



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Volume 69 • Number 4

Rename VAMC Long Beach in Tibor Rubin's Honor

Jewish Medal of Honor recipient Corporal Tibor Rubin passed away on Saturday, December 5, 2015, near his home in Garden Grove, California. *Now, more than ever, we should honor his name, his memory, and his service as part of the official name of the Veterans Administration Medical Center Long Beach, CA (VMAC).*

In 2001, JWV legislative chairman, Republican Congressman Ben Gilman, and JWV patron member, Democratic Congressman Robert Wexler, helped pass Section 552 of Public Law 107-107. This law mandated the review of the records of all Jewish American veterans and all Hispanic American veterans whose service might merit the receipt of the Medal of Honor. Corporal Rubin had originally left the Army with only two Purple Hearts.

As a result of this Act, Tibor Rubin was awarded the Medal of Honor for his service, bravery, and dedication, in 2005, at the age of 76, and 55 years after his combat service. The former concentration camp victim and former POW continued to serve his country by serving others as a volunteer at the Veterans Administration Medical Center Long Beach, CA, where he also received his medical care.

We believe it is fitting that a tireless former POW and Korean War Medal of Honor recipient who continued to "soldier on" on behalf of other veterans be officially recognized for his extraordinary community service "above and beyond the call of duty." The justifications for our request are many. Medal of Honor recipients are rare. In this era of cynicism, renaming VAMC Long Beach for Tibor Rubin will be a lasting testament to his selfless service to his countrymen.

According to his Medal of Honor citation, Tibor Rubin was recognized for his selfless devotion to sick and infirmed soldiers by caring for them while in the POW camp. He used his survival skills gained in Mauthausen to treat them, and he risked his life to steal food from local farms to feeds his fellow, and starving, POWs. He is well-known in both the Jewish and Long Beach communities and was highly regarded as a selfless servant to veterans, and logged thousands of hours of hands-on moral support to re-



Tibor Rubin after receiving the Medal of Honor tuning veterans.

By renaming VAMC Long Beach in Tibor Rubin's honor, California has an opportunity to put forward a non-controversial bi-partisan bill which will stand as a testament to our community, our state and our nation that Congress continues to be supportive and appreciative of our selfless and devoted veterans who sacrifice so much for so little.

Members of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America have long served our nation with both honor and distinction. Our organization has supported and will continue to actively support all programs designed to enhance the lives of military active duty, reservists, veterans, and their families, those including at VA medical centers and hospitals, where our members spend volunteer much of their time.

Born in Hungary in 1929, Rubin was captured by the Nazis and sent to the Mauthausen concentration camp at the age of 13. He was there for more than a year, until the camp was liberated in May of 1945 by U.S. forces. His sister, stepmother, and father all died in concentration camps.

After three years in a camp for displaced persons, Rubin and his siblings immigrated to the United States in 1948. He became a citizen and was determined to support the country who liber-

ated him by joining the Army during the Korean War. He was sent to Korea as a rifleman with Company I, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

On two occasions, Tibor's sergeant deliberately put him at great risk, having him cover retreating soldiers with only a machine gun and defend a hill against attacking North Korean troops for 24 hours. The first time, Tibor was unscathed. The second time, after inflicting substantial casualties on the enemy, he suffered multiple wounds.

In early November 1950, Rubin was captured during battle and sent as a prisoner of war to a Chinese run prison camp located along the border of North Korea and Manchuria. Offered early release by his captors due to his background, Corporal Rubin declined and elected to stay and render aid to other prisoners. He spent 30 months there.

After the war, he worked in his brother's liquor store and never spoke about his experiences. Rubin led parades and supported veterans groups, including JWV.

Corporal Rubin will be greatly missed. This hero deserves to be remembered and honored for his service. May he rest in peace.



Tibor Rubin, a long time member of JWV, visited the NMAJMH shortly after receiving the Medal of Honor.

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THE JEWISH VETERAN

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YOUR LETTERS

Thank You

My name is April Mintz. Last week, I received a \$1,250 check in the mail from the Jewish War Veterans of the USA for the Robert and Rebecca Rubin Memorial Grant. I am truly honored to receive this wonderful award, and I appreciate it so much. I take my education very seriously, and it is so nice to be recognized for the effort I put into my studies.

I will put the money towards my tuition for my first semester of college. I am currently studying civil engineering at The Cooper Union in New York.

Again, thank you so much for awarding me this wonderful scholarship. My family and I appreciate it very much.

Thanks again,
April Mintz

I received your letter this past week informing me that I was selected for the Leon Brooks Memorial Grant-- thank you for your support!

The letter had to be forwarded a few times as we have moved twice in the last several months.

My wife, children, and I really appreciate the grant. It will certainly help to defray the costs of my education.

Thank you again!

Mark T. Seelen

MBA Candidate, Class of 2017

Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth

Thank you for selecting me as the recipient of the Seymour and Phyllis Shore Memorial Grant.

You wrote that my family and community can look to me with pride. I look with pride at my great-grandfather Eli Ruderman and grandfather George Ruderman who fought for our country in World War I and II respectively.

You also wrote you trust that my exceptional efforts will continue to produce equally impressive results. I have already become involved at the University of Southern California. I was accepted to the prestigious Troy Camp, a volunteer organization that tutors underprivileged children in the surrounding neighborhood and culminates in summer camp in the local mountains. I am playing for the USC Women's Club Soccer team. I regularly attend Shabbat dinners and other events at Hillel. And of course, I study.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Goodman

I have just received the letter that informs me I was selected for Charles Kosmutza Grant. I feel extremely honored and happy. I want to thank you for choosing me for this Grant.

This grant will be greatly used toward my education in non-profit management in the Jewish

Community. I never thought I had the worth of receiving such an honor, so THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart!

Again, I want to express my indebted gratitude for Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A and Kosmutza Family. If ever in the future I may help in any way please don't hesitate to contact me, be sure I'll be there. Thank you for the great honor.
Orpaz Levy.

Sincere Gratitude

May I take this opportunity to mention the excellent cooperation and support I have received from Greg Byrne during my assignment over the past 6 years with JWV and the revival of Chicago Post 710 over the past decade.

During my three years with the Department of Defense assigned to Chicago and Florida for the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee; Greg's support and guidance was above and beyond what expected. [With] My moving from City to City and often state to state his suggestions and support was a major contribution to our successful program.

It's a chore getting new members and looking at several groups that are willing to support JWV but may be missing one specific requirement. We worked within the rules and regulations.

On Wednesday, September 30 at an event hosted by the Chicago Consul General of the Republic of South Korea I will be given a gold medal in appreciation of my service to the Consul and the Republic of South Korea.

I would like to share this recognition with Greg as his contribution and support of JWV continues to be outstanding.

Most grateful,

Jerry J. Field, MD

Commander of Post 710, Chicago

[Editor's note: Greg Byrne spent many years as the Membership Coordinator at JWV National Headquarters. He is now the Director of Operations.]

Fight Hate with Charity

Please accept this check from Temple Beth Sholom, Topeka's only synagogue, as a statement of gratitude and support from the local Jewish community for the important and good work you do. One of the strongest injunctions of our faith is that we join with others in seeing to social justice, in caring for those who suffer, and in working to repair and heal our sometimes fractured world.

We thought perhaps you might have some interest in hearing what lies behind this particular donation: Our congregation is picketed before Services on almost every Friday evening by Westboro Baptist Church; we sought a means to

counteract their messages of hatred and divisiveness without giving them the publicity they seek. Our response was to solicit our membership and ask them to consider pledging a small amount of up to one dollar per week for every week during the year that we were picketed by hate groups. The congregation was to decide who would be the beneficiary of any monies so raised, with the only qualification being that the beneficiary must affirm/help/provide services to the very populations that the hate groups seek to disparage and devalue.

Our fifth year of this campaign has recently ended, and our congregation chose to divide the proceeds among two organizations whose works we esteem for their service to those the spewers of venom seeks to dehumanize. It seems, too, a wonderful irony that the hatred and denigration of Westboro Baptist Church's invective be used in some measure to benefit the very people they so viciously attack.

With our congregation's thanks for your continuing good work.

Sincerely,

Debbie Stiel, Rabbi, Temple Beth Sholom

Dr. Lorne Ruby

Chair of TBS Campaign to Counter Hate



With a donation of your choice, you can receive our "Patriots Yesterday, Patriots Today" 2016 calendar. Please contact Ruby DesChamps at rdeschamps@jwv.org or 202-265-6280 to make your donation.

Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

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

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Jerome Blum

Why I Joined the Jewish War Veterans

Like many paths in life, my route to the Jewish War Veterans was anything but direct. It all started with Vietnam. Like so many of my fellow Vietnam veterans, I did not receive a warm and fuzzy welcome home. I returned home in 1966 and I think it became even worse for those who returned after I did.

My wife, PNP Joanne, and I married in 1968 and soon after had a little bundle of joy on the way, and then another. Life was good. At some point we decided we needed a 'night out', so I joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We had fun there, we were involved in many aspects of the Post, and I rose to become the Post Commander.

In a discussion, past Commanders said they felt I was too young and that I didn't spend enough time at the bar. I stated that I would come there every day after work and that, as of the House Committee, I had stabilized the Committee and its finances. They brought in a ringer and pushed him through. I think it was because I was a young Vietnam veteran, but who knows? I decided that

this was not what I wanted to continue with.

A couple of years went by, and I finally gave in to one my sister's friend's requests and attended a JWV meeting. The meeting was okay, but I felt restless. I still wasn't connecting with the somewhat older membership. However, at the urging of my wife, I agreed to attend a second meeting. At this meeting, the Post Quartermaster handed me an apron that said, "KITCHEN KOMMANDOS." I joined the men and women preparing breakfast, got to know them, and was hooked. I knew I was home.

I quickly learned how enjoyable it is to be able to help others. Back in those days, for instance, we would play bingo with veterans at the state veterans hospital and hand out cigarettes for prizes. Boy, have things changed.

Bob Rosenfield (May his memory be a blessing) got me involved with JWV on a national level. I had been Department Commander for a few years and Bob knew that his health was failing. We had lost the couple, the Berkowitz's, who held

the Department of Connecticut together, and I think Bob was looking to us to help fill the gap.

Working with my Post, my Department, and finally with National has made me realize that the best thing you can do to maintain your health, both physically and mentally, is to give yourself to a good cause. Every time I do the slightest *mitzvah* I reap an un-proportionately large reward- knowing that I helped others.

Connecting with Jewish veterans, patrons, members, and their families has led me to realize that (not unlike our National Museum of American Jewish Military History) this is my legacy. JWV has helped me find meaning and purpose in my life. My hope for our future is that we can get more veterans, regardless of age or conflict, to see what they gain when they give.



NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

IN TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL WILLIAM S. BLAHER AND ALL THOSE WHO FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

December 1944. The Battle of the Bulge caught US forces by surprise. Our own PDC Joe Kraut was one of the many future members of JWV in that horrific battle. So was Corporal William (Bill) S. Blaher.

Bill Blaher was twelve years older than I and lived only a few houses away from me in Flemington, New Jersey. Our fathers went to synagogue together and our mothers were close friends.

Bill Blaher entered the Army at eighteen and took basic training at Camp Croft in Spartanburg, South Carolina. On December 9, 1944, Bill crossed the English Channel with the 422nd Regiment. Nine days later, the 422nd was on the Siegfried Line. At the same time, heavily armed German troops were launching a ferocious attack that became known as the Battle of the Bulge.

The American troops were wet and cold, and out of food. The winter in 1944 was one of the coldest Europe had seen in years. Bill Blaher had trench foot, as did many others in the 422nd. The American forces were totally outnumbered and hopelessly ill-prepared to withstand the German onslaught.

The Battle of the Bulge was a surprise attack. The Allied forces were caught off guard by the German offensive. Powerful German forces launched this campaign through the densely forested Ardennes region in Belgium, France, and Luxembourg. The offensive was conducted by the German forces with utmost secrecy, minimizing radio traffic and moving troops and equipment under cover of darkness. US forces bore the brunt of the attack and had their highest casualties of any battle during WWII.

On December 19, 1944, the regimental commander of the 422nd and the regimental commander next to them made the decision to surrender. They were out of ammunition, out of food, and were completely out-gunned by the German forces. Bill Blaher buried his dogs tags.

Bill Blaher was captured in the Battle of the Bulge, survived the horror of the next few months, and ended WWII as a POW of the Germans. I clearly remember when he came home from the war. Bill weighed less than 100 pounds. But at least he was home.

Recently the JWV Museum received a bequest from the estate of Billy Blaher. I did not

know he had passed away.

When we received the bequest, I called Bill's son, Jerry. I knew Jerry when he was a kid. To my surprise, he remembered me and each of my four brothers and sisters. Jerry and I talked about his father and his father's long time involvement in the Jewish War Veterans. Bill had joined JWV Post 665, where he was an active member for decades.

Joe Kraut and Bill Blaher are the only two that I personally know who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. This column is in tribute to and in memory of all the American forces in that battle.

I wish to share one more thing from the town of Flemington, New Jersey. Besides being friends with Mrs. Blaher, my mother was also friends with Mrs. Birnbaum. At the end of the war, her son, Sanford, was still missing. Sanford Birnbaum was last seen bailing out of a shot up plane. Nothing was ever heard about him again. Eventually JWV Post 665 in Flemington was named the Sanford Birnbaum Post.



DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

By PNC Monroe Mayer, National Editor

The first telegraph was perfected in 1844, and was transcontinental by 1861. Our means of communication has steadily increased until today, when most of us are on cell phones or the internet to regularly communicate with each other. Newspapers and written communication lasted for generations, but technology is changing the way we reach out to each other. Human nature, sadly, has not changed that much, and we at the Jewish War Veterans, can testify to that.

At the start of this century, we were happy to put the 20th century behind us due to its war ravaged history, and looked forward to a new era. Sadly, 15 years into it, new threats are besieging not only the United States, but our relatives, friends, and fellow Jews in Israel. This puts our organization in a unique position to be able to tell our members and friends what is occurring here at home, and in the Middle East, and what we are capable of doing about it. Our past military skills and what we have accomplished have set us in

the proper place for the demands of the future.

This copy of the Veteran, our e-mails, website, and our place on Facebook and Twitter certainly demonstrates our ability to communicate in this modern era. These many passages of communications, however, are a two way street. We can tell the story, but you the reader have the ability to tell us yours. We want to hear your story, whether it's recent or in the distant past. The service of Jewish veterans was what inspired the creation of this organization in the first place, some 120 years ago.

As you may know, Civil War veterans of the Jewish faith were tired of hearing that Jews hadn't served. They were determined to tell that story, and thus our organization was formed. The need has not diminished, and it is up to us to continue to tell the recent stories of Jewish men and women who have served this country in the many military endeavors our nation has been involved in.

We simply have to amplify the obvious fact that Jews have served and continue to serve in our military. It may not necessarily have been in a combat role, either. Many incidents occurred to those who served, but may also be interesting to other readers. There is even the possibility that old friends, who served together, may locate each other years after discharge, and can renew those acquaintances. We are looking for specific stories and recollections so that we can continue telling the nation about our history of service.

We all recognize how long it took for the Medal of Honor to be issued to Jewish heroes of past conflicts, and the actions taken by one of our members to get the Department of Defense to recognize that fact. If we don't tell our story... who will?



The Mount Soledad War Memorial Cross Cases

By Harvey Weiner, National Judge Advocate

The JWV has recently litigated and will undoubtedly continue to litigate in favor of the principle of the separation of church and state that is enshrined in the Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution and particularly in the area of war memorials. For almost a decade, it has been at the forefront in successfully pursuing the Mount Soledad War Memorial Cross case, which may reach an end result because the land on which the Cross at issue sits was recently transferred from the federal government to private hands.

According to the legal briefs, the 43-foot high Cross that sits on the 822-foot high Mount Soledad in La Jolla, California, near San Diego, was dedicated on public land owned by the City of San Diego in 1954 "as a reminder of God's promise to man of everlasting life." Jesus Christ was invoked in the hope that the Cross would be "a symbol in this pleasant land of the great love and sacrifice for all mankind," and the ceremony's program referred to the Cross as "a gleaming white symbol of Christianity." The Cross furthered the objective to "create a park...worthy to be a setting for [the] symbol of our faith." Easter services were held annually at the Cross from 1954 until no earlier than 2000. It is located in an area whose history has been marred by anti-Semitism and Jews were effectively barred from living in La Jolla until the late 1950s. According to The (Jewish) Forward, restricted covenants

dating from the 1920s excluded anyone whose "blood was not entirely of the Caucasian race" from purchasing property there. When the famed La Jolla Playhouse, founded by Gregory Peck, held cast parties at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, Jewish actors were not allowed to attend. (Oh, the Atticus of "Go Set a Watchman" did not object. Where was the Atticus of "To Kill a Mockingbird?")

In 1989, two veterans, one Jewish and one non-Jewish, brought a suit to have the Cross removed. Both the Federal District Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the Cross removed, the latter Court holding that the Cross created "the appearance of honoring only those servicemen of [a] particular religion." There were and still are at least 18 named deceased Jewish veterans being "honored" by the Cross.

In 2006, in an attempt to evade the Court's decision, Congress took the Cross from the City of San Diego by eminent domain. It was then owned by the federal government. In response thereto, JWV (coming late to the game), some Jewish and non-Jewish veterans, and one of the two original plaintiffs in the first case brought another suit in Federal District Court in San Diego and, after extensive litigation and appeals, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that the federal government's display of the Cross, like the City of San Diego's display of the Cross, violated the Establishment Clause. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal thereof in 2014.

To avoid following the Court's order, the fed-



eral government transferred the Cross into private hands in 2015. As a practical matter, this may end the case because of the present state of the law.

This is a legal area where JWV is often the sole veterans' group advocating its position. Every other major veterans' group took a contrary position in the Cross case. The American Civil Liberties Union and the law firm of WilmerHale represented JWV and the other plaintiffs pro bono and provided hundreds of thousands of dollars of free legal services. They are to be thanked for their generosity.

There will be similar unpopular situations where the JWV will be obligated to step up to the legal plate, if it can obtain similar pro bono legal services. These types of cases are amongst the many reasons why JWV needs to exist and why it must have a strong national presence. As the sage Hillel says, "If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?"

COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee

Rambling Thoughts Without Direction Or Concern

What follows is rather disjointed (most people say that most of what I write is disjointed, this exceeds any such endeavor).

I am sitting in a rehab looking out the window of my room on the serenity of the Hudson River with New York on one side and New Jersey on the other- there is a beauty in the picture of calm hiding a world concerned with an aggressive fight for power and culture of the world if they won. What have they really won? For what real purpose? A lot of words- a lot of sameness- who really remains?

Last night, Paris was attacked-I was very consumed with concern for my family in France- not knowing and, of course, picturing the attack- divorced from personal information – you sit and wait- you haven't spoken with them for some time- what is happening? You are part of the scene, but not so with news reports repeating the same material over and over with no information other than how many dead or injured.

But that is the way it all started on that Friday night, when I was taken to the hospital.

So there you are- on your way to the hospital emergency room- problem is breathing. I have to say that EMS is very efficient and the emergency room personnel are ready to receive you.

They tell you just to breathe, they tell you to live and you lay there until they take you to another room to watch your vital signs- it's boring but necessary.

I had, and have, pneumonia and an infection (they didn't say what kind, so they approach it with a shot gun given with antibiotics), and had some breathing room, and a short time later, so I decided to go home- wrong choice- ended up going back into the hospital and then rehab- where I am now writing this while stabilizing.

So you lay in bed or sit up in a chair, you start to relate your illness with global intransigence. The illness is "King of the Mountain" and the infection is power and control- the ultimate response is political society, conflict, and war, or diplomatic unreality- all politically motivated and politically misguided as reinforcing theological teachings on escalation of selecting one enemy to attack- Israel and the Jews- without them,

who can they or we use?

It diffuses the direction without recognition that there has been an unknowing surrender of the forces to be reckoned with. The inconsistency is adopted without any changes. It's the timing which adds the sparkle to the game- and a game it is- yet who determines the rules of the game- who are the motivators and what are the basis for determination, if any?

Some way or another, everything seems to be falling apart- murder at schools- murder and shootings in the street- domestic violence- suicide murders- life seems to have absolutely no value either to the victims or the perpetrators who are many times controlled by religion or groups- and proselyted through a study of death as a way of life and success of purpose. A global terrorist organization.

How many terrorists were involved in the attack on Paris- how many did they murder? Now look at TV and all the press and evaluate the numbers of police, military responded- overwhelming number- a response not readily calculated – they won by sheer number- truly Eagles of Death Metal (hell of a name of the band involved). They seek to calculate the amount of terrorism- not merely death but the panic which is created.

An interesting contradiction is Europe now labeling the goods produced in settlements as "Israeli settlements" rather than "Made in Israel," unlike the confused existence of those from other nations. What should confound the Palestinians is not the label but the fact that the Palestinians working and making a living for their families are in fact, collaborating and contributing to Israel's economic viability- yet they are not part of the protests or strikes or intifadas- and they are not rejected by their fellow Palestinians nor by others for helping the Israeli distribute their products through the world.

BDS-(Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) ignores any calls for those workers to leave their jobs- to vocally accept the principals of denial. I also find it strange when so-called understanding Jews support BDS to show a feeling which does/ does not reflect their opinions other than that of it looks like compassionate PR. A vital part of any

peace agreement must be economic viability between the two parties who must work together

as partners and not as protagonists in a demilitarized state. On a personal basis- I still believe that confederation is the best association for the parties and adding Jordan and/or Lebanon as a party in the economic confederation with a neutral defense agreement.

It can only be by taking a positive action to benefit the cultures of the Middle East that we will be able to corral those in opposition to ISIS and other Islamic jihadists by coalition military actions contained by religious guides- taking only one approach defeats the opportunity for stabilization in the area or coordinate if you're able- but do it anyway.

Listen carefully and as the words come forth- the one major word will always be MONEY- spend to destroy in war- do not spend it to reinforce long conversations- do not spend it to increase revenue by reducing taxes- spend it only to destroy- to severe control and power- all of this being wrong by defeating any possibility of success.

How can a few have rambling thoughts without rambling about Jews- although the world and the politicians push it and seek to have it a reality- Israel is NOT the Warsaw Ghetto- how is it to be deemed to be the determination of world Jewry- we all think individually but survival requires- obligates- that we must think collectively. This is especially so with American Jewry- be comfortable in supporting the rights of others- while assuming that those rights, which rights must be available to Jews.

It is vital that we don't subvert our rights to political purpose of all others- a Masada without positive result is a Masada of annihilation in a nonexistence of Jewry. No way must we allow that to happen- our non-concern- our non-obligation to stand up and repel world desire if Jewry is to be replaced by another or different score- let it happen- but never on our watch and never by our surrender or our oblivion.



NEC • Capitol Hill Action Day February 10-14, 2016

To make your reservation at the
Crystal City Marriott at Reagan National Airport,
Call 1-800-228-9290 or go online:
http://www.jwv.org/events/nec_capitol_hill_action_day
The deadline to make your reservation is Tuesday,
January 12, 2016.



SCHEDULE YOUR CONGRESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS NOW!

*It's up to us to convince, to educate, and to persuade our
Members of Congress concerning issues important to veterans,
the Department of Defense and Israel.*

Senate Switchboard - (202) 224-3121

House Switchboard - (202) 225-3121

All Federal legislators' email addresses are available at:
www.senate.gov or www.house.gov



Celebration Honoring the Liberators

The Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America Foundation (JWVF) is hosting a Celebration Honoring Liberators on Saturday, February 13, 2016. We seek to honor the members of the Greatest Generation who liberated the Nazi concentration camps before they are no longer with us.

From Normandy to Belgium to Germany; from Warsaw to Berlin – the liberators brought an end to Nazism and cruelty beyond imagination. Their presence saved the lives of thousands, and the comfort they offered cannot be defined. Just as significantly, they preserved and returned with evidence of the savagery that had occurred.

We are pleased to announce that Major General Sidney Shachnow, USA (Ret.), will be joining us as our keynote speaker. The General is a Holocaust survivor who immigrated to Massachusetts in 1950 and joined the US Army after high school. He was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Infantry in 1960 and served as a rifle platoon leader, executive officer and company commander with the



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

Individual seats can be purchased for \$500 which entitles the purchaser to attend the event or donate your seat to an active duty military service member, who will be invited gratis. These junior officers and enlisted military personnel will be chosen from active duty units based at the Pentagon and in the DC area regardless of race, religion, creed, or ethnicity.

JWVF is also offering several sponsorship opportunities for individuals and businesses. For more information or to make a contribution, please go to www.jwvusaoundation.org.

Photo credit: U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration.



Were You A Liberator – Or Do You Know Someone Who Was?

If you are or know of a liberator (whether or not they are a JWV member) please provide the following information to help us compile a list of Jewish liberators so that their names can be recognized.

1. Name:
2. Date of birth:
3. Rank (at that time):
4. Unit:
5. Military Occupational Specialty: (Rifleman, tanker, etc.)
6. Which camp(s) they liberated:
7. Home Town: where they lived when they joined the service:
8. Current contact information: phone, email: (In case clarification or additional details are required.)
9. Picture(s): in uniform. Photos will be returned to you. Submission via email is preferred.
10. If the person is deceased: Date of Death
11. A narrative of what they were doing, what they saw, their thoughts then and now. No more than 500 words, please.

Please send this information to Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org or by mail to 1811 R St NW, Washington, D.C., 20009. Email is preferred.



Photo courtesy of the NMAJMH.
From the collection of Eli Heimberg.

IF WE WERE ALL AT SINAI, WE WERE ALL AT AUSCHWITZ

By Lance Allen Wang

It is an oft-quoted assertion that “we were all at Sinai,” that as Jews we are all practically genetically programmed with the memory of the revelation of the Ten Commandments. At the Seder, we tell the Exodus story in the first person – what the Lord did for “me,” not merely for our forefathers. I’m comfortable with that. However, I believe that if we were all at Sinai, we were all at many of the touchpoints with our history. I was at the fall of the Temple, I was at the founding of the State of Israel. I was at Auschwitz.

Just as I remember our covenant, I remember our tragedies. “Never forget,” which was uttered by many a survivor when I was growing up, is not heard as often anymore. I heard it in Hebrew School all the time. Mrs. Friedman had a numbered tattoo on her arm. I think Mrs. Coleman did also. The Holocaust was part of the gestalt which made up our Jewish education, but there was something immediate and urgent about it. It was still in the memory of the living at that time, although those days are slowly but surely coming to an end.

I found out only in the past 10 years some of the specifics of my great-uncle and his family. There had always been whispers in my family about what happened to many of our relatives in Europe, those who stayed behind during the migrations of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

This revelation about my great uncle personalized the Holocaust for me. As my interest peaked, I noticed how disinterested many other Jews were, which I found frightening. I remember speaking to some close family who felt that such a thing could never happen again, which I found chilling. “Never again!” had gone from declaration of a goal, one which called for eternal vigilance, to “Never again” as a statement of fact.

In addition, I noted a great deal of “Holocaust burnout” among many Jews that I knew, largely those who felt no tie to the European Jewry of ancestors whom they never met, who lived in a world that they could neither imagine nor relate to, and saw it only as a bit of ancient history, as ancient as the Temple. They couldn’t understand why they were being constantly accosted by books, films, and articles which only served to depress them. My 11 year-old nephew, who attends a Jewish school, cringed with discomfort when I spoke of the Holocaust and Great-Uncle Chaim who was murdered in Europe with much of his family. I hope that discomfort takes root, and at some time makes the Holocaust more real to him.

So I continue to study the Holocaust, not only to “never forget,” but also to maintain the experience in my DNA. The scope, the madness, the

horror is still difficult to process. Not only the stripping away of the humanity in the perpetrators, but the destruction of the dignity, the personhood of the victims. The social isolation the German citizens helped create and which made the physical crimes so much easier to accomplish. How does one process such things?

For one answer to this, I turned to science fiction. Many will recall Kurt Vonnegut’s masterpiece “Slaughterhouse Five.” Vonnegut was an American prisoner of war captured during the Battle of the Bulge, who was held in a slaughterhouse (hence the name of the book) in Dresden.



Crematorium at Dachau, June 24, 1945. Courtesy of the NMAJMH. From the Edward Rothchild Collection.

What he witnessed as a forced laborer following the allied firebombing of Dresden was so shocking, so beyond the imagination, that he felt that the only way he could convey his story was through part personal narrative and part science fiction.

The Holocaust, unimaginable by orders of magnitude over the firebombing of Dresden, has found its way into science fiction. Jewish writer Rod Serling worked the Holocaust into his 1950s-1960s “Twilight Zone” on television. His 1961 episode “Deaths Head Revisited” follows a former SS Captain as he visits Dachau after the war, to reminisce on the “good old days,” only to find himself being tried by his former victims. The timing of the episode was hardly coincidental, as at that very time Adolph Eichmann, located and kidnapped by Israeli intelligence, was put on trial in Jerusalem.

Daniel Quinn’s 2001 book, “After Dachau,” posits a future where the Germans succeeded, draining the Reich of all non-Aryan blood. As history is written by the winners, this period in

the far future has seen history re-written where Dachau was a battle and Adolph Hitler the hero of the battle against the Jews. History is seen in terms of before and after Dachau. However, the book also deals with reincarnation, so the memories of the past cannot entirely be buried and begin to emerge.

Harry Turtledove, a writer of pulp science fiction and speculative fiction with a focus on alternative histories, wrote a book in 2003 called “In the Presence of Mine Enemies,” another view of a world where the Germans succeeded. The book focuses on the survival of Jews who hide as gen-

tiles, living a precarious existence because the party narrative is that there are no Jews remaining in the Greater Reich in 2010, when the book takes place. This book does not quite represent science fiction, however his short story “Shtetl Days” does. It shows another future where the Germans succeeded in what they termed the “War of Retribution” – however they maintain “mock Shtetls” where actors portray Jews so people could see how they lived, and then condemned prisoners dressed as Jews become real “victims” in realistic pogroms. However, certain method actors start to become more enamored of the Jewish rituals that they partake in as part of their roles...

Probably one of the better stories of this esoteric genre, Holocaust science fiction, is called “Days of Cain” by J.R. Dunn. It uses the common science fiction device of time travel. In a future where time travel exists, so does a necessary bureaucracy to ensure that travelers do not alter the past. However, someone has decided to at-

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Coming Home

The obstacles of transitioning from military to civilian life can be daunting.

By Justin Katz, Baltimore Jewish Times

The tactics and weapons of war have changed drastically since the turn of the 20th century, and so too has the toll, both physically and mentally, that active duty can take on servicemen and women when they transition out of the military and back to civilian life.

According to the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans, 40 percent of homeless men are veterans, 200,000 homeless veterans sleep on the street every night, and 76 percent of homeless veterans experience alcohol, drug and mental health problems.

“[Soldiers] coming back now have conditions that we never had in prior wars,” said Michael Winnick, director of veteran services at Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.

The JWV, originally named the Hebrew Union Veterans, is a congressionally chartered veteran-service organization started in 1896 due to the misconception that Jews did not serve in the Civil War.

Erwin Burtnick is a retired colonel and holds several titles at different veterans’ organizations. He said the cause for substance abuse with veterans can stem from stress, experimentation while on active duty, how individuals are treated and what they go through during their service.

“If you’re in a vehicle and it gets hit by an [improvised explosive device] and you see body parts go flying, it affects you mentally,” said Burtnick, who pointed to his hat that identified him as a

veteran. “I have teenagers come up to me and say, ‘Thank you for your service.’ Vietnam veterans wouldn’t have worn that hat. They were told, ‘As soon as you get back to this country, get out of your uniform.’”

Winnick, who was issued a bronze star and a “V” device for combat operation and valor in Vietnam, experienced firsthand the public’s reaction to veterans returning home. He was invited to a family wedding, and although he wasn’t in uniform, people at the reception asked him, “How could you kill women and children?”

“I told them ‘I was a medic, I was saving people,’” said Winnick.

Winnick left the Army in 1970, and by then the attitude of the public “was improving, but it

wasn’t by any means what it should have been. You sent people to war, you have an obligation to take care of them.”

Winnick said although they were seldom, there were some positive moments following his service in Vietnam. After walking into a bar at an airport with his friend, a stranger asked Winnick if they were veterans.

“I clenched a fist ready for a fight,” he said. “The guy said to the bartender, ‘Whatever they have, put it on my tab.’”

Winnick didn’t question it at the time, but he thinks the man was a veteran who knew what it was like to come home.

While the public’s treatment of veterans has become less of an issue recently, the transition to home home is still not always easy, specifically for younger members of the military. Rabbi Yonatan Warren is a 4th Battalion chaplain at the Naval Academy, and much of his job revolves around counseling midshipmen on both religious and nonreligious issues.

Warren served in Afghanistan, and he’s had discussions with soldiers about the transition back to civilian life. He said many of them are concerned where they will live.

“For younger people, they tend to go home where it’s comfortable, but some of them joined the military to get away from home,” said Warren. “Some people have left their family on purpose, and now because they are leaving the military, willingly or unwillingly, they may not want to go back, but the only safe place to go is home.”

Homelessness among of veterans is one issue that the Baltimore-based Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training is fighting. MCVET works to provide veterans with transient housing to help them get back on their feet.

Burtnick added that many programs such as MCVET require veterans to be clean of any kind of substances and sober. For some veterans this can be a challenge, but Burtnick emphasized that “you have to meet them halfway.”

Warren added that he serves a diverse population of soldiers, and they all have different concerns based on their ages and backgrounds. He also said that there are some individuals who will connect with him after they leave the military but in those cases his goal “is to help them find [an-



other rabbi or counselor] who has a normal work week in that community.”

Even after an individual knows where they want to live, one of the most challenging issues members of the military face is finding employment. Burtnick explained that although individuals may have strong leadership skills or teamwork, they may not know how to market themselves in the civilian world. This can make things like writing a resume difficult.

“In the military, you command; in the civilian world, you manage,” said Burtnick.

Dr. Harvey Kaplan achieved the rank of colonel in the Army and served on active duty around the world for more than two-and-a-half decades. When Kaplan first retired from active duty there was very little offered by the military in terms of transitioning programs. However, Kaplan was recalled for Desert Storm and ended up retiring again.

By that time the Army Career Alumni Program had formed, which assists military personnel and Department of Defense civilians affected by downsizing and their family members with the employment process. After gaining experience working on a team from ACAP, Kaplan and one of his colleagues decided to develop their own program geared toward older military members.

The classes, which Kaplan is working to host in different venues in Montgomery County, aim to help individuals by giving them all the questions they need to ask themselves “to make a smooth, efficient and meaningful transition into a second career.”

“The first thing we would do [in a class] is stress the need for a total self-assessment: family, financial and personal,” said Kaplan. “We give people the questions they need to answer: What sort of commitment does an individual need to succeed in this process? What kinds of skills and habits do they bring to the private sector? Do you want to work for someone else or yourself?”

Kaplan added that to make a smooth transition, it requires time and planning, especially for older veterans who have spent their careers in the military. He said a well-planned transition can

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MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

The Membership Committee's primary goal for member year 2015–16 is to stabilize membership and maintain roughly the same numbers as last year. To do so, we have set the following sub-goals:

1. Achieve a retention rate of 92% or higher
2. Recruit one new member for every 15 current members. 1 in 15 for 2015!

As they say, make new friends, but keep the old.

To accomplish our goals, we are creating a membership “toolbox” of flyers, posters, letter templates, brochures, etc. – all items that can be tailored to your echelon's needs. These tools are targeted to showcase what Posts do on a local level. After all, it is your presence in the community that will attract and keep members.

The following renewal letter template is a

retention instrument in our membership toolbox. The purpose is to remind those members who have not yet renewed why they should. It must be personal, mailed in a hand-addressed envelope – no labels! Appeal to the member not simply as Post Commander or Quartermaster, but as a fellow JWV member. Provide direct contact information and a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Consider mailing between November and February.



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Answering the question: Why join?

National HQ is nestled in the hip and cultured neighborhood of Dupont Circle in Washington, DC. Dozens of Embassies surround us. Young government workers rush from one meeting to the next. And the National Treasure known as The National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) and the Jewish War Veterans offices shine on the corner of R and 18th street. Occupying the first two floors of our building, NMAJMH provides easy access to the curious passerby.

The Membership Department has file cabinets galore – Post files, charter applications, DD214s, and all sorts of archived history. Uncle Sam points at us from the mail supply shelf: “The Jewish War Veterans Need You,” proclaims the poster.

Indeed, Uncle Sam.

Specifically, JWV needs your story. Because every day, the membership department answers phone calls and emails from prospective members, families of departed members, school teachers, and museums all asking: Why do people join JWV? What makes a member stay active? What's in it for me?

But why does membership matter? How does being a member fulfill you? That is the story we seek to tell. We are working on a new “JWV Brand” and we think your story is the key. We will weave these stories into our marketing and recruitment. Tell us:

1. Why did you join JWV? What program, mentor, moment, duty, etc. inspired you to join?
2. Why do you stick with it? What SINGLE memory, member, volunteer experience, etc. motivates you to represent JWV in the community?

Sample stories:

“I like helping people. I joined BBYO when I was 13 and I've been volunteering ever since. JWV allows me to help veterans, to talk to everyday people about veteran issues, to include my family. My wife always joins me at Poppy Drives. We get to work together to help others. What a welcoming organization!” – Post 65 QM Paul Schreiman, Dept of Nevada

“JWV represents the Jewish veteran like no other veteran group can. Most women who served come under the same scrutiny as our [JWV] founders did...both discrimination and disbelief that we served. Even today, when I show my government ID, I get, ‘Oh, did you serve?’ I have even had clerks call their managers to approve my ID because they did not believe I, a woman, could possibly be a veteran. I want everyone to know that there is honor in serving this great country. With my JWV cap on my head, I

Membership Renewal Letter Template

Dear (First Name),

Greetings from JWV Post (Name and Number)! How have you been? The Post has been busy, (hosting ____/volunteering at ____/planning ____), and we need you! Your membership is important and vital to us, as it enables our programs to thrive and help fellow veterans and active duty personnel.

According to our records, we have not yet received your dues for (member year). If you have already sent dues, could you tell us when so we can correct our records? If you have not yet invested, please use the enclosed envelope to send your payment to the Post. Or, if you have a grievance, please advise us so that we can take corrective action.

More than ever, JWV needs you. On a national level, our membership numbers give weight to our lobbying efforts in Congress. The greater the numbers, the louder the voice. Here in (city/town), your membership keeps our programs going and our meetings interesting! Recently at the Post:

- (Describe a special event. Example: JVC Cohen led an award ceremony to honor local Eagle Scout recipient Ben Rosen. Ben is a senior at Smith High School and he raised over \$3000 to repair the Korean War Memorial in Rock Creek Cemetery.)
- (Highlight a moment from a recent meeting. Example: WWII Chairman Jerry Levy presented on the national Dwight Eisenhower Memorial that has been stuck in the planning stage for several years.)
- (Feature any community collaborations such as work with the Ladies Auxiliary, the local JCC or Federation, or another VSO.)

Don't drop out when we need you – drop IN to the next meeting! (date, time, location).

Thank you for your continued support. Give me a call or send a note with the enclosed dues envelope. We are looking forward to having you back on the roster, (member name).

Respectfully,

(Commander or Quartermaster name)

(phone number)

(email address)

We will continue to add to the membership toolbox over the coming months. If your Post already has quality materials, please share with Membership Coordinator Cindy Chambers. If you have experience recruiting or retaining members for any membership-based organiza-

tion (JWV or otherwise), then give Cindy a call. And, if you have a compelling story about why you joined JWV, send her an email; she may highlight it in a recruitment brochure. You can reach her at 202-265-6280 or cchambers@jwv.org.

Outreach to the Next Generation



By Col. Nelson L Mellitz, USAFR, Ret.
Committee Chairperson

The Jewish War Veterans passed a strongly worded resolution against the Iran Nuclear Deal – Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. (JWV National Convention, Tampa, Florida, August, 2015).

The American Legion followed the JWV lead and passed a resolution against the Iran Nuclear Deal (AL National Convention, Baltimore, Maryland, September, 2015).

The United States and Israel need and depend on a strong Jewish War Veterans. Our organization has been an advocate for veteran and Jewish rights since 1896. I am convinced that JWV must become stronger and continue to lead the U.S. veteran community by retaining and increasing membership, increasing our participation in Post and State level veteran's activities, high schools and universities, Jewish community activities, and in print, broadcast, and online media.

We become stronger through good leadership and continuous training of members in outreach to the next generation. In previous articles I have listed and elaborated on successful JWV outreach efforts and now it is your turn. Send Jordana Green, the National Programs and PR Coordinator, your successful outreach and re-

cruitment efforts and she will forward them to me. You can reach her at jgreen@jwv.org.

Veterans Affairs Reform

In 2014, the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (commonly known as the Choice Act) was passed and signed into law. In 2015, there was a modification to this Act that clarified and enhanced when the Choice Act can be used by veterans at non-Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities. A recent VA Inspector General report outlined numerous and continuous/long-running problems relating to veteran's access to medical facilities and the processing of claims.

There are over 300,000 VA employees in 1,600 locations, caring for nearly 6 million veterans. The veteran population in the United States is 22 million. Changing an organization this large and complex is a challenge that can be compared to laying new tracks to change direction for a train traveling 100 miles an hour and the speeding train is five miles away.

The VA contracted with the Mitre Corporation to assess the implementation of the Choice Act; their report was released on September 1, 2015. Mitre identified four systemic findings that affect VA mission execution: a disconnect in the align-

ment of demand, resources, and authorization, uneven bureaucratic operations and processes, non-integrated variations in clinical and business data and tools, and leaders who are not fully empowered due to a lack of clear authority, priorities, and goals.

The Jewish War Veterans joins with other member organizations of The Military Coalition to request that the President of the United States form an independent, bi-partisan commission, which includes public and private experts on healthcare delivery to examine the entire Department of Veterans Affairs system to ensure that the VA meets current and future needs of veterans. We request an independent commission report that examines where the VA needs to change, so current and future veterans do not have the same problems in accessing medical facilities and processing claims.

As veterans, we are proud of our service to the United States. As Jewish individuals and Jewish war veterans, it is our duty to repair the world-*Tikkun Olam*. I am looking forward to receiving your ideas of how to make the Jewish War Veterans outreach to the next generation successful.

Why join?



E.G. "Jerry" Farris

Speak at schools, synagogues, and veteran groups about women in the military over the ages. As the National Chaplain, I cannot imagine another group so bound by thousands of years of tradition that is always looking ahead to the future. We are all Jews...we know what a mitzvah is and we know how to work as a team to accomplish whatever needs to be done – educating the public and assisting veterans." – Post 239 SVC Jerry Farris, Dept of PA

Send your JWV story to us at membership@jwv.org or pick up the phone (202-265-6280). We are here, processing applications and helping frazzled Adjutants clean up their rosters. Help us keep the voice of JWV loud and proud!

Coming Home

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take up to two years of preparation, and "when a soldier, sailor or airmen only has three months to do it, it's not enough."

Burtnick said many programs at the local, state and federal level have been developed to help veterans with the issue of employment. Organizations such as Hiring our Heroes and Operation Hire Maryland focus on matching veterans with employers looking for the knowledge and experience that veterans have to offer.

While those coming home from active duty may be stationed at a base, when members of the Reserve come home they return to a civilian employer.

Burtnick is the Maryland area chair for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve which is an extension of the department of defense. He explained that when guardsmen (or service members in the Reserve) return from active duty, their former employer is required to rehire them with the same pay, status and benefits if they did not exceed five years of extended active duty.

However, most employers are not aware of this law and unintentionally violate it. ESGR calls employers and tries to get individuals rehired amicably. Most of the time this just means explaining the law. However, if an employer still

refuses even after ESRG has called, a claim can be made with the Department of Labor.

"[The Department of Labor] first tries to get your job back in a nice way — sort of like what we do — but with a hammer behind it. If that doesn't work, they start subpoenaing records," said Burtnick. "They may look to see if this is a policy of the company. Have they done this to others? If it gets really bad, they take it to the U.S. Attorney's office, and it goes to court."

Burtnick emphasized most employers are willing to comply once they understand the law and that many organizations have called him back with questions to ensure the mistake isn't repeated.

While many programs exist on the state and federal level, there are also local organizations that aim to assist veterans. Lisa Terry is the executive director of the Howard County Office of Military Affairs.

The office has been pushing initiatives such as asking businesses to create reserved veteran parking spots, urging the county to construct a memorial monument dedicated to veterans, supporting a Veterans Day parade in Ellicott City and teaming up with local college students who

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SAM GREENBERG, 88, OF KINGSTON

U.S. Navy/Marines, Pacific Theater

Operating room technician

Interview date: April 7, 2015

Greenberg opened and operated Arrow Steel Supply, a structural engineering fabricating plant in Swoyersville, until retiring in 2011. Several years ago, he became a state-certified veterans counselor. He remains president of several local veterans support organizations. He and his wife Barbara have been married for 58 years. They have a son, two daughters and eight grandchildren.

Following his overseas duties, Greenberg helped usher in the ensuing Baby Boom. On his first night statewide at a Naval base in North Carolina, he was summoned for an emergency. He was the only operating room technician on base. Greenberg was washing his hands with scrub brushes when the doctor told him their job — to deliver a baby.

"I dropped the brushes and I said, 'I didn't learn this in hospital corps school! What do you want me to do?'" he said.

Greenberg ended up delivering 103 babies on the base.

The maimed and wounded got less than two minutes on the battlefields in the Pacific.

That was all it took to determine if they could be saved, said Sam Greenberg, who served as a field hospital operating room technician.

"Medically speaking, there's a word called triage. We had 90 seconds to do a triage — or else, we walked away," Greenberg said. "In the operating room, I witnessed everything and anything you could imagine with war wounds. It wasn't pleasant.

"No arms. No legs. Guts falling out. Guys looking, where's the rest of his arm or leg. Blood

transfusions going like water. Suctioning like you were draining a soda out of a straw."

A Wilkes-Barre native, Greenberg left GAR High School early in 1944 to enlist in the U.S. Navy, but transferred to the Marines when he headed off to war.

"Let me tell you, I don't know what it is to be a teenager. This is important. At 17, you go into the service, you're a man overnight. Female, you went into the service, it depends on the age, you're a woman overnight," Greenberg said. "That's exactly what happened. I didn't know what it was to go boozing and drinking because we didn't do those things in those days. You grew up overnight. You were a man. There was no ifs or buts about it."

All these years later, the images and memories of war remain seared in Greenberg's memory.

The Japanese were brutal fighters who fought to the death and tortured those they captured,

translator. They were "buddies," Greenberg said. Then, one day Greenberg said something that raised the German's suspicion.

"You are a ... Jew?" the prisoner asked with an obvious tone of disgust.

"I said, 'Yes.' All of a sudden, night and day difference. He kept turning me into the senior medical officer," Greenberg said. "Every time we turn around, he's reporting me for this, for that."

Decades later, Greenberg was elected as the national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States during the presidency of Ronald Reagan. Reagan invited Greenberg to the White House three times for meetings in the Oval Office.

During his leadership of the veterans organization, Greenberg visited two concentration camps — Dachau in Germany and Auschwitz in Poland.

"I witnessed the building where they smoked



Sam Greenberg, a Past National Commander of JWV, is in the bottom row, second from the right. Saluting are all WWII veterans from his town.

he recalled. He described hearing stories about how they hung U.S. prisoners from trees and performed bayonet practice on them, assuring a slow, painful death.

"They wouldn't surrender. They believed in kamikaze. They were almost as bad as, what the hell it is? Let me fast forward to the 21st century — ISIS. These sons of a bitches thought, 'We're gonna go to heaven and have 15 virgins.' They believed in that," Greenberg said.

Greenberg, who is Jewish, didn't have time to dwell much on Adolf Hitler's effort to exterminate Jews a continent away. His faith didn't become a big issue until after the war while serving at a prisoner of war camp filled with Germans in Edenton, North Carolina. He regularly dealt with a German who spoke English and served as the

them, gassed them to death, to the chambers where they collected valuables. You'd see literally hundreds of pairs of shoes, children's shoes," Greenberg said. "It tears your heart out. It wasn't a pleasant thing to see."

Greenberg reflects back with pride on being part of the force that took up arms to defeat such evil.

"I'm very proud of it. If it wasn't for the Greatest Generation, you and I would be speaking in German, wouldn't we? That's how I look at it," Greenberg said. "If it wasn't for World War II, where the hell would we be today?"

[Article and photos reprinted from citizensvoice.com with permission.]

COMING HOME FROM WAR, THESE VETERANS OFTEN HAVE NOTHING. *Here's how you can help.*

By Dennis McCarthy, LA Daily News

He was a young soldier with an empty duffle bag and a hard luck story.

His girlfriend left him while he was serving in Afghanistan, taking everything of theirs she could fit in her car. Their landlord took the rest.

He cleaned out their apartment and put everything she left behind in paid storage, including all his clothes. The young soldier had no idea this was happening. He was too busy 7,500 miles away in a desert looking for people who want to kill us.

When the storage rental fee went unpaid after six months, all his possessions were sold at auction to pay the bill. He had come home earlier this year to find everything he owned gone.

And now he was standing in a cramped clothing room in Building 22 at the Sepulveda VA looking a little embarrassed as he handed Wynn van Citters a voucher saying he qualified for free, used clothing because he was a low-income veteran.

It was not exactly the homecoming he expected.

"This poor man had been shafted by his girlfriend, his landlord, and the storage company while he was off serving his country," said Wynn, who volunteers in the clothing room three days a week. "What's wrong with that picture?"

Everything.

"I wish I could tell you that was the first time I heard a story like this in the nine years I've been doing this, but it isn't," added the 82-year-old Korean War veteran, who spent four years at Treasure Island Naval Station in San Francisco in the early 1950s helping returning sailors with their discharge papers.



Mort Schecter and Wynn Van Citters help a veteran pick out some clothing at the Veterans Administration Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center, Wednesday, November 18, 2015. (Photo by Hans Gutknecht/Los Angeles Daily News)

She still can't shake the look on that young soldier's face earlier this year when she wrapped her measuring tape around his waist, then mea-

sured his inseam.

"Follow me, son," she said, marching him down cramped aisles filled with donated shirts, pants, sport coats, and suits cleaned and organized by size on the racks. "We just got in some nice clothes your size."

Twenty minutes later, the young man walked out with a full duffle bag. That was the last time she saw him. Even though he was eligible to come back once a month, he never did. She likes to think he's got a new girlfriend and a good job. He doesn't need her clothing room anymore.

While Wynn sorted through a Hefty bag of garments that had just been donated, her co-worker Mort Schecter sorted out the shoe rack, which was bare of size 10 shoes.

"As soon as we get of a pair of 10s in, they're gone," he said. "I think every vet who comes in is a size 10."

Mort, 92, was a tail gunner on a B-24 bomber from 1942 to 1945 in World War II, and now 70 years later, he's still up for a good fight.

Three mornings a week he pays \$5.50 for a round-trip ticket on an access van from his Northridge home to the VA in North Hills, where he works from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In return, he gets a \$7 voucher for lunch.

The VA should be sending a limo for him. It should count its sweet blessings that there are retired men and women veterans, like Mort and Wynn, who ask for nothing but do so much.

The clothing room they spend 18 hours a week in is little more than a walk-in closet — crammed with donated clothing from veterans and service clubs. They'd take more donations if they had room for them, but they don't. The storage room down the hall is already crammed.

If they had more room and better word of mouth, the 120 low-income veterans they clothe every month would be more like 200 or even 300, Mort thinks.

"I know there are hundreds of veterans out there living hand to mouth who have no idea we exist, that they can come to their local VA and get clean, used clothing for free."



Mort Schecter and Wynn Van Citters help veterans in need of clothing at the Veterans Administration Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center, Wednesday, November 18, 2015. (Photo by Hans Gutknecht/Los Angeles Daily News)

When he's in the cafeteria using his \$7 lunch voucher, Mort's always on the lookout for women veterans who may be eligible for the free clothing. None of them seem to know the clothing room even exists, he said.

It's a shame because Wynn fought for years to get a women's section, but her former boss thought it should be strictly for male veterans.

Twenty percent of the military is women, she argued, so she wanted 20 percent of the small space for them. And she finally got it.

There is a rope with a curtain on it strung across their one aisle in the back so the 18 women vets who came in last month with vouchers can try on clothing in privacy.

"Underwear, bras, panties and socks are the toughest items to get because the VA mandates they have to be new," Wynn said. "We're lucky to have the support of service organizations like the Jewish War Veterans and American Legion helping us out, but we could always use more."

So, this holiday season if you're looking for a way to say thank you to the men and women who served this country and are now living on a shoestring, think about Mort, Wynn and all the volunteers in the clothing rooms at the West LA, Long Beach and Sepulveda VA facilities.

Because you know as sure as this war on terrorism is going to last a long time, there are going to be a lot more young soldiers walking into these free clothing rooms with an empty duffle bag and a hard luck story.

To contact the VA clothing room in your area, email vhaglapublicaffairs@va.gov.

[Published November 19, 2015. Reprinted with permission.]

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Grant Coates, the National Sgt-at-Arms of Vietnam Veterans of America, and PNC Michael Berman at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day.



Noted artist and Post 1 NY member Nathan Hilu displayed a number of his drawings at the Post 1 annual kosher Chinese banquet on October 11 at Town and Village Synagogue in Manhattan. Also attending the luncheon was filmmaker Elan Golad who is making a documentary on Hilu. One of Hilu's Army assignments was as a prison guard at Nuremberg. He said he enjoyed telling Herman Goering that he was being guarded by a Jew. Hilu with Post 1 members and patrons and Department of New York leaders; from left: Diana Glass, Edward Baraw, Seymour and Beatrice Beder, Sara Alperstein, Hannah Deutch, Mark Koppelman, Gerard Petite, Miriam Fridman, Linda Singer, Nathan Hilu, Max Alperstein, Petra Kaatz, Joan Ashner, and Michael Menschel. Photo credit: Jerry Alperstein



For over twenty years the Department of Wisconsin and Posts 145, 487, and 701 have participated in the Americanism Awards Breakfast, an annual event sponsored by the Milwaukee County War Memorial Veterans Board of Directors of which the Wisconsin JWV is a charter member. On October 25th they presented two awards. Receiving the awards were Jeffrey N. Gingold, in recognition of his dedication to retelling the stories of history, and Joan Gottsaker, Judi Erickson, and Joni Fay Forber of The Quiet Quilters in recognition and dedication to their dedication and service to Jewish war veterans. Pictured from left to right are Joan Gottsaker, Judi Erickson, Joni Fay Forber, and Department Commander Kim Queen.



Judy Schaffer, from the Heroes to Heroes Foundation addressed a meeting of Post 125 NJ on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015. Shaffer described the efforts of her organization to intervene in support of life, especially in crisis situations. Pictured left to right: Dr. Allan Solden, Vice Cmdr. of Post 125, Ms. Judy Schaffer, President of Heroes to Heroes, Stanley Shapiro, Cmdr. of Post 125, Larry Rosenthal, NJ Dept. Cmdr., and Gerry Levine, National JWV Aide-de-Camp.



Post 757 TX teamed up with Girl Scout Troops #6 and #2298 to put flags on the graves of Jewish veterans in the Austin area.



The 8th grade students at the Jewish Day School in Bellevue, WA, surprised JWV member Robert Shay, Post 686, (right) with a surprise award following his second Veterans Day presentation at the school. This year's Veterans Day topic was Asser Levy's 1654 appeal before the Colonial Court in the New York colony to assert his right to stand guard duty and not be taxed to pay for a stand-in.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Senator Bill Larkin (R-C, Cornwall-on-Hudson) nominated Donald Bernstein, of Post 425 NY, to the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame at a ceremony held in Albany. Photo from NY Senate website.



WWII veterans and Post 756 NY members Alan Moskin (left) and Bernie Storch prior to Alan's being honored as the Rockland County Veteran of the Year on Sunday, November 8, 2015.



Jerry Benjamin (left), Past Commander of Post 256 TX, recently attended a panel discussion on the U.S., Israel, and the Future of the Middle East. This program was coordinated by the Friends of Israel Initiative in conjunction with the Dallas Committee on Foreign Relations and the National Center for Policy Analysis. Pictured l-r: Jerry Benjamin, Col. Richard Kemp, Lt.Col. Allen B. West and the IDF Major General Meir Klifi Amir, National Executive Director of the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces.



On November 1, Post 41 NY, had their annual memorial service at the Rochester JCC, led by Stuart Blume. The Post honored all the local Jewish veterans who died in the last year, whether or not they were members of the Post. The families of the veterans were invited along with Post members. The flag of our nation was presented by Frank Kazdan and his son Ed Kazdan, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lee Kauffman. Other members of the post helping were Post Commander Louis Babin, PNC Larry Schulman, Mort Stein, and Sydney Cohen, Senior Vice Commander Sam Waldman, and Morrey Goldman.



The JWV Department of Nevada, with the great support of Jewish students at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, marched and rode in this year's Las Vegas (NV) Veterans Day parade. It is the largest Veterans Day parade in the West.



Sheldon Goldberg, a JWV member and NMAJMH docent and historian, speaking to a group of K-5th grade students at Ohr Kodesh Day School in Bethesda, Maryland, about Veterans Day, about Jews in the military, and about his service in the Air Force. He also brought his helmet (from when he flew fighters) for them to try on. Their teacher took photos of each of them with the helmet. He wore his "Nite Owl" Squadron "party suit," the flight suit they wore for "any occasion we had to celebrate during the war in Southeast Asia."



JWV members and National Commander (front row, second from left) visited a JWV plaque honoring service members at Levy Park, NY.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Development

PNC Monroe Mayer, Chair

We trust that many of you have seen the new 2016 Calendar celebrating our 120 years of service to all veterans. Within, there is a new two page history of our organization. It takes us from the Civil War vets, who were tired of hearing that Jewish personnel hadn't participated in the conflict between the states, to today's Jewish personnel involved in our latest military endeavors. We hope that you received a copy of our Calendar, as we do know it will be read, put up to see, and looked at regularly. Sadly, as we have written in the past, our Calendar and other premiums we mail are not similar to the paper you are reading. They are not benefits of membership.

If you have not made a financial donation to JWV in the past few years, you may not receive it. Be assured, this Calendar, together with our other premiums such as JWV Mailing Labels and our High Holiday cards, are indeed worthy of your donation. If you haven't been receiving these mailings, then you certainly can call our National Office and ask for our Development Office, and you can make arrangements to secure one or more of this outstanding Calendar, and our other mailings, with a donation.

There is no doubt that at this time of year you will receive Calendars from other organizations. They will have lovely scenery, pictures of animals, or pretty streets where others may live. But, the story our JWV Calendar tells you will find nowhere else. We only ask that you send what you can afford. Just remember, that the basis of the mailings is to keep JWV alive and functioning well into the future. New Jewish veterans are created almost daily, and their future needs your support now. So by donating, you receive a useful, historic Calendar, and know that JWV will continue to exist another day. All we ask is for your support.

Holocaust Committee

Bernhard Storch, National Holocaust Chair

November 11, 1918. On that day, World War I ended. The victorious European countries celebrated that day in schools and teachers delivered special lectures. My father and grandfather got dressed and went to synagogue and prayed that this war had ended and that it would never repeat itself. But as we know, just 21 years later, World War II began. For Jews, it was Kristallnacht, in October 1938, and for the world it was the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. Poland lost the war when the Soviet Union joined Nazi Germany and the three million Jews who lived there became victims, among them my entire extended family.

In 1939, about 120,000 Jews escaped to western Poland, namely the city of Lviv (now part of Ukraine), but were arrested by the Soviets in 1940 and transported to Siberia during the sum-

mer of that year. Many of them died in the camps, the remaining died as soldiers fighting the Nazis on the Eastern Front.

I did not have military experience, therefore I was not recruited to the Western Front. Stalin decided to keep the rest of us and formed another unit to fight only on the Eastern Front. That was how I became a soldier in the first Infantry Division on the Eastern Front, and in the process liberated three death camps in Poland: Sobibor, Majdanek, and Chelmno. We also liberated a concentration camp called Sachsenhausen, with thousands living like human skeletons only 23 miles from Berlin.

This is why it is so important to remember the past.

NMI Certificates

By Hannah Deutch, Chair

I need all of you, Commanders, museum representatives, and members, to speak at your meetings about the National Museum of American Jewish Military History certificates. When I took over a few years ago, we were only selling them at \$10 a copy for an annual total of a few hundred dollars. We then reduced the price to five certificates for \$40. I was happy to report at the last NEC that we cut off at just under \$6,000. Following that, my budget was set to raise \$6,000. The last report I got from the museum on November 6th was that we had only reached \$3,111, of which the JWVA was credited with \$224, leaving us short with \$2,889. We only have about two months left before the next NEC, so please, help raise money for our museum through the certificate program. Chanukah is coming and the certificates make a nice gift with your own message. Thank you for your help and understanding.

VAVS Report

Jerome Berns, VAVS Representative

I have served as your VAVS Representative for several years and have enjoyed helping the VA hospitals with our JWV volunteers. Our work is important to the hospitals, but even more significant to our veterans who are in need. They appreciate our services and so do their families.

Overall, I believe we are doing well, thanks to the JWV members who can volunteer and show that Jews are there for their comrades. However, our volunteers are declining in number. Many of us are not able to keep up at the VA hospitals and clinics due to advancing age and poor eyesight that in turn makes it difficult to drive.

I receive reports from many of the VA hospitals that give us updates on our volunteers.

This past year, volunteers of the JWV donated almost 40,000 hours of their time to assist patients. When I spoke with Yvette Cintron, the chief of Voluntary Service at St. Albans, New York Harbor Healthcare System, she said the Jewish volunteers are a big part of the VA at St.

Albans. Hearing this made me feel very proud.

I also heard from Harry Robinson Jr., Assistant Chief Voluntary Service of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System. Our Jewish volunteers are very active there, and motivated to help. They have raised \$1000 for The Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center.

These volunteers also have supported the VAVS Summer Youth Program as well as other programs. They show their support by donating funds and volunteering with the youth groups to help them become more involved. Our volunteers are lead by Ken Ashworth, Representative and Hershel Sheiness, Deputy. We thank you for all you do. Our success is a reflection of your leadership.

In closing, I would like to reiterate what I always say: by volunteering your time, it shines a light on the Jewish War Veterans and gives us the most exposure of what we do and how we care for our veteran patients. The VA staff, doctors, nurses, and families get to know we are there for them.

Women in the Military Committee

By E.G. Jerry Farris, Vice Chairwoman

We have seen women's roles change a lot over the years, both on the home-front as well as in the military. Now, it seems, those military roles are changing again. Once comfortable in the roles of secretaries, radar observation, and medics or nursing, the military has opened new areas for service by women.

The once "Men Only" jobs of infantryman, combat, special ops, and even SEALs are beginning to slowly open up to women. Recently, a group of women trained alongside their male counterparts in a Marine study of stamina and ability. Much to the surprise of their superiors, although some women dropped out, there were some who not only finished the course, but did just as good as the men- and met all the standards required.

It has been an accepted belief that if one made it through boot camp, they were fit to be in the infantry, artillery, etc. But with women coming into the ranks of these jobs, more than simply volunteering for the job and being able to do a few push-ups or run a distance, it became a concern. New endurance testing has been integrated and now both men and women must endure a very tough and long series of testing. The Marines found there are a number of women who were able to complete it.

Where once no standards for inclusion existed for these jobs, today there are standards, and you are not going to be in the job without meeting them, whether you are a man or a woman. There was a time when women were considered the "average" person, who could not meet the same standards as men. Today we can proudly hold our heads up and say "Oh yes we can!"

Coming Home

Continued from page 11

are interested in supporting veterans through service projects.

Harris Asbeil, who lives in Columbia, achieved Sgt. First Class in the Army. He said the transition from active duty to civilian life was comparable to making the transition from graduating from college to finding a job. However, he credits his ease of transitioning to the degree he had earned before entering the Army.

Asbeil said depending on what job someone had in the military, their skills may be limited.

"In the case of my son-in-law, the only translatable skill set he had was truck driving, and there's need for it, but it's limited," said Asbeil. "My daughter was in personnel administration, and she's working now doing just that."

Asbeil added that his daughter joined the military straight out of high school and now lives in Michigan, where she is studying for her bachelor's degree. He said during his second enlistment he intentionally aimed for a position that he knew would have translatable skills. He ended up working in electronics maintenance.

Many of the veterans and organizations interviewed all stressed that transitioning from military to civilian life is a broad topic. It encompasses much more than simply having a house to live in and a job.

"The guys coming back today are getting hit with different attitudes," said Winnick, director of Veteran Services at JWV. "There are people going out of their way to make sure the guys get the things they need."

Winnick said the cost is expensive, and while no one questions the financial aspect of it, the public is starting to learn one thing about war.

Said Winnick, "Today, people realize you don't stop paying for a war after you pull the guys out."

[Reprinted with permission. Published November 5, 2015.]

IF WE WERE ALL AT SINAI

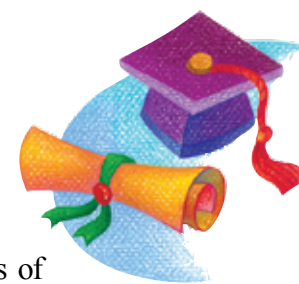
Continued from page 8

tempt to go into the past to prevent the Holocaust, and has done so by infiltrating into Auschwitz as a prisoner.

To understand the Holocaust, and to understand the destruction of European Jewry, is to understand our people. It helps us to understand Israel. To turn away from it because it is too depressing, too horrifying, is to leave ourselves ignorant. Sadly, and inevitably, it also leaves us vulnerable.

Lance Allen Wang is a retired Army Infantry Lieutenant Colonel and Iraq Veteran. He is a Vice Chairman of JWV's Holocaust Committee. Lance is Past Commander of JWV Post 105 NY and is current President of Congregation Beth El in Bennington, Vermont.

JWV NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAMS



NATIONAL YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PROGRAM

Attention all you parents, grandparents and great grandparents who are always boasting with pride about the smart, brilliant and wonderful members of your family who are about to graduate high school and move on to higher education.

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

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

Each year at the National Convention we present four grants.

1. Seymour and Phyllis Shore Memorial Grant..... \$1500
2. Robert and Rebecca Rubin Memorial Grant..... \$1250
3. Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant \$1000
4. Edith, Louis and Max Millen Memorial Athletic Grant \$1000

For further information or to secure an application that contains all the information about how to apply for these grants, contact Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org or 202-265-6280 at National Headquarters or go to www.jwvusafoundation.org and on the homepage, click NATIONAL YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM 2015 – 2016 and print the application. **Applications are due May 1, 2016.**

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

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

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

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

The Grants that will be awarded are:

1. Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grants (2)..... \$2500 and \$1000
2. Max R. and Irene Rubenstein Memorial Grant \$1500
3. Leon Brooks Memorial Grant \$1000

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

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

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

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

Call for Participation

Does your Post, Department, or Council sponsor a local grant for a well-deserving student?

We are compiling a comprehensive database of all the grants awarded by our organization across the nation. Please submit the following to Jordana Green, National Programs and PR Coordinator, at jgreen@jwv.org:

- Detailed summary of grant (amount, who it's from, what the expectations are, etc.)
- Application requirements (transcript, resume, test scores, etc.)
- Contact information of the person responsible for accepting applications (name, email, and/or phone number)
- Where the application can be found/how to get it

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Harvey L. Barash-100 • Scott C. Greenblatt-100
• Andrea R. Howard-100 • Jack Maskowitz-205 •
Allen S. Ross-344

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Abraham Finberg-118 • Elizabeth C. Shaddix-118
• Lowell B. Delbick-603 • Rodrick D. Fox-603 •
Earl Minkin-603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Donald G. Ellis-45 • Karen L. Uberti-51 • Moses
C. Stambler-317

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Lorraine F. Glixon-172 • Elinor Berkovitz-243 •
Joel Mish-373 • Michael W. Naylor-501 • Eugene
J. Friedman-639

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Michael J. Warner-54 • Robert A. Hertz-407 •
Steven A. Kailes-710 •

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Lee G. Wall-644

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

James W. Larson-117 • George B. Kessler-567 •
Leonard A. Maites-567 • Joshua S. Ochs-692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Martin Lesser-26 • Bruce R. Mendelsohn-211

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Arnold Levitsky-135

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Jerry M. Gardberg-65 • Leonard J. Katz-65 •
Abraham L. Levin-65 • Marc F. Reiff-65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Jeffrey C. Kroll-125 • David Egert-178 • Michael
E. Bayer-311 • Bruce J. Sherman-972

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Gerald E. Zuckerman-105 • Gordon N.
Zuckerman-105 • Danyiel D. Brustmeyer-250 •
Martin R. Liebowitz-336 • Martin Rabinowitz-488
• Harold Rosenbloom-488 • Emil Kesselman-717
• Harry E. Pine-717 • Bernard Fradkin-724 •
Stuart H. Cohen-764

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Christopher C. Miller-239

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Alan Brier-23 • Susanna Roberts-23 • Sanford C.
Spraragen-23 • Alfred E. Blank-406

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Robert Wolfson-112 • Moshe Lans-112 •
Ezra Shapiro-112 • Ilya Schuelke-112 • Jason
Taylor-112 • Shelby Luth-112 • Jacob Cohen-112 •
Samuel Gibson-112 • Samuel Leznik-112

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

David C. Kimmel-194 • Mueller D. Kristopher-201
• Jerry Kopff-210 • Holly S. Hiner-619 • Marina
Leonov-619 • Vladinir Leonov-619 • Ronald D.
Siegel-619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Barry L. Goldsten-574 • Walter Heller-574 •
Michael J. Levine-574 • David B. Goodman-618
• Albert Skalovsky-618 • Rachel L. Eckman-749
• Ralph R. Garcia-749

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Andrew C. Buchholz-158

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Phillip L. Solom-701

PEOPLE & PLACES

► A Mazel Tov goes out to **Post 757** Austin's Jr. Vice Commander, **Bam Rubenstein**, who has been accepted to Rabbinical Seminary International in New York.

► **Post 112 GA** donated \$3,000 to the USO! After the presentation, volunteers from Post 112 staffed the airport reception and met with new recruits on their way to Fort Benning.

► **Gene Kanofsky**, a member from the **JWV Department of Nevada**, was nominated to be honored for the Salute to Nevada Veterans. He was selected to be featured on KTNV-TV and KTNV-TV's "The Morning Blend," where he proudly spoke about the JWV National Service Officers Program and the work he does to help veterans get the benefits they deserve. Mazel Tov, Gene!

► **Post 29 IL** member **Lloyd S. LeVine** was honored as "A Hero Among Us" on Veterans Day at the Highland Park Library. LeVine is one of the founders of the North Shore Post.

► **Elliott Donn**, of **Post 45 CT**, was inducted into the CT Veterans Hall of Fame for all the work that he does for JWV and the veteran community. The induction ceremony took place

on November 30, 2015, in the CT Legislative Office Building atrium. Keep up the good work!

IN SEARCH OF

► If you are interested in a talk and book signing about Jewish basketball players during WWII, please contact Douglas Stark at douglas.stark@gmail.com. Wartime Basketball: The Emergence of a National Sport during World War II tells the story of basketball's rise to national stardom during the war years. A particular focus is service basketball on military bases. Many Jewish players such as Red Auerbach and Red Holzman began their careers on military bases.

REUNIONS

► The 11th Airborne Division Association's Mid-Atlantic chapter, and those former members of the 11th Air assault Division, and the 187th Airborne RCT will hold its annual Los Banos meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC on February 21-24, 2016. Please contact Artie Heape at 843-846-4693 or artieheape@centurylink.net, or Herb Shapiro at 410-827-6410 or hlshap@atlanticbb.net for more information.

Online Post 77 Sponsors Brookdale Community College Jewish Student Union Trip



On November 22, 2015, the Roslyn Schulte-Nathan B. Bruckenthal Online Post 77 Monmouth County Chapter 1 sponsored a trip to the Holocaust Museum in New York City for the Brookdale Community College Jewish Student Union.

Brookdale Community College applauds the partnership between Roslyn Schulte-Nathan B. Bruckenthal Online Post 77 Monmouth County Chapter 1, and the Jewish Student Union, for expanding their support for community activities.

Jerry Russell is the Roslyn Schulte-Nathan B. Bruckenthal Online Post 77 Monmouth County Chapter 1 representative and the Administrator of Brookdale Career at Academic Transition Institute and Brookdale's Evening and Weekend Operations.

He put together this trip to the Holocaust Museum in New York and an advertisement campaign to reach those unaffiliated veterans in Monmouth County, so they can become part of the Fallen Heroes Post.

Homeland Security and YOU – yet again!

By Carl Singer, Chairman
JWV Nat'l Homeland Security Committee

As the late Yogi Berra was said to say, “It’s déjà vu all over again!”

Back in February, I wrote, “After the recent heinous attacks in France many of us are feeling a bit itchy about terrorism. We worry about Homeland Security and the possibility of attacks”

Yet again, we have headlines describing terrorist attacks in France. The good news, if we may call it that, is the authorities are on higher alert. We all are!

Recently, I spoke with a friend who is a retired Police Chief. He had taken two of his grandchildren to the movies. He said the first thing he did upon entering the theater was to check out all of the exits. Life is changing as a result of terrorist attacks. Some people ignore the news, others change their behavior – perhaps they choose not to go to a concert, or they fret and worry whenever they are in a crowd. Trust your instincts – if you feel uncomfortable about a situation, act accordingly.

Because we are veterans, people turn to us for leadership and advice. Frankly, despite our military experience, most of us are not trained or experienced in dealing with terrorism and other,

less severe, safety issues. Let’s be ready to help. What follows is a tried and true planning approach that you can implement within your community. Look at it, then tailor it to your needs.

Planning

Securing your buildings and making them safer; be aware of doors that may normally be propped open or a polite stranger who follows you into a building. Also figure out what you will need in terms of training, equipment, etc., in order to successfully implement your response procedures.

Identify and explore realistic threat scenarios, then design and implement response procedures – What can and will you do? Examples of threat scenarios include a suspicious package, an unknown individual surveying your building, an intruder, or an active shooter.

What’s next? – Plan your responses to each scenario

You need to work through your scenarios – what should you do in the event that _____?

If your response requires many to act – say a “lock down” – provide for appropriate training. There is no “one size fits all” solution – but you are better off if you build and train (just like in the military) rather than simply react.

Emergency drills should be planned in ad-

dition to semiannual fire drills, including when and where to shelter in place and for how long, who is responsible for contact to local law enforcement, members of Posts should learn where to exit, where to rally for a head count, and who will provide a list of emergency contact numbers for members if required.

Cooperate with Law Enforcement. Discuss your security concerns with law enforcement. Do it today! Law enforcement may be able to increase their presence at your facilities at appropriate times. Some also host meetings or seminars to discuss security related issues and responses. They may also conduct a security audit of your facilities pointing out possible improvements.

If you see something, say something.

How to Report Suspicious Activity

Public safety is everyone’s responsibility. If you see suspicious activity, report it to local law enforcement or a person of authority.

Describe specifically what you observed, including:

- ✓ Who or what you saw;
- ✓ When you saw it;
- ✓ Where it occurred; and
- ✓ Why it’s suspicious.

Who pays for recovery care?



For JWV members and spouses age 65 and older



Know Your Options! Please call:

1-800-503-9230 or visit www.jwvinsure.com

Hearing-impaired or voice-impaired members may call the Relay Line at 1-800-855-2881.

GET THE FACTS — NOW.

FACT #1 MEDICARE limits the home health care it will pay for.

FACT #2 TRICARE has strict criteria to qualify and does not cover home health aide, homemaker or companion services at all.

ALERT! If you need more than what Medicare or TRICARE covers, you may either pay for it yourself — or go without.

The JWV Hospital Income and Short Term Recovery Insurance Plan can help put you in charge, with CASH BENEFITS for hospital AND at-home recovery care.

- **Affordable JWV-negotiated group rates for members/spouses**
- **Cash benefits paid directly to you or anyone you choose, in addition to any other coverage**
- **Use the money any way you want, no restrictions**

Plan information includes costs, exclusions, limitations, reduction of benefits and terms of coverage. Coverage may not be issued in some states. All benefits are subject to the terms and conditions of the policy. Policies underwritten by Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company detail exclusions, limitations, reduction of benefits and terms under which the policies may be continued in force or discontinued.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We want the National Museum of American Jewish Military History to appeal to everyone. It's great to see groups coming in from synagogues, schools, and other organizations. Many of these groups have no direct connection to the Jewish War Veterans. We love to share the work that JWV does with these folks.

But, the museum needs JWV members to be involved and to be the core of the museum's community. We want every JWV member to support us, both financially and other ways, such as visiting the museum, liking the museum on Facebook, and following us on Twitter. Check

out our videos on YouTube and then pass along the word to anyone else who might be interested.

It's very easy for the support of JWV to have a large impact on the museum. In September, we had a visit from Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126 in Cherry Hill, NJ. It was a pleasure to have their large group in the museum. It wasn't a coincidence when the next month we had another large group visit from the sisterhood of Temple Beth Sholom in Cherry Hill. Since then, we've had several families from Cherry Hill sign in our guest register. After their visit, Post 126 members spread the word about the museum.

I know that it's more of a challenge for folks away from the East Coast to visit. But no matter where you are, help us spread the word! Your voice makes a difference in helping us succeed.



**PNC Joseph Zoldan
President, NMAJMH**

Program Updates By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

It's been great to see a lot of young faces in the museum in the past couple months. On October 31st, we hosted DC Minyan for a tour of the museum and a Shabbat service in our Joshua Goldberg chapel. DC Minyan is a traditional egalitarian Jewish community located right here in our Dupont Circle neighborhood. PNC Norman Rosenshein and Ladies Auxiliary President Freda Rosenshein were in the building to speak to the group about the work of both JWV and JWVA. Docent Sheldon Goldberg spoke about the history of Jews in the military and shared some of the extraordinary stories of Jewish Medal of Honor recipients.

On Veterans Day morning, we had a visit from the National Young Leadership Cabinet of the Jewish Federations of North America. They were addressed by Rabbi Steven Rein, a reserve chaplain in the Air Force, Navy veteran Mark Wolf, and Marine Corps veteran Jason Rubin. They spoke about what it meant to be Jewish in the military, why they joined, and, of course, how to respond to "What's a nice Jewish boy like you doing in the military?"

Later that day we hosted "Do Good on Veterans Day" in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, where visitors put together care packages for veterans. They ex-

pressed their appreciation for the service of vets by writing cards, signing a banner, and recording video messages about why they wanted to contribute to this kind of service project.

We've also continued book talks by hosting Elaine Berkowitz, author of *Live Life... Love Country*. Dr. Berkowitz discussed her work as an Army dentist around the world. Wherever Dr. Berkowitz was deployed, she sought out Jewish experiences. She would try and find services, meet local Jews, and be sure to find her fellow Jewish soldiers for community.

"Do Good on Veterans Day" with the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington



Participants wrote thank you notes on a banner before wrapping their care packages. The banner hangs in the Museum lobby! Over 80 care packages were created for local veterans in need at VA hospitals throughout the afternoon. Participants were also able to tour the museum and ask questions.



At the painting station, kids and adults alike decorated placemats with words of gratitude and Chanukah messages. The placemats were then laminated and placed in the care packages. At the end of both sessions, there was a short question and answer session with a veteran. A huge thanks to JWV members Jason Rubin and Dave Meyers for helping out and sharing your stories.



A local fifth grader who attended "Do Good for Veterans Day" with his family tried on a marine sergeant's jacket from WWII, which is in the Study Collection at the museum. (The study collection consists of uniforms that don't necessarily have a place in the collection but are materials we use for hands-on activities.)

FROM OUR ARCHIVES By Pamela Elbe • Collections, Archives & Exhibitions Coordinator

Sergeant Abe Spitzer was a radio operator who witnessed both the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He served as the radio operator aboard the B-29 The Great Artiste, flying right wing to the Enola Gay over Hiroshima. He was the radio operator on Bockscar, which dropped the “Fat Man” bomb on Nagasaki.

In 1944, Spitzer was assigned to the 509th Composite Bomb Group and trained extensively for an unknown mission. For the better part of a year, the group ran dummy missions to determine just how they would operate, what altitude, and what capacity they could carry. Towards the latter part of their initial program, when they began to activate as an outfit, the group began to realize that they were working on something important but no one could determine what it was.

The Great Artiste served as the blast measurement instrumentation aircraft during the Hiroshima bomb mission, and from that plane Sgt. Spitzer saw what looked like “the sun falling out of the sky and landing on the ground.” It was not until after the Enola Gay dropped the bomb and the planes had cleared the danger zone that Colonel Paul W. Tibbets, group commander and pilot of the Enola Gay, said over the radio, “Well, boys, you have just dropped the first atomic bomb in history.” Three days later, Sgt. Spitzer and crew switched planes and were aboard Bockscar, the B-29 carrying the atomic bomb intended to take out a munitions depot in the Japanese city of Kokura. The weather over Kokura was bad and the pilot made four attempt-

ed bomb runs. Because of the weight of the bomb and the heavy fuel load, Bockscar was virtually unarmed. They had no escort, were the target of anti-aircraft fire, with Japanese fighters attempting to intercept them. Because they were starting to lose fuel and could not see the target anymore (their instructions were to bomb visually), they decided they would bomb the secondary target, which was Nagasaki.

It was not until photos and reports of the destruction at Hiroshima and Nagasaki began to stream in that Spitzer realized how important and historic those two missions were. At home, Spitzer’s wife Esta knew immediately the significance of the bombings and knew that her husband had played a part. In a letter to Abe dated August 8, 1945—two days after Hiroshima—she says:

I wish – I wish – I wish – I wish I knew just how to start this letter, because I’ve been so excited these last two days that I don’t know what to say. The news broke about the atomic bomb and that in itself was so thrilling. I did not connect it with your group at all until last night when Colonel Tibbet’s name was flashed over the radio as the first pilot to drop the bomb. Then, of course, I knew it was your group.... I’ve been so thrilled honey—because it really looks as though we have something this time. Maybe, maybe—with this new bomb and God’s help, this war will be finished shortly.

After the war, Spitzer was co-author with



Sergeant Abe Spitzer

Merle Miller of the book *We Dropped the A-Bomb*, in which he said that the atomic bomb had made another war “impossible.” Spitzer’s wife Esta compiled all of her letters to him, and their son Rich recently donated this correspondence and other materials to the NMAJMH. The Museum is pleased to add Sgt. Spitzer’s memorabilia to our collection.

Honoring Liberators: A Continuing Tradition

The JWV Foundation is preparing to honor the WWII liberators of concentration camps this February. We’ve begun gathering new stories from the surviving WWII veterans who witnessed the camps and reported the atrocities to the world. Fortunately, the museum has had a good collection of these type of stories in our archives for some time. These were primarily collected by Mort Horvitz who acted as guest curator for two of the most successful exhibits in the museum’s history: *GIs Remember Liberating the Concentration Camps* and *Rescue and Renewal: GIs and Displaced Persons*. Mort’s work in 1992 and 1993 created an absolutely tremendous resource for the museum. Along with the two exhibits Mort curated, we’ve been able to reuse the materials for our *GIs Remember* video series which you can watch on the museum’s YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg>.

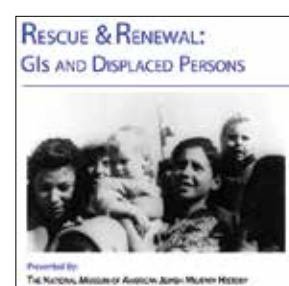
American Jewish liberators played an incredibly important part in the restoration of Jewish

life in Europe following the Holocaust. The stories Mort collected testify to this. Many were interviews Mort conducted himself; some were letters responding to Mort’s solicitation and others were existing materials Mort unearthed. The stories show the sights, sounds, and smells the GIs witnessed at the camps. They illustrate how some of the Yiddish-speaking Americans were often the only ones able to communicate with the survivors. They show the tremendous impact that these often brief encounters with the Holocaust had on the lives of these Americans.

As we honor the liberators, we’re continuing Mort’s work. He was a WWII vet who married a holocaust survivor himself. This work was clearly close to his heart. It’s an honor to be able to continue it.

The *GIs Remember* exhibit catalog includes the stories of Jewish soldiers who were personally involved in liberating concentration camps. They recount their experiences through personal testimony and photographs. This catalog is available for purchase at the NMAJMH gift shop or contact Mike Rugel at 202-265-6280 or mrugel@nmajmh.org.

The *Rescue and Renewal* exhibit catalog describes the rescue of and aid to the survivors of the concentration camps by Jewish GI’s. It is available at Amazon.com in the Amazon Kindle format at <http://amzn.com/B00P6YW436>.



To learn more about Liberators, you can purchase catalogs from past NMAJMH exhibits.



DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Harry Serulneck-100

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DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Sheldon Kohn-141

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Murray Landy-210 • Carol Lewin-210

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Herbert Gansar-580 • Sidney H. Lazard, Sr.-580

We Regret the Error

We regret that Mr. Alvin Applebaum of St. Louis Heritage Post 644 was incorrectly listed in Taps in the Fall 2015 issue of *The Jewish Veteran*. We are delighted to report that he can be counted as an active member of his Post. We apologize for the error.

JWV Honor Guard: A Program For Every Echelon

In blue blazers, white gloves, and JWV caps, the Department of Michigan Honor Guard marches to another fallen hero's gravesite. Nineteen members in all, the Honor Guard appears at any Jewish veteran's funeral in the Detroit area, regardless if s/he was a JWV member. In 2015 alone, they have attended 30 funerals; some years they attended over 50.

Their ceremony, in lieu of, or in collaboration with, a US military honor guard, includes:

- Marching in formation to the casket
- Saluting the fallen hero
- Reading two memorial poems, such as "It is the Soldier" by Charles M. Province, "Bivouac of the Dead" by Theodore O'Hara (from the gates of Arlington National Cemetery), or "The Last Soldier" by Alden Solovy
- Flanking the casket at the close of the funeral and playing TAPS

The Honor Guard may be the longest-lasting program in the Department. In fact, in recent years the local Holocaust Museum invited them to be the Color Guard for all major museum events.

How has this great service program flour-

ished? Department Senior Vice Commander Joe Goldring offers these strategies:

- Every Jewish Funeral Director in the metro area has his contact information
- JWV maintains a presence at the VA Hospital, which has led to a seat on board of the newest VA Cemetery
- As members pass, the Department recruits others to fulfill the duty of Honor Guard – never having fewer than 15 members involved
- Stay active in other community service projects, such as feeding homeless veterans or maintaining a memorial wall, to keep JWV visible
- Develop a uniform and ceremony, so that funeral directors and families know what to expect
- Write in the guest book at each funeral, including contact information. Appreciative families will spread the word

Honor Guard participants "do it out of the goodness of their hearts, to make the families feel wonderful and comforted," explains Goldring.

The Honor Guard receives letters every



JWV Dept. of Michigan member Marc D. Manson reading a memorial poem at a veteran's funeral service.

month from the family and friends of the deceased. "It was such a special gesture you gentlemen did for our Dad," the daughter of a recently departed veteran wrote.

Along with words of gratitude, the Department often receives donations. Donations go back into the fund for placing flags on graves and hosting events at the VA.

Consider establishing an Honor Guard in your Post or Department. It is an invaluable service to the community – and, as Goldring says, "good for the soul."



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Happy New Year!

As the New Year approaches us with hopes anew, we wish you and your family a wonderful year ahead.

Allan Abramson & Wife Sheila

Happy Days and Good Health

Jerry & Sara Alperstein

Paul & Marion (Gitelson) Ash

IMO Aaron Gitelson • Post 258 NY

Eugene Baraw • Post 336

Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ

Chag Sameach

Howard A. & Dorothy G. Berger

Naples/Denver • USFA/USASETAF

PNP Joanne & NC Jerry Blum

L'Chaim

PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749

Marshall & Diane Duberstein

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In loving memory of Lorraine Engelmann

God Bless America!

Sidney B. Goldberg, PDC NY

Abe Cohen-Lehman Memorial Post 50

PNC Nate & Selma Goldberg • Albany NY

PDC Herb & Beth Gopman • Dept. of FL

Alan J. Gould Post 105

In Memory of Sam Gould, Post Cmdr.

PNC Sam & PNP Barb Greenberg

NEC Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321

In Memory of Those Who Have Served

In Loving Memory of Harry & Yetta Israel

In Memory of Sid & Florence Israel, USMC

Jewish War Veterans USA Post 1

Our Original Post

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health

Happy Holiday!

PNP Petra C. & Jason A. Kaatz

Cmdr. Larry Kaufman & the Veterans

JWV Post 46 • Somers, NY

Mark I. Koppelman, CMDR

Bell Oak Post 648 • Queens, NY

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky

Happy Holidays

PNC Sheldon & Judy Ohren

PCC Hon Harold & Maggie Rosenbaum

Good Health for All & Peace in Israel

Jerry & Lea Rosenberg • Post 740 NJ

Good Health & Happiness to All

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth

Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

NP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein

Good Health & Happy Holidays

PDC Murray Runin • Post 191

Stephen & Helen Sax

Irv Schildkraut PPC Post 440

USMC-USNR-USA

Harriet & Norman Schnitzer PDC

PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman

Our Very Best Wishes to All

PPC #730 10yrs. Marvin & Pearl Simon

"Veterans" a name to be Honored

PDP Linda & Stuart Singer

In memory of PDC Bill Singer

PPC Norman & Toby Smith • Post 129 NY

Toda Shalom & Good Health to all JWV

Chaplain Murray & Clare Stadtmauer

Bell Park Post 648 • Queens, NY

Greta & Jerry Stoliar • 346 St. Louis

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NJA Harvey & Linda Weiner

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To all our troops • Be safe, be well!

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