recruitment campaign.** With the help of Post 755 Commander Peter Levy, the National Membership Department has been creating new recruitment materials. The new materials are meant to target the needs and values

Continued on next page

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Heroes Among Us By David S. Zwerin, Department Commander, NY

Marine Corporal Kevin Vaughn first came to the attention of members of my local JWV Post, Ensign Laurence D. Solowey Post 652, in Merrick, NY, in November of 2015 when his story was covered by a local newspaper. On Saturday, November 7, 2015, he was handed the keys to his new home in his hometown of North Merrick. The mortgage-free home, just blocks from where he was raised, was gifted to Kevin through the Building Homes for Heroes, a Long Island based national organization that has built and gifted hundreds of homes to wounded veterans throughout the country.

Kevin received a Purple Heart for severe injuries he suffered in 2011 when the vehicle he was traveling in was hit by an improvised explosive device during his second tour in Afghanistan. Kevin's doctors amputated his left leg below the knee and reconstructed his right leg with rods and screws.

Post member Nat King, who himself was wounded in the Korean War, suggested that we should look for ways to help and support Kevin. Initially, the Post decided to donate some food so that he could celebrate his first Thanksgiving in his new home with family and friends. We also learned that Kevin enjoys camping. We invited Kevin to attend our monthly meeting in December so that we could honor his service and sacrifice, and assist him in getting back to camping by giving him a new tent and BioLite camp stove package. Kevin was joined by his two friends Robert Guglielmo and Zachary Liguori, both themselves former Marines and his house-

mates in his new home. Kevin expressed his gratitude and said, "It's great. Now I have something to go camping with. This will all help me get back to camping. I haven't been camping since I returned home, so this is something great I can do with all my friends."

At the meeting, Post member Bernard Rader, a prisoner of war during World War II, commented that the Post is "excited to take in Kevin and his friends." Jack Holzman noted that members of the JWV are family. He said, "We treat each other with respect, and we are always helping each other, no matter what. It's about what we can give each other when we need it the most." Our Post Commander Gary Glick added, "We're here for moral support, really, for anything Kevin and any other veterans may need." He continued, "Sometimes people just need someone to talk to who understands the situation, and we're here for that too."

Our December meeting was also attended by Nassau County Legislator Steve Rhoads and Stephany Reyes from the Merrick Herald. Stephany wrote a very nice article with the headline "Jewish Veterans Honor N. Merrick Hero," about the meeting and our activities supporting Kevin.

As a longtime member of the Jewish War Veterans, I am very proud of the members of



Marine CPL. Kevin Vaughn, third from right, was honored by Nassau County Legislator Steve Rhoads (far left), Post 652 member Herbert Lask, Department Commander David Zwerin, Marine Zachary Liguori, Marine Robert Guglielmo, Post 652 member Nat King, and Post 652 Commander Gary Glick. Photo credit: Stephany Reyes, reporter for the Merrick Herald. Reprinted with permission.

our Post for their efforts to reach out to veterans in our local community regardless of their religious affiliation, and in particular to Kevin. As an organization, JWV is committed to supporting veterans and their families. While it often takes the form of engaging elected officials and fighting for more resources from the Veterans Administration, I would suggest that this sort of personal and direct support for an individual veteran may in fact be more important.

I urge you and your Posts to create ways to honor those men and women in your own communities who now and in the past have served to protect and defend the United States of America.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Continued

of Post-9/11 veterans. The PR Department is working in tandem to utilize social media to market the new campaign. However, their work is only as good as the data and stories they have. When I ask, "what does being a member mean to you?" I am truly asking you to share your JWV stories with National HQ. Your contributions can and should be featured in our recruitment material.

As we energize, we will grow. As we diversify our publicity strategies, we will grow. As we develop new and better ways to help veterans, we will grow. Stay positive and JWV will be around for the next 120 years of service. In the meantime, share your JWV story with Membership Coordinator Cindy Chambers (cchambers@jwv.org or 202-265-6280), look for the new recruitment campaign to roll out in late May and take part in the Membership Motivation effort by sharing your ideas on Facebook (www.facebook.com/JewishWarVeterans).

JWV as a Service Organization

Post 133 NJ, of which I am an active participant, enthusiastically supports the New Jersey State Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, one of three state run homes in New Jersey. Post members are a familiar sight at Menlo Park. We hold a barbeque each summer. We've hosted Friday night services, a Pesach Seder, and a Chanukah Party. We've even purchased sweat suits for the residents!

I write this note to stress that doing service to others has helped make our Post all the better. Helping others energizes our members – many are retirees and this gives them added purpose. They don't come to Post meetings to hear the quartermaster's report – they come to discuss and help plan our next outreach event. This is truly a win-win.

Our relationship with Menlo Park was established over a decade ago. The Home's CEO, Joseph Brandspiegel, and his team have always welcomed us with open arms. We are careful to coordinate all activities with the Home staff and with other local Posts to assure that we maximize the good that we do for our fellow veterans

By Carl Singer, Post 133 NJ

at Menlo Park.

For example, this spring the Department of New Jersey will be dedicating a fully furnished family room at Menlo Park. But first, we met with the staff to see what their needs were and how JWV could step up to meet them.

The Menlo Park facility has also helped us by providing the Department with meeting space- our Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) observance will take place there. Then, those living at the home will also be able to attend!

We fund our related activities via poppy sales which take place around Memorial Day and Veterans Day. We set up tables at several local supermarkets. Not only is this a worthwhile fund raiser, but it also provides visibility and publicity. We have even recruited a few new members as a result.

How to get started? Just do it! Contact a local veteran's facility – find out what they need and how you can help. Let the members of your Post know of the opportunities and watch as they respond.

BOOTLESS: THOUGHTS ON TRANSITIONING OUT OF THE MILITARY

Continued from page 1

many tools to help you in your decision – there are three I recommend. First is the Retirement and Transition Centers on military bases. While the counselors may be of varied experience, there are often numerous materials and tools you can obtain from them, which will help with the decision and help keep your affairs in order as you're going through the process. Second is a financial advisor – I've been using USAA for years for everything from insurance to banking to investments. However, there are any number of options, although I would look for an advisor either specializing in the military (like USAA – www.usaa.com) or a firm located near a military base that has a large number of military clients. Transitioning will be a major life change, and it will be reflected in your bank account. Don't go through this blind! The last, of course, is those who have gone through the transition process before you. If you don't know anyone who has transitioned out of the military, you can find many of them working on military bases – probably even in the Retirement and Transition Center. You can also contact veterans' service organizations such as JWV to see if they can link you with a mentor.

WHERE AND HOW ARE YOU GOING TO SPEND YOUR DAYS NOW?

Understand your own priorities. In my case, I was more concerned about where I was going to live than what I was going to do. I made the conscious decision to move to a small rural town because, among other reasons, it was within about a half hour of my parents' home. The job market is soft there. I handicapped myself a bit that way, but life is a series of trade-offs.

Get your resume squared away. I cannot emphasize this enough. I've helped a lot of people with their resumes over the years, and it is incredible how many soldiers sell their military experience short. Unless you are looking at a military employer, you also need to get your resume "translated" into English that civilians understand. Get as much feedback on your resume as possible before sending it to a potential employer. In particular, I utilized the Military Officers Association of America's (MOAA-www.moaa.org) transition services which included a resume review and also a pretty good job listing.

Manage your expectations of job hunting. Remember that the same listing you're looking at online is being viewed by thousands of other people, and your resume may just be one in the stack. So while there are some good job listings available on LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com), USA Jobs (www.usajobs.gov), Monster (www.monster.com), and MOAA, it is better to use those to gauge the job market. However, keep in mind that

there are other potential employers that do NOT use these common sites – for instance, if you are looking for work in the higher education market, go to individual college websites and look at their HR job listings. If you are looking for work in Junior ROTC programs, they maintain their own listings (<http://www.usarmyjrotc.com/employment/jrotc-vacancy-list>). I've held three jobs in the six years since I got out (which is not a bad thing, as each one taught me more about the post-military world, and most importantly helped me clarify what I DIDN'T want). Two of them I got through personal connections – one connection hired me, the other referred me to a job that was not listed on one of the popular job boards. The other I got through a potential employers' website and was also not listed on one of the popular boards.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

It takes some time to shake some of your military habits. A good friend, a Sergeant Major who retired about the same time I did, insists on calling me "sir," and still gives the time using a 24-hour clock. That's all well and good, but you need to keep in mind that in civilian life many of your military habits will seem odd, or at the very least counterproductive. Face it, in the infantry, using profanity as a comma in a sentence is often second nature. Not so much in higher education. Speaking in lots of acronyms and sports metaphors can convey a complex concept pretty easily in the military. However, there are other habits that you will be unable to shake. Choose your eccentricities wisely.

It may take several jobs to help establish what kind of work you want, or at least help define what it is you don't want. Many of us are military "Type A" specimens. We like rigid predictability, and with that, we want our next job to be "the job." Remember what a different world civilian life presents. In the military, we are used to an institutional sense of accountability and honor – even when we don't live up to it all the time, we know it's there. Not always so in the civilian world.

I went through two jobs before I ended up where I am now. I worked in consulting for a bit – the work was enjoyable, but the sales work required for the next contract (while at the same time attempting to satisfy the current contract) made it tense and unstable. I remember going to a trade show and seeing a gentleman who was a former Navy O-7 using his credentials gained as a Navy general officer to make sales, and that left me utterly depressed. I vowed that I was not going to make the sum total of 21 years of sweat, blood, and a bad high-and-tight simply a sales tool. It may work for some, but not for me. The

next job I had was in higher education, which I thought was going to be noble, much as I felt my military service was. However, in my three years there I think I encountered one student and spent the rest of the time sequestered in a small office in the administration building, which seemed as remote from the young minds as the moon. There was nothing noble there, and the lack of any institutional sense of accountability, combined with a lack of camaraderie and shared purpose, left me empty. I finally ended up leaving and taking an administrator position with a small rural village near my town. It was a drastic pay drop, but the sense of purpose, camaraderie, and yes, accountability improved my quality of life tenfold. And there were other advantages – a five minute commute and flexible hours.

You need to look at the total package, not just the salary. Remember that there are plenty of people and resources out there to help you.

Lance Allen Wang is a retired Army Infantry Lieutenant Colonel and Iraq Veteran. He's a Past Commander of Post 105 NY

Helpful Transition Resources

Military One Source - militaryonesource.mil
Full of useful information and suggestions on everything from education to legal and financial questions.

Troops to Teachers - troopstoteachers.net
A U.S. Department of Defense program that helps eligible military personnel begin a new career as teachers in public schools.

Mental Health - mentalhealth.va.gov
Mental health information and resources for Veterans and their families.

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America One-On-One Support Program

java.org/one-on-one-support
The Rapid Response Referral Program (RRRP) is IAVA's one-on-one case management and referral service program.

Job Hero - jobhero.com/veteran-career-guide/
Explore the links in this section to find resources for vets who want to find or regain their place in the workforce. Get help with your resume, and browse job listings. There are also free assessments and workshops, as well as tips on using your military experience as an advantage in the job market.

Hiring Our Heroes - uschamberfoundation.org/hiring-our-heroes

A nationwide initiative from the US Chamber of Commerce. On their site you'll find links, articles, and tools to help you find employment after the military. There's also a list of upcoming job fairs and other events.

JWV's 121st ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

AUGUST 14-21, 2016 • SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Hilton Savannah DeSoto • 15 E Liberty, Savannah, GA 31401

Phone (912) 232-9000 • Fax (912) 232-6018 • www.desotohilton.com

Hotel Registration deadline is **Monday, June 20th**. A one night (\$145/single or double) deposit is required for all hotel registrations. A 3-night minimum stay is required.

Hotel reservations must be made through JWV or the surcharge will be assessed and attendance at meetings will not be allowed. **There is a \$150 Convention surcharge for those not staying at the hotel.**

Local members living within a 50 mile radius are exempt.

Free city shuttle • 10% meal discount • 25% valet parking discount • Free wireless in guest rooms

Schedule of Events

(Subject to Change)

Daily Morning Minyan • Aug 14-20

Sunday • Aug 14

Welcome to Savannah!

Monday • Aug 15

TBD

NMAJMH Event

Tuesday • Aug 16

Wreath Laying

NEC Meeting

Committee Meetings

Wednesday • Aug 17

Joint Opening Session

Resolutions

1st JWV Business Session

Thursday • Aug 18

2nd Business Session

Committee Meetings

Resolutions

National President's Banquet

Friday • Aug 19

3rd Business Session

Committee Meetings

4th Business Session

Election of National Commander

Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday • Aug 20

Shabbat Services

NMAJMH

Board Meeting

Century Club Cocktail Hour

National Commander's Banquet

Name: _____ Post No: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Room will be shared with: _____

Arriving at: _____ / _____ Departing at: _____ / _____ Total nights: _____

JWV 121 th Annual National Convention	Cost	How Many?	Amount
Convention Registration Fee	\$50.00 per member		
I prefer: <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds	\$145.00 per night		
3rd Person in a room	\$75.00 per night		
Minimum Deposit Only	\$145.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel	\$150.00		
TBD • Monday, Aug. 15			
Century Club Cocktail Hour Saturday, Aug. 20	\$100.00 member \$45.00 guest		
Commander's Banquet • Saturday, Aug. 20 No. of: Filet of Steak _____ Salmon _____ Kosher _____ Sugar Free Dessert _____	\$42.50 per person		
Raffle Tickets	\$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00		
You must include full payment for all event(s) that you plan on attending. Reservations for trips or activities will only be made if paid in full.	Total: Amount paying now:		
I am paying by <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No. _____	Exp. _____	/	
Signature _____			

Sign and mail this completed form, along with your payment to:
Jewish War Veterans • 1811 R Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009 • Attn: Convention Dept.



Members of Post 210 AZ presented a wreath at the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2015. Commander Michael Chambers presented the wreath with Senior Vice Commander Fred Lipovich and Past Commander Bernie Kaplan also in attendance. Photo credit: Jerry Kopff.



Every year, Post 605 KS donates hundreds of gift bags as part of their "Holiday Gifts for Vets" program. They took 400 gift bags to the VA Hospitals in Leavenworth, Kansas, and Kansas City, MO. They also brought 58 bags to the nearby St. Michael's Veterans Home for homeless vets in Kansas City. As member Marv Korn recalled, "A lot of work, but well worth it to share our appreciation to our fellow veteran brothers and sisters." Photo credit: Marv Korn.



Post 425 NY member PNC Sheldon Ohren, Post 720 NY members Orrin Getz, Randy Glucksman, and Post 756 NY member Alan Moskin are surrounded by children who are participants in the Kosher Troops Program. The lighting of the menorah at the Palisades Center in West Nyack, NY, was a simultaneous candle lighting celebration in Rockland County and at U. S. military locations worldwide on December 9, 2015. Photo credit: Jeff Karg.



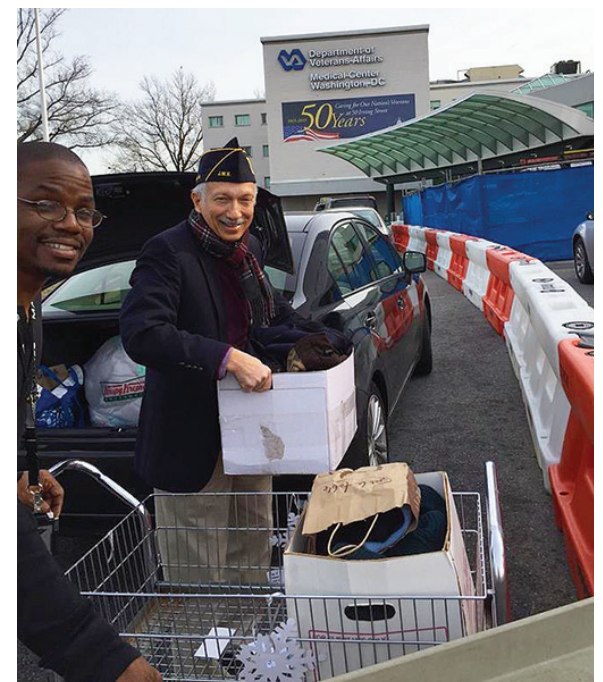
Jessica Lydon, Temple University Associate Archivist, gave a presentation about the Jewish Archives Center at Temple University to Post 305 PA. She spoke about the types of items collected, the donation process, and some of the items in the collection. The collection is part of Temple's Special Collections Research Center, which includes collections on rare books, science fiction, University Archives, Journalism, etc. The collections are used in exhibits twice a year in the library. More info is at www.library.temple.edu.



Membership Coordinator Cindy Chambers and Programs/PR Coordinator Jordana Green joined (and got snowed in!) the Department of TALO for their winter meeting in sunny San Antonio to conduct training sessions on goal setting, recruitment, and social media. Before everyone went home, they took a selfie-note the San Antonio Post's local mascot in the lower left corner with Cindy, a therapy dog named The Colonel.

Thanks for having us, TALO! You are friendly hosts and dedicated JWV members.

Post 299 VA member Henry Brooks at the VA hospital delivering cold weather clothes and accessories the National Museum of American Jewish Military History collected at its annual Chanukah party. The clothes went to homeless veterans to help in the difficult winter weather.





Commander of Post 256 TX Allan Cantor (far right) and his wife (front left) played Bingo and delivered gift boxes for the veterans at their local VA hospital. The care packages were put together by the children of the Levine Academy of Dallas. The boxes contained toiletries for men and women, socks, a deck of playing cards, toothpaste, and a toothbrush.



Post 256 TALO's Color Guard. They attend numerous events a year, most recently the Dallas Kosher Chili Cookoff.



Post 338 FL members, their families, and friends conducted their Annual Chanukah Gift Giving at the Nininger Veterans Nursing Home in Pembroke Pines, FL on December 13, 2015. The Post members stuffed bags with sundry items, including socks, toothbrushes, tooth paste, crossword puzzles, pens, pill holders, cups, and lotions. Sole-lutions Footwear, Pill Box Pharmacies, and Medical Supply Pembroke Pines donated many of the items for the veterans' nursing home residents. They distributed the gift bags to residents. Post 338 conducts their Annual Chanukah Gift Giving as their annual service project to the community, and are already in the planning stages for next year's party, which is going to be bigger and better!

Photo credit: Ed Forman.



United States Air Force Reserve Maj. Menashe Miller, second from right, a chaplain, watches his sons light the fourth candle on the Menorah — one for each day of Hanukkah during a candle lighting ceremony at the Main Base Chapel, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ, Dec. 9, 2015. The event was co-sponsored by the Main Base Chapel and Post 126 NJ. (U.S. Air National Guard photo and caption by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen/Released).



On November 22, 2015, Post 80 NY conducted a memorial service at the Hebrew Free Burial Association Cemetery in Staten Island, NY. The memorial service was requested for Alfred Lobl (1921- 2013), an Army veteran and a liberator of concentration camps during WWII. Ted Schneider played Taps on his bugle.



A bridge in Middletown, CT, has been named in honor of Maj. Gen. Maurice Rose, Post 51's namesake, who was killed in World War II. Rose was the commander of the legendary Third Armored Division, and was the highest-ranking Jewish officer to die in World War II. Speaking is State Rep. Matt Lesser, who arranged the dedication. Post 51 Commander Morty Pear, former leader Roger "Sonny" Rubinow, Post 51 member Michael Needle, and State Rep. Matt Lesser worked together to make this dedication possible. Photo credit: Arthur Meyers.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Americanism Committee

PDC Jerry Benjamin, Chairman



Americanism. Webster's dictionary defines it as: "1. Devotion or loyalty to the U.S., its interests, institutions, etc.

2. Any custom, tradition or idea peculiar to or originating in the U.S".

The purpose of this column is to inform all the Posts of what activities are performed by others to increase our visibility in our communities.

Please send a recap of what your Posts do that can serve as guides to others and to assist in attracting membership.

Our last issue addressed flag retirement, i.e., disposal of old and worn flags. There is nothing more American than our flag! What can be more stirring than saluting our flag when presented by our Color Guard? Many of our Posts have Color Guards. If yours doesn't, why not create one? My Post (Dallas 256) has a very active Color Guard. We present the Colors at civic banquets, school assemblies, Jewish community events, and at veterans' functions including the Veterans Day Parade, which Dallas claims to be the largest in the country! The Color Guard is a positive good to our communities. It serves to continue our service to our country, imbuing Americanism within our hearts and minds, and reminds us that our patriotism is our legacy.

Many times our Post had to turn down requests, as we are in high demand! Please consider this as a strong component to your Post. If you need more information or have questions, please contact me at jerryb256@gmail.com or 214-368-5225.

Development

PNC Monte Mayer, Chairman

In 2015, the Direct Mail Program consisted of four mailings. In addition to the calendar, you may have received mailing labels and high holiday cards. In addition, one of our mailings is to our lovely and loyal donors, which does not go to members.

Though our financial numbers are down, as is our membership list, the donations received through the JWV direct mail program provides a substantial part of JWV income.

More important is whether or not all our members and readers do receive these premium

mailings. Primarily, the packages are not a benefit of membership. If you haven't received any of these mailings, it certainly indicates that you may be a new member, or your name is not on our development mailing list. We certainly hope you will ask to receive these mailings in the future by notifying our department by e-mail or phone with your name and address and we will be happy to comply with your request. Of course, your support will be requested. You can email a request to jwv@jwv.org or by mail to 1811 R St NW, Washington, DC 20009.

On the other hand, we always want to hear about your story. Actually, everyone who served in the Armed Forces, male or female, always will have a story to tell. It doesn't have to be a combat situation, but whoever you are, there is a story. Somewhere, in the bottom of a closet or dresser drawer, there is an envelope with photos, and in the back of the mind of all who served, there is something that occurred that we all would like know about. Please allow us to keep these stories alive, and let us know about them. Again, contact us via jwv@jwv.org. Emailed stories and photos are preferred.

Civil Rights

Jerry Berns, Chairman

The Jewish population in Canada is about 385,000, which equates to about one percent of the Canadian population. Elderly Jews (65 and older) make up approximately 16% of the population. Canada has a Jewish population approximately 1/20th of the size of the United States.

The three most populated cities for Jews

are Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. Canada is predominantly composed of Ashkenazi Jews who emigrated from Europe. Jewish people are heavily involved in the Canadian garment industry, similar to the United States. Many of them were trained to be in that line of work before they left Europe.

Jews in Canada tend to be better educated, thus obtaining professional careers, which translates into a higher standard of living. Fourteen percent of the nation's 50 wealthiest families are Jewish.

Significant growth of Judaism in Canada began in the early 1900s. By the time World War I broke out, there were about 100,000 Jews, mainly in Toronto and Montreal. The Canadian Jewish population comes in third behind Israel and the United States and just ahead of France. There have been more anti-Semitic incidents in this century in Canada than in the United States, with most of the violence occurring in Ontario and Quebec.

During the 1930s and 1940s, anti-Semitism also occurred in British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Jews were denied voting rights in Provincial and Federal elections, were disqualified from jury duty, and public office.

Between 1930 and 1939 Canada rejected the majority of the fleeing Jews from Nazi Germany. They did accept about 4,000 refugees, but turned away over 100,000. Outbreaks of violence against Jews and Jewish property culminated in about 1933. Conflicts between Jewish and Christian youth took place in Toronto, Ontario. Local Synagogues were set on fire, swastikas and Nazi

Vietnam Veterans Committee *PDC Barry Schneider, Chairman*

The Vietnam Committee had a successful meeting at the NEC.

Highlights included a visit to the Vietnam wall, placing a memorial wreath, and saying Kaddish for those who did not make it home.

We were very fortunate to have MG Jim Jackson (US Army, Ret) and MG Arnie Fields (USMC, Ret) attend our meeting and give us an update of events and activities taking place to support the Vietnam 50th anniversary Commemoration. They also presented 50th anniversary pins to all members of the committee. It is suggested that ALL Post and Departments become Commemoration Partners. Information can be found at www.VietnamWar50th.com.

In order to make us more effective, a subcommittee was established to develop a mission

statement and goals for our committee. The subcommittee members are Earle Sherrod (TALO), Chairman, Jerry Alperstein (NY) and Rich Fine (PA). A final draft will be sent to each committee member for review prior to our August meeting in Savanna, GA.



Despite the bitter cold, JWV members visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to lay a wreath and honor their fallen comrades during their trip to DC for the NEC. From left to right: Bob Jacobs, PNC Mike Berman, Mat Millen, NC Jerry Blum, Barry Schneider, Jeff Sacks, and Helene Van Clief in the front row. Photo credit: NC Jerry Blum.

slogans cropped up on Toronto's eastern beaches, and Jewish swimmers were attacked in 1934. Violence in Montreal mirrored the violence in Toronto. As in the United States, Jewish headstones were knocked over and defaced.

According to a Gallup Poll in 1943, it was reported that the Jews were the least desirable immigrants behind the Japanese and Germans.

When World War II began, there were more anti-Semitic incidents in the units of the Canadian Forces. They rejected Jewish volunteers. Employment discrimination against Jews was rampant with prohibitions against becoming lawyers, pharmacists, miners, or even fishermen. They were also denied minimum wage rights or welfare benefits.

Currently, anti-Semitism is still very much prevalent. In June of 2015, B'nai B'rith Canada published the 2014 Audit of Anti-Semitic incidents, with almost 30% more anti-Semitic instances when compared to the 2014 results.

In the cities and countries where Jews live with anti-Semitism, we will fight for our rights to live as we have for thousands of years. The Jewish War Veterans of the United States will always stand alongside those fighting anti-Semitism.

Correction: VAVS column from Winter 2015 issue: Jason Kaatz is also the Chairperson of VAVS Executive Committee. When there are activities at the clinic, Jason usually provides the refreshments and a helping hand.

I also heard from Harry Robinson Jr. Assistant Chief Voluntary Service of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System. The Audie Murphy VA Hospital in south San Antonio is part of the Healthcare system. Our Jewish volunteers are very active and are motivated to help. They have raised \$1000 for The Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center. — Jerry Berns, Chairman

NMI Certificates

Hannah Deutch, Chairperson

This report covers Convention 2015 to NEC 2016. I appealed to you all to support the Certificates Program, as it supports, even if it is only a small amount, our Museum. Like they say, "every little bit counts." I am sorry to report that the participation for this period has been dismal. The total contribution was \$4,029, breaking it down into JWV \$3,805 and JWVA \$224. Rather disappointing. Can someone give me an idea what else I can do to promote the buying power of the Certificates? We reduced the price from \$10 each to five certificates for \$40.

Please remember and never forget, that in another century the Museum will be here, but we won't. The whole purpose of the Museum is to prove and remind people that we Jews participated in every War. So please participate in our

Museum programs and become members if you are not already. A few years ago, a Commander came to a County meeting and presented applications and checks from every member of their Post. Maybe, Commanders, that would be an undertaking for your Senior Vice Commander or a special chairman appointed for this purpose. Please surprise me.

Editor's note: The certificates, as they are referred to above, are sent to you blank. They are great to have on hand for a birthday, a donation in memory of a loved one, or a life cycle event. All you have to do is fill out the certificate and send it to the recipient.



SOS Program

Perry B. 'Johnny' Levine, Co-Chairman

The mission of the JWV Support Our Soldiers (SOS) Program is to let those serving in our Armed Forces know that we on the home front are thinking of and supporting them.

Program Co-Chairman George Sepp from the TALO Department and I are pleased to report that since our last report at the August Convention that many Troop Toiletry Packages were provided to troops of the New Jersey Air National Guard that were being deployed. Due to special arrangements, no postage cost was expended to deliver these packages.

The first time that a deployed soldier hears from a veterans' organization could be when he receives a care package from them. This is especially true of any Jewish soldier receiving a package from JWV, and will greatly aid in our efforts to recruit future JWV members.

So it is requested once again that each Department Commander appoint a SOS Program Liaison Officer, to be the 'eyes and ears' for the SOS Program and to notify us if they hear of a deployed unit that would appreciate some items from home. Please notify jwv@jwv.org with the names.

Interested in joining a committee or getting more involved?
Send us an email and let us know!
jwv@jwv.org

Before sending stamps to the Chairman of the National Stamp Program, please contact National for information.



CALLING ALL FEMALE VETERANS!

Are you a female veteran and a member of JWV? If so, we are looking for you! We NEED your input, ideas, and service if we are to address problems facing our female veterans and women currently serving.

Please, join us at your Posts whenever they meet and this August in Savannah, GA at our National Convention. Your voice matters, and if we rise up together we can make a difference.

Without you we are simply a title...but WITH YOU...we are a force with a voice!! Help us to help other female servicewomen and veterans with the problems they face. We need your involvement. PLEASE! Come to the next convention and ask for me....I look forward to meeting and working with you to improve the future for all our female veterans.

If you are interested in getting involved and participating with the committee by email, teleconference, or at Convention, please email jwv@jwv.org so we can add your name to the list.

Jerry Farris
Vice-Chairman, Women in the Military Committee

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Benjamin Balakhani-100 • Harvey Barash-100 • Harvey Bershader-100 • Eric Flaxman-100 • Joel Maimon-100 • Vincent Mann-100 • Andrew Marmorstein-100 • Benjamin Brettman-344

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Charles Ashman-617 • Adam Baker-786 • Donald Beck-617 • Frederick Blank-118 • Paul Clement-86 • Walter Crenshaw-786 • Lowell Delbick-603 • Rodrick Fox-603 • William Fox-786 • Marvin Freedman-603 • Sherman Gamson-603 • Arthur Gerstel-786 • Steven Glick-603 • John Haedrich-385 • Rabbi Miriam Hamrell-786 • Daniel Kaplan-603 • Larry Kaufman-786 • Stanley Konowitz-680 • Dr. Marvin Rawitch-680 • Richard Rosenberg-786 • Solomon Shmueli-385 • Morris Sier-680 • Barry Silverton-786 • Sadie Sonnenreich-786 • Martin Steiner-786 • Gary Teicher-512 • Ian Thomas-688 • Richard Trugman-786

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Morris Rodman-45 • Herbert Rubenstein-45 • Daniel Suppin-45

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

Mark Elkhayat-525

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Nelson Behar-352 • Michael Goldstein-631 • Melvin Halper-631 • Philip Kuperman-440 • Devin Laks-243 • Dr. Richard Levine-373 • Donald Martin Jr.-409 • George Morgan -819 • Melvin Parker-631 • Cy Lloyd Roberts-352 • Gilbert Rosenberg-698 • Richard Rosenstein-172 • Michell Rubinstein-613 • Scott Seigel-639 • Dennis Sokol-352 • Ben Weiss-172 • Jack Wilson-300

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Howard Gilbert-29 • Steven Kailes-710 • Richard Rosenberg-29 • Norman Stein-54 • Mel Wolf-89 • Gerald Zaidman-29

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Allen Block-157 • Joel Gopen-735 • Laurence Schmeidler-157 • Arnold Wolf-220

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Shoshana Avrishon-692 • Marquise Blakeslee-Ringer-167 • Myron Coonin-567 • George Kessler-567 • James Larson-117 • Cory Ringer-167 • Ethel Saltz-567 • Robert Siner-167 • Cary Tamres-167

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Arnold Levitsky-135

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Dr. Richard Menczer-135 • Gregory Quinn-605

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

John Riederer-162

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Michael Cunniff-126 • Jerry Ehrlich-126 • Barton Friedman-126 • Jonathan Goldstein-126 • Herbert Grumet-126 • Louie Angel Herschtein-126 • Theodore Lempert-126 • Errol Meisner-133 • Sidney Neuhof-609 • Arnold Oberson-39 • Sol Oxenhandler-126 • Bruce Sherman-972 • Lee Yasgur-126

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Stanley Black-2 • Mark Gittleman-425 • Arnold Gittleman-425 • David Katof-717 • Burton Levine-488 • Roy Marokus-129 • David Reingold-655 • Abraham Ring-717 • Joel Schonfeld-717 • Stephen Weiss-717

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Madeline Schatz-65 • Allan Schwartz-65 • Cornell Surany-65 • Irving Lerman-64 • Robert Levin-64

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Leslie Buerki-587 • Bert Cream-587 • Stanley Karp-587 • Steven J. Wyke-587

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Michael Averbach-785 • Elaine Barbash-98 • Burton Dodick-785 • Ruth Fisgaer-98 • Lester Frischman-785 • Carl Goldstein-98 • Harvey Levine-785 • Gerald Melamut -239

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Stephan Bloch-406 • Alan Brier-23 • Milton Bronstein-533 • Morris Nathanson-23 • Allen

Ross-23 • Ralph Rottenberg-23

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Barry Bort-112 • Michael Flores-320 • Arthur Haysman -320 • Bryan Roy-Smith-320

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

James Dinniman-201 • Rachelle Hayman-210 • David C. Kimmel-194 • Jerry Kopff-210 • Jeffrey Kopff-210 • Rabbi Robert Kravitz-210 • Kristopher Mueller-201

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Lawrence Blass-755 • Arthur Corral-749 • Edward Duchin-753 • Barry Goldstein-574 • David Goodman-618 • Gerald Harris-574 • Walter Heller-574 • Sheldon-Kleinman-256 • Harry Labovitz-755 • Dmitry Landy-755 • Alexander Landy-755 • Michael Levine-574 • Michael Linn-755 • William Orlin-574 • Robert Schreier-795 • Stanley Sherman-753 • Albert Skalovsky-618 • Shmuel Tarner-755

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Michael Mann-299



COL Erwin Burtnick, USA (Ret), commander of the Department of Maryland, was interviewed about the Jewish War Veterans on the show "Through a Veteran's Eye" on Antietam Cable Television in western Maryland. Pictured at right with COL Burtnick is Fred Shinbur, the moderator of the show.



Post 112 GA held their annual blood drive at Ahavath Achim Synagogue on Sunday, February 7th. Pictured: Susan Callier, Celia Gilner, Gail Solomon, Dave Norfus, and Department of Southeast Commander Robert Max.

VETERANS DESERVE MORE FROM THE VA

Continued from page 4

Unfortunately, each of these negative reports is ammunition for those who want to see the VA privatized. JWV strongly believes veterans are best served by the VA, that the VA shall be strengthened, and that the VA can best deliver comprehensive services to veterans.

Many of the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) achievements are often forgotten. VHA researchers have helped develop many innovations that have improved medical care to both veterans and all Americans. These include the

implantable cardiac pacemaker, the first liver transplant, and the shingles vaccine.

VA physicians are best qualified to understand the veterans' physical and emotional problems. As President Theodore Roosevelt said, "A man who is good enough to shed his blood for the country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards."

Several excellent studies have shown that the VA provides the best care for veterans. JWV strongly supports the VA!

Life is full of surprises ... including accidents.



In this day and age, there's no such thing as being too safe. You know how important it is to take precautions and guard against the unexpected.

That's why Jewish War Veterans (JWV) sponsors a **Group Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance Plan** to help you provide your family the financial resources they may need should the unexpected happen to you.

As a member under age 70, you're **guaranteed acceptance** for coverage in the plan and can choose a Principal Sum that best fits your needs — \$250,000.00, \$150,000.00 or \$100,000.00. Economical group rates negotiated by JWV are offered exclusively to our members.

And, this accident insurance plan not only pays the benefit amount you select, but offers **additional benefits designed to help cover expenses such as day care, elderly care, injury rehabilitation, and help with costs for college or trade school for insured spouse and children** to help give your loved ones an added measure of financial well-being.

Here are some additional benefits of the JWV-sponsored AD&D Insurance Plan:

- ✓ **Benefits for Military Air Travel**
A benefit equaling the lesser of the Principal Sum or \$150,000.00 will be payable for any covered person who is recalled to service or serves in the reserves, and incurs a covered loss while a passenger on any transport-type aircraft operated or contracted by the Air Mobility Command of the United States.
- ✓ **Benefits for Common Carrier**
An additional benefit of \$25,000.00 is payable if the insured incurs a covered loss as a result of an accident while a passenger on a licensed common commercial carrier, such as a plane, taxi, bus or any other vehicle licensed for the transportation of passengers.
- ✓ **Adaptive Auto/Home Benefit**
You'll receive an additional 5%, up to \$5,000.00 of actual expenses incurred, if a covered loss (other than loss of life) makes it necessary for you to modify your home or car. The Certificate of Insurance will provide certain limitations.

GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE

Members (under age 70 and residing in the United States) and their eligible dependents cannot be turned down.

To learn more about the JWV-sponsored AD&D Insurance Plan (features costs, eligibility, renewability, limitations and exclusions) and how it can help protect your family against an unexpected loss, call **1-800-503-9230** or visit us online at www.jwvinsure.com.

This Plan is underwritten by New York Life Insurance Company
51 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010
Under Group Policy No. G-29319-0 on Policy Form GMR-FACE/G-G-29319-0



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PEOPLE & PLACES

► Shout out to **Post 157 MA** for being highlighted in the Winter issue of Shalom Magazine! The Post held a successful Poppy Fund Raiser for their "Veterans Helping Veterans" Program. **Post 735 MA** was given an Honorable Mentschen in the January 2016 Jewish Advocate for donating \$1,700 to the Brockton Campus of the VA Boston Healthcare System. Mazel Tov!

► **Post 239 PA** member **Nathan Kline** stepped up to the plate when the morning's speaker Harry Ettlinger suddenly fell ill and was unable to address the crowd of 300 people who had gathered to hear him speak about his time with the Monuments Men. In Ettlinger's absence, Kline volunteered to speak to the packed auditorium at the JCC about his own wartime service- he was at D-Day and witnessed the Battle of the Bulge.

► A luncheon meeting of **Post 125 NJ** featured a presentation by Heather DeJong of "The GI Go Fund" (www.gigofund.org), a New Jersey organization that works with veterans who need help in transitioning back to civilian life. Ms. DeJong described The GI Go Fund's veterans assistance efforts in job training and job placement guidance, resume

writing, educational placement, VA benefits, and emergency financial aid. Great example working with other VSOs!

► "My husband works for the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and for many years has suggested to the 'higher ups' that they should give veterans free bus and train service on Veterans Day. They know he is an advocate for veterans and that he is a Vietnam Vet himself. On January 27, 2016, DART had a celebration honoring employees in certain categories like Performance, Attendance, Customer Service etc. The last category was "Implemented Suggestions" and when his suggestion of letting Vets ride free and the announcement of his name the crowd cheered so loud and for so long you couldn't hear subsequent names and suggestions!

— Submitted by Sandra Cantor, wife of **Post 256 TX Commander Allan Cantor.**

IN SEARCH OF

► In search of information on the 92nd Bomb Group and Lt. Scheiman, a Jewish soldier who was buried in the cemetery at Omaha beach. Killed February 8, 1944. Contact Maier Weiner at 718-352-2882 or maierthelma1@msn.com if

you can help. For the background of his request, refer to the Letters to the Editors on page three of this issue.

REUNIONS

► The 26th reunion of the U.S.S. John R Craig DD885 Reunion Association will be held from September 20-25, 2016, in Nashville, Tennessee. For more information, please go to www.ussjohnrcraig.com or contact Jerry Chwalek at 734-525-1469 or jermail@ameritech.net.

► The USS Hornet (CV-8, CV, CVA, CVS-12) 68th Reunion will be held in Portland, OR from September 13-18, 2016. Contact Sandy Burket at (503) 281-2500 or hornetcva@aol.com for more information. Web Site: <http://www.usshornetassn.com/>. Must be a Member to receive the room block rate.

► The 70th reunion of the 106th Infantry Division Association will be held from September 7-11, 2016, in Arlington, Virginia. For more information, please go to 106thinfdivassn.org/events.html#annual or contact Wayne Dunn at 410-409-1141 or WayneDunn@comcast.net.

President's Message

Our new "Our Heroes" photo kiosk is here! Situated on the museum's B-level, the six-sided structure sits among the exhibits. It works on several levels: as a way to pay tribute to those who served, as an illustration to museum visitors of the variety of ways in which Jews have served the American military and, of course, as a fundraiser for NMAJMH. Along with a 4" x 6" photo, the kiosk includes information on branch of service, where your hero served and when. It's a beautiful addition to the museum that I hope everyone takes advantage of.

The photo kiosk is one of several ways to support the museum. Here's a reminder of our other Development programs:

- A brick in our Remembrance Walk Paver program - \$200 - \$500

- Remember a loved one on our Yahrzeit program - \$250 - \$750
- Give a certificate in honor of a friend or in memory of a loved one - \$10 - \$100
- Put a name on the Honorial Wall - \$1000
- Purchase a membership. Already a member? Buy one for a friend! Everyone is welcome to be a member of the museum. \$10 - \$2500
- Just make a donation!

Please continue your support for the museum! Call (202)-265-6280 to participate in any of these programs or see our website at www.nmajmh.org.



PNC Joseph Zoldan
President, NMAJMH

Program Updates

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

Recent months have brought some great programs to the Museum. Most notable was our annual Chanukah party on December 10th, 2015. This was our best attended event yet! Over 200 people came to the Museum to enjoy latkes, music, and some classic shmoozing. It's always good to take some time to reflect on how the American Jewish military tradition corresponds to the legacy of the Maccabees and the Chanukah story. No holiday suits our subject matter as well as Chanukah. The demand for latkes and jelly doughnuts were great, but it's best to see so many people expressing a genuine interest in our history.

Some diverse groups came for tours of the museum, too. It's fascinating to watch the different reactions to the exhibits from young and old, Jew and gentile, veteran and non-veteran. One week, a group came from the local Jewish senior's homes. They were filled with stories of the many Jewish veterans they had known in their own lives and were eager to learn more.



American Girl Doll, Rebecca Rubin

The next week, we had a group of young home-schooled girls visit the museum. The girls, ranging in age from 6-12, were part of an American Girl doll club. The visit was motivated by their Rebecca Rubin doll. The doll is a daughter of Russian Jewish immigrants living

in New York in the 1910s. We were able to use the doll as a gateway to discuss the American Jewish experience in World War I. Many American service members were immigrants during the First World War, and joining the military aided their rapid Americanization. This is one of the key points in telling the story of Jews in the American military and Jewish American history as a whole. It was great that the Rebecca Rubin doll provided an unexpected entry point to tell this story. Hopefully we can continue to find new connections to our stories and attract more people to the museum this way.

The museum can appeal to many different people. Please continue to help us spread the word. We rely on word-of-mouth promotion. In today's world, we can also count social media as word-of-mouth. Please like the Museum's Facebook page and share our posts. Keep an eye on the social media sites (www.facebook.com/NMAJMH and www.twitter.com/NMAJMH) for more content and also check our new website for updates!



Annual Chanukah Party Highlights



From Our Archives

By Pamela Elbe • Collections, Archives & Exhibitions Coordinator

We are happy to announce that the Museum has produced its first online exhibit! We have so many important stories and interesting artifacts and photos, and online exhibitions are another way for us to fulfill our mission. Created in conjunction with the JWV Foundation's liberators event, Honoring the Liberators: Remembering Liberation — In Their Own Words features the stories and photographs of Jewish American soldiers who liberated the concentration camps.

One of the soldiers featured in the exhibition is the late Morris Eisenstein, who served in the 42nd (Rainbow) Division and took part in the liberation of Dachau. He recounts the story



Star of David that was given to Morris Eisenstein by a Dachau survivor.

of how a Dachau survivor gave him a yellow Star of David in thanks:

In April, we were ordered to go to Dachau. Something terrible was happening there. We had no idea. When we entered the camp, the first thing we saw was a railroad siding with 36 box cars loaded with bodies in various stages of decomposition, both living and dying. What struck me was the bleakness of everything and the grotesque uniforms of the survivors milling around.

That's when I saw a little Jewish fellow in a corner weeping and wailing. I told him, "I am an American Jewish soldier." I tried to calm him; I didn't know what to do. I had a pile of money in my pocket captured from the SS two days before, about 15-20,000 marks in a large wad and I handed it to him. He grabbed my hand and said in Yiddish, "I have nothing to give you but my yellow Jewish star." I was so overwhelmed I almost cried... I only hope that somehow he was able to use the money to get to Israel or do something



Morris Eisenstein after joining the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division.

with it.... I never heard from him again. But I still have the yellow star.

Honoring the Liberators is just the first online exhibit. We hope to create online exhibits to coincide with all of our in-house exhibitions. Of course, we will bring you original, online-only exhibits too. Be sure to visit the Museum's website (nmajmh.org/exhibitions) to view the liberators exhibit, and check back periodically for new exhibits.

In addition to exhibits, the Museum's collection is also used by visiting researchers. We currently have a pair of researchers from the University of Texas at Dallas who are working on a long-term project focusing on the NMAJMH's archives. They have repeatedly commented on how great our collection is and that they have seen photos of camps at liberation that they have not found anywhere else. Our photographs are the most frequently used part of our collection. Scholars, authors, and organizations like the National WWII Museum have requested permission to use our photographs. This is another way that the NMAJMH works to fulfill our mission to educate the public about the courage, heroism, and sacrifices made by Jews in the US armed forces.

We've launched a new website!

Visit nmajmh.org for new content and an e-commerce system to purchase museum products and support our development programs.

Coming Up

May 1, 2016 • 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Mimouna Celebration

Mimouna is a traditional North African custom that begins the day after Passover, when it's time to start eating chametz again. In addition to the traditional foods, music, and customs, we'll look at the role of American Jewish soldiers in North Africa in World War II, including interacting with the local Jewish populations in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

Coming Up

May 27, 2016 • 6:00 pm

Annual Memorial Day Shabbat Service at Sixth and I Historic Synagogue

600 I Street, NW, Washington, DC

The Annual National Shabbat Service honoring the Jewish Fallen Heroes of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Check Sixthandi.org for tickets and more information.



Coming Up

June 5, 2016 • 11:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Dupont-Kalorama Walk Weekend

Seven diverse museums including NMAJMH will open their doors free of charge for this celebration in one of Washington, D.C.'s most beautiful neighborhoods.



DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Jerry Jotkoff-100 • Robert S. Lipson-100 •
Rosalind C. Perez-100 • Joseph Young-100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Bram Goldsmith-118 • Jackie M. Huppert-118 •
Bernard Rosenzweig-118 • Harold Schiff-118 •
Norman Helfgott-385 • Fred J. Butterfield-512
• Oscar Goldstein-603 • Miriam Keller-603 •
Jerry D. Leafman-603 • Manny Steinberg-603
• William Atterman-617 • Albert Azus-617 •
Howard H. Huckman-617 • Myra B. Segal-617
• Donna Solin-617 • Mark Frisman-760 • Harry
Goldman-760 • Siegfried J. Pinchut-760 • Tibor
Rubin-760 • Bernard Schecter-760

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Sarah Brody-45 • Myron A. Cohen-45 •
Benjamin Goldstein-45

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

Herbert Abrams-525 • Elliott E. Waxman-525 •
Dave A. Balick-747 • Samuel Swinger-767

DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Irving Fleishman-58

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

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On January 8th, National Chaplain Jerry Farris conducted a short Jewish service in the chapel of Saint John's Lutheran Church in Easton, PA, at the request of the parents of fallen AF SSgt Peter Taub. The Jewish airman was killed by an IED in Afghanistan last December. His remains were returned home in January. SSgt. Taub's wife, a member of the church, along with his parents wanted to recognize his Jewish heritage before the church service. The parents expressed their appreciation through their tears and warm hugs to those present. His wife said, "You will never know how very much this means to me that you came and led a service here."



The indoor services were followed by an outside flag presentation to the wife, daughter and parents and a 21 gun salute by the AF Honor Guard. SSgt. Taub leaves behind a wife, daughter, and unborn child. He had been in service for eight years.

Four JWV members came to his service: M.B. Kannis, Post 215 PA, Nelson Mellitz, Dept. of NJ., Robert Cirkus, Dept. of NJ, and National Chaplain Jerry Farris.

May his memory be a blessing.

Planning a Veteran Funeral

For information on planning a
veteran's funeral, please visit the
JWV website at:

[http://www.jwv.org/communications/
veterans/fighting_for_veterans_benefits](http://www.jwv.org/communications/veterans/fighting_for_veterans_benefits)





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Happy Passover

Allan Abramson & Wife Sheila
Happy Days and Good Health

PNC Lou & Gloria Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

Jerry & Sara Alperstein

Paul & Marion (Gitelson) Ash
IMO Aaron Gitelson • Post 258 NY

PDC Ed & PDP Louise Baraw

Eugene Baraw • Post 336

Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ
Chag Sameach

Howard A. & Dorothy G. Berger
Naples/Denver • USFA/USASETAF

PNP Joanne & NC Jerry Blum
L'Chaim

Jerry Berns • Chicago Post 153
In memory of my Ethyle and Evelyn

In Memory of Harold Cohen • Post 212

PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749

Marshall & Diane Duberstein

Gerald H. Elkan • North Carolina

Harold Engleman, K.C.C. / NEC

In loving memory of Lorraine Engelmann

God Bless America!

Sidney B. Goldberg, PDC NY
Abe Cohen-Lehman Memorial Post 50

PNC Nate & Selma Goldberg • Albany 105

PDC Herb & Beth Gopman • Dept. of FL

Alan J. Gould Post 105

In Memory of Sam Gould, Post Cmdr.

PNC Sam & PNP Barb Greenberg

NEC Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321
In Memory of Those Who Have Served

In Loving Memory of Harry & Yetta Israel

In Memory of Sid & Florence Israel, USMC

Jewish War Veterans USA Post 1
Our Original Post

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

PNP Petra C. & Jason A. Kaatz
Cmdr. Larry Kaufman & the Veterans
JWV Post 46 • Somers, NY

In Memory of Marty Kessler
Bell Oak Post 648-Queens NY

Mark I. Koppelman, CMDR
Bell Oak Post 648 • Queens, NY

In Memory of PCC Harry Kreiger, DEC
Gieir-Levitt Post 655

L'chaim - To Life

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

PNC Shelly and Judy Ohren

PCC Hon Harold & Maggie Rosenbaum
Good Health for All & Peace in Israel

Jerry & Lea Rosenberg • Post 740 NJ
Good Health & Happiness to All

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

NP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein
Good Health & Happy Holidays

PDC Murray Runin • Post 191

Stephen & Helen Sax

Irv Schildkraut PPC Post 440
USMC-USNR-USA

Harriet & Norman Schnitzer PDC
PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All

PDP Linda & Stuart Singer
In memory of PDC Bill Singer

PPC Norman & Toby Smith • Post 129 NY
Toda Shalom & Good Health to all JWV

Chaplain Murray & Clare Stadtmauer
Bell Park Post 648 • Queens, NY

Veterans-Thank you for your service!
David Weiner • Post 239 Allentown, PA

Major Stuart A. Wolfer Institute
www.msawi.org

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In loving memory of Bob Zweiman

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To all our troops • Be safe, be well!

**To all living Jewish WWII POW's sent to
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