



The Jewish Veteran

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

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THE JWV AND THE RIGHT TO SERVE

By Harvey Weiner,
JWV National Judge Advocate

Jews, as a community, have always been willing to fight for this country, even prior to its official beginning. Over 360 years ago, when those first 23 Jews came in 1654 from Recife, Brazil, to settle in New Amsterdam, now known as New York City, they were not welcomed by Governor Peter Stuyvesant, he of the well-known peg leg. Nevertheless, they were allowed to stay and some months later, Asser Levy, one of the initial 23 Jewish immigrants, protested to Stuyvesant that Jews were not allowed to stand guard. According to Stuyvesant, the reason why he did not want a Jew to stand guard was because of the discrimination and unwillingness of local residents to serve as fellow soldiers with the Jewish nation and to be on guard with them in the same guard house. Levy insisted however, that, as a manual laborer, he should be able to stand guard like everyone else. Levy appealed to some of the Jewish shareholders of the Dutch East India Company, which owned New Amsterdam and, within two years, Levy had succeeded in standing watch and ward, like the others.



A protest held July 26, 2017 in Times Square outside the U.S. Army Recruiting Center in response to President Trump tweeting that transgender people would no longer be allowed to serve in the U.S. military. Photo by Jere Keys, New York City, USA.

On July 26, 2017, President Trump announced in a series of tweets that transgender troops would no longer be allowed to serve in the military, reversing the policy of the Department of Defense. A formal Presidential Memorandum followed on August 25, 2017. JWV National Commander Carl A. Singer issued a statement on behalf of the JWV opposing this new discriminatory policy. Suit was brought by the transgender community in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia to prevent the

Trump Memorandum and its subsequent progeny from being implemented. *Doe v. Trump*, CA No. 17-1597 (CKK). A preliminary injunction was issued preventing this discriminatory policy from going into effect. This injunction was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in January.

The Trump administration has appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on the merits. The JWV was asked by Mary Bonauto, the

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Jewish War Veterans and AIPAC

COL Nelson L. Mellitz, USAF, Ret.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference 2019 took place March 24-26, 2019 in Washington, D.C. The AIPAC Conference is the largest gathering of American's pro-Israel community. Through keynote speeches by American and Israeli leaders and educational sessions, Policy Conference delegates participate in the full scale of pro-Israel activism (reference AIPAC Dashboard: March 28, 2019).

The Jewish War Veterans was



there, as AIPAC implemented a U.S. military veteran's outreach component

with breakout sessions, special sessions, and receptions directed to and for U.S. military veterans. Sessions included: Veterans in Politics, Veterans Outreach Welcome Reception, On the Front Lines: Veterans Fighting for a Strong U.S.-Israel Relationship; Veteran Freshman: From One Front Line to Another, etc. There were over 18,000 participants at AIPAC and at each one of these veterans' related sessions the room was full to overflowing with 100 plus veterans in attendance.

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D'verei HaShomrim

"Wow, you're in the Army? I didn't know that Jews serve in the military."

By Chaplain (COL) Larry Bazer

After almost 30 years in the military, I'm still amazed with the surprise of people learning that I'm actually a soldier or more specifically—National Guardsman, and a rabbi! I even get, "You mean the Israeli Army, right?" "No, I'm in the US Military. I'm a United States Army officer and Jewish Chaplain."

Jewish have served in the American armed forces since the Revolutionary War. During war and peace time, rabbis have marched, sailed, or flown along with our brave American troops, caring for both Jews and Gentiles. There are Jewish chaplains on full-time active duty and others with both Reserve components, either Reserve or National Guard. Only the Army and Air Force have both Reserve and National Guard, Navy and Marines only have the Reserve.

What do Jewish chaplains do? Pretty much the same as any chaplain, regardless of religious denomination. We all care for the living, we also counsel, visit, or tend to those in need, or the most sacred work, honor the dead. We do both staff officer and clergy work. When I was deployed to Afghanistan the second half of 2011, I was on my commanding general's special staff, and I was the only Jewish chaplain in the entire operational theater. One of the most memorable experiences I had was leading a Hanukkah Menorah lighting on my base, Camp Phoenix in Kabul. On a cold, wintery night, twenty-five people gathered around a five foot Hanukkiyah I had specially built. We were from all branches of service as well as government contractors. Not everyone who attended was even Jewish. I was proud to lead them in the blessings and songs. We finished up by feasting on latkes and sufganiyot (jelly donuts). This scene was replicated all over the world on military bases or ships by Jewish chaplains or lay leaders. All were serving our nation as Jewish military personnel.

Presently, I'm serving on active duty at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, VA, after being a full-time pulpit rabbi for 25 years. For most of my military career I was part-time in both the Massachusetts and New York Army National Guard. I was a "weekend warrior...minus Shabbat." I, like many Reserve Component rabbis, held other positions like pulpit, education, or hospital chaplaincy. When in uniform, I delivered prayers at many military ceremonies, or did counseling, or even gave the hamotzi at JWV events. In my present role, I'm overseeing the religious response mission of the National Guard's domestic



Chaplain (COL) Larry Bazer is the Deputy Director of the National Guard Bureau-Office of the Joint Chaplain. Prior to serving on active duty, he was the Joint Forces State Chaplain for the Massachusetts National Guard and the Rabbi of Temple Beth Sholom in Framingham, MA. He is still a proud member of Framingham/Natick JWV Chapter and MA Jewish War Veterans.

response or its State Partnership program with other nations' armed forces. Luckily, I still get to teach some Jewish text or lead Hanukkah celebrations at the Guard Bureau or even at the Pentagon.

This coming April will be 30 years since I raised my right hand in the Jerusalem Consulate of the United States Embassy and took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States as an army officer. Ever since that sacred moment, I'm proud to wear the uniform of an US Army officer. I'm proud to wear the Jewish chaplain's tablets on my uniform. I'm proud to be military combat veteran, and I'm proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with my fellow Jewish War Vets, all of us, members at one time, of our United States military! For God and Country!

Chaplain (COL) Larry Bazer is the Deputy Director of the National Guard Bureau-Office of the Joint Chaplain. Prior to serving on active duty, he was the Joint Forces State Chaplain for the Massachusetts National Guard and the rabbi of Temple Beth Sholom in Framingham, MA. He is still a proud member of Framingham/Natick JWV Chapter and MA Jewish War Veterans.



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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Dr. Barry J. Schneider

I want to share a portion of the speech that I delivered during the 2019 National Executive Committee meeting in February. If you would like to read the entire version, please send a note to Editor@jwv.org for the full version.

Fellow members of JWV,

I am half way through my tenure as National Commander. It has been an exciting, invigorating and educational six months. I have traveled to posts and departments in nearly a dozen states and will visit many more before my year is up. I have also had the privilege of attending briefings at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium and participating in a wonderful parade in London with our sister organization AJEX (Association of Jewish ex-Military Men and Women).

If I've accomplished one thing during this time period, it is the revitalization of the Allied Mission trip. The itinerary has been revised for the first time in years making it more acceptable to non-veteran travelers and first-time visitors to Israel. An additional day has been added to allow us to see more of the country and enjoy the beauty that Israel has to offer. Alternative ports of departure have been added, thus reducing cost and travel time for those not living on the east coast. As of the end of January, we have 48 individuals from 12 states participating in this exciting trip. Fourteen of those individuals are not Jewish, 30 are first timers to Israel and 11 are members of JWVA. Additionally, 19 people are extending to a weeklong adventure to Egypt.

More important than where I have been is what I've learned. As I have traveled around the country, a number of recurring themes emerged. There is a sense of disenfranchisement felt by the post members outside of the east coast. People have stated that "we do not get enough recognition and that

national officers do not come to visit us!". Other points that have been brought up are that the annual conventions are too far away, too expensive and require too much travel time. Even with the negative feelings that were expressed, I was received with gratitude that someone from the National Command came to visit. A suggestion was made that we should live stream our meetings. I strongly support this idea and recommend steps be taken to implement streaming in time for our convention in August and for the next National Executive Committee meeting.

I've heard members make comments such as, "why should I make the effort to attend?" They feel as if they are not from the East Coast there is no chance of a decent committee assignment or officer position.

Despite this, post members are enthusiastic, run good posts and are an asset to their community and JWV. Another common concern is the inability of JWV to show **RELEVANCE** to our younger veterans. **WE MUST CHANGE!** If JWV desires to continue as the patriotic voice for Jewish American veterans, we need to become more inclusive and welcoming. The demographics of the United States are changing. While the majority of Jews still live on the east coast, there is an ever-increasing Jewish presence in the heartland. We **MUST** reach out to them immediately and make them feel welcomed and part of our organization. American Jews represent 5.3 million people or about 1.5 percent of the total population. An estimated 10,000 Jews are now serving in the military or about .07 percent of active duty force. If we do not reach out and make our presence known, our proud and historic organization will cease to exist! **WE MUST CHANGE!** Our problem is not a lack of potential members, it is how we operate, and we are our own worst en-

emy. Common responses from audience members during my visits and presentations were, "I never heard of JWV" or "no one ever asked me to join."

This must be corrected. We need to make ourselves known to the Jewish communities and the general population. It is imperative that we reach out to every Federation, JCC, Hebrew Day School and synagogue throughout the country. Every Jewish chaplain needs to be contacted and become a recruiting agent for us. Our efforts with Jewish Warrior Weekends need to continue, to be strengthened and expanded to include more college ROTC units. We must reach out to our active duty members, officers and enlisted alike. I find it incredulous that so many of our young veterans do not know we exist. How many seasoned veterans do not join because they do not know we exist? This must change! We must change! Therefore, I am recommending that JWV immediately establish a Marketing Committee headed by an experienced professional who can portray us as a great force doing good for all veterans. There is nothing wrong with JWV that cannot be corrected.

We must move forward. I implore you not to let my recommendations fall on deaf ears. I believe I must speak out on behalf of all those who I believe have no voice.

I will continue to act in the best interest of JWV and do everything in my power to ensure we are here until wars have become a thing of the past and we are no longer needed. Until then, I am here to serve, to strive and push us into the 21st century. Thank you.



JWV Will Host National Veterans Day Program & Reception at Arlington Cemetery In 2021 as Part of Our 125 Year Birthday Celebration!

In 2021, the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV) will celebrate its 125th birthday. JWV was founded in 1896 as the Hebrew Veterans Union in response to the falsehood that Jews didn't serve in the Civil War. Today it remains the oldest active veterans organization in the country.

To celebrate this simcha, JWV will be hosting the 2021 Veterans Day National Committee (VDNC) program and reception on Veterans Day at Arlington. This prestigious event is attended by the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Commanders and Presidents of the congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), and veterans from all over the country.

JWV will honor the good name of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. and proudly "show the cap," by accepting our responsibility for hosting this event. The expense for this is approximately \$60,000. Fund-raising the expenses by JWV members has already collected more than half of

that amount.

We appeal to all JWV members, their families, and their friends to help JWV meet our obligation. We need you to dig a little deeper and donate some amount, no matter how small, towards the celebration of our 125th birthday. We cannot and will not shy away from that responsibility come November 11, 2021.

This is a great challenge, but it is also a great opportunity. JWV will be recognized by all other VSOs as a vital and equal member of the veterans community. JWV will have a national spotlight to show that Jews are loyal, patriotic American citizens who have served, are serving, and will continue to serve honorably and proudly in the U.S. military.

The veteran community, which includes military and civilians alike, comes to Washington every year to celebrate Veterans Day. JWV will have the opportunity to reach a wide audience, as networks, cable stations, the press, and social me-

dia will cover Veterans Day events in D.C. JWV will use this spotlight to publicize ourselves to a world-wide audience, Jew and non-Jew alike, that Jews have served in America's defense from Plymouth Rock to Iraq/Afghanistan, consistently, proudly, loyally and patriotically.

JWV's 125th birthday celebration is too great an opportunity to pass up. We can do this, but we can't do this alone. We need YOUR help. Please donate to the JWV U.S.A. Foundation, a Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. We will ensure that your donation to this project will be carefully husbanded so that one hundred percent of these funds will be used explicitly for expenses directly related to our commitment, our obligation, to this important project. Excess funds raised will be used to continue JWV's legacy of service to veterans.

Thank you again for your constant support for our efforts to transfuse more life into our organization.

CAPITOL HILL ACTION DAY By COL Herb Rosenbleeth, USA (Ret), National Executive Director

JWV National Executive Committee (NEC) members “stormed the Hill” February 13th and 14th, and met with their Senators and Representatives to discuss our key legislative issues. Led by National Commander Dr. Barry J. Schneider, our leadership walked the halls of Congress wearing their JWV caps and recommitted our support for all veterans.

For the most part, JWV’s key issues are developed by our Resolutions Committee and then voted on at our National Convention.

Our NEC members, who converge upon Washington, D.C., from throughout the country, study the issues. For example, our New Jersey delegation met with the legislative staff of Senators Cory Booker, Bob Menendez, Congressmen Tom Malinkowski, Bill Pascrell, Albio Sires, and Chris Smith. They met with and had their picture taken with Congressmen Van Drew, Malinkowski,

Pascrell, and Smith.

Our legislative priorities include:

1. Suicide Prevention
2. Veteran Homelessness
3. Burn Pit Accountability
4. Legislation regarding Blue Water Navy Veterans
5. GI Bill Accountability
6. Support for Israel
7. POW/MIA accountability

In speaking with many of our legislators we were able to express our concern regarding Rep. Omar’s anti-Semitic comments and many of our Congress members shared with us their comments and statements on this issue and JWV issued a strong press release regarding Rep. Omar.

Our Florida delegation hit the Hill with 20 confirmed appointments. In each Senate and House office, the Florida group discussed three categories of topics – the military, Israel, and veterans. Additionally, they spoke about support for Israel, and this year, they spoke in detail about the anti-Semitic remarks recently made by one of the new members of Congress.

The Florida delegation closed by speaking about veterans issues. They handed a copy of JWV’s Legislative Priorities to each member and then went into detail about concerns that one or more of JWV members have with either veteran’s benefits or the Veterans Administration.

The Florida contingent is always well received, and every legislator that they met with thanked us for our military service.

Capitol Hill Action Days are two very exciting and intense days. It is an opportunity that I urge every member of JWV to experience, at least once.

During our Capitol Hill Action Days, PNC Dr. Robert Pickard arranged a JWV visit to the Office of the Secretary of the VA, the Honorable Robert Wilke. While not on the Hill, the VA’s backing is crucial to the passage of many legislative proposals. The JWV group met with 7 lay VA executives, led by Jason Beardsley, a Special Assistant to Secretary Wilke.

JWV Capitol Hill Action Days fully conclude when NC Schneider presents JWV’s legislative priorities to a joint session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs.



COL Herb Rosenbleeth



The JWV Florida delegation met with Congressman Brian Mast, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan. Of special interest to JWV, Congressman Mast volunteered with the Israel Defense Forces, working at a base near Tel Aviv, packing medical kits and moving supplies. Pictured from left: PNC David Magidson, PDC Richard Rosenzweig, DC Alan Paley, PNC Ainslee Ferdie, Congressman Brian Mast, PNC Dr. Robert Pickard, and PDC Gerald Rennert.



The New Jersey delegation met with Congressman Chris Smith, who is a former chairman of the powerful House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Pictured from left: PDC Nelson Mellitz, Steve Silverman, PC Selina Kanowitz, Congressman Chris Smith, PDC Al Adler, DP Carol Adler, and PDC Robert Jacobs.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BARRY SCHNEIDER PRESENTS JWV LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES BEFORE CONGRESS

National Commander Barry Schneider presented JWV’s 2019 legislative priorities before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on March 12. In his testimony, he focused on the need to increase funding for veteran suicide prevention programs and protect student veterans from predatory for-profit colleges.

NC Schneider urged the committee to make veteran suicide prevention one of its highest priorities. Current research shows that 20 veteran sui-

cides occur every day, and veterans are one and a half times more likely to commit suicide than non-veterans. “Suicide affects everyone—families, friends, and communities,” NC Schneider said. “JWV urges full mental health screening, using all available assessment tools, and full access to veterans facilities for all individuals exiting the military.”

Another top priority presented by NC Schneider were the challenges faced by student veterans. While he praised the Post 9/11 GI Bill and asked Congress to continue its commitment to veterans’ education benefits, he noted that predatory for-profit colleges and training programs have sprung up to take advantage of veterans seeking to use these benefits. These institutions “engage in misleading recruiting practices on military installations, and often fail to disclose meaningful information, prevent-

ing potential students to determine if a college has a good record of educating and positioning students for success in the work force.”

NC Schneider informed the committee that, during his travels as national commander, he has seen colleges that excel at supporting veterans. The University of Colorado at Boulder, for example, has established an office of Veteran and Military Affairs (VMA). The VMA is staffed by veterans and provides support to its student veterans during their transition from military to civilian and academic life.

“The Jewish War Veterans,” said NC Schneider, “asks the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress to establish a ratings system to ensure that all education institutions that receive government funding meet at least minimum requirements and standards of accountability to ensure that our veterans can select, with confidence, a program which will meet their needs.”

Other priorities presented to the committee included reducing veteran homelessness, providing benefits to veterans suffering negative health effects due to burn pit exposure, and caring for Blue Water Navy veterans exposed to Agent Orange.



National Commander Barry Schneider testifying before a joint House and Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs on March 12, 2019.

'BLUE WATER' NAVY VETERANS FROM VIETNAM-ERA WIN AGENT ORANGE BENEFITS CASE

By Ann E. Marimow

A federal appeals court in Washington sided Tuesday with thousands of Vietnam War veterans who were stationed offshore during the war and developed health problems linked to exposure to the toxic herbicide Agent Orange.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruled overwhelmingly for these sailors, finding they are eligible for the same disability benefits as those who put boots on the ground or patrolled Vietnam's inland rivers. The 9-to-2 decision reverses a decade-old ruling by the court and applies to an estimated 52,000 veterans nationwide. A court majority said Congress clearly intended to extend benefits to sailors who were stationed in the territorial seas and are known as "blue water" Navy veterans.

"We find no merit in the government's arguments to the contrary," Judge Kimberly A. Moore wrote for the majority. The two dissenting judges warned against overturning the court's previous decision and said such policy decisions should be reserved for lawmakers. Similar efforts in Congress to broaden benefits have stalled in recent years. Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie and four former secretaries opposed the legislation, citing cost and the need for further study.

"Recent debates in Congress, which required consideration of the significant cost of the proposed addition of Blue Water Navy veterans underscores why Congress, rather than the courts, should be the one to revisit our interpretation," wrote Judge Raymond T. Chen, who was joined by Judge

Timothy B. Dyk. The appeal was brought by Alfred Procopio Jr., who served on the USS *Intrepid*, an aircraft carrier deployed off the coast of Vietnam. Procopio, 73, was denied benefits for claims related to his diabetes and prostate cancer. Both are ailments the U.S. government has linked to exposure to the infamous herbicide the U.S. military sprayed to destroy crops and reduce cover for enemy forces.

An administrative board found him ineligible because he was not "present on the landmass or the inland waters of Vietnam." The ruling Tuesday means Procopio and any other veteran who served within Vietnam's territorial sea will now be presumed eligible for disability benefits if they have one of the diseases that is linked to the herbicide. Procopio's attorney Mel Bostwick called the decision "crucial and long overdue."

"These Vietnam veterans sacrificed their own health and well-being for the good of the country, and the benefits that Congress provided — and which the court's decision now secures — are part of the debt of gratitude we owe them for their service," she said in a statement following the ruling.

"For years, Navy veterans have suffered with the effects of Agent Orange exposure while the VA remained recalcitrant," attorney John B. Wells, a retired Navy commander, who has led lobbying efforts in Congress, said in a statement Tuesday.

The Department of Veterans Affairs will have to assess Procopio's disabilities before calculating his benefits and evaluate other veterans like him with pending cases. The government can seek review by the Supreme Court. A VA spokesman, Curt

Cashour, said the department is "reviewing this decision and will determine an appropriate response." During the war, those patrolling Vietnam's coastline like Procopio were referred to as the "blue water" Navy in contrast to the "brown water" sailors who operated on inland waterways.

Advocates for the blue water sailors point to studies that show exposure to Agent Orange occurred through contaminated water funneled into ships' distillation systems and used for drinking, laundry and cleaning. Much of the spraying was on low-lying swamps of the Mekong River Delta that flows into the South China Sea, where they were stationed. A three-judge panel of the court previously heard Procopio's case but did not issue a decision. Instead, the court took the unusual step of rehearing the case as a full panel in December.

The question before the full court was whether Congress intended to give the blue water sailors the benefit of the doubt when it comes to showing their medical conditions are connected to toxic exposure. One disputed line in the statute that was persuasive to the majority says the presumption, entitling veterans to disability benefits, applies to any "veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served in the Republic of Vietnam."

In her 19-page opinion, Moore wrote that the inclusion of that language reinforces "our conclusion that Congress was expressly extending the presumption to naval personnel who served in the territorial sea."

This is a reprint of the article that was published on January 29, 2019 in the Washington Post.

THE PRIVATE CARE PUSH

By PNC Paul D. Warner, LL.M., Ph.D.

In June 2016, The Commission on Care issued a 292-page document containing eighteen recommendations for the improvement of the operations of the Department of Veterans Affairs system. The one which has most interested the Administration appears to be the use of private doctors.

Last year Congress passed a bill which they claimed would eliminate the arbitrary rules relating to when the VA would pay for the use private doctors by veterans. The old rules governing the use of private doctors were that the veteran would have at least a 30 day wait or a 40-mile distance to obtain care at a VA installation. The VA has proposed a 20 day wait for primary care or a 28 day wait for specialty care. The mileage requirement is replaced by a drive time standards which are 30 minutes for primary care or 60 minutes for specialty care. Clearly these are simply a new set of arbitrary rules. The only thing clear about the new rules is that they are less stringent and will probably allow more veterans to seek private care. Data provided by the VA shows that, currently, over about one-half the VA's primary care sites have wait times longer the 20 days and specialty wait times longer the 28 days (there is some question about the reliability of this data).

The expansion of private care will come at the expense of the VA's own health system. The VA estimates that the cost for privatization will cost from

\$13.9 to 32.1 billion dollars over the next five years. It appears that this money will come the VA's budget, not from additional federal funding.

The following questions are some of those remaining to be answered:

- How many more veterans will be eligible for private care under the proposed standards?
- How will drive times be calculated?
- Will the greater availability of private doctors result in more veterans using this option instead of their private insurance or Medicare?
- Will veterans applying for private care get their appointments faster than at the VA?

The unanswered questions could dramatically change the VA's effectiveness and costs.

There appears to be much pressure from the private sector to privatize the VA and make its funds available to for-profit organizations (e.g., private health insurance and pharmaceutical companies). In particular there are three private citizens who have the Department of VA's ear. A Freedom of Information Act request and interviews with former administration officials revealed that they have been extensively involved in the VA's policies and personnel matters. They have direct contact with the President who appears to be consulting with them about the VA. They have not followed the



Federal Advisory Committee of 1972 which controls the activities of non-governmental advisors.

It does not look good for the VA and this is why many veterans' organizations including Jewish War Veterans, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign wars are opposed to the proposed changes. There is one "veterans" organization which supports them, the Concerned Veterans of America which is supported by organizations whose primary goal is to totally privatize the VA.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

JWV Alliance with Local City/Town Veteran Organizations

Veterans organizations are an important ingredient when it comes to local community team building. An example for reference: presently in my one community we have ten veteran organizations, which combined they make up the city's veterans council.

The number and types of veterans' organizations may vary from city to city/town to town. In either case, it is imperative that your Jewish War Veterans post have a seat at the table. If you are not an active partner your community's Veterans Council then your JWV Post is missing out. As an active organization you play a vital role in the decision making process of your local military veteran community. Working together provides a uniformed front when dealing with benefits for supporting service members, veterans, and their families.

Making your Veterans Council aware of our JWV legislative priorities is also critical. Although most of our legislative priorities are similar throughout our veteran organizations, it provides the veterans council with a united front. A unit-

ed front becomes important when each veteran organization goes to Congress in support of military benefits. However, JWV has one legislative priority that is unique only to our Organization, that's is our legislative priority for the State of Israel. This is where alliance building as part of a local city/town veterans council becomes critical.

It is our responsibility as JWV Members that we inform our local veterans council of the JWV legislative priorities. Our JWV legislative priorities are found on the following JWV site: <https://www.jwv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-Legislative-Priorities.pdf>.



COL (ret) Barry Lischinsky
Membership Chairman

Is Your Post Leadership Getting This Email?

The most efficient and cost-effective way for JWV National to communicate with membership is by email. Every two weeks or so, National emails a membership newsletter that contains information about upcoming events, policy reminders, and administrative news.

Less often, National sends out emails that go to echelon leadership only. If an echelon commander is not getting our emails, they are not getting the information they need to communicate information from National to their members. Therefore, it is important to make sure that your fellow post members and post leadership are on the JWV email list.

If they are not getting our emails, this is because they have not provided National with their email address, or because they unsubscribed from a JWV email list and are now unable to receive any notices or information from National Headquarters.

If you have a fellow post member who is not seeing this email, please give them this information: Contact Harrison Heller at hheller@jwv.org. However, if you or someone you know has unsubscribed from receiving JWV email and wishes to be put back on the list, please contact Iryna Apple at iapple@jwv.org. It is important to all of us that you are able to receive the information you need.

HOW TO RECRUIT ON BASE

For the continued growth of our organization, we need to focus on its future. Our future will be determined by how effective we are at recruiting new members. One of the most crucial places to find new members are active military bases. Below are things you can do to make your post an valued and advantageous partner to a base.

- Introduce yourself to the local military installation. Get to know the chaplains and rabbis on base. Share JWV's proud history and let them know what JWV can do for them.
- Reach out to base leaders. If you get to talk or meet with them, this is a big plus
- Bring along copies of *The Jewish Veteran* to leave with them. Let them read about our organization and they will see the good work JWV does on behalf of servicemembers and their families.
- If your post has a special program for those currently serving, share those programs with installation leaders and chaplains.
- Let them know that you want to work with the base and find out what their needs are. Most bases and base hospitals often need things like crutch pads, video games and video game systems (Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo) for their wounded warriors.
- Military families usually need baby items such as baby blankets, and baby and children's clothing. Note: For any donated items, check first if they have to be new or unopened.
- DVDs, video games, exercise equipment and home furnishings are also appreciated.

When visiting a base or attending services or events there, bring the following:

- Make sure to wear your echelon cap with pride
- Photo identification or driver's license
- Proof of auto insurance
- Membership applications. Make sure that you tell prospective members that In-Service membership is FREE and that they will be part of the oldest active veterans organization in the country. Help them fill out the membership form and welcome them with sincerity.
- Something to write with
- A copy of *The Jewish Veteran* to leave with the installation rabbi or chaplain
- JWV Challenge Coin, if you have one
- If you are within traveling distance of an installation, make sure to take a monthly trip.

If you want to succeed at recruiting members for JWV, you must care about what you are doing. You must want to help our military personnel and make sure they know that our organization is there to help them and their families. Always look for ways to be of service and a benefit.

Many servicemembers will be away from families while they are stationed at the base or installation. During the holiday season, you may wish to invite a few military personnel to your home for dinner and celebration.

Make sure the chaplains and rabbis can count on you, and you will have an ally in your recruitment efforts. Have them join your post and get them a life membership so that he or she will always help your cause.

JWV Welcomes New Kemp Mill Post 360!



JWV Kemp Mill Post 360 was one of two posts officially approved at the National Executive Committee meeting in February. Members of the new post held their first meeting recently and sent us this photo. From left: Tad Downing, Fred Glogower, Alan Breitler, Joel Sklar, Matt Kronisch, Joseph Cohn, Louis Morris, Arnie Kirshenbaum, Sheldon Goldberg, Dan Selig, Gary Cohen, Victor Rosenblum, Michael Eisenstadt, Anne Schlesinger, Erik Kinzbrunner, Saul Koss, Jared Chenkin, and Post Commander, Scott Schlesinger.

Member: Sheila Berg
Post: Lehigh High Valley Post 239
Current Residence: Fogelsville, PA
Military Service: February 1980-May 2014
Member Since Year: 2009



1. When and why did you serve in the military?
I enlisted in the Air Force Reserves because I wanted to serve my country. I turned down a Commission to enlist as a Jet Engine Mechanic because I wanted to challenge myself and learn a new trade.

2. How did you get introduced to JWV?
There was several JWV members at my shul who encouraged me to join. I was definitely the most influenced by a Holocaust survivor who told me that JWV defeats the American concept that Jews do not serve in the military or fight.

3. JWV has many programs to help support both those in and out of uniform. Which program do you feel most connected to or would want to change and why?
JWV has many programs that are not known to the public such as scouting and the grants programs. The public and Jewish service members are not readily aware of these opportunities. I feel that our job as members is that we need to create an awareness and interest in everything that we do to support those in and out of uniform as well as their families. I am currently working to increase an awareness of women veterans. I do feel that JWV should work more closely with local Jewish organizations

partnering or sponsoring programs and also feel that JWV National needs to create awareness with national Jewish organizations. I do believe that they have started to create an online persona to attract present service members and those recently discharged, but it still needs to be stronger and more robust.

4. As a woman who has served in the military and is also the Chairman for the Women in the Military Committee, what do you see as the biggest problems facing women who serve in the armed forces today?
The continued awareness and acceptance of Women Veterans. The areas of concern are gender specific medical conditions including gender specific prosthesis, ancillary or support issues such as babysitting service at VA facilities,

programs for homelessness which often include the Veterans and her family. Gender specific therapy for PTSD, Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and aging issues. As veterans age programs for maintaining quality of life at a home or services in the home. Also the mortality rate for women is greater hence issues of living alone may become prominent.

5. Can you tell us a bit about your Jewish background and what was the catalyst moment that called you to serve?
I previously attended a Conservative shul. Presently attend a modern Orthodox shul. There have been challenges to being observant and I hope this will be better in the future with more Jewish chaplains serving in the military. An example that I can give is a common problem, trying to find services on Temporary Duty (TDY). When I was activated for both the Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom I was re-issued dog tags without my religion and a Christian Bible. No Chumash was available.

6. What is your favorite movie and does it relate with your experience in the military?
I like most war movies from WWII to present. I enjoyed the movie Interceptor in which part of the movies was on a mockup of a C-5 airplane. It was a thriller, but the interior of the plane was not correct. I was laughing in the theater. The patrons kept looking at me as if I was crazy. I enjoyed *Twelve Strong* and *Zero Dark Thirty*.

7. What is you most favorite Jewish food?
Kasha and bowties, noodle kugel.

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE
Arnold, Mike D. - Post 100
Butler, Stephen D. - Post 77
Carter, Teal J. - Post 100
Crowley, Indy C. - Post 686
Cumley, Jack K. - Post 100
Dunn, Alan L. - Post 100
Felix, Margaret A. - Post 859
Frank, Forrest R. - Post 100
Grossmamn, Darlene J. - Post 100
Kitover, John - Post 100
Kroot, Louis J. - Post 859
Marcus, Mike - Post 100
Reiffen, Adam H. - Post 100
Sanders, Richard L. - Post 100
Siegel, Jeffrey M. - Post 100
Solomon, Brian - Post 100
Weinberg, Gerald W. - Post 100
Weiss, Joshua - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
Becker, David H. - Post 385
Bloch, Ralph N. - Post 680
Frank, Gerald A. - Post 603
Laser, Jordan V. - Post 385
Lazar, Samuel - Post 385
Loughlin, Larry F. - Post 118
May, Marvin M. - Post 118
Palley, Michael H. - Post 385

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT
Anopolsky, Ira - Post 45

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
Adelman, Martin - Post 373
Benima, Henry - Post 202
Chemerow, Ben J. - Post 172
Donovan, William C. - Post 819
Falkowitz, Steven J. - Post 373
Falkowitz, Tracy M. - Post 373

Fine, Stanley - Post 631
Gerstein, Steven M. - Post 373
Goldfarb, Michael R. - Post 265
Gurian, Samuel B. - Post 941
Heitlinger, Charlotte G. - Post 373
Mareus, Susan L. - Post 373
Margoluis, Howard W. - Post 243
Menkin, Allen - Post 202
Miller, Adam F. - Post 202
Rifkin, David - Post 373
Rifkin, Roberta - Post 373
Rudowsky, Rochelle - Post 373
Sackerman, Andrew H. - Post 631

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
Dresden, Allan S. - Post 29
Goldberg, Jeremy S. - Post 29
Koppel, Henry - Post 29

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND
Breitler, Alan - Post 360
Chenkin, Jared - Post 360
Davidson, Laurence - Post 360
Downing, Thomas A. - Post 360
Firestone, Allan - Post 567
Glogower, Fred D. - Post 360
Koss, Saul H. - Post 360
Morris, Louis M. - Post 360
Rosenblum, Victor S. - Post 360
Saltman, Roy G. - Post 567
Samber, Moshe - Post 567
Schlesinger, Anne - Post 360
Schlesinger, Scott - Post 360
Selig, Daniel J. - Post 360
Shudnow, Sanford H. - Post 360
Slonim, Jack G. - Post 692
Soffler, Carl - Post 692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
Bird, Dennis R. - Post 157

Farley, Peter A. - Post 157
Marder, Steven M. - Post 157
Susman, Susan R. - Post 735
Weaver, Robert E. - Post 220
Wood, Bruce C. - Post 157

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
Auster, Miles S. - Post 474
Berris, David J. - Post 474
Boykansky, Stanley - Post 474
Gold, Paul M. - Post 474

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
Taylor, Zachary D. - Post 354

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA
Freedman, Rosa - Post 65
Unger, Donald J. - Post 65
Warren, Walter O. - Post 65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY
Amar, David - Post 178
Dubowsky, Lawrence F. - Post 538
Fellman, Damon - Post 498
Gelber, Harris J. - Post 126
Jawetz, Harold I. - Post 47
Morris, Carolina - Post 651
Paul, Dana B. - Post 126
Platt, Kevin - Post 651
Stein, Steven M. - Post 126
Wallet, Stuart F. - Post 126

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
Brendel, Robert - Post 652
Buchwald, Don D. - Post 191
Freeberg, Edward A. - Post 652
Goodman, Leo - Post 652
Katz, Leo - Post 6
Keene, Lonnie - Post 1
Platt, Stacey - Post 625
Rosenwasser, Jay J. - Post 652

Smith, Norton L. - Post 425

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO
Bernstein, Harvey J. - Post 44
Goldstein, Louis - Post 44
Iseman, Charles J. - Post 44
Olgin, Robert L. - Post 44
Rubin, Robert B. - Post 179

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
Eckstein, Robert N. - Post 305
Saxanoff, Ronald - Post 215

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST
Barman, Louis C. - Post 112
Binney, Logan - Post 112
Bobb, Kevin W. - Post 112
Carroll, Devin - Post 112
Dalton, Mitchell - Post 112
D'Amoto, Zachary - Post 112
Edelman, Sean - Post 112
Frye, David A. - Post 112
Lancaster, Philip C. - Post 112
Manford, Martin I. - Post 112
Negrete, Cristian - Joseph 112
Sterling, Maru - Post 112
Tilton, Loyd E. - Post 112
Wasner, Dylan J. - Post 112

DEPARTMENT OF TALO
Reeves, Samuella - Post 749
Robin, Joseph J. - Post 755
Schneider, Chad P. - Post 755
Schulman, Lee I. - Post 755

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA-NC
Greenblatt, Scott - Post 765
Pace, Bryan - Post 158
Weiss, Adam - Post 95

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
Heumann, Mark J. - Post 145

Welcome to Richmond, Virginia!

How many states are commonwealths? Four; Massachusetts, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The 124th Annual Convention will be held in historic Richmond, the capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This city has played an intricate role in America's history and was the site of several landmark events.

In 1775, Patrick Henry gave his famous "Give me liberty or give me death" speech at St. John's Church. In 1777, Thomas Jefferson drafted the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, which disestablished the Church of England in Virginia and guaranteed the freedom of religion to people of all faiths. The statute was eventually passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 1779 and was the precursor to the Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause for the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Richmond was first settled in 1742 by Major William Mayo and was named after the English town of Richmond because of the striking view of James River. The view of the river reminded the settlers of the view of the River Thames from



the second capital of the Confederacy, from 1861 to April 3, 1865. The Confederate capital before Richmond was Montgomery, Alabama. Richmond was located at the end of major supply line, which made the city very difficult to defend, as it became the target of several Union campaigns in 1862 and 1864-1865. The city was also home to the largest iron foundry and arms factory during the war, Tredgar Iron Works. Today this facility is home to the American Civil War Museum and shares the Richmond National Battlefield Park Visitor Center. Tredgar turned out 723 tons of armor plating that was used for the CSS *Virginia*, the first steam-powered ironclad warship used in war.

A decade after the Confederate surrender at Appomattox, Richmond began to resurge as an economic powerhouse. As canals gave way to railroads, Richmond became a major center for railroad traffic, eventually becoming home to the world's first triple railroad crossing. Tobacco warehousing and processing lead the way for Richmond's rebirth and continued growth.

Richmond Hill back in England. On April 8, 1780, the capital was moved from nearby Williamsburg to Richmond to provide a more centralized location for the growing population in the western part of the commonwealth, and to isolate the capital from British attack. Coincidentally, Richmond was burned by British troops in 1781, under the command of Benedict Arnold.

The city is probably best known for being

Places to see while in Richmond



Grand Lodge of Virginia

For those members who are Masons, make sure to visit the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Founded in 1778, the Grand Lodge of Virginia is the oldest, independent Grand Lodge in the United States and represents over 300 lodges across the commonwealth and has over 34,000 members. The Grand Lodge houses a library and museum that contains Masonic artifacts that played a role in Virginia and American history. The library and museum are located at 4115 Nine Mile Road, Richmond, VA 23223, and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am – 4pm. However, they close from 12:30 – 1:30pm for lunch.



The Oldest Synagogue in Virginia

Richmond's oldest synagogue is Congregation

Beth Ahabah. The congregation was found 1789 by Spanish and Portuguese Jews as Kahal Kadosh Beth Shalome. After using a leased space for some years, the congregation built its own synagogue in 1822.

By 1841, as Ashkenazi Jews joined the congregation, the name changed to Beth Ahabah. In 1846 they established the first Jewish school in Richmond. In 1904, the cornerstone for its current building was laid on Franklin Street and was nicknamed the Franklin Street Synagogue.

Beth Ahabah currently maintains the Hebrew Cemetery of Richmond and the Cemetery for Hebrew Confederate Soldiers, is one of two Jewish military cemeteries to be located outside Israel. The other one being for Jewish World War I soldiers in Berlin, Germany. The Cemetery for Jewish Confederate Soldiers is in the Shockoe Hill neighborhood.

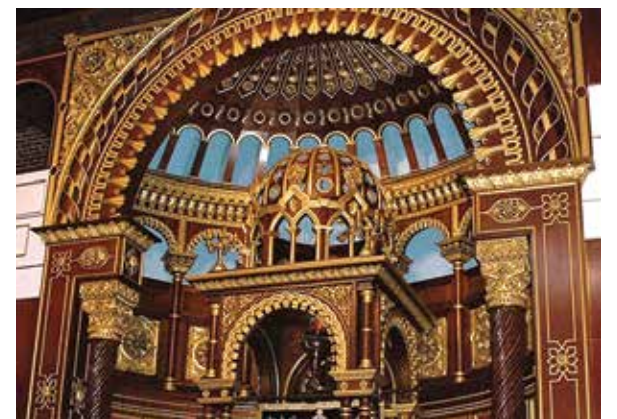
The congregation also has a museum at 1109 West Franklin Street and is open from Sunday through Thursday.



Edgar Allan Poe Museum

The famed author is most closely associated with the city of Baltimore; however, his hometown is Richmond. In 1916, surviving members of the Poe Memorial Association regrouped to save the

Southern Literary Messenger building, in which Poe began his writing career, to make it the National Poe Museum. The building was eventually demolished, but some of the surviving bricks and stones were used for the Poe Shrine and Garden. The museum is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10am – 5pm and Sunday 11am – 5pm. The address is 1914 East Main Street Richmond, VA 23223.



Virginia Holocaust Museum

First opened in 1997 in the Education Building at Temple Beth El, the current home of the VHM is the former American Tobacco Company Warehouse. Since relocating in 2003, the museum has become a must-see for visitors to Richmond, taking in an average 42,000 visitors per year. Since 2015, the museum has been going under renovations, with a target completion date of 2020. The museum is open Monday – Friday from 9am – 5pm and Saturday – Sunday from 11am – 5pm. VHM is located at 2000 E. Cary Street Richmond, VA 23223.

For more information on things to see and do in Richmond, visit:
www.visitrichmondva.com.

Here's a quick look at some of this year's Convention meetings and events!

Sunday, Aug. 18

Constitution & Bylaws Committee Meeting

Convention Rules Committee Meeting

Budget Committee Meeting

Finance Committee Meeting

NMAJMH Event

Monday, Aug. 19

National Executive Committee Meeting

JWV/JWVA Joint Convention Opening

Resolutions Committee Meeting

Credentialing Committee Meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 20

Resolutions Committee Meeting

Awards Committee Meeting

Youth Achievement Committee Meeting

1st Business Session

JWVA Nat'l President's Reception & Banquet

Wednesday, Aug. 21

2nd Business Session

Women in the Military Committee Meeting

Korean War Veterans Committee Meeting

Gulf War Veterans Committee Meeting

Vietnam Veterans Committee Meeting

Resolutions Committee Meeting

Youth Achievment Awards Meeting

Iraq &Afghanistan Veterans Committee Meeting

Vietnam Veterans Committee Dinner

JWVA Pound Auction

Thursday, Aug. 22

National Commander's Reception & Banquet

**Times and speakers are subject to change. Please check the JWV website for more information.*

JWV
124th

Annual National Convention
August 18-23, 2019 • Richmond, Virginia

JWVA
91st

Omni Richmond Hotel • 100 South 12th St., Richmond, VA 23219 • www.omnihotels.com/Richmond • 804-344-7000

Hotel registration deadline is **Tuesday, July 9.**

A one night (\$159/single or double) deposit is required for all hotel registrations.

A 3-night minimum stay is required.

Hotel reservations must be made through JWV.

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

Local members living within a 50 mile radius are exempt.

JWVA events are open to everyone!

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

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

Ladies Auxiliary Name: _____ **Aux. #:** _____

Address: _____ **Dept.:** _____

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

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Room will be shared with: _____

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

Registration for both JWV + JWVA		Cost	QTY.	Amount
<div>Rooms Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds</div> <div><i>Please note that handicap rooms will be assigned by JWV on an as need priority.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I need a Handicap room.</div> <div>3rd Person in a room</div>		\$159.00 per night		
JWV Member Convention Registration Fee		\$50.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel		\$175.00 per member		
National Commander’s Banquet • Thurs, Aug. 22		\$45.00 per person		
_____ Beef _____ Salmon _____ Kosher _____ Sugar-free Dessert				
National Ladies Auxiliary Registration Fee (\$50.00 at Convention)		\$45.00 per member		
Partners Club (\$50 new members / \$25 renewal) • Mon, Aug.19		\$50.00		
		\$25.00		
National President’s Reception and Banquet • Tues, Aug. 20				
_____ Herbed Tilapia _____ Sliced Flank Steak		\$45.00 per person		
_____ Sugar-free Dessert				
Double Chai Club Breakfast • Wed, Aug 21		\$36.00 per person		
_____ This is my first Double Chai Breakfast		<i>You don’t need to belong to the Ladies Auxiliary to attend our Double Chai Breakfast. Everyone is welcome! You will have a great time!</i>		
_____ I already have 15 stones on my pin				
_____ I am happy with the Double Chai Pin I have now				
I have _____ on my pin and will need one more (15 stones max)				
Raffle Tickets _____ JWV _____ JWVA		\$5.00 Each		
		3 for \$10.00		
Total				
All events must be pre-paid in full		Amount paying now:		
I am paying by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover				
Card No.		Exp.	/	
Signature				

Voting Eligibility at the 2019 National Convention

To be in good standing and eligible to vote at the National Convention, all Posts must have complied with the following items:

- Complete IRS Form 990-N (or 990 or 990-EZ) and submit a copy to National Headquarters.
- Submit a completed Installation Form to National Headquarters.
- Submit a completed Financial Report, which must then be approved by the Finance Board Chairman.
- Proof of Fidelity Bond and post liability insurance.

Vietnam Veterans Night Out

Wednesday, August 21 • 6:00 -8:30 PM

Food • Fun • Friends

This popular dinner is an annual event when we come together to share good food and great fun with old and new friends.

Everyone is welcome!

\$45.00 per person (includes tax and tip) before August 15
\$55/cash per person if you pay at the Hotel

Contact Jerry Alperstein at 212-477-3131
or go to JWV.org for more details.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

By Jennifer Brande

Last month was our annual National Executive Council Committee (NEC) Meeting at the Crystal City Marriot in Washington, D.C. as well as the Capitol Hill Action Days (CHAD). Several JWV members flew in early to ensure that they were able to meet with their elected leaders on Capitol Hill, which from conversations overheard, went very well. PNCs Robert Pickard and David Magidson joined National Commander Dr. Barry Schneider and spoke with Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie about JWV's stances with VA priorities and issues that veterans are experiencing.

We should all be proud of all of the hard work that PNC Ed Goldwasser, the Convention Committee, and the amazing staff from the hotel did to ensure that we had the locations, rooms and anything else that was needed.

For the three days the JWV meetings were jam packed with great information and formal actions. On Thursday evening during the Policy Committee Meeting, all of the attendees were treated to an amazing speaker, Pastor Chris Edmonds, the son of WWII hero Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds, whose fearless bravery saved the lives of more than 200 Jewish American soldiers in a prisoner of war camp in Germany.

On January 27, 1945—as Germany's defeat was clearly approaching—the camp commandant ordered Master Sergeant Edmonds to tell only the Jewish-American soldiers to present themselves at the next morning's assembly so they could be separated from the other prisoners. Instead, Edmonds ordered all 1,275 POWs to assemble outside their barracks. The camp commander stated to him, "They can't all be Jews!" Then Edmonds simply replies "we are all Jews." Despite being

NEC AND CAPITOL HILL ACTION DAYS

threatened with a weapon to his head, he replied "If you shoot me, you will have to shoot all of us because we know who you are and after we win this war you will be tried for war crimes"

Pastor Chris recently received the title "Righteous Among the Nations" on behalf of his father from the Nation of Israel and Yad Vashem, the world's Holocaust remembrance authority. "Righteous Among the Nations" is the highest honor given by the Nation of Israel to non-Jews who rescued Jews during the Holocaust and he was only the fifth American to be recognized by Yad Vashem for this incredibly rare honor.

Of course we cannot forget the ladies of the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary who had a very large and equally packed schedule of meetings to ensure that their needs were being met and we look forward to hearing more from them at the National Convention in Richmond, VA this August.

There were several important meetings which included the Finance Committee, an incredibly informative membership meeting led by Barry Lischinsky and a presentation by PNC Maxwell Colon who gave a presentation about strategies and tactics that have worked for him to recruit new members by utilizing free media coverage, recruiting family members who have served, wearing your post colors in public among other areas of interest. If you would like to have a copy of the entire briefing, please contact JWV Membership Coordinator Harrison Heller at hheller@jwv.org to get the presentation sent to you via email.

The most interactive meeting of the NEC included a Facebook Live Stream and conference call for the Iraq/Afghanistan Committee Meeting. There were over twenty people at this meeting between being online, on the phone and in person!



Pastor Chris Edmonds spoke at the Policy Committee meeting about his father, Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds.

There was a second meeting recently is a plan to have another call in the near future to further discuss options with newly elected Chairman Joshua Ochs (FL). Some of the topics brought up during the meetings include updating the committee mission statement as well as create potential upcoming events and the National Convention. Make sure that you follow us on social media as well as being signed up for our emails to get more information.

As a closing note, the people who attended the NEC had a very good time, and while much was accomplished there was a lot of fun and camaraderie. We hope to see all you at the National Convention which will be August 18-23 in beautiful Downtown Historic Richmond. The application form is in this edition of *The Jewish Veteran* and we hope to see those applications rolling in.

BAYONNE RENAMES SCHOOL AFTER WWI VET AND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

By Corey W. McDonald | The Jersey Journal

The Board of Education last night voted to rename Midtown Community School after a distinguished World War I veteran born in the Peninsula City.

The board voted unanimously to rename the Avenue A elementary school the William Shemin Midtown Community School — named after the distinguished Medal of Honor recipient.

Councilman-At-Large Juan Perez initially suggested the renaming, and was present at the meeting Wednesday to vouch for the decision.

"Sgt. Shemin was an outstanding soldier," Perez said. "He was a young man who was born in Bayonne, raised in Bayonne [and] went into the Army and distinguished himself."

Born in Bayonne in 1896, Shemin went to through the city's public school system before joining the Army in 1917. He was assigned as a rifleman during World War I and was part of the American Expeditionary Forces in France.

William Shemin was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously during a ceremony at the

White House on Tuesday, June 2, 2015. Photo from the collection of the NMAJMH.



White House on Tuesday, June 2, 2015.

During the Second Battle of the Marne, he left the cover of his trench — exposing himself to machine-gun fire in no-man's land — to rescue wounded soldiers. He later took command of his platoon after multiple casualties to his unit.

He was wounded by shrapnel and was hit in the head with a bullet from a machine gun. He was hospitalized for three months before being discharged in 1919.

After his service, he went to Syracuse University, where he played lacrosse and football, and later earned a degree from New York State College of Forestry and opened a greenhouse and landscaping business.

He died in 1973 and is buried in Staten Island.

He received the Distinguished Service Cross in 1919 for his actions, and posthumously received the Purple Heart in 1996, as well as the Medal of Honor in 2015 — awarded by President Barack Obama.

The Midtown Community School was completed in 1993. The renaming was initially proposed as just the William Shemin Community School, but trustees suggested keeping "Midtown" as part of the name.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

THE NEW JWV STAMP PROGRAM

As a new Chair takes over the leadership of the Department of Florida, he is taking the opportunity to revamp the National JWV Stamp Program. He has expanded the program to include not only VA hospitals, but Fisher House facilities around the country too.

Department Commander Alan Paley has infused the program with additional funds and directed Florida's new Programs Chair, PDC Michael Corbett, to ramp-up this program to keep JWV in the public eye.

PDC Corbett contacted all 88 VA Medical Centers around the country seeking their participation in the program, with the goal of providing physical therapy and recreational opportunities for veteran patients.

At the same time, Corbett contacted 58 Fisher House Directors and requested their involvement when youngsters become residents while awaiting their veteran's recuperation. To that end, stamp albums for beginners have been purchased and will be sent to participating Fisher House facilities. Stamp collecting offers children a respite from their worries and also provides a learning opportunity for youngsters ages about between the ages of 8 to 14. Collecting stamps is an entertaining way to educate youngsters as they take time to place stamps that depict famous people, historic events, and notable places in these albums; they then may take these albums home to continue



their own collection.

Commander Paley states, "I hope the children will continue to collect stamps after their visit to the Fisher House. They will be given these albums to keep, with a package of stamps to place in the album with hinges." PDC Corbett offered, "Over the years, we expect it will be beneficial to the JWV that these youngsters will fondly recall that their first introduction to philately came from veterans who cared for them as much as for their veteran."

Since its inception, the JWV Stamp Program has been operated by members of the Department of Florida, starting with the late Eugene Moore. Synagogues, Jewish Community Centers, churches, businesses, and organizations large and small, cut the corners off envelopes, package them and send them to PDC Corbett who trims and boxes them to be mailed to the VA Medical Centers.

Smaller packets of stamps are mailed to a Fisher House when a need arises.

"It's vital all our echelons and the Auxiliary participate in this program to the maximum extent as, at this very time, 8 more Fisher Houses are under construction and additional VA facilities are being planned. "There's no end to the need," said Florida Department Commander Paley.

To participate in the JWV Stamp Program, Department Commanders are asked to assign a committee chair to coordinate the collection and submission of stamps at regular intervals

to ensure a steady inventory is available for the 88 VA Medical Centers. Posts and councils are asked to communicate the need for the stamps with their local contacts, arrange for pick-up if necessary, and send them to PDC Corbett. We are asking that post, council, and department help the program by announcing the details below in their newsletters to their members.

The National JWV Stamp Program is in need of stamps of all kinds, domestic and foreign. Stamps may be on or off envelopes; if on envelopes, please cut them about ½ inch away from the stamp corner. However, stamps may also be removed from envelopes by soaking, then placing them on a paper towel to dry. Send stamps to: M. Corbett, 6981 Castlemaine Avenue, Boynton Beach, FL 33437.

JWV BROTHERHOOD AWARD PRESENTED TO LOCAL CHAPLAIN

Members of the Jewish War Veterans joined with the First Reformed Church of Schenectady and nearly 100 area attendees in the Clark Poling Chapel to honor Rev. Charlene Robbins as the 54th recipient of the Four Chaplains' Brotherhood Award Sunday, February 24.

Albany Post 105 of the Jewish War Veterans has led the effort to recognize a local member of the community since 1966 in honor of the value of selfless service of the Four Chaplains.

Clark Poling was one of the Four Chaplains lost in the North Atlantic in February 1943 during the sinking of the troopship Dorchester. Poling had served the faith community at the First Reformed Church before entering military service as an Army Chaplain in World War II.

Charlene has led a life of service to others in various forms since her ordination on September 9, 2001 from the Holistic Studies Seminary Institute in Albany, first ministering to and comforting first responders and aid workers following the terror attacks at the World Trade Center on 9/11.

"Charlene inspires us in her devotion to others, and in particular her focus on serving veteran organizations," said Fred Altman, JWV Albany Post 105 Commander.

Robbins is also a Gold Star Mother to Army Staff Sergeant Thomas Robbins, who died in action in Iraq on February 9, 2004, attempting to save the lives of his soldiers during a mortar explosion.

It was the intersection of these two elements of her life that inspire Charlene's efforts today.

"All my life, I just wanted to be that person to help others," Robbins said.

She was recognized in 2005 as a grand marshal by the City of Albany Memorial Day Parade, participating on her son's behalf. Her introduction to the wider veterans' community 14 years ago sparked her action and support, bringing spiritual leadership, empathy, comfort and peacefulness to the many veteran and civic events she supports.

She is Chaplain of the Tri-County Council of Vietnam Era Veterans as well chaplain for countless community programs, including the Albany County Honor-A-Veteran program, the Albany County Honor-A-Living Veteran program, Albany High School Junior ROTC, the City of Albany Memorial and Veterans Day parades and the Town of Colonie annual Memorial Day Service.

"As a Gold Star Mother, Charlene stands among our veterans as a cherished and honored family member. Her sympathy and enthusiasm to give back to the many veteran groups and causes is a shining example of the commitment to others that the Four Chaplains gave their lives for."

The Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award exists to further the cause of "unity without uniformity" by encouraging goodwill and cooperation among all people. The non-denominational award honors people whose deeds symbolize the legacy of the



Albany Post 105 Commander Fred Altman presents Rev. Charlene Robbins with this year's Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award. Charlene is the epitome of chaplaincy with presence, supporting countless area organizations and events. Photo by Richard Goldenberg.

Four Chaplains.

"Today's honoree, in addition to being called Reverend, has devoted her life's work and passion in a manner that exemplifies the exceptional character of the Four Chaplains," Altman said.

"When you read the story of these Four Chaplains, it really makes you take pause, to reflect on those values that come to the front in difficult times," said Congressman Paul Tonko.

Tonko presented Robbins with a proclamation,

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JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM: OUR STORY

By PNC Robert Pickard, MD

The Jewish War Veterans Legacy Program seeks to ensure the permanence of L'Dor V'Dor, from generation to generation. JWV has a long history of protecting veterans' benefits, promoting community, ensuring our armed forces may serve free of bigotry and prejudice, and preserving the Jewish American military legacy. We need your help to ensure that JWV's mission continues long into the future.

If statistics are correct, there are approximately 13 million Jews in the world. That works out to about .2% of the world's population. Jews make up only 1.7% of America's population and it is no secret that the number of Jewish War Veterans is a tiny fraction of that small number. We cannot rely solely on membership dues to sustain our organization. You can ensure the survival of JWV's legacy through your estate plan at no lifetime cost to you.

Many of today's American Jewish service men and women come from families in which fathers, brothers, sisters, and mothers have served and still serve. There is a proud family tradition of serving in uniform for Jews in America. We are part of a proud legacy, L'Dor V'Dor.

My father served in WWII. When the war in Vietnam heated up, I told my father I planned to accept my commission as a medical officer in the



PNC Dr. Robert Pickard, MD and his father, Theodore Pickard, are the perfect example of the concept of L'dor V'dor. Many other JWV families share a proud legacy of military and JWV service.

U.S. Air Force. He was proud of his service as an active duty Army soldier. I am honored to continue my service, through the U.S. Army, to this day.

We need you and your loved ones to help us expand our Legacy Program to Jews on active duty, to those who already served, and to Jews who didn't wear the uniform but are proud of the service of their families and friends.

We propose that you include the JWV U.S.A. Foundation in your estate plan, so that we can continue our proud history of service to our active duty service members, veterans, and their families. Any amount, no matter how large or small, will help us continue our mission and to always be able to say proudly to Jew and non-Jew alike, "JEWS SERVE."

Including JWV in Legacy Planning

Jewish men and women have served in the US Armed Forces through every conflict, from the Revolution to today. JWV is an extension of that service. We not only aid the next generation of veterans, but also teach our children and our grandchildren about the contribution of Jewish service. Your gift can help continue the service of Jewish Americans to the security and well-being of our nation.

Some gift options include:

- Contribution of all or part of an IRA, annuity, or life insurance policy;
- Contribution of stock;
- Bequest in your Will or Trust

For more information on legacy giving, call JWV's Development Department at 202-265-6280 or e-mail jwv@jwv.org.

We suggest that you consult with your attorney and/or financial advisor when considering making a large gift to JWV or any charity.

Vigil Held for Hebrew Cemetery of Fall River, MA.

Hundreds turned out for a vigil Tuesday night at the Hebrew Cemetery of Fall River where 59 gravestones were vandalized with hateful, anti-Semitic messages. The vigil attendees stood shoulder to shoulder, sending a clear message to the vandals who scrawled anti-Semitic graffiti on the headstones and any anti-Semites considering following their footsteps. Hateful phrases on the headstones such as "expel the Jews," along with

other anti-Semitic words and phrases, should be condemned as unacceptable.

The message for the individual(s) who wrote these hateful words are simple, "We will not be expelled, and we will not remain silent," Jeff Weissman, Jewish War Veterans member and cemetery caretaker, also spoke at the event. Additionally, Junior Vice Commander Stephan Bloch; Department Commander Sanford Gorodetsky; Judge Advocate Howard Lipsey; and

Senior Vice Commander Ira Fleisher were in attendance at the vigil, as well as officers of the department of Rhode Island. We are proud of these members of the JWV who attended the vigil, and to all who lend their support in a line of solidarity against anti-Semitic hate.



Junior Vice Commander Stephan Bloch; Department Commander Sanford Gorodetsky; Judge Advocate Howard Lipsey; Senior Vice Commander Ira Fleisher, Officers of the Department of Rhode Island who attended the Vigil on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at the Hebrew Cemetery of Fall River, Massachusetts.



With the sun setting on the Hebrew Cemetery, people who attended a vigil in reaction to the anti-Semitic graffiti on headstones walk through to view the desecration, Tuesday, March 26, 2019, in Fall River, Massachusetts. Photo by Jack Foley-Herald News.



Zoe Grajales, 12, clings to her "Zade," or Grandfather, Jeff Weissman a member of the Jewish War Veterans and overseer of the Hebrew Cemetery, after he spoke at a vigil decrying recent vandalism there Tuesday, March 26, 2019, in Fall River, Massachusetts. Photo by Jack Foley-Herald News.

JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

Judge Sol Gothard Speaks at WWII Museum in New Orleans



Judge Sol Gothard

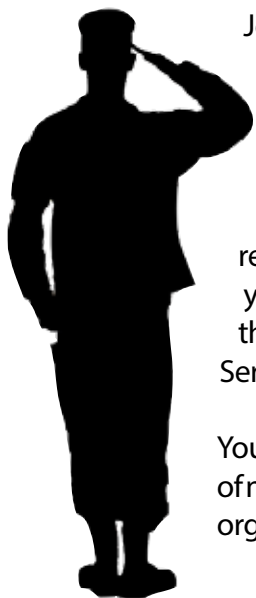
Judge Sol Gothard, Commander of Post 580, in New Orleans, addressed the Alpha Omega Foundation of the United States at the World War II Museum recently.

The foundation, an arm of the International Dental Fraternity, was formed in 1907 to fight anti-Semitism and is the oldest Jewish medical and dental organization in the world. Members support professionalism, fraternalism, and a commitment to Judaic values of tikkun olam, mitzvot and tzedakah.

Judge Gothard lectured on the topic "Jewish Defenders of Freedom throughout the Ages." The story of our Jewish warriors began with Abraham leading his 318 warriors (Gen. 14:14) on through Biblical times. It continued through the times of David, the Maccabees and the Bar Kochba rebellion. He went on to discuss Jewish involvement in all military engagements in American history. These start with engagements in New Amsterdam, (circa 1654), the French and Indian War (circa 1754-1763) the Revolutionary War and every subsequent armed conflict up to the present. These wars, battles and conflicts have resulted at least 17 Congressional Medals of Honor awarded to Jews, with more being studied at this time.

Commander Gothard is scheduled to present this program at the next TALO meeting, in Dallas in June, 2019.

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History maintains a record of the names of American Jewish Servicemembers who have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.



We encourage you to read this list of names at your synagogue during thier Memorial Day Service.

You can download the list of names at www.nmajmh.org/fallen-heroes.

Cub Scout Pack 210 Participates in Walk and Rain Gutter Regatta

By Steven Troy, Post 210

January 20, 2019 was a beautiful day for Jonathan's Walk at Scottsdale's Chaparral Park. Hundreds of participants, including Cub Scout Pack 210, held a Raingutter Regatta for the children in attendance. This was a recruiting opportunity plus a chance for the children to have some fun. Pack 210 had two rain gutters set up so that there could be two separate sets of races. Everyone needed to build their own boat with supplies brought by the Pack. Boats were built out of Styrofoam, paper and wooden dowels to any designs that the children wanted. There was also several pre-made boats. The children had a blast building, floating and racing their boats.



Local Boy Scout Seth was on hand to assist the children as well as demonstrate how to build boats for the event.

National Youth Achievement Program

Attention high school seniors! JWVF's annual grant program is accepting applications until the end of May. Three monetary awards will be awarded to graduating high school seniors who are direct descendants of JWV members in good standing.

Edith, Louis, and Max S. Millen Memorial Athletic Grant
\$1,500

Cliford Lee Kristal Education Grant
\$1,250

Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant
\$1,000

Applicants must be:

- A high school senior at the time of application
- Accepted into an Associate's, Bachelor's, or nursing degree program by an accredited institution.
- A direct descendant (children, grand-children, great-grand-children, etc.) of a JWV member in good standing who has been a member since 2013.

Minimum standards for eligibility:

- SAT: 735 average or 1470 cumulative and/or ACT: 31
- GPA: Unweighted - 92 or 3.7
Weighted - 4.5

Go to jwvusafoundation.org and click on the tab "National Youth Achievement Program" under "Grants." On this same page you will see a link labeled "Department Commander" which contains the contact information for your relevant Commander, to whom you will submit your application.

Due May 24, 2019



National Veteran Achievement Program

The JWV Foundation sponsors an annual essay contest for current service members and veterans who plan to attend (or are currently attending) an accredited Associate's, Bachelor's, nursing, or graduate-degree program. Selected winners will be awarded one of four grants.

Robert M. Zweiman Memorial Grant
\$5,000

Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant
\$2,500

Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant
\$1,000

Max R. & Irene Rubenstein Memorial Grant
\$1,500

Leon Brooks Memorial Grant - \$1,000

All veterans or active duty service members are eligible regardless of race, religion, creed, or culture.

Essays must be between 500-750 words and written in English. Please type the essay and pay attention to both parts of the theme.

2019 Essay Theme: What was your military experience AND how will that experience help you pursue your academic studies?

The application and more information can be found on the website jwvusafoundation.org. Click on "National Veteran Achievement Program" under "Grants."

Applicants must submit the first page of the application, their most recent transcript (high school or college), a copy of a college acceptance letter, and proof of honorable military service to jwvf@jwvusafoundation.org with the subject line "National Achievement Program."

Due May 31, 2019

Project Maggid - Your community wants to hear your story! Memorial Day is fast approaching, and with it the requests from schools for guest veteran speakers. For more information on the program, or if you would like to share your story of military service to students in your community, please send an email to Ben Kane at bkane@jwv.org, or call 202-448-5410.

Sar-El (Volunteers for Israel)

By Harvey Weiner, JWV National Judge Advocate

Sometime around 1982 during the Galilee War, my wife and I were asked to host a dinner for a visiting retired Israel Defense Force (IDF) general, who was in the United States recruiting civilian volunteers to come to Israel to help the IDF in support positions. We had a pleasant evening with Dr. Aharon Davidi (z"l), the former head of the IDF Paratroopers and Infantry Corps. Over cognac, about which the general was an expert, I somehow promised him that I would eventually participate in his program if it came to fruition. As a result of his efforts, in the spring of 1983, "Sar-El", — the National Project for Volunteers for Israel — was founded as a non-profit, non-political organization. "Sar-El" is the Hebrew acronym meaning "Service for Israel."

Each year since then, volunteers, including those in their 70's and 80's, work on non-combat IDF bases throughout Israel doing support work for a one to three week period. Although such volunteers are civilians and not members of the IDF, they are led by madrachot, who are IDF soldiers. Volunteers work on a Sunday through Thursday schedule doing work such as quartermaster/supply work, base maintenance, maintenance and equipment repair, kitchen work or construction. Weekends are for traveling, sightseeing and visiting family and friends. There are frequent interesting lectures and question and answer sessions with Sar-El and military personnel. Of course, you work side by side with IDF soldiers, many of whom are now proud owners of Boston Red Sox pens. Alas, there are no JWV pens!

The free facilities are spartan and not a little nostalgic. Volunteers live in communal barracks in sleeping bags on cots with communal bathrooms. There is no central heat or air conditioning. Hot water is at a premium. Men and women are housed separately, including married couples. The mess hall food, however, is filling.

In December, 2015, over thirty-three years after I had rashly made a promise to the General, I spent two weeks for Sar-El in an army base in central Israel. Better late than never. We were a group of fourteen and worked very hard collecting, inventorying and crating military supplies, particularly tank maintenance equipment and parts. One of our speakers told us that Sar-El volunteers have unusually high productivity, presumably because they are motivated and because they only have a very short time commitment. There is both an initiation



NJA Harvey Weiner raising the Israeli flag at an IDF base to the strains of Hatikvah during the Sar-El program.

ceremony, during which the Sar-El epaulettes are placed on you, and a graduation ceremony, during which you receive the Sar-El pin and a Certificate of Appreciation.

The makeup of Sar-El volunteers is diverse. About 4,000 volunteers come per year and in 2014 they were from 51 countries. Tellingly, in 2014, France had the most volunteers with 1,161 with the U.S. having 938. France, of late, has the most people making Aliyah. In our group of fourteen, there were volunteers from Canada, England and South Africa, as well as the United States, and we were joined for a brief period on our bus by a small group from Hungary and Holland. There was also a Christian in our group, who is an avid supporter of Israel. Most of my Sar-El volunteer group were repeats and one woman in our group was there for the 13th time. The group bonded and there was a great sense of camaraderie and friendship, as well as a lot of laughs.

One day, the group went north of Haifa on a tour of the Ghetto Fighters' Museum and there became the first to plant yellow daffodils in Israel as part of Project Daffodil, whereby it is intended to plant 1.5 million daffodils throughout the world in memory of the 1.5 million children who were murdered in the Shoah. (See daffodilproject.net)

There are no upper age limits for volunteers, and there were two volunteers in our group in their 70's, but one should be relatively fit and healthy and willing to work. I was given one of the daily honors of raising the Israeli flag on the Israeli base followed by the singing of Hatikvah. My ancestors (and General Davidi) would have kvelled. (Many of the facts above are taken from the Sar-El website, www.Sar-el.org).

You can tie in a Sar-El experience prior to the JWV Israel trip, as did Membership Chair Barry Lischinsky, or you can do it independently, as I did and as National Quartermaster Nelson Mellitz did.

JWV Post 126-NJ members Nelson Mellitz (left) and Mike Perloff recently volunteered with the Sar-El program in Israel.



NO ONE ASKED ME TO JOIN!



By Jerry Farris, JWV National Cantor

"Honey! I shrunk the kids!" Remember when that was going around? It seemed pretty funny at the time, too. But lately, in all veteran organizations, or most of them, the resounding phrase is: "We are shrinking in size!" Yes, it's true. Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., the American Legion, DAV, et.al. are all shrinking in membership.

No, I'm not writing about religion, worship, minyans, none of that is here. I am addressing a concern I believe we all have, but are afraid to voice out loud as the answers are difficult to find, and the reality hard to swallow.

Some would have you believe we are not getting the newest veterans because they only want to meet online. I have asked a few who served in the latest conflicts if that was why they do not join JWV, DAV, and the American Legion.

The answer: A resounding "No!" Sure, there are a few who do not want to be involved in a veteran organization because they want to forget about what they saw and did. Some "don't have time" because they have jobs and families. But many responded that the reason they have not joined any of the veteran organizations, is because "NO ONE ASKED ME TO JOIN!"

It is easy to go up to people and talk about your job, your family, even the fact of when and where you served. But, to speak to someone, a complete stranger, about joining a veteran organization, be it Jewish War Veterans or some other group, we suddenly clam up. We forget how to speak. For many, it is already in their minds that the other person is going to say "No!"

Why are we so afraid of hearing that word "NO!" It does not necessarily mean they are rejecting you, or the organization. It is a combination of things. Some — if not most — really don't want to relive what they did or saw in combat. I suspect we may not be approaching people properly.

I'm not the best person to tell anyone how to recruit someone. It's not easy. In fact, for some, it can be quite difficult. I know JWV holds a group every so often at either the NEC or at the National Convention on recruitment. Maybe we should all take that class. Who knows, we might learn something!

Shrinking as we may be, perhaps we can begin to put our individual and personal differences aside and come together as a whole with new ideas and positivity instead of "it won't work" "It never worked before" or the one that always gets me, "Who cares?" Oh yes, and let's not forget: "It's not my job!"

We should all care! Yes, committees shrink, memberships shrinks, a lot of negative things hap-

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Veterans Organizations Meet to Discuss Predatory For-Profit Schools

By Ben Kane

A high-quality education, a decent paying job, a life that one can be happy with and proud of. These are things that everyone wants. For veterans, however, it's what they've earned.

In late March, the non-profit organization Veterans Education Success hosted a meeting between numerous veteran's organizations—including Jewish War Veterans, and Thomas Corbett, Air Force veteran and disillusioned former president of an ITT Technical Institute campus. The purpose of the meeting was to make the numerous veterans' affairs groups in attendance aware of the predatory methods employed by for-profit educational institutions. If any of their veteran members were targeted by these institutions in the past or are targeted in the future, these organizations now have additional knowledge and resources they can employ to help victims recover.

If you watched enough TV in the early 2000s, you might recall some commercials for ITT Technical Institute. The commercials of this "institute of higher learning" featured your standard middle class, middle American pursuing the American dream and looking for a brighter future and a means to care for their family. The commercials made enticing offers that promoted the vision that a degree from ITT was a calling card to a brighter, more rewarding future.

But ITT Technical Institute was a for-profit college, and an exceptionally predatory one at that. ITT Tech corporate targeted people from all walks of life but was especially zealous in its targeting of members in the veteran community. Thousands of veterans sought the fulfilling educational programs that ITT Tech seemed to offer and used their GI bills to make sure they were able to receive what ITT Tech was offering. Thanks to federal grants and loans, a sizeable number of the student body was lower class or of a military background.

The intention of ITT Tech and other similar predatory for-profit schools was never to give students a high-quality education, but rather to siphon as much money out of them as they could. The cost was higher than advertised, the adjunct professors could hardly be relied upon to be knowl-

edge-able in the subject they taught, school credits could not be transferred, and since anyone could attend ITT Tech if they had a pulse and a GED, the degrees became largely worthless. In addition, the extraordinarily high cost of the school meant that many had to take out loans to afford it, putting in financial peril many of those who assumed they would be virtually guaranteed a high paying job when they graduated. One of the ways ITT Tech and other predatory educational institutions reveals its desperation for tuition payment is an excessive persistence to enroll a student. If loans need to be taken for the student to be able to afford enrollment, then so be it. These institutions will do anything they can to get potential students to sign on the dotted line, and excessive persistence on the part of an educational institution should be considered a red flag.

The scheme didn't last forever, and pressure from the government and from angry current and former students eventually caused the bankruptcy of ITT Tech in 2016, and the \$500 million student debt relief settlement in 2018. It is worth noting that even in its death throes, ITT Tech's incompetence and utter disregard for its students and employees was palpable. Initially promising that all students still enrolled at the time of bankruptcy would be able to complete their education, students, teachers, even administrators of campuses found the doors of those campuses permanently locked with no warning.

ITT Tech was and is no more. However, for-profit "educational institutions" still exist, still prey on unsuspecting students, and may soon see a growth in numbers due to the Trump administrations plans to weaken protections for students.

Fortunately for the veteran community, there are organizations dedicated to helping those who have fallen victim to predatory targeting by for-profit education institutions. If you believe that you or someone you know has been predatorily targeted by a for-profit institution due to your military status, or to get information on student loan forgiveness programs, don't hesitate to contact one of the many non-profits like JWV and the Veterans Education Success that can and want to help you.

JWV BROTHERHOOD AWARD PRESENTED TO LOCAL CHAPLAIN

Continued from page 11

prepared by himself and Congressman Antonio Delgado, representing the region and was joined by a litany of elected officials, including New York State Senator James Tedisco, Assembly representative John McDonald, City of Albany Treasurer Darius Shahinfar, and New York State Division of Veterans Affairs Deputy Director Jason Chakot.

All joined in the praise of Robbins' presence and support to the veterans' community with state and local proclamations, including the City of Albany declaring February 24 as Charlene Robbins Day.

The vision of the Four Chaplains Award is to impart the principles of selfless service to humanity without regard to race, creed, ethnicity, or religious beliefs.

"I thank and commend the Jewish War Veterans for bringing us together each year for this event, to retell the tale and honor those in our community who live up to the ideals of those Four Chaplains," Tonko said.

First held in 1966, the Jewish War Veterans of the Capital District have recognized civic leaders, community organizers and issue advocates, educators, healthcare providers and clergy for their humanitarian efforts that convey the spirit of the Four Chaplains.

The Jewish War Veterans have posts in Albany, Schenectady and Saratoga Springs. For more information or membership, visit www.jwv.org.

THE RIGHT TO SERVE

Continued from page 1

"Thurgood Marshall" of the LGBTQ movement, if it would be willing to file an Amicus brief in light of Commander Singer's statement and the JWV agreed. The JWV, along with several other veterans groups, filed a supporting brief on October 29, 2018 with oral argument expected to take place in December, 2018. However, the major veterans groups chose not to join in.

The appeal focuses on the limits of the power of the President as Commander in Chief. Not needing to repeat this legal argument, the JWV brief focused on policy arguments. The proposed ban would make military units weaker, not stronger, because unit cohesion is the product of values and experiences shared by those who serve, and permitting openly transgender personnel to serve does not hinder unit cohesion, but rather enhances it. Furthermore, the proposed ban would arbitrarily exclude capable individuals who are willing to serve their country and would demean all who serve.

"When you are in the military, no one thinks of you as black, or Asian, or gay, or transgender. These are life-and-death situations, and people are just thinking about whether you can do your job and have their backs. Being a service member overshadows any other identity you have."

A major reason for the transgender ban is undoubtedly similar to the reasons why Asser Levy was initially forbidden to stand guard over 360 years ago, (i.e., others who serve wouldn't like it). And today, such discrimination based on religious or gender identity is forbidden by the U.S. Constitution. Levy would not have had to appeal to the Netherlands had his situation arose today. He would have had the rule of law on his side.

The right to serve in the military is a value kept alive by the JWV.

NO ONE ASKED ME TO JOIN!

Continued from previous page

pen. Instead of throwing in our collective towels, I say we begin to look toward the future as added opportunity – but we will have to work three times as hard to get the membership. Is it worth it? You bet it is! Jewish War Veterans came on the scene in 1896; and we've been growing and shrinking ever since!

If you think war is over, look around you! There are numerous wars and conflicts everywhere; and we are involved in a few of them. There are soldiers and veterans all around; we simply need to ask if the person we are speaking with is a veteran. A simple, "Hey, did I ever tell you I was in the Vietnam War? How about you? Were you in the service or reserves?" They will answer with either a "Yes" or "No." There is no harm in asking.

So, what are you going to do? Are you going to sit around, socializing and batting the bull with all your buddies and friends, and say nothing? Or, are you going to suck it up and speak up and ask? Will you be able to say you brought in more members this year and helped Jewish War Veterans stay alive; or will you count yourself among those digging the hole in which to bury us? The choice is yours. No one can do it for you. If we are to survive, we all need to put forth the effort. It's now or never.

THE U.S. SPACE COMMAND OF THE FUTURE

By COL Nelson L Mellitz, USAF, Retired

There is a battle in the Washington D.C. political world and parts of the Pentagon about establishing an independent armed military service for U.S. command of space. This battle over establishing the “Space Force” involves: politics, costs, benefits, and the risks of creating a brand-new service taking resources away from the current military services.

Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff General David L. Goldfein are in favor of establishment of a Space Force as long as it is done right. President Trump has directed that a “detailed” feasibility study on creating a Space Force be completed and submitted to him within the next few months. Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick M. Shanahan is leading a task force that is developing plans to form a Department of the Space Force from mostly the Air Force, with smaller pieces coming from the Army and Navy.

In September 1918, Army Colonel William “Billy” Mitchell led approximately 1,500 Allied aircraft in one of the first large scale air to ground attacks in history at the Battle of Saint-Mihiel, France. What COL Mitchell knew and others later realized was that warfare had forever changed and air superiority would play a pivotal role in all future conflicts. World War II proved this to be true, and 29 years later in 1947, Congress passed the National Security Act, creating the U.S. Air Force.

A century later it is time for the U.S. to build a modern and adaptive force capable of protecting our nation from current, emerging, and future threats in space. Our enemies are continuously seeking new ways to challenge our security. Russia, China, Iran, France, Great Britain, Israel, India, to name a few countries have already established a separate “Space Command” military branch. Our military’s



ability to defend our interest and guarantee our access to space is a critical national security priority and it is in danger.

At a recent public meeting in D.C. high ranking officials from the Department of Defense, State Department, National Reconnaissance Office, and NASA weighed in on the Space Force proposal – no voices opposing the issue were heard and several specific recommendations on implementation were presented. Speakers at the meeting included Kevin McLaughlin, a three-star general who was deputy commander of U.S. Cyber Command during the Obama administration. Lt Gen McLaughlin stressed the need for DoD to create U.S. Space Command as a unified independent military

branch. It is imperative that we develop and maintain our technological security and advantage in space. Our way of life depends on technological security and advantage in space, from instantaneous global communications to GPS signals for timing and navigation that enable transportation, commerce, and banking.

While some challenges remain, I support the establishment of a Space Command and the vision it holds to provide our men and women in uniform the resources and authority they need to develop and maintain U.S. military superiority in space. I am confident that the sixth branch of our armed forces will be led by dedicated Americans committed to protecting our freedom in space.

HUNDREDS OF VETS ARE SUING OVER THESE DEFECTIVE COMBAT EARPLUGS

By Kyle Rempfer

Hundreds of veterans are filing lawsuits against a government contractor that manufactured and sold defective combat earplugs to the military.

The earplugs didn’t maintain a tight seal and allowed dangerously loud sounds to slip through without the wearer knowing. The lawsuits allege that Minnesota-based 3M Company designed the earplugs in a defective manner and failed to warn users of the defect or to provide proper instructions for their use, according to a copy of one lawsuit provided to *Military Times*.

The failure allegedly resulted in hearing loss, tinnitus and loss of balance in those who used 3M’s trademarked, dual-ended Combat Arms earplugs during their military service between 2003 and 2015. The lawsuits were filed in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas — Waco Division.

One hundred lawsuits were filed by two Houston-based law firms: Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Aziz and Bell, Rose & Cobos. “Due to the widespread damage caused to veterans by 3M’s actions, these cases are just the tip of the iceberg of lawsuits that will be filed in order to hold 3M accountable,” Mo Aziz, one of the attorneys involved, said in a statement.

The Minnesota-based 3M Company allegedly sold their dual-ended Combat Arms Earplugs, Version 2, to the military without disclosing de-



fects that decreased the actual effectiveness of the hearing protection the device offered. 3M previously agreed to pay \$9.1 million to resolve allegations that it knowingly sold its earplugs to the Defense Logistics Agency without disclosing defects that decreased the hearing protection, according to the Justice Department.

The allegations by the U.S. government were brought against 3M through the enforcement of the False Claims Act. Although that case has been resolved, all claims within the settlement were allegations only, and there was no determination of liability, the Justice Department said. That hasn’t stopped veterans from lining up to seek punitive damages from 3M after developing hearing issues from 3M’s “gross negligence,” according to the lawsuit copy.

“Since late 2003, 3M touted its Combat Arms earplugs as capable of allowing users to hear commands from friendly soldiers and approaching en-

emy combatants, unimpaired, in the same way as if they had nothing in their ears,” the lawsuit reads. The documents allege that 3M employees knew about the earplug defects as early as 2000.

Although testing conducted by 3M found that the earplugs were defective, the company falsified certification stating that the testing complied with military standards, according to the lawsuit.

“It is an absolute disgrace that 3M would purposefully provide defective equipment to U.S. service members, knowing that those service members would rely on that defective equipment in combat,” Andrew Cobos, another attorney named in the lawsuit, said. “Their fraud resulted in lifelong injuries to America’s warriors. 3M’s actions cannot, and should not, be tolerated.”

In 2006, the U.S. government entered into a contract with 3M, in which the company supplied an estimated annual quantity of 15,000 earplug packages, with 50 pairs per package, at a guaranteed price of at least \$9 million in sales for the year, the lawsuit states. The earplugs were sold to the military until 2015, when 3M discontinued the product. However, the defective pairs were not recalled and thus are still likely used by soldiers and sold by other vendors, according to the lawsuit.

This is a reprint of the article that was published on February 14, 2019, in the Military Times.

A Night at the Garden

By Ben Kane

The date was February 20, 1939. It was George Washington's birthday, and the occasion was being celebrated at a Madison Square Garden event in a way that the event planners thought President Washington would approve of. 20,000 attendees packed the building and eagerly awaited the event's music, the marching, the flags, and the message of the "Pro American Rally." Behind the stand where the speech was to be made hung a colossal depiction of Washington. Four American flags of equal size flanked him, but in between these flags, there was no empty space.

In between them were flags featuring a prominent swastika emerging from the letters “AV”, an abbreviation of Amerikadeutscher Volksbund—the German American Bund. *A Night at the Garden*, the Oscar-nominated short video directed by Marshall Curry, depicts a Nazi rally in America. This “Pro-American Rally” was a celebration of Nazi Germany, of Fascism, and of the wanton destruction of innocent lives. Hiding violent, misplaced hatred behind the thin veneer of patriotism, a Fascist tradition, Bund leader and native German Fritz Kuhn spoke following the Pledge of Allegiance. Several noteworthy lines from his speech are shown in the video:



Still photo from the documentary, *A Night at the Garden*. Used with permission.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow Americans, American patriots... You all have heard of me through the Jewish controlled press as a creature with horns, a cloven hoof, and a long tail... We, with American ideals, demand that our government shall be returned to the American people who founded it... if you ask what we are actively fighting for under our charter: first, a socially just, white, Gentile ruled United States; second: Gentile-controlled labor unions, free from Jewish Moscow-directed domination.”

Then, a pause, followed by shouts and fists. A plumber from Brooklyn named Isadore Greenbaum rushes the stage to attack Kuhn but is stopped before reaching him by a group of American Nazis who beat and restrain Greenbaum until the police arrive to take him away. Greenbaum, like a true American patriot, joined the Navy to fight against the forces of evil when Germany declared war on the U.S.

The beating of Greenbaum took place in front of the youths assembled on the stage behind Kuhn, the impressionable teenagers, children, who



Poster for the documentary, *A Night at the Garden*.
Used with permission.

learned how to hate from watching their parents. The camera zooms in on the youths as Greenbaum is taken away, and one of the children dances with glee at the violent spectacle. The parents taught their children to hate through these rallies and through youth camps like the Hitler Youth summer camps in Germany, who then likely taught that hatred to their children, and so on and so forth.

A Night at the Garden demonstrates the depth of depravity that unbridled jingoism and xenophobia invariably lead to. It is worth noting that airtime for a 30 second advertisement for the video was requested during a commercial break on Sean Hannity's show on the FOX News channel, and the request was denied because the content of *A Night at the Garden* was considered inappropriate for their audience. There are several positive aspects of the film like the high production quality, the tasteful, unobtrusive music and text, and its historical significance, that warrant a positive review. However, it being scorned by FOX News is reason enough to recommend this to anyone interested in learning of the efforts of Fascists to gain traction and power in America once before.



Still photo from the documentary, *A Night at the Garden*. Used with permission.

Jewish War Veterans and AIPAC

Continued from page 1

When I asked the AIPAC veterans outreach coordinator how many conference participants are U.S. military veterans he didn't know, but the number is estimated to be in the thousands. AIPAC leaders are now developing a method to have the veterans self-identify when they register. At the veteran receptions the majority of attendees are under 40 years old and very few are members of JWW.

I attended all of the veterans' related sessions and had an opportunity to talk with many veterans that served in Afghanistan and Iraq during the last 18 years of war and counting. There were a couple of reasons why they attend AIPAC including support of Israel from generation to generation (grandparents and parents to veteran) and because AIPAC has sent U.S. veterans (Jewish and non-Jewish) to Israel using AIPAC Foundation funding. These veterans interact with Israel Defense Force that have similar combat experiences and post-war recovery treatments, some said that as a result of increased Anti-Semitism in the U.S. it's time for Jewish veterans to stand up and talk about our unique reasons for serving and what actions we think should be taken to combat Anti-Semitism. In addition, another important reason veterans attend AIPAC is because it's an opportunity for them to talk to each other about being Jewish while fighting in a war.

AIPAC had fantastic speakers: The Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel; Ambassador David Friedman, United States Ambassador to Israel; The Honorable Mike Pence, Vice President of the United States; Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), House Majority Leader; and many other Democrats, Republicans, and foreign government leaders.

Whenever possible I spoke to the veterans about the benefits to joining JWV and how we can provide similar opportunities to AIPAC. The response was not always positive because some of the veterans had tried to participate at Post levels and were turned off by the bureaucracy and the stagnant leadership. However, I think that all of the reasons given to attend AIPAC can be met by JWV at all echelons, by our Afghanistan and Iraq Committee, internet Post, and Jewish Warriors Post #4.

The mission of AIPAC is to support Israel and they have a vision of using veterans unique outlook to accomplish this mission. I strongly recommend that the Jewish War Veteran leadership send several members to AIPAC 2020 and throughout the year join AIPAC in their outreach to U.S. military veterans. This JWV-AIPAC effort could be a major source for JWV membership and accomplishing our mission of support to Israel, the U.S. military, and veterans.

Transitioning from military to civilian life?

Get to know your benefits and prepare for the big stuff - deployments, reintegration, moves, parenthood, retirement and more. Browse by topic or search for that strangely specific question you want to know the answers to.

www.militaryonesource.mil/

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



NATIONAL PRESIDENT LINDA P. SINGER

Hate crimes include all religions, races, genders and where they live and worship. When I was a young child during WWII, I was playing outside when some children said I killed Jesus and I go to “Sin-to-God” instead of Synagogue. I ran home crying and my parents tried to calm me down. I was young and didn’t understand the ideas that older children had been taught.

Hate crimes are running rampant throughout the world. There are genocides, bombs and burning of churches, mosques and temples. Europe is experiencing an upsurge in anti-Semitism that has not been seen since WWII.

The Adam and Gila Milstein Family Foundation, known for its fight against anti-Semitism, warns us that today’s anti-Semites work to demonize and delegitimize the Jewish People and the State of Israel in the media, political institutions, academia, on college campuses and elsewhere, often bleeding from the court of public opinion to physical assaults on Jewish communities.

How can we apply the lessons of the past century for the fight against anti-Semitism today? Clearly, we might fight the disease head-on, and we must start by understanding who is behind it. anti-Semitism now has three distinct sources: from

the radical Right, from radical Islam, and from the radical Left.

Too many in the Jewish community do not recognize the anti-Semitism that exists all around us. In particular, not nearly enough attention has been paid to the growing alliance between the radical Left and its followers who have seemingly incompatible worldviews.

We must do what we can to stop these horrendous actions against humanity. In our government we should have a coalition of all groups no matter what race or religion they are. We must tell our elected officials to set stronger penalties for those who commit hate crimes. Maybe it will be a deterrent.

I have enjoyed all my visits so far and look forward to those to come. Meanwhile, I urge us all to be alert and vigilant and remember “If you see something, say something” applies to anti-Semitism too.



Linda P. Singer

DID YOU KNOW?

By Editor Iris Goldwasser, PNP

Something Old

Brewing beer existed in Israel more than 5000 years ago, although many experts had thought this process was first discovered in China.

The joint efforts of Stanford University and the University of Haifa discovered a burial cave 13,000 years old that contained stone mortars used in the brewing of wheat and barley. This innovation of beer-brewing and the storage of various other foods derived from the Natufians, a people who lived between the Paleolithic and the Neolithic eras just after the Ice Age. Eventually their technical discoveries led to the development of other civilizations in the world.

The discovery of ancient Natufian remains in the Ragafet Burial Cave in Israel led to a deeper knowledge of their human society. Found within the walls of the cave were about thirty body remains, as well as their flint tools, animal bones, mortars and cups, evidence of flower burials and wakes by the graves, all of which helped to provide direct dates and some DNA as well as a colorful picture of the Natufian life ways, their technical abilities and inventions.

Something New

As time has passed, we have all become more aware of overt anti-semitism in the news and in our personal lives. We are happy to report that the latest salvo against anti-semitism has come from an unexpected source, the nation of Morocco.

King Mohammed VI has announced that he has instituted Holocaust education into his country’s schools. At a UN General Assembly meeting in September he is quoted as saying, “The battle against this plague cannot be handled carelessly. It above all depends on education and culture in the interest of our children; it is important for us to win it because they will be the beneficiaries and our ambassadors in the future”.

Morocco has long been tolerant of the Jewish people and even protected them during the Holocaust. Today the Jewish community in Morocco numbers about 2500 Jews, including the King’s personal advisor. The daughter of this advisor and now the director of UNESCO herself tweeted, “To address anti-semitism is to defend equal dignity for all human beings. Education is the best tool to prevent all forms of discrimination”.

We applaud Morocco’s initiative to eradicate Holocaust denial and their effort to educate students to study the issues of racism and anti-semitism so that their generation can stand up against those who disseminate hate.

National Museum of American Jewish Military History exhibits provide proof of their brave service yesterday and today.

MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE PREVENTION

By Chairman Debbie Mellitz, AP

Suicide is a national health concern that affects all Americans, whether or not they have served in the military. Community partners across the country including faith communities, employees, schools and healthcare organizations are working to prevent suicides especially among veterans.

Sometimes crises may include these warning signs:

- Hopelessness, anxiety, agitation, rage, anger,

sleeplessness

- Mood swings, increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Withdrawing from family or friends
- Thinking or talking about death or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior

If you are aware of a veteran who is feeling any of these symptoms call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and press “1”, chat online at Veterans Crisis Line.net/chat or text to 838255.

ACTION AND JEWISH AFFAIRS - JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

By Chairwoman Verna Rosenzweig, DP

In 2005, Florida Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter requested a Joint Resolution of Congress to proclaim May be established as Jewish American Heritage Month. On April 20, 2006, President George W. Bush signed the proclamation, creating the Joint Resolution of Congress that May would be hereafter Jewish American Heritage Month. The month of May would recognize the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture, politics, and commerce.

The month of May was chosen due to the highly successful celebration of the 250th Anniversary of American Jewish History in May of 2004, which was organized by the Commission Commemorating 350 years of American Jewish History.

The 350-year history of Jews in America began in 1654, with refugees arriving in New Amsterdam, seeking refuge from remnants of the

Spanish Inquisition. Without Haym Solomon’s financial contribution during the Revolutionary War, the history of this country might be far different from what it is today.

A number of Jewish American servicemen have gained fame due to their military service, and many have received awards and decorations for distinguished service, valor, or heroism. More than 17 Jewish servicemen were awarded the military’s highest award, the Medal of Honor. Many other American Jews who served in the military later achieved prominence in business, politics, science, entertainment and other fields.

Jewish military personnel have served in all branches of the armed forces and in every major armed conflict to which the United States has been involved. The Jewish Chaplains Council estimated that there are currently 10,000 known Jewish servicemen and servicewomen on active duty. The

HEARTS AND HANDS HELP THOSE IN NEED

**JWVA
National President's Banquet**

honoring
**National President
Linda P. Singer**

Tuesday, August 20
6:00pm Reception • 7:00pm Dinner

There will be great food and wonderful
entertainment! Everyone is welcome!

You will have a FESTIVE evening!

\$45 per person



**Rita Panitz Memorial
Teddy Bear Program**

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

Bears bring big smiles and happy faces!

Think of all the smiles on the faces of the children as they cuddle one of the bears you have donated. Now is the time to start collecting bears. Every bear can be a friend to a child in need. Let's make it our number one priority to bring happiness to the children who are our future.

On Monday, August 19th, we have made arrangements to donate the bears to the Fire Department, Police Department, Children's Hospital, and the Ronald McDonald House. Think of the thanks we will receive when the residents in the Richmond area notice the label attached to each bear that reads, "National Ladies Auxiliary, Jewish War Veterans."

Let's aim high! Bring or mail your bears to convention. We hope that each Auxiliary will send one, that every sister will bring one. Please ask your Posts to help with this wonderful program.

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

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

**DOUBLE CHAI CLUB
Join Us For Breakfast!
Wednesday, August 21**

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

Join us at an outstanding breakfast!

Become a member of
our "**Double Chai Circle**."

**This breakfast is open to everyone.
We look forward to seeing you there!**



\$36 per person



Come Join Us In Richmond, Virginia!
91st Annual National Convention • August 18 - 23, 2019

Come one! Come All! Join us in Richmond, the capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia and soak up the history of this beautiful city. Richmond was an important village of the Powhattan Confederacy and was briefly settled by the English from Jamestown in 1609. The present city was founded in 1737 and became the capital of the Colony and Dominion of Virginia, replacing Williamsburg. Patrick Henry's famous "Give me liberty or give me death" speech took place here in 1775 at St. John's Church. During the Civil War Richmond was the second and permanent capital of the Confederacy. At the onset of the 20th Century, Richmond boasted the world's first successful electric streetcar system.

Today Richmond is a modern and exciting city with a population of approximately 223,170. It has a vast variety of attractions and activities for visitors. Take a leisurely stroll along the Canal Walk



along the James River to view the historic statues. Visit the home of Edgar Allan Poe or the National Historic Landmark District of Monument Avenue. Nature lovers should take a trip to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden on the North side of Richmond. The Virginia Holocaust Museum, founded to edu-

cate the community about the Holocaust, is open Sunday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and admission is free.

The Omni Richmond Hotel is a perfect place to stay while you experience Richmond. It is centrally located with easy access to area attractions. There are numerous local restaurants with a variety of cuisines, sure to offer something to every taste.

We look forward to getting together once again to find ways of increasing our membership, exchanging ideas on how to keep our National Ladies Auxiliary active on behalf of our veterans, current military, children and seniors.

Let's do it again! Our Pounds Auction at the last convention was surely something to talk about! Everyone had such a great time, we are going to do it again. Please bring a pound of anything, and put it in a brown lunch bag. If you don't have a brown bag, we'll have extras.

Start looking now! Examples are candy, erasers, popcorn, etc.. Use your imagination. As long as it weighs a pound. You won't know what you are bidding on. Follow the clues of the Auctioneer.

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



**Admission is \$2 • Snacks will be served
It will be an evening of fun and laughter!**

Partners Club

Please join us at the Convention on Monday, August 19th at 5:30 pm for a wine & cheese get-together.

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

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

Please make your checks payable to JWVA and send to the office and earmark Partners.



**Rhea Sahl
Memorial Baby Shower
For Pregnant Military Women**

We're holding a baby shower for our pregnant military women during our National Convention in Richmond, Virginia on Monday, August 19. It is one way that we can say "Thank You" to these women for serving our country.

We would like to fill baskets for each pregnant mom-to-be with items needed for a new born, such as: diapers, bath towels, wash cloths, bibs, onesies, bottles, baby lotion, pacifiers, burp cloths, crib sheets, receiving blankets, night clothes, etc. Each basket averages at least \$100.00 and we plan on presenting 12. If you would like to purchase these items yourself you may do so.

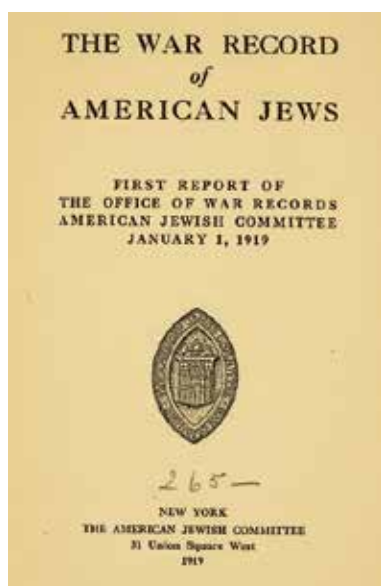
If you would like to make a donation for the baby shower, send your check to PNP Elaine Bernstein to purchase any items for the Rhea Sahl Memorial Baby Shower Program. Make your checks payable to: Elaine Bernstein, PNP, 9 Dogwood Court, Sayreville, NJ 08872.



You can send your items and donations for the Baby Shower and/or the Teddy Bear Program directly to the hotel, between August 13 and August 15. Address packages to: Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 S 12th St, Richmond, VA 23219. Attention: Elaine Bernstein, PNP, Convention Chairman JWVA.

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

The winter months since our Hanukkah party have brought a steady stream of interesting visitors and events to the museum. On a snowy morning in January, the American Jewish Committee (AJC) National Leadership Council visited. It's always great to have major donors and leaders from other Jewish organizations visit the museum. It was a pleasure this time in particular because of the historical connection of AJC with Jews in the American military. During World War I, AJC created the Office of Jewish War Records under director Julian Leavitt. They worked with the Jewish Welfare Board and other Jewish organizations to identify the Jews that served in the Great War and identify their roles in the military. In 1919, this office issued a pamphlet entitled "The War Record of American Jews."



The War Record of American Jews, 1919 Pamphlet produced by AJC Office of War Records.

This record was based on an impressive amount of research. Tens of thousands of questionnaires were sent out to Jewish servicemen or their families. This resulted in 150,000 records of individual Jewish servicemen and an estimate that about 225,000 Jewish Americans served in the war. The questionnaires are an incredibly valuable

resource for historians researching Jews in WWI. They provide the basic information such as rank, branch, dates of service, etc. They also provided the servicemen the opportunity to write more and describe their service including the ways they were honored, and/or wounded. Many left those lines blank, but some took the opportunity to share remarkable stories of their time in the service, of combat and of heroism. We continue to share these stories today including in our ongoing series "Over There: Profiles of American Jews in World War I" available on our website at <https://nmajmh.org/stories/over-there-profiles-of-american-jews-in-world-wwi/>.

100 years later, the current AJC leadership group was largely unaware of this history, but fascinated and appreciative. They took great pride in their organization's work to show how the American Jews of World War I "did their bit." They also showed great interest in our exhibits and our stories from Colonial days to the present. A special thanks to our docent and historian Sheldon Goldberg for making it in to the museum for the AJC tour on a snowy day when most of D.C. was closed.

► It's great to see past work get new attention. Our video "Honoring the Liberators of the Concentration Camps" was completed three years ago for the gala dinner of the Jewish War Veterans Foundation. But this January, YouTube included the video as an identified Holocaust education video and began placing it in its "Suggested Videos." This resulted in a huge increase in viewership. The video shares a description of concentration camps with first person accounts of liberation. These liberators describe not only the horrors of the camps, but how these American Jewish soldiers interacted with survivors. As Yiddish speakers, they were often the only ones able to communicate with survivors. They established at least some small sense of Jewish community, after the failed attempts by the Nazis to destroy it. These are powerful stories. We'd like to get as many eyes on it as possible to show the important role of American Jewish sol-

Has your JWV echelon gotten a copy of Spirit, Courage, and Conviction: A Tour of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History?



To receive a DVD copy of this video, contact Michael Rugel at (202) 265-6280 or email at: mrugel@nmajmh.org.

You can also watch this video on our YouTube channel - www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg

diers. To view the video on youtube go to: <https://youtu.be/VW0oiNqmVsY>.

► In February, we hosted a series of Jewish genealogy classes in partnership with the Jewish Study Center and the Greater Washington Jewish Genealogy Society. Both are partners we've worked with in the past and it's great to continue these relationships. We're working to be an important part of the D.C. Jewish community as we continue our national mission. As always, we rely on our friends and supporters to help spread the word. Please, keep telling your friends about the museum and continue sharing the content from our website and social media.

For a **limited time only**, the NMAJMH is offering a special discount for you to honor your hero by including his or her photo on the **Our Heroes** photo display in the museum.

For only \$100, your hero's photo will be displayed for everyone to see that Jews serve with honor in defense of this nation. This is a savings of \$80 off the regular cost of \$180. Take advantage of this opportunity now because this special price will end at our August 2019 convention. For complete details, visit: <https://nmajmh.org/support-the-museum/photo-kiosk/>

Display includes:



- 1 4" x 6" photo - B+W or color
- 1 Brass ID plate that lists your hero's:
 - Name
 - Branch of Service • Area of Service
 - Years of Service
 - JWV Post # and location (note: your hero does not need to be a JWV member to be included in this display).



Did You Know?

Did you know that the National Museum of American Jewish Military History is the **only museum in the world** dedicated to telling the true stories of American Jewish military heroism and patriotism?

When people claim that Jews don't serve in defense of this country, we have the artifacts, photographs, and documents to prove them wrong. Jews serve with honor and have contributed greatly to the peace and freedom of America.

With your support, our museum will continue to fulfill its mission of preserving and commemorating American Jewish military service. If you are not yet a member, please join today.

Become a member by going to: <https://nmajmh.org/product/membership/>

Your membership counts!

By Pamela Elbe • Collections, Archives & Exhibitions Coordinator

Down a Rabbit Hole in the Archives of the NMAJMH

There are many interesting stories in the archives of the Museum, but sometimes a collection grabs your attention and pulls you in. This happened to me recently with the collection of Franz Biermann, a Germany immigrant who joined the U.S. military in 1939. While his family's story is not necessarily unique, the degree to which it was documented is special. The story of their escape from Germany, life as refugees, and then American citizens and—for Franz—a military officer, is told through hundreds of letters and documents.

Most of the materials in the Biermann collection from the 1930s and early 1940s are in German, and my German *ist nicht so gut*. Still, with my basic German and the help of Google translate, I have been able to cobble together a picture of the Biermann family's flight from Germany.

Subject to threats and persecution after Hitler's rise to power, the initial Jewish response to the Nazi takeover was a substantial wave of emigration. There were more than 117,000 Jews who left Austria and more than 300,000 who left Germany by the end of 1939. Initially, Germany encouraged Jews to leave, then they restricted the amount of money they could take from German banks and imposed high emigration taxes.

Franz Joseph Biermann was born in 1915 in Fürth, Bavaria. In 1939, just five months before the Nazi invasion of Poland, Franz married Ruth Schwarz in Berlin. Prior to their marriage Franz began trying to arrange passage for the couple to the United States. Both Ruth and Franz had family in Florida, so with their help Franz tried to arrange for passage to the U.S. via Cuba. They also tried to convince Ruth's mother to leave with them. Just a few weeks before their ship was to sail from Liverpool to Havana, they learned from the *Hilfsverein der Juden in Deutschland* (Jewish Aid in Germany) that they did not have the required visas to enter Cuba.

As anti-Semitism increased in Nazi Germany and the threat to Jews grew more imminent, the Biermanns fled to England to await their American visas. The family had to draw a *Judenvermögensabgabe* and paid the special tax levied on those Jews who desired to leave Germany;



Franz Biermann at his desk in Europe during WWII.

this tax was thousands of Reichsmarks per person. Franz's levy alone was 8400RM, or approximately \$379,000 in today's US currency.

The Biermann family arrived in Dover on the southern coast of England on August 26, 1939. When World War II was declared (1 September 1939), Britain no longer allowed emigration from Nazi-controlled countries. The family made it to the UK with less than a week to spare. They still did not have their American visas, so they settled in Bournemouth until those visas came through. In May of 1940 the Biermanns, along with Ruth's mother, immigrated to the United States.

While Franz, Ruth, and Ruth's mother had escaped Germany, there were still many family members left behind. One of those was Franz's maternal grandmother, Dina Schweizer. Though they had depleted their finances trying to get out of Germany, Franz still tried to send money to his grandmother, who was elderly and fearful of spending what little she had left given the uncertainty of the times. They were able to correspond—albeit infrequently—by sending letters via neutral countries like Sweden. Unfortunately, Franz's grandmother was sent to Theresienstadt on Sep 10, 1942 and she died there on Oct 18, 1942.

After arriving in the U.S., Ruth's mother, Rosa Schwarz, settled in Tampa where her brothers owned Maas Brothers Department Store. Franz and Ruth stayed in New York and Franz started graduate work at Columbia University. In 1941 he received a Master of Arts degree from Columbia and he continued his graduate work there until the fall of 1943, when enlisted in the army.

In the fall of 1943, he joined the Army as a private. He received basic training at Fort Belvoir and military intelligence training at Camp Ritchie. In the spring of 1944, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and in May 1944 transferred to the European theater. In January 1947 he was discharged from the active service with the rank of captain and in 1968 he was transferred to the inactive reserve with the rank of lieutenant colonel. During his active service he was stationed in England, France, Luxembourg, and Germany (Aachen, Wiesbaden, Frankfurt, and Berlin).

During WWII he was the chief of a combat intel/document team. In May 1945 he was transferred to the Office of Military Government/Field Information Agency (Technical) and became in-

involved and partly responsible for the collection and publication of German scientific papers which had been prepared during the war and had either not been published or had not become accessible to the rest of the world.

In 1947 he was discharged from the active service, transferred to the inactive reserve and became special advisor to the chief scientific advisor on General Clay's staff. During the years of the Berlin Blockade a large share of his work became channeled to the task of caring for and supporting the West Berlin German scientific community. Franz completed his work in Germany in 1954 and he returned to the US.

While he remained an employee of the Department of Defense, Franz often worked in close liaison with (and occasionally directly for) the State Department. He became chief of a unit whose task was to gather and analyze all material on the then-emerging African nations. To become



German passport for Franz Biermann showing his forced name change to include the middle name of Israel. The Executive Order on the Law on the Alteration of Family and Personal Names required German Jews bearing first names of "non-Jewish" origin to adopt an additional name: "Israel" for men and "Sara" for women.

better acquainted with the area he undertook in 1957 a three month trip throughout all of Africa under State Department sponsorship. During his long career Franz was interested in computers, decades before the advent of the personal computer. He worked on the development and application of a computer system designed to store and retrieve data on various groups of people. Contrary to the more mathematical uses of computers, such sociological use was then in its beginning.

There is a wealth of information contained in the letters and documents that Franz Biermann saved. I have only been able to touch the surface of this collection, but it is quite clear that it is treasure. Their letters and documents provide much insight into the lives of a German Jewish family forced to flee Nazi persecution and are just waiting for a researcher to take advantage of this great resource.



Biermann family photo from 1917. Franz is the child on the left.

IN MEMORIAM



PNC Ronald Ziegler

The J.W.V. Community is sad to report that Past National Commander Ronald Ziegler passed away recently. PNC Ziegler served as the National Commander of J.W.V. from 2000-2001, and was installed during the Millennium Convention in his home town of Philadelphia, PA. Prior to being the National Commander, he served in other leadership positions from Department Commander up to the National Judge Advocate. A U.S. Army soldier, he served during the Vietnam War Era and was discharged as a Specialist 5th Class in 1966. Additionally, he served with distinction as the head of both the Policy and Resolutions Committees from the local to the national level. With his slogan of "Now More Than Ever" he drew on his experience of being a member of J.W.V. and also having served on the National Executive, Policy and Budget Committees. During his tenure, he was a part of the team that drafted the resolution urging the United States to lead an all-out effort, and if necessary war, to drive Iraq from the Persian Gulf in 1990. PNC Ziegler was also a J.W.V. Life Member since 1979.

A practiced trial lawyer, he and his wife, Leona, have two children and were grandparents to six children. Baruch Dayan Ha'emet to him and his family on behalf of the Jewish War Veterans.



PNC Dr. Robert Shor

The J.W.V. Community is sad to report that Past National Commander Dr. Robert Shor passed away recently. Dr. Shor served as the National Commander of J.W.V. from August 1976 through 1977. He was installed during the 81st National Convention which was held in Hollywood, FL. During his year as National Commander, he drew on his experience as a member of J.W.V. since 1948 and also having served on the National Executive, Policy and Budget Committees. He was also a podiatric surgeon and lived in California where he served as National President of the American Podiatry Association, and the California Podiatry Association.

Dr. Shor's opening comments upon his election were a strong and forceful "J.W.V. must be concerned with the eroding legislative priority of veterans programs." During his year he kept up the tradition of strong stances and holding the Veterans Administration accountable which has led us to where the Department of Veterans Affairs is today. We say Baruch Dayan Ha'emet to him and his family during this time.

TAPS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Sami, Rouben - Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Abeles, Lila R. - Post 385
Abrams, Stephen V. - Post 603
Bender, Barry - Post 603
Gell, Lester D. - Post 385
Gordon, Nathan W. - Post 118
Leavitt, Howard - Post 385
Shor, Robert - Post 603
Spiegel, Herbert - Post 385
Stevens, Phillip - Post 385

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Feinberg, Joseph L. - Post 51
Feltman, Philip - Post 45
Gillman, Richard - Post 45
Osber, Herbert A. - Post 45
Smith, Bernard - Post 45

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

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PNC Lou & PDP Gloria Abramson
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I'm grateful for reaching 101 years!

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Greetings • Gerald Elkan
In Memory of Lorraine Engelmann
Loving wife, mother, grandmother

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In Memory of Lt. Jack S. Gardner
U.S. Marine Corps, 1952-54

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