



# THE JEWISH VETERAN

Volume 69 • Number 3

## Jerome Blum Elected National Commander



Jerry is a life member of the JWV John L. Levitow Post 45 CT. A Vietnam veteran, he was assigned to the USS Vance, a Destroyer Escort Radar Picket Ship.

Jerry has held numerous JWV positions, including Post Commander, Department Commander, and Department Quartermaster.

In his spare time, Jerry is also a member of many other veterans service organizations, and is very active in his synagogue and Relay for Life. He is looking forward to serving JWV as your National Commander.

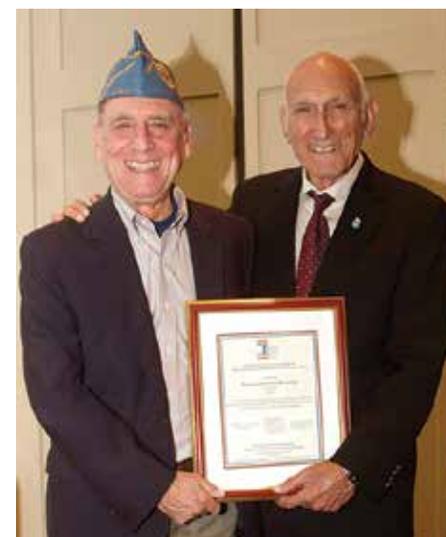
## 2015 Convention Highlights

Despite the rain, Jewish War Veterans members gathered in Tampa, Florida, for JWV's 120<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention, while the Ladies Auxiliary met simultaneously for their 87<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention. JWV would like to thank all speakers, participants, attendees, volunteers, and staff members for their help in creating such a great event.

The week began with a rainy Monday morning bus tour of historic Ybor City, which was founded in the 1880s by cigar manufacturers and populated by thousands of immigrants, from countries such as Cuba, Spain, and Italy. The sun came out for our afternoon at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, home of a dolphin named Winter, the star of the movie *Dolphin Tale*. The Aquarium rehabilitates marine animals, such as sea turtles and otters, before releasing them back into the wild.

This year's Convention included many interesting speakers with diverse backgrounds, including Joyce Loftin of the Florida National Cemetery, Lindsay Roberts of the Veterans Crisis Line, Dan Cohen, author of the newly published *Single-Handed*, about Jewish Medal of Honor recipient Tibor Rubin, and Marc Liebman, a former Naval Officer and Naval Aviator, who transformed his love of writing into a career and is also a member of JWV.

Retired Marine Corps Major General Arnold Fields spoke about his work with The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration program. He and his colleague, Lieutenant Commander John Supple, presented all the Vietnam Veterans in attendance with lapel pins, and profusely thanked them for their service. They also were special guests at the Vietnam Veterans



PNC David Magidson, left, and Major General Baruch Levy.

Committee meeting, where they conducted a question and answer session. They both thanked JWV for being a national partner with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Committee.

Major General Baruch Levy, Chairman of TZEvet, also joined us at Convention to offer a briefing

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## Vietnam War Commemoration

The Jewish War Veterans is very fortunate that Retired Marine



Major General Arnold Fields.

Corps Major General Arnold Fields and Navy Lieutenant Commander John Supple of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, part of the US Department of Defense Office of Commemoration, were able to join us at Convention.

The keynote speaker for the second business session, Maj. Gen. Fields shared his thoughts on the importance of commemorating the Vietnam War and reaching out to all 7.2 million Vietnam era veterans and their families. "The American people realize, as do I, that we have

some things to make up for. We need to reach out and thank and honor our Vietnam veterans" he emphasized, before surprising the audience and treating them to a stirring rendition of "No Man is an Island," based on the poem by John Donne.

Maj. Gen. Fields noted that we now "recognize the aftermath of the Vietnam War, but when our troops came home, my brother among them...they saw more combat there in one year than I saw in my entire Marine Corps service. They came home in circumstances we did not

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## THE JEWISH VETERAN

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# YOUR LETTERS

## New Programs For Posts

Due to the accelerated demise of the World War II, Korean and Vietnam veterans, there is a widening gap from the Middle East, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Time has now come for the National Jewish Veterans to rethink and re-adjust our Post meetings to the present views and needs of the younger generation of veterans. As Commander of JWV of Maryland Post 167, I have adopted a new, improved program format that has been initiated for more livelier, interesting, participating and informative meetings. The meetings will be FORMAL/SOCIAL and will include current events and open floor discussions. Another addition will be "Front and Center" featuring members relating stories about their service experiences. We will encourage all newer Veterans to join JWV to carry on traditions, camaraderie and the future of the oldest Veteran organization in the Nation.

Frank Bressler, Commander, Post 167 MD

## Regarding Tibor Rubin

I enjoyed Michelle Melinger's recent article regarding a California library being named for Corporal Tibor Rubin.

However, I need to correct a statement in the article that "During service in the U. S. Army in Korea, Rubin was faced with anti-Semitism of his unit's commanding officer who frequently, purposefully put him in harm's way." In Rubin's recent biography SINGLE HANDED, it states that two of Rubin's commanders recommended him for the Medal of Honor for 2 different acts of heroism. They were NOT anti-Semitic. Both commanders were later killed in action. The anti-Semite was his first sergeant who, as she correctly states, refused to submit the paperwork. He was also the person who consistently put Rubin in harm's way, not his commanders.

I am proud of the efforts of Herb Rosenbleth and Jewish War Veterans and Rubin's wartime friends to see that finally, after 50 years, Rubin was presented the Medal of Honor he so richly deserved.

David R. Bockel  
Major General, USA (Ret)

## Thank you Mike

I wish to thank the Jewish War Veterans for helping my husband and myself throughout the past few years.

Most of all I wish to thank Mike for his professionalism, compassion and assistance in helping us.

My husband died in April 2015. He was an Army World War II veteran on disability. Mike made sure that I had everything I needed to sustain my life. He gave so much of his time to explain all the benefits that were available to me.

I am very much indebted to the Jewish War Veterans and to Mike. May you all continue to do such good work.

Name withheld upon request

[Editor's Note: The program being referred to is the National Service Officer Program.]

## Museum Visit

On behalf of our Commander Len Markovitz and those on our recent bus trip to the museum, we thank you and your staff for the excellent tour. We commend you on the improvements and updating at the museum. The majority of those on the trip were gentiles who we felt should be aware of Jewish Men and Women in the service of our country. We also visited The Holocaust Museum, again for their awareness of the horrors of Hitler and his henchmen on the Jewish people.

Jerry Kim  
Adjutant, Department of Delaware



Visitors from the JWV Department of Delaware enjoyed their visit to the museum.

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# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Jerome Blum



L'Shana tova, PNP Joanne, my family, and I wish everyone under the great umbrella of the Jewish War Veterans, JWV Auxiliary, and the National Museum of American Jewish Military History a happy and a sweet New Year. May you all be in the best of health and may G-D bless us all.

I can't begin to express the appreciation I feel towards my brothers and sisters who not only voted for me, but who have supported me along the way. Thank you to my wonderful committee people from Connecticut and Massachusetts, and those from many other states who pitched in. Thank you Ed Goldwasser for your help with the hospitality room(s), and thank you to Norman Rosenshein for all of your guidance. I could go on and on, but you know who you are – thank you all. My hat is tipped to PNC Maxwell Colón who has been a gentleman. It is my privilege to follow him as I begin my year's journey. I would be remiss if I did not also mention all of the Past National Commanders who have preceded me. Most PNCs remain active and I look forward to continuing this tradition, and keeping our fine organization going in the right direction.

Having said that, we must not rest on our laurels. We are charged with keeping JWV relevant and 'young.' We need new young members, we need old 'young' members and we need all of the support that Patrons provide. I think that echelons should consider a public relations position if they do not already have one in place. You know all

that you do! Your members, families and maybe even your friends know much of what you do! But, how much of what happens in your post or department, etc. actually gets out to the public? The public domain is where potential members are just waiting to hear about us. Spend a little of your budget and make something happen. And oh yeah, it never hurts to just ask someone.

And please, along with membership, focus on the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. I encourage all who have not yet seen the updated displays to please make an effort to do so. And if you are planning a group visit, please let the museum know-you'll be welcomed.

If you're reading this, I don't have to tell you that the museum is our Legacy. In ten or twenty years from now, even if we do not get an infusion of younger members, how will we be remembered? I recall when we lost our last WWI member. How will we be remembered? When The Greatest Generation departs, how will we be remembered? Know that membership is open to individuals (relatives, friends, etc.) and echelons (posts departments, etc.). And also tell everyone that your JWV membership DOES NOT include museum membership!

I am looking forward to working with Madame President of JWVA, Freda Rosenshein. I am sure that we will have a fantastic year together.

My "slogan" for the year is, as many know,

"JOIN WITH JERRY." I hope that everyone will take this to heart. I wanted to make a statement that would show my love for JWV, all JWV Warriors, JWV Auxiliary sisters, Patrons, and all the good folks that help run the organization and make it what it is. "Join with Jerry" most of all means that despite our differences, we can-and we will-continue to work together for the goals as set forth in our national constitution. I also hope that "Join with Jerry" shows that I am willing to go anywhere that my schedule (and budget) will allow. I am anxious to meet people and see how JWV operates in many different locations. No echelon is too small for me to visit. Large or small, we are all part of JWV and all are important.

In conclusion, I want to say how proud I am of the stand we took against the Iran Deal. This might be one of the most important resolutions since the 1933 march against Nazism in New York. Many other veterans' organizations will be looking to JWV on this one. And while I'm on a roll, congratulations to the Resolution Committee. There are many people on this committee, all of whom work very hard. Good job, all.

Remember, in the end all you have is family, and we are all family.

## Military Coalition Honors Three For Their Commitment To Veterans

On September 10, 2015, The Military Coalition (TMC) held its annual award ceremony to present its highest honor, the Award of Merit, to Senator James Inhofe (R-Okla.), Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) and Representative Joe Heck (R-Nev.) for their commitment to protecting the interests of military personnel, veterans, and their families. JWV Executive Director and TMC President Colonel Herb Rosenbleeth emceed the event, welcoming attendees from across Washington, D.C.

Senator Inhofe and Senator Mikulski were essential in preventing the Pentagon from privatizing commissaries at five major installations next year via a bipartisan amendment to the Senate's 2016 defense bill. Senator Inhofe is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Senator Mikulski is the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, where she helped reinstate \$322 million in funding for the commissary program.

As Chairman of the Military Personnel

Subcommittee, Representative Heck worked to protect military pay and benefits from budget cuts. He stated, "I am glad to be in a position on the Military Personnel Subcommittee that allows me to have a direct impact on the lives of our men and women in uniform, their families, our veterans and survivors."

TMC also presented its 2015 Freedom Award to Mr. Anthony Lazarski, a senior advisor for Sen. Inhofe, who helped rally support to pass the Inhofe-Mikulski commissary amendment.

NC Jerry Blum and PNP Joanne Blum were also in attendance as a representative of JWV. PNC Bob Zweiman has been a proud member of TMC since 1991 and is their longest serving board member.

Over 5.5 million active duty personnel, reserve, retired, survivors, veterans, and their

families are represented by the 31 organizations in The Military Coalition.



Representative Joe Heck, second from right, was one of the recipients of this year's Award of Merit from The Military Coalition. From left, Colonel Mike Hayden of the Military Officers Association of America, JWV Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth, and Morgan Brown from the Air Force Sergeants Association helped present the awards.



Now in our 120<sup>th</sup> year of service to veterans, JWV began with those who fought in the Civil War, down to those serving on active duty or Reserves today. The current members met for our annual Convention in Tampa, Florida, this past August. From the oldest to the youngest, the dedicated members of our Posts and the National Ladies Auxiliary gathered again for the purpose of continuing our needed activities to maintain benefits to all veterans. The Committee meetings either met together or separately, while both attended their own National Executive Committee meetings. There was a joint opening of the National Convention. We were greeted by guest speakers, who are reported on elsewhere in this issue, while new Auxiliary President Freda Rosenshein was elected and installed, and the NMAJMH re-elected Joseph Zoldan for the ensuing year as its President. Jerry Blum was elected and installed

as the next National Commander.

The new National Officers will be reported on elsewhere, but thanks has to be extended to the National Staff who worked diligently to insure we had a successful Convention. Herb Rosenbleeth, our Executive Director, was present along with Greg Byrne, Christy Turner, Cindy Chambers, Julia Lasher, and Jordana Green, and Mike Rugel.

Committee meetings were held during the days of the Convention, such as Constitution & Bylaws, Resolutions, IT, Dept. Commanders and many others. Everyone was kept busy, from early in the day, beginning with Morning Minyan, led by Chaplain Jerry Farris of the Department of PA, to late night dinners, but we all agreed with the old phrase, “a good time was had by all.”

Some might think that with an aging membership the amount of dedication and performance

might be negatively affected. However, that was certainly not the case at this National Convention.

The meetings were all well attended, held thoughtful discussions, and certainly differences of opinion occurred, but the results indicated that our Organization is still alive and well. One of the final moments, though, we sadly, had to accept the resignation of Marty Greenberg as our National Officer of the Day.

By way of reflection, it was a well attended Convention, and everyone seemed to have accomplished quite a bit, while simultaneously having a good time. There will be much information to take back to the Posts, Councils and Departments. We are now looking forward to our convention next year in Savannah, GA.

## Medals of Honor Right a Wrong of 100 Years

By Richard Goldenberg, Associate Editor  
Post Adjutant, Albany Post 105

“Anti-Semitism hurts. This rights a wrong. All is forgiven,” Elsie Shemin-Roth commented to me, a preview of what she intended to share with the President the following day. “It is just eleven words,” she said, but were powerful in their description of her emotions on receiving the Medal of Honor on behalf of her father, Army Sgt. William Shemin for his heroism during World War I on June 2, 2015.

I was especially moved by those words as a soldier and as a Jew, and I was honored that Elsie shared those words with me. She was similarly thrilled in finding yet another member of the “tribe” serving in uniform at the Medal of Honor ceremonies at our nation’s capital.

I was in DC in my role as Public Affairs Officer for the New York National Guard and I had the honor to help represent our Soldiers for the second Medal of Honor posthumous award-ee, Sgt. Henry Johnson, of the famed Harlem Hellfighters 369th Infantry Regiment.

President Obama recognized the two American Soldiers for their valor in 1918, showing that our Army lives up to its values, even if it takes 97 years.

“It has taken a long time for Henry Johnson and William Shemin to receive the recognition they deserve,” the President said. “The least we can do is to say: We know who you are. We know what you did for us. We are forever grateful.”

I felt a unique pride attending the White House and Pentagon ceremonies, watching the



President Barack Obama bestows the Medal of Honor to Army Sgt. William Shemin, which was accepted posthumously on his behalf by his daughters, Elsie Shemin-Roth, middle, and Ina Bass at the White House, June 2, 2015. JWV Department Commander Erwin Burtnick from Maryland played a key role in guiding the family through the process. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Bernardo Fuller.

medal presentations to both the Shemin family and the New York National Guard’s most senior enlisted soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Wilson.

As a soldier, it was great to see our nation “walk the walk” of the values we instill in our young soldiers, no matter the passing of time.

I learned of the history and accomplishments of our Army’s African American troops as a young officer, when I served in the Army’s 9th Cavalry Regiment, one of the historic “Buffalo

Soldier” regiments of the American West and San Juan Hill.

With that background, I have tremendous compassion for the discrimination and contempt that Sgt. Johnson and the soldiers of the Harlem Hellfighters, the “Black ratters,” must have felt back then. What seems shocking to us today was not an uncommon view a century ago.

So too was the case of misperceptions of Jews in uniform. When America entered the Great

*Continued on page 18*

# COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee

## NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION -IMMEDIATE & AUTOMATIC



August 6, 1945-Hiroshima: 90,000 to 146,000 dead

August 9, 1945-Nagasaki: 39,000 to 80,000 dead

August 14, 1945: Japan surrenders thus ending World War II

Projected American Invasion Loss: 193,000 US casualties, including 40,000 deaths

As a result of the introduction and deployment of two new atomic weapons, hundreds of thousands of American invasion troops did not die or sustain injuries in a war with Japan in WWII. That's one hell of a clear-cut result-at least from the point of view of American mothers and fathers!

You might try to convince those parents to make such an offering or to substitute their children to fight the war without wasting the store of effective weapons available, thus saving all of the new kinds of weapons possibly for more important later use. We can never mimic ISIS nor must we ever accept it as a budgetary consideration.

I can see it now-the usual picture on the newspaper front page of the very cute disheveled baby in the middle of the bombed-out street in an atomically destroyed city with a condemnation of America's unfeeling and inhumane treatment of collateral damage-"dead civilians"... "you American bastards"... why should they even consider their people when the US already have written off a certain number of your own troops as cannon fodder.

We dropped the bombs and, other than in development testing, neither we nor other bomb holders have dropped them again in any conflict-not in Korea-not in Vietnam-not in Iraq or Afghanistan-not in Europe, where we engaged in a mutual standoff with methodology such as MAD, Flexible Response, and the Marshall Plan-it was fear which created the calm.

Read the cold numbers above and you will find them to be dry and meaningless to most people who read or who avoid reading them while being unable to equate them with reality. But, from my point of view, now and in the past, the deaths and injuries suffered by the American troops are also "collateral damage" and not merely part of "the cost of war"-if you don't believe it, ask those who suffered death and injury in the bombings of London, Tokyo, Dresden, and many more. "Collateral damage"

and the "cost of war" are in fact and in an ultimate truth the same thing-you are dead either way-except that the troops are better trained to die.

In addition to regular wars, we have always had the benefit of dying in conflicts from sources as varied as genocide, religious infighting, territorial conflicts, and the many other excrements coming from the ego, pride, power, and control experience. You end up putting them into different categories since they had been created to involve personal and tribal reactions.

Can you just imagine that with all of the sophisticated improvements developed since the two simple atomic bombs we dropped and with a coterie of additional new methodologies for destruction developed in cyber space and other goodies-just try to think of what we have to look forward to in killing each other?

With the expansion of technology we may, in the near future, find ourselves using nuclear policy solely as a simple non fossil energy source for residential, industrial, and commercial power. All of that while we continue to murder civilians and troops in a more sophisticated and efficient fashion.

Now, we are entrenched in a debate on a proposed agreement with Iran on the peculiarly single issue of nuclear weaponry. It has fractured the American Jewish community and has become a political extravaganza. It appears at this time-counting votes-that the US will be a signatory.

So does the possibility of delaying Iran's production of nuclear weapons for ten or fifteen years while, at the same time, allowing them to buy the weapons elsewhere, using released sanction funds to pay for the terrorist groups in carrying out their deceptive actions with impunity and with a number of other agreement provisions which were limited in scope? Verification by an international agency is played as an unyielding protection to cover possible nuclear weapons being created.

The ever present assertion of "an eye for an eye" has never left the forefront of defense strategy and still stands out for consideration in assuring non-nuclear weaponry. Whether it's "for" or "against"- "yes" or "no" just seems to be irrelevant to the decision being made. That does not mean that we should reject the strategy of nuclear retaliation in an immediate and automatic response.

We must make use of immediate and automatic responses with conventional and nuclear

weapons depending on the nature of the attack or intended attack. All of this

response must be accomplished without any discussion, negotiation, or opportunity for delays from attackers or suppliers or fund providers of the weapons-a clean response with immediate death to the attackers.

All of this must be in place before the release of any sanctioned assets and the verifications of nuclear assets and sites. Site targeting must be an open and transparent, showing the defined sites to be destroyed, deaths to be anticipated and an open teaching of civilians and troops on a regular basis, making them a definitive part of the resultant destruction.

Let's see how that would work. The usual example which is thrown at me is that if Iran has the nuclear weaponry, their first attack would be the elimination of Tel Aviv in Israel. If the response were in operative condition, it would be both automatic and immediate with the obliteration of Tehran-or hopefully, be able to destroy the missile as it travels in air. The target sites would be disclosed so no one could claim to be ignorant of what and where the first response would be.

Diplomacy would be an afterthought. The credibility of such a strategy together with a strengthening of America's influence and global position would help us to stabilize areas. In the Middle East, we would strengthen our influence with the Kurds and a secular Egypt and avoid being subservient to the oil barons of Saudi Arabia and the oil Gulf nationals. Oil and American oil companies no longer should command US policy and constraints should quickly be placed on lobbying in American politics.

The agreement with Iran may have afforded us with an opportunity to openly evaluate our strategies and whether there is a good or bad deal, which should be taken advantage of by us. If we don't, it is not merely a bad deal, it is a horrible one. We should not continue on a track of being an easy mark as we are now-let us move very slowly-we cannot pat ourselves on the back while Iran shoves it up our backside when we bend over. Now is not the time to wimp out!

# MAKE A DEAL AT ALL COSTS WITH IRAN? NO THANKS.

By Lance Allen Wang, Albany Post 105

“U.S. military officials in Iraq tell ABC News that a rocket used in an attack on coalition headquarters at Camp Victory Tuesday was made in Iran. Officials say the rocket, which narrowly missed its target, was fired from an area of Baghdad controlled by Shia militia leader Moqtada al Sadr.”

On September 11, 2007, a 240-millimeter rocket thundered like a freight train over Victory Base Complex in Baghdad, Iraq, narrowly missing the building I was in and landing with an ear-splitting explosion about 300 meters in front of the Al Faw Palace, home of Multi-National Force - Iraq.

“The attack wounded 11 coalition troops and killed one foreign worker.”

The impact blew a crater approximately six feet deep and six feet wide in the asphalt and concrete in front of the palace, but worse yet, blew a third-country national off his bicycle to the pavement, where sadly, he bled out. An American Sergeant Major suffered grievous injury, and although she lived, her life was changed forever. A first responder to the scene cracked under the strain, and remained sedated for weeks. As for myself, other than coughing up plaster dust for a while, I was fine. Within days, news of the attack was on national media – an attack hitting that close to General Petraeus’ headquarters was considered news. The fact that it was such a large caliber rocket was considered significant. Most importantly, the identity of the weapon supplier – Iran – was a headline.

“Officials say Maj. Gen. Kevin Bergner, the spokesman for U.S. forces in Iraq, will display fragments of the 240mm rocket -- complete with Iranian markings -- at a press conference in Baghdad Thursday.”

Iran, in the past decade, engaged in a proxy war with the United States. This is not uncommon. Proxy wars take place all the time. The Cold War was practically a clinic on proxy wars. We didn’t have to face the Soviets directly; we each periodically had client states to do the fighting for us. The Soviets were facing off against insurgents in Afghanistan who were armed by the United States. We faced off against North Korea and North Vietnam, armed by the Soviets and Chinese. Well, we faced off against Shiite insurgents armed by the Iranians in Iraq. Not only did they provide large caliber rockets, but they also provided devilish little devices called explosively formed projectiles (EFP’s) which gave the standard roadside bomb a whole new potency, defeating much of the improved armor on our otherwise light-skinned vehicles. They killed many of our soldiers and maimed others for life.

Less than five years later, with the smoke still



clearing in a historical sense, our President, in the interest of “legacy,” has inked a deal with the Iranian leadership which he believes will delay their acquisition of a nuclear weapon for 15 years. Whether this is an example of Chamberlain-esque naivety, poor judgment, an inability to negotiate or a combination of the three remains to be seen. Fundamental to negotiation is good faith and trust. Looking at the events of the past decade, I find it hard to believe that there is any basis whatsoever for trust, especially with the stakes so high.

Of course, Israeli Prime Minister “Bibi” Netanyahu has warned of this, however, as he has now become a lightning rod and a pariah to supporters of the deal, his misgivings are rapidly politicized and dismissed. Sadly, for the past six years, being an American ally has not exactly been a guarantee of protection, safety, or even a seat at the table. America’s foes have been brazen in their boundary pushing, literally and metaphorically, during the Obama administration. Despite security guarantees dating back to the Clinton administration, Vladimir Putin has retaken the Crimea at the expense of Ukraine, who continues to fight Russian-sponsored rebels. Syria’s President Assad put the lie to Obama’s “red line” regarding the use of chemical weapons. Although sanctions have backed Russia’s economy into a corner, and militarily, Syria’s regime continues to struggle to survive, we have been unable to parlay either situation into an advantage for ourselves and our allies. Critics have called our foreign policy “feckless” – and I’m inclined to agree. No wonder ISIS operates so brazenly. The worst anyone can expect from the United States is the strategic equivalent of a rap on the knuckles these days, unless of course, the offender is an American ally. Then the penalties seem to be more consequential.

I have two fundamental expectations from our leaders. It’s all I ask, really. First, don’t treat me like I’m stupid and second, don’t lie to me. In the President’s recent speech pushing support for the Iran deal, he stated that the choice was between

his deal and war. This sort of patronizing rhetoric presents a false choice. Is our administration that thick or do they simply suffer from a lack of creativity? You see, there is a continuum of escalation, ranging from such actions as saying nasty things, or having military exercises with an ally, or economic sanctions which we have right now, and they escalate all of the way to blockades, covert operations, limited incursions, attack, and eventually nuclear war. We have options short of war, if only we had leaders with the creativity and tenacity of purpose to execute them.

This deal in the interest of legacy is a bad one with an untrustworthy adversary, who still orchestrates chants of “Death to America,” and “Death to Israel” to fire up its base. Israel, which still has a kinship and ties to the United States that no other nation in the region has, has no right to exist, according to the Iranians. Israel was born of genocide in Europe and has every reason to take such threats with grave seriousness. Iran, with a history of supporting terrorism and insurgency, with a background of duplicity and contempt for the international community, with our soldiers’ blood on their hands, will be ostensibly “delayed” in their acquisition of a nuclear weapon through, among other provisions, a “surprise” inspection regimen that provides the Iranians 24 days’ notice before inspectors arrive at specified locations. What possible reason could we have for agreeing to such a provision except for weak-kneed rationalizations that “it will still be difficult for them to have a covert program”?

I’m not the smartest guy in the world, but I know enough to know that the one who has the willingness to walk away from the table has the upper hand in any negotiation. The only possible reason we find ourselves in this situation is that we went into these negotiations with the end in sight – a sign-at-all-costs agreement, in the interest of legacy. We are willing to move from “calculated risk” to “gamble.” And if we turn out to have miscalculated, our President’s legacy will be a nuclear Iran. He’ll still collect his pension, and make a lot of money on the lecture circuit. Israel and victims of Iran’s state-sponsored terrorists and insurgencies have a lot more to lose when and if Iran becomes a nuclear state. To quote Clint Eastwood as “Dirty Harry” Callahan – “Do you feel lucky?” As for myself, I know better, because I’ve seen a small piece of what Iran is capable of.

*Lance Allen Wang is a retired Army Infantry Lieutenant Colonel and Iraq Veteran. He’s a Past Commander of Jewish War Veterans of the United States Post 105, Albany, New York and is current President of Congregation Beth El, Bennington, Vermont.*

# Congratulations to All JWV Award Winners!



The representatives of this year's JWV awards winners proudly posed with their certificates on behalf of their Posts, Departments, and Councils.

## DEPARTMENT

**Feureisen Award: Doing the Most for Hospitalized Veterans**  
Department of Massachusetts

**Wolfson Award: Outstanding Record in Community Relations**  
Department of Massachusetts

**Outstanding Record of Service to State Soldier Homes/Veteran Memorial Homes**  
Department of Massachusetts

**Edward D. Blatt Award: Outstanding Department Commander**  
Larry Rosenthal, Department of New Jersey  
Honorable Mention: Barry Lischinsky, Department of Massachusetts

**Brotherhood Award-Greatest Contributor to Fostering Brotherhood**  
Department of Massachusetts

**Joseph Demiany Memorial Award: Scouting**  
Department of Massachusetts

**Outstanding Department Website**  
Department of New Jersey

## COUNCIL

**I. T. Rockman Award: Hospitalized Veterans**  
South Jersey Council, New Jersey

**Outstanding Record of Service to State Soldier Homes/Veteran Memorial Homes**  
Nassau-Suffolk, New York

**Outstanding Council Website**  
Rockland-Orange County, New York

## POST

**Ben Kaufman Award: Hospitalized Veterans**  
Harvey Bloom Post 256, Department of TALO

**National Headquarters Award: Community Relations Record**  
Post 1, Department of New York

**National Commander's Award: Performing Outstanding Service**  
Austin Post 757, Department of TALO

**Brotherhood Award-Greatest Contributor to Fostering Brotherhood**  
Harvey Bloom Post 256, Department of TALO  
Honorable Mention: Cherry Hill Post 125, New Jersey

## **Outstanding Post Website**

Hornets Nest Post 765, Department of VA/NC

## **Brenner-Jaffee Memorial Award for Post Bulletins**

Tie: PFC Frederick Hecht Post 425, New York • Lt. Seth Dvorin Post 972, New Jersey  
Honorable Mention: SGT John L. Levitow Post 45, Connecticut

## ANY ECHELON

### **Vietnam Veterans Award**

Tie: Post 1, New York • Harvey Bloom Post 256, TALO

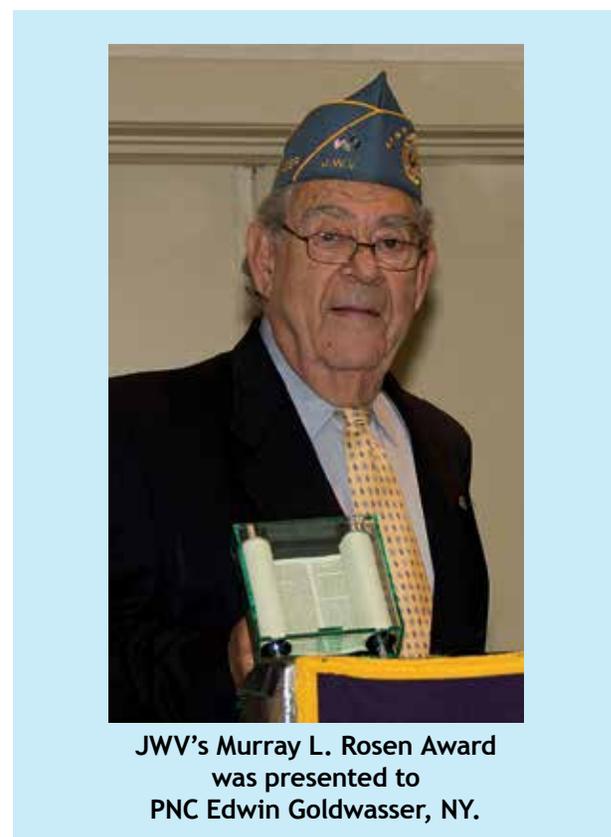
**Veterans Award-Most Active in Supporting Vietnam Veterans • SGT John L. Levitow Post 45, Connecticut**

### **Post Membership Increase Award**

Group 1: 4-49 Members / Penny Whitman Memorial Post 300, Florida  
Group 2: 50-99 Members / S. J. Miller Memorial Post 631, Florida

### **Individual Award – Signing-up of New Members**

PNC Maxwell S. Colón, Post 385, Department of California



JWV's Murray L. Rosen Award was presented to PNC Edwin Goldwasser, NY.

# 2015 Convention Highlights

Continued from page 1

on Israel and the turmoil in the Middle East with the growth of ISIS. He believes that we are on the cusp of a third world war; much like before 1940, the world is standing by and watching as ISIS commits horrible atrocities in the Middle East.

Suicide Prevention Coordinator Lindsay



Participants on the city tour of Tampa, where they visited Ybor City and the Clearwater Aquarium, posed for a photo on the tour bus.

Roberts spoke to members on behalf of the Veterans Crisis Line. There is a stigma about mental illness and asking for help; convincing younger veterans to seek care can be challeng-



Dan Cohen, author of Single Handed.

ing, which is why the VA stresses that individuals and organizations should both learn the warning signs and offer opportunities for anonymous support. The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confi-



JWV members enjoyed listening to the speakers' presentations.

dential resource that veterans and their families and friends can access any day, anytime. Trained professionals — many of them veterans — are ready to listen, 24/7.

Joyce Loftin, a veteran herself, emphasized that many veterans and their families are unaware of the benefits they can receive through the National Cemetery Administration. Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of the 131 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family.

Author Dan Cohen spent many years researching, writing, and interviewing Jewish Medal of Honor recipient Tibor Rubin. In a fascinating presentation, he shared his thoughts on the research process, insights, and some little known facts about Rubin's life.

JWV member Marc Liebman not only spoke at Convention, but he also exhibited for three days, selling his novels, answering questions, and chatting with members. His presentation focused on unknown, ordinary Jews who have served throughout this country's history. He generously donated half the proceeds from selling his book to JWV.

Many of the Committee reports on business conducted at Convention can be read beginning on page 16. The National Executive Committee completed their semi-annual meeting prior to the opening of the Convention, and all reports were well received.

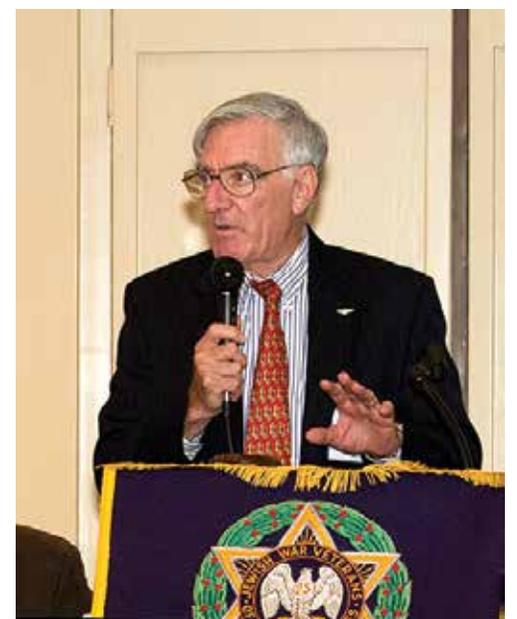
Our Resolutions Committee met several times under the chairmanship of PNC Michael Berman in order to present the completed Resolutions to the Convention for approval, including resolutions on Iran and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The JWV Ladies Auxiliary met simultaneously, and participated in several projects that contributed to Tampa's community. They gave teddy bears to the police and fire departments and children's hospital, and presented special gifts to the local Ronald McDonald House and VA Medical Center. They also gifted new veteran moms with baby baskets.

For the first time this year, JWV live streamed several of the Convention meetings so that those who could not attend were still able to participate. Programs and Public Relations Coordinator Jordana Green presented a workshop on social media for Posts and Departments, Larry Rosenthal chaired the Iraq and Afghanistan committee meeting, Mike

## Congratulations to the 2014-2015 JWV Grant Recipients!

- National Youth Achievement Program**  
**Seymour and Phyllis Shore Memorial Grant**  
Elizabeth Goodman, Dept of CA  
**Robert and Rebecca Rubin Memorial Grant**  
April Mintz, Dept of NY  
**Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant**  
Aaron Grossman, Dept of VA/NC  
**Edith, Louis and Max S. Millen Memorial Athletic Grant**  
Rachel Lipman, Dept of CA
- National Achievement Program**  
**Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant**  
Orpaz Levy  
**Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant**  
Kiara Blanchard  
**Max R. & Irene Rubenstein Memorial Grant**  
Kelvin Thomas, Jr.  
**Leon Brooks Memorial Grant**  
Mark Seelen



Naval captain, author, and JWV member Marc Liebman.

London led the IT Committee workshop, and PNC Mike Berman and Carl Singer presided over the Action and Homeland Security committee workshops.

Over 130 people attended the National Commander's Banquet honoring Colonel Maxwell Colón after which the new National Commander, Jerry Blum, was installed.

Thank you again to all who participated and attended this year's Convention, and we hope to see you in Savannah, GA, next year!

# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

I returned home from the 120th National Convention assured that Posts in every Department are tackling membership concerns. Between Committee meetings and workshops, the National Membership Coordinator, Cindy Chambers, and I learned that every moment a Post is active in the community is a moment that the Post is recruiting. I trust you will ruminate on this idea and consider your community visibility. To get you thinking, here are some ideas gleaned at the National Convention.

Considerable emphasis on membership was voiced by outgoing National Commander Maxwell Colón. He devoted his entire meetings with Department Commanders and Post Commanders to discussing membership. If you are a leader of your echelon, have you thought about how both your statements and actions promote membership? If we all display the positive attitude that PNC Colón does, we will not need to recruit because people will already be asking how to join.

Of course, to begin a recruitment campaign, it takes more than a positive attitude. You must look honestly at the numbers and create realistic goals. I shared at the National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting, that like all other Veteran Service Organizations, membership is declining. But, how and why? The greatest loss comes from deaths, followed by non-renewing members, and lastly, smaller recruitment numbers. We cannot control the passing of members, but we can certainly better our retention and recruitment efforts.

Specifically, we must begin targeting veterans of Desert Storm and the War on Terror. To that end, I have established a sub-committee for Young Veteran Recruitment, chaired by National Adjutant Michael Corbett. If you or

your Post can commit to working on this venture, contact NA Corbett by writing or calling National Headquarters. The upcoming months will be dedicated to defining the needs of Young Veterans and developing informed recruitment goals.

With recruitment as our focus, we must set a reasonable, measurable goal. We know that, through recruitment, we gained back about one third of the members lost last year. For 2016, I believe we can set the goal of gaining fifty percent of the members lost through a targeted recruitment campaign. In order to succeed, at least one of every 15 members must recruit one new member. In 2015, three members recruited 10% of our new membership – just three members! Then, surely a Post with 30 members can recruit two more. Cindy Chambers made a presentation during the Department Commanders Workshop that delved into realistic membership goal-setting. The presentation is available for download on our website.

During both the Membership Workshop, Iraq/Afghanistan Committee meeting, and the Post Commanders meeting, the following recruitment tactics emerged:

- Create a vision, mission statement, and plan to achieve. Put it on your website. The first place a younger veteran is going to learn more about you is your website. Think about what a younger veteran would be excited to learn...
- Assign a job or task to every new member of your Post. By making him/her responsible for an aspect of the Post, you are developing loyalty and sustaining interest.
- Create a rotating phone tree, so that every Post member is involved. Each meeting

reminder call presents an opportunity for Post members to get to know each other a little better.

- Attend major public events – graduations, local 5k races, business openings, town hall meetings. Speak up, volunteer to set-up, sell poppies, etc. By participating, you're getting our name out there.
- Meet your base Chaplains. Develop a relationship. Doing a kindness for them, such as a Shabbat Dinner, may lead to a (recruiting) kindness later.
- Advertise Post/Department activities beyond the Jewish or veteran community. The more you are mentioned at schools, churches or local non-profit groups, the easier recruitment will be.
- Create a mentoring or buddy program in your Post. Assign long-time members to new members. Teach them about the history, the procedures, and what it means to lead a Post.

In closing, we ask that, instead of fretting about aging membership, think about your strengths and how you can use them to recruit. You must be positive about recruiting. Keep working with your local schools, Congregations, and community groups to teach others about Jewish military service. You will be surprised how far that positive community involvement will lead to more people answering the call to JWV with a happy "Yes!"



## How to Recruit Young Veterans

By Mike Corbett, Post 440 FL

Work with your echelon to create an action plan to recruit new and younger members. Start from what you know – ask your existing members for the names and addresses of young relatives and friends who may be eligible to become members of the JWV. These younger veterans are out there in the community, they live in houses and apartments within your zip code, they work down the street or across town, or they may attend a local synagogue. Look for them at the college or university near you; at the Post Office, the car wash, and at the VA. If you live near a military installation, make a visit to the Chaplain and ask that he or she facilitate getting eligible personnel to attend a Post meeting.

We all must be able to effectively speak the language of these younger veterans if we are to convince them to sign-on. Many studies of the generations since Desert Shield/Storm indicate that despite the necessity of employment and family demands, these young veterans are very interested in changing the world by doing good deeds (mitzvot). JWV members are well aware of the good and essential work we do in our communities, but have we communicated that to younger veterans?

Posts and Councils are the key to success in the communities where the 'Post 9/11' veterans may be found. As stated by PNC Colón, the visibility of the organization depends on the energy of the Post; it is through that visibility and the

good work of our members that our organization will be noteworthy- and where Posts cannot put forth the effort, Councils must take up the challenge. It will take the efforts of individual members to convey to younger veterans, in favorable and contemporary terms, why it is to their benefit to become a member of the longest-serving congressionally-chartered veterans' service organization.

There are many opportunities for gaining the attention and membership of these younger veterans, but we must make the effort! If you have an idea for recruitment of 'Post 9/11' veterans and/or wish to join the Young Veteran Recruitment Sub-Committee, please contact me via e-mail at [ocusmc@hotmail.com](mailto:ocusmc@hotmail.com) or call Cindy Chambers at (202) 265-6280.

# Outreach to the Next Generation

## Growing Great Minds: Seizing the Opportunity

By Colonel Nelson L Mellitz, USAFR, Ret.

Members of the Jewish War Veterans must seize every opportunity to reach out to veterans, their families, and Patrons to help increase membership and support for JWV.

Debbie and I just returned from the JWV National Convention in Tampa, Florida and we feel it was one of the most rewarding national conventions that we have attended during the last ten years. In addition to renewing friendships with JWV and JWVA members, strategic planning was started to bring JWV into the 21st century with a new Vision, Mission Statement, and Goals with associated actions for one, three, five, and ten years. In addition, during committee meetings, especially the Vietnam Veterans Committee, there was a new spirit of action to not only increase membership but to be a leader

among Veterans Services Organizations with new support ideas and implementation plans.

A special thank you goes to all those that attended the numerous Resolutions Committee meetings because they demonstrated that JWV is the voice of Jewish Veterans in the United States. The Resolutions Committee followed by the General Convention unanimously passed a resolution asking that the U.S. Congress NOT support the P5+1 Iran nuclear deal (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action).

Major General Arnie Fields, US Marine Corps, Ret., incidentally my commander while I was stationed in Iraq, made a presentation thanking the JWV for being a national partner with the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam Commemoration Committee. I had the opportunity to introduce Maj Gen Fields to Maj Gen Baruch Levy, Israel Defense Forces, Ret. who

also made a great presentation on the status of Israeli security, etc.

This was an outstanding convention which is the start of an opportunity for all JWV and JWVA-ers to educate our members with the appropriate knowledge, skills, and disposition that will advance our organization with a 21st Century Vision, Mission, and Goals. "We must become the change we wish to see in the world."

--Mahatma Gandhi

If you would like to join the JWV team that is developing our national Vision, Mission Statement, and Goals, please send your email to Jordana Green, National Programs and PR Coordinator at [jgreen@jwv.org](mailto:jgreen@jwv.org).



## Military Suicides: Still a Major Unresolved Problem

By Jacob M. Romo, Ph.D, LTC USA (Ret)

The US Military continues to find that suicide is a major problem. Since my article "Military Suicides: A Major Unresolved Problem" appeared in the Fall 2012 edition of the Jewish Veteran, there have been many articles published in the media or featured on TV about active duty and military veterans who have committed suicide.

The Center for Deployment Psychology and other sources (notably the Department of Veterans Affairs and the military services) have noted that since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, military suicide rates "have been increasing and surpassing the rates for society at large."

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention recently published their 2015 "Suicide Facts and Figures" for the US, including statistics regarding active duty service members and veterans.

Across the nation, suicide rates among US adults ages 35 to 64 have increased, with the greatest increases in rates were among people in their fifties. According to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, suicide rates among Vietnam veterans are the highest of any particular age group; veterans comprise 22.2% of completed suicides. Over 40,000 Americans die by suicide every year, and suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the US and the second leading cause of deaths for ages 10 – 24 and the fifth leading cause of deaths for ages 45 – 50. Ninety percent of those who commit suicide had a diagnosable

psychiatric disorder at the time of their death.

Going from the US population as a whole, studies about suicide rates and the US military paint an interesting picture. In January, the Department of Defense released the 2013 annual report on suicide. The report included some of the following statistics:

- The suicide rate for troops on active duty in 2013 was down from the 2012 rate
- In 2013, 259 troops on active duty status died by suicide, down from a record 319 in 2012. During the same time, 220 members of the Selected Reserve and Guard died by suicide, up from 203 in 2012.
- In 2013, young white enlisted males ages 17 to 24 were at highest risk for dying by suicide. More than 90% of those who completed suicide were male, 75% were Caucasian and 42 percent were 17 – 24 years old.
- Two-thirds had deployed – a change from previous years when fewer than half those who died by suicide had deployed. In 2013, just 15 percent of those who died by suicide had seen direct combat according to the DoD report.
- More than half were married and had access to a firearm at home.

Another study of suicide attempts by Army soldiers from 2004 to 2009, reported by the Army

Times on July 20, 2015, found the following:

- Ninety-nine percent of suicide attempts were made by enlisted personnel
- Enlisted soldiers and officers were more at risk for attempting suicide if they entered service at age 25 or older
- Risk was particularly elevated during the first tour of duty, notably in the first few months of service
- Personnel who received a mental health diagnosis were at risk for attempting suicide within a month of getting the news
- Non-Hispanic Caucasians were at higher risk than minorities

Another US Government study, reported by the LA Times on June 8, 2015, "Shows that female military veterans commit suicide at nearly 6 times the rate of other women. Their suicide rate is so high that it approaches that of male veterans who are generally far more likely than women to commit suicide. For women ages 18 – 29, veterans kill themselves at nearly 12 times the rate of nonveterans."

While the VA researchers and other experts were unclear as to what was causing this disproportionate rate, they posited whether sexual assault or other traumatic experiences while on active duty played a role. Additionally, there is a stigma about mental illness and asking for help; convincing younger veterans to seek care can be challenging.

*Continued on page 12*

By Marc Liebman, Captain, USN (Retired)

The U.S.S. America (CV-66) was plunging through the Atlantic headed south on the first leg of what would be an around the world cruise. After leaving Norfolk and pausing briefly for an operational readiness exercise off Puerto Rico, the first stop for the ship and its escorts was Rio.

From there, the small task group would go around the Cape of Good Hope and thirty days later, arrive in Subic Bay in the Philippines. Next stop would be our first line period on Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Since I wasn't scheduled to fly until later that night, I went to our ready room to hang out and watch what was known as the "PLAT," a video camera mounted in the carrier deck that tracked each airplane's approach as it tried to come aboard. Through the crosshairs on the PLAT, one could watch the struggles of one's fellow Naval Aviators with a mix of empathy and sympathy because there is no such thing as a "normal" night landing on a carrier.

I'd just settled into my high backed chair that looks just like the ones in the movies when a commander plops down next to me. I was a lowly Lieutenant Junior Grade, which is the same thing as a first lieutenant, and the commander is the equivalent of a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force, Army, or Marine Corps. Instead of a silver oak leaf there is a small cross on the left collar of his khakis.

My first thought was "Oh no, someone in my family has died or is seriously ill... Why else would a chaplain come sit next to me?"

"Lieutenant Liebman?" It was more of a statement than a question. Someone in the ready room had pointed me out.

"Yes sir." What else could I say to a senior officer?

The man had a big smile on his face so I

made the assumption that he was not the bearer of bad news. "Hi, I'm the Catholic chaplain on board the America. And, I'm here to tell you that you are the senior Jewish serviceman in the task force. As such, the task force commander authorized me to tell you that you are in charge of organizing the Seder for the 20 plus Jewish servicemen on board the America and her escorts."

I guess my stunned look and slack jaw gave my reaction away. Me? I'm just a J.G. What do I know about organizing and running a Seder on a U.S. Navy ship?

"Lieutenant, all you need to do is help me with the menu and conduct the Seder. I'll do the rest. The admiral has offered the flag mess for the Seder and his stewards will do all the cooking. The captain of America and the admiral would like to attend and will understand if you say no."

Great. Let's see, now I'll have to conduct the Seder, under the watchful eyes of a Navy Captain – same as an Army/Air Force or Marine Corps colonel – and an admiral who was – the same as a brigadier general and a Catholic chaplain. No pressure!!!

"Don't worry Lieutenant. I'm from Boston and I've attended many a Seder. Plus, several enlisted men have offered to help." It was another emotional life preserver.

He was in the ready room to ask me – he could have made it an order -to come to his office to review the chaplain's checklist for a Seder where several enlisted men who were also Jewish would be waiting. Together, we were to create the menu so the chaplain could order the food that would be flown to the America.

As I followed him down the warren of passageways and ladders what ran through my mind is the discussion that my brand new wife and I just had. Her parents came from Northern Romania and an area of the Soviet Union we know now

as Maldus and which used to be the Moldavian S.S.R. My mother's ancestors came from Spain.

She was Ashkenazi and I was Sephardic. Sephardic Jews eat rice (and popcorn) during Pesach. There's no yeast or rising involved, they expand. BTW, since we now live in Texas, we also eat corn chips and tortillas during pesach. They don't have yeast and therefore are, to my Sephardic mind, okay.

The three of us on the ad hoc pesach committee had a series of good laughs about different family traditions as we created the menu. The chaplain sat quietly in the corner taking notes and when we finished, he said, "Great. I'll get the recipes to the stewards in the flag mess and as soon as the food is on board, they'll make the dishes so we can taste them."

We had the seder right after we left Rio on April 20th, wine and all. Officers and enlisted men from the other ships were helicoptered to the America. Bunks were found for them so they could spend the night.

The maztoh balls were light and fluffy and we had a wonderful, lean brisket, kugel, a peach cobbler for dessert. As we left the flag mess, the stewards handed each of us a large container of charoses and two boxes of matzoh. I kept my charoses in our ready room refrigerator and ate it along with the matzoh for the next eight days.

As the admiral and the America's captain who years later became the Chief of Naval Operations left, came up to the two senior enlisted men and me and said, "This was outstanding and well done."

I found out later that both had been to seders before and knew what to expect. Years later, I met the captain again after he retired. He looked at me and then smiled. "One of my best friends growing up was Jewish and the seder you ran on the America was very special. It brought me back home. Thank you."

## Military Suicides

*Continued from page 11*

The NY Times reported in April 2015 that a study published in the April edition of the JAMA Psychiatry found no link between military suicide and deployments overseas in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It was noted that as the wars continued, the suicide rates also went up and the assumption was that the deployments to the war zone must be the reason for the increase in suicide rates. However, "the suicide rate for troops deployed in support of the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, the study found, was only slightly higher than for troops who did not deploy to that area or remained stateside – 18.86 deaths versus 17.78 deaths per 100,000. The national av-

erage is about 13 deaths per 100,000."

In recent years, more active-duty US troops have committed suicide than have been killed in Afghanistan. In response to this problem, the military services have all taken steps to increase suicide prevention efforts including command ordered stand downs, mandated classes on suicide prevention, and the creation of educational videos. Additionally, the Department of Veterans Affairs created the Veterans Crisis Line, a 24 hour toll-free number that veterans and active-duty personnel can call when contemplating suicide.

In 2010, an estimated 22 veterans took their lives every day. One small act can make a difference in the life of a veteran or service member in crisis.

Every year, organizations across the coun-

try recognize September as Suicide Prevention Month. However, every month should be suicide prevention month. More must be done across the board to help combat the stigma against mental health and increase in veteran suicide -the data shows that getting help, helps. It could be the difference between life and death.

For veterans going through a difficult time and their loved ones who are concerned about them, a single call, chat, or text can be a critical first step. One conversation with a veteran about how he or she is doing can open the door to services and support.

Everyone can be the person who makes a difference in a veteran's life, and connecting with

*Continued on page 18*

# JWV Cleveland Post 14 Members on Honor Flight

By Michael Blain, JWV Cleveland Post 14

JWV Cleveland Post 14 members Alvin Gray, Michael Blain, and Joe Klein were taken on an all-expense paid one-day flight to Washington by Honor Flights Cleveland, a non-profit organization which honors our veterans who served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam by flying them to see the memorials built in their honor in Washington, DC.

Mike Blain and Joe Klein are Holocaust Survivors and decorated Korean War Veterans. They met after the War in Prague in 1946, when they joined a transport of 100 recently orphaned children to London. After three and a half years in London they arrived in New York on the same ship. They were soon drafted into the US Army and were reunited in Korea as US soldiers. They were reunited in Cleveland and again on this trip to Washington.

Alvin Gray has a long history of public service, as detailed by Former Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich, who listed numerous local and national organizations of which Al was a member, director, trustee or officer. He was honored by many of these organizations for his involvement.

The 24 Veterans on the trip were greeted at the Cleveland airport early in the morning, and



(From left) Joe Klein, Al Gray, and Mike Blain at the Air Force Memorial. Photo credit: Lottie Gray, Air Force Memorial.

on their return late in the evening. Upon arrival at the Baltimore airport they received tumultuous applause.

Each veteran received a wheelchair and a volunteer Guardian for the day. Al's Guardian was his own daughter Lottie, who described the day as "emotional," "unusual," and a "meaningful" experience.

In Washington, the Veterans toured all the Monuments and Memorials, where they were greeted by a woman Admiral, Ohio politicians and thousands of schoolchildren who were there also visiting the various monuments.

Veterans interested in this tour can find information and applications at [www.honorflight.com](http://www.honorflight.com).

Know a WWII Veteran who lives in Florida? Honor Flight South Florida wants to pay tribute to them by taking them on a free, one-day trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the National World War II Memorial and other military-related sites. For more information visit [www.honorflightsouthflorida.org](http://www.honorflightsouthflorida.org) or call 855-359-1838.

## Vietnam War Commemoration

Continued from page 1

understand, PTSD being one of them." Vietnam Veterans served for six presidents, from Truman to Ford, and over 58,000 servicemen and women lost their lives. These statistics were highlighted to point out that protecting this country is not just a matter of dollars and cents- it is a matter of lives.

He explained that while the primary goal is to honor those who served, the Vietnam War Commemoration also serves other purposes including paying tribute to the contributions made on the home front and by our allies, and to highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War era.

Lt. Cmdr. Supple joined Maj. Gen. Fields at the dais to award all those who served between Nov.1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, regardless of location, with a commemorative lapel pin. The organization makes no distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. All were called to serve and the overwhelming majority of these veterans served honorably and admirably, and the Commemoration's primary goal is to honor them and their families.

The Maj. Gen. and Lt. Cmdr. also held a question and answer session about the Commemoration at the Vietnam Veterans Committee meeting held that afternoon. They emphasized that any JWV Post or Department can become a com-



memorative partner, as they travel all over the country to thank the veterans who served during this period.

In an email exchange after Convention, Lt. Cmdr. Supple remarked, "I'm so thankful and honored to be a part of the 2015 Jewish War Veterans of America annual convention! It was a pleasure to meet so many great veterans and hear so many inspiring stories." He also expressed hope that Posts get involved with this program on a local level, so that veterans in every hometown can be thanked for their service and know how much our Nation appreciates their service.

The Director of the Commemoration, retired Major General James T. Jackson, was unable to attend, but sent the following message to JWV: "I'm always impressed by the wonderful work being done by the Jewish War Veterans of America and all of the veterans service organizations in their efforts to thank and honor veterans. We are honored and privileged to have participated in the 120<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention. The

United States Vietnam War Commemoration needs the help of the JWV and more than eight thousand Commemorative Partners to fulfil our primary mission - thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the nation. We look forward to working with more of your posts and departments in honoring Vietnam veterans in their hometowns!"

To find out more about the Vietnam War Commemoration or to become a Commemorative partner, go to [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com).

JWV is a proud commemorative partner of the Vietnam War Commemoration.



Navy Lieutenant Commander John Supple presented each Vietnam Veteran in the room with a Commemoration pin, assisted by PNC Maxwell Colón.

# JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



A special award by the New Jersey National Guard to JWV Post 609 Monroe Township, New Jersey, for its "outstanding and generous support of the men and women of the New Jersey National Guard." From left: Col. Bill Rochelle, NJ National Guard, Sgt/Maj Len Meyersohn (retired), Chairman of the Readiness Council of the NJ National Guard, Bernard Passer, Post 609 Commander, Ralph Goodman, Post 609 Sr. Vice Commander. Photo by Maurice Mahler, Information Officer Post 609.



Dayton/Cincinnati Post 587 OH hosted a brunch to honor Jewish Korean War era veterans from their area on June 14, 2015. The event included presentation of the colors by the Wright-Patterson AFB honor guard and dedication of a permanent plaque to honor Jewish veterans from the Dayton area. Pictured are guest speaker Lt. Gen C.D. Moore (USAF, Ret), Stanley Blum, Joe Bettman, Fred Gluck, Bill Schoenfeld, Henry Guggenheimer, Howard Camp, Ira Segalewitz, Larry Briskin, Gabe Seidman, Franklin Cohn, Raymond Turner, guest speaker U.S. Rep Mike Turner (3rd District, Ohio), and Stanley Shulman. Photo by PC Steve Markman, Post 587.



Post 125 NJ held a successful poppy drive at the West Long Branch Shop Rite on May 20, 21, and 22, 2015. They had a dedicated crew of 12 starting at 8am until 8pm, with three hour shifts.



The Department of New Jersey's Seigel-Shapiro Education Grant was awarded to three recently graduated high school seniors. Chairman Mort Millinger, center, is shown with two of the recipients, Harrison Kudwitt, left, and Sarah Schneider.



JWV Post 112 GA members Robert Max and Sam Benator presented a check for \$3,000 to Liz Fichtel from Operation Homefront Kennesaw Office.



Members of Post 686 NW posed with 7th grade students in the Jewish Day School in Bellevue, WA and their teacher Morah Missy after placing over 250 flags at Hills of Eternity Cemetery in Seattle, WA for this past Memorial Day. Pacific NW Post 686 placed more than 600 flags at five Jewish cemeteries with the help of local Jewish youth groups and hopes to add a sixth cemetery next year. Photo courtesy of Robert Shay, Post 686.



Post 695-NY recently held its 30<sup>th</sup> annual Oneg Shabbat with cadets at the Jewish Chapel at West Point Military Academy. Front row, from left: QM Henry Wolff, JWVA Claire Wolff, JWVA Department President Maxine Berger, and Holocaust survivor Rickie Bernstein. Back row, from left: Henry Soussan, Chaplin, (Major) US Army, JVC Leonard Cohen, SVC Sol Moglen, Post Commander Edwin Glasspool, Michael Chiaet, and PPC 377 Bernard Gorovitz. Photo submitted by Post Commander Jonathan Starr.

# JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



CMDT Mel Meszaro from Marine Detachment 190 presented the flag to Lt. Sy Sinuk of Post 395 for WWII War Hero Bronze Star recipient Sid Hollander, who was recovering from surgery. Photo by Ed Hornichter.



Post 1 Commander Edward Hochman, right, presents National Information Technology Committee Chair Mike London with the Post's Epstein Award plaque for his work to give departments and posts the opportunity to have their own website. Photo by Jerry Alperstein.



On Sunday April 26th, 2015, members of the JWV Post 749 TX, 1Lt. Tim Corey, QM USA, SGT Jacob Karpel, SIGCorp USA, SPC Eddie Garcia, AMEDD USA, and PC Scott Stevens as the Color Guard leader, along with members of BSA Troop 613 (Jewish) participated in the Yom Ha'Atzmaut observance by posting the Colors. The observance was held at Congregation B'Nai Zion and there were over 350 members of the Jewish and El Paso community present. Post 749 also displayed the NMAJMH Exhibit "Jewish Medal of Honor Recipients." Photo courtesy of Scott Stevens, Commander of Post 749.



Capt. Marsha Schjolberg of JWV Post 385 commanded one of the Stand Down tents in San Diego, CA sponsored by Posts 385 and 185.



Jewish War Veterans National Deputy Chaplain Michael Bloom (2nd left), Cubmaster Robin Kozin-Angela (left) and members of Cub Scout Pack 1818 of Congregation Olam Tikvah in Fairfax, Virginia led the Pledge of Allegiance as General Orde Wingate was honored at a memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on Sunday, July 12, 2015.



On July 1, 2015, Post 680 CA and its Ladies Auxiliary, along with Post 385, made their quarterly visit to Camp Pendleton's Naval Hospital to bring knitted and crocheted baby clothing, hats, blankets, crutch padded covers, and canteen coupon books for the families of currently serving personnel. Photo credit: Linda Colón, VP of JWVA.



In preparation for Memorial Day, Cleveland Jewish War Veterans Post 14 OH members planted flags on deceased War Veterans' graves at Zion Memorial Park. From left to right, Ted Hersh, Henrik Sperling, Tamas Muencz, Michael Blain, Sylvia Blain, and Al Hersh. Photo by Judy Hersh.

# NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

## Americanism Committee

*Jerome 'Jerry' Benjamin, Chairman*

Americanism! What is it? Wester's dictionary says it is:

"1. Devotion or loyalty to the United States, its interests, institutions, etc.

2. Any custom, tradition or idea peculiar or originating in the United States."

If you think about it, JWV is Americanism! Almost everything we do has to do with our devotion and loyalty to our country.

I would like this column to be proactive. All of our echelons are involved in projects that make JWV visible in our communities. Please write in and inform all of us so that we might share and learn from the good works that you do.

There is nothing more American than our FLAG! The American Legion has a brief, informative booklet on flag etiquette that is readily available. My Post, Dallas 256, started a flag retirement program to be held on Flag Day (June 14th). This was the second year that we collected old and worn flags from schools, institutions, and individuals in our part of the city. You can retire our flag by burying or burning. With the help of our local fire department, we chose to burn the hundreds of soiled flags that we collected. The city permit fee was paid by an anonymous donor. The ceremony was held at the Jewish Community Center in Dallas. Our Chaplain said a few words and our Post Bugler played Taps. Quite a few children and adults attended this patriotic and very emotional event. I'm certain that the attendees will long remember this memorial tribute to our flag.

The exposure of JWV to our communities through these meaningful events can only help bring further awareness and support of the legacy that we will leave our children: Americanism!

Wishing you all a healthy and happy New Year.

## Civil Rights Committee

*Jerry Berns, Chairman*

Over the past 14 years, we have covered many countries, states, and areas around the world that Jews call home.

We have found that anti-Semitism still exists throughout the world but the severity varies from country to country. Jews have found that some places are more hospitable to reside than others. The country of New Zealand is not plagued by frequent anti-Semitism, though the Jewish population there is less than 1% of the population—they number about 7,500 throughout the country.

New Zealand has been home to Jews for about 185 years. The majority of New Zealand's Jews reside in Auckland and Wellington on the North Island. Immigration to this country con-

sisted of families who came from the United Kingdom (UK) in the 1800s, European refugees from the 1930s and 1940s, families who emigrated from Britain in the 1950s, and recent immigrants from South Africa, Israel, and the former Soviet Union.

In 1843, Jews were among the first to arrive in Wellington, many having emigrated from the UK. In the 1860s, New Zealand had its own gold rush, and Jews left Europe to seek their fortunes. In the late 1800's Jews were able to involve themselves in politics and civil life. Many synagogues were established in the 19th century as the influx of Jews increased. Due to an extremely restrictive government policy on immigration, only a small number of Jewish refugees escaping from persecution in Russia and Eastern Europe were admitted. As a result, very few Jews fleeing Nazi Germany found refuge in New Zealand before and during World War II.

The Jewish refugees in Wellington, New Zealand's capital, helped enrich the cultural life of the city. A number of Zionist organizations exist throughout the country, although it appears that younger Zionists have been immigrating to Israel. This migration potentially has negative effects on New Zealand Jewry, depriving the community of future leadership.

Today the total population is about 4.2 million. Overall, New Zealand is a comfortable place for Jews to live.

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*PNC Monroe Mayer, Chairman*

If you receive the yearly JWV USA Calendar, along with Mailing Labels and the High Holiday Cards, then you are already familiar with the Development Committee. The purpose of the committee is to raise money for the benefit of our organization. If in the past you have responded with a check to us, then we will consider you a lay member of our Committee, but please understand there are no meetings to attend.

We are happy to report to you that here, a little past mid-year we have earned over a quarter million dollars, thanks to your help. If you haven't received any of our direct mailings of these items, it very possibly means that you have not donated in the past few years. These products are not a benefit of membership, unlike The Veteran, which you are currently reading.

We seek the stories of our veterans and their long-past relatives who also served in America's military to remind us all of what we have accomplished as members of our military over the years. We want to bring these stories to everyone who may see our Calendar, while our other mailings may help to spread the word of JWV USA.

By responding to our mailings with a dona-

tion, and sending in a clear picture with a short story of your military experiences, you are telling our story, and we all realize that in today's world, this story has to be told or sadly it will be forgotten.

Many of you reading hopefully received the High Holiday Cards to send well wishes to your relatives and friends, and with any luck use the Mailing Labels to identify yourself.

Now, you too are a member of the Development Committee.

## NMI Certificate Committee

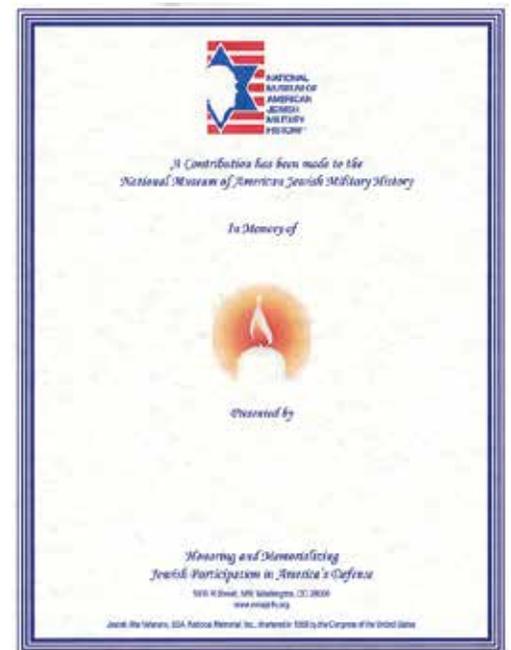
*Hannah Deutch, Chairwoman*

Dear Comrades and Ladies,

After my very upsetting last report, I hope you can see me smiling when you read this. Below are the new figures.

From August 1, 2014, the last convention, to July 20, 2015, JWV has brought in \$5,051 and JWVA brought in \$627 for a total of \$5,678. Bravo!

Since January 1, 2015, the last Board meeting



**Sending a certificate is thoughtful.**

of the NEC to July 20, 2015, JWV has brought in \$2,724 and JWVA brought in \$214 for a total of \$2,938.

Our Budget has us down for \$6,000 for the year 2015, and with a little effort we should be able to reach it.

Good luck and keep your Chair smiling.

## Homeland Security Committee

*COL. Carl A. Singer, Chairman*

Two simple messages:

### 1. If you see something, say something!

Wherever you may be, if something doesn't look right, immediately notify the authorities.

100 false alarms are better than one alarm that

# NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

isn't called in.

## 2. (For your personal safety) Do not participate in any transaction that you did not initiate.

If you get an unsolicited letter, phone call, or email, think twice about responding. Even if it's from a familiar source such as your bank – do not reply, ever! No matter how convincing the message, stop! Contact your bank the way you normally would – using the number that you have on file, or log in to your account as you normally do.

One more point – do not conduct financial transactions online when you are connected to a public wireless network such as at a coffee shop, hotel, airport, etc. One cannot be too careful.

## Vietnam Veterans Committee

*Bob Jacobs, Vice Chairman*

We had a successful Vietnam Nite out, with approximately 70 members and guests in attendance. It was noted that there was a small transportation issue in getting all guests to the location. We will try to do better next year.

Two representatives of "The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration" (50th anniversary of the war's end) addressed the group. They were Marine MG (Ret) Arnie Fields

and Navy LTCDR Jon Supple. They requested that JWV become commemorative partners of the VN War Commemoration. Sponsors must be a group such as a post or a department.

Jerry Alperstein mentioned that his post honored Mike London at its annual luncheon honoring a Vietnam veteran. This event was a 50th anniversary of VN event. PNC Ira Novoselsky suggested that JWV adopt a resolution to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

Mike London reported that he is creating a website for the committee.

Vice Chairman Bob Jacobs reported that he contacted Pam Elbe at the NMAJMH regarding the possibility of members either loaning or giving Vietnam War memorabilia for display. The museum cannot take items on loan but she gave Bob information on how to give items to the museum. He also reported that Pam stated that we would have to raise the funds for a separate VN exhibit if we want to pursue that goal.

National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleth was asked by the committee to start making arrangements for a committee visit to the Vietnam Wall in February.

Nelson Mellitz, our VA liaison, spoke about the VA Choice Program. As of April 2015, 4%

have signed up and used the program. The number signed up has increased to 40% as of this date. He reported on the poor funding situation for the VA & the President's position that VA staff not be reduced & wants hospitals to remain open. Claims processing backlog has been reduced due to automated processing. Nelson feels that Secretary McDonald has not moved rapidly enough in correcting the VA's many problems & should be asked to resign.

Bob Jacobs reported on the committee "literary project". He feels that since we have collected about 25 stories from Jewish veterans of the Vietnam Era, it could take years to complete a viable publication that would give sufficient funds to the NMAJMH. Jerry Alperstein will turn over all finished pages for inclusion in the interactive program. However, the committee will also retain the articles for possible future publication. Bob reported that he spoke with Museum President Joe Zoldan about this and he was agreeable with this plan.

Barry Schneider reported that Caren Sachs (late PNP Florence Levine's granddaughter) is producing a TV documentary on Vietnam veterans. Barry stated he will e-mail her back to get more information about it.

# Life is full of surprises ... including accidents.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Under Group Policy No. G-29319-0 on Policy Form GMR-FACE/G-G-29319-0



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# NEW MEMBERS

## DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Andrea Howard-100 • Peter J. Pizor-100 • Howard O. Schechter-100

## DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

David A. Rosen-617

## DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Donald S. Epstein-172 • Milton B. Gordon-172 • Harvey Sturm-202 • Joseph Fleish-373 • Herb Lutsky-400 • Stanley M. Hulkower-440 • Randy D. Selnick-440 • Elliott S. Rubin-459 • Allen M. Tanzer-631

## DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Buzz A. Alpert-29 • Sidney H. Stein-29 • David Baruch-54 • Nathan Cosnowsky-54

## DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

William M. Friedman-644

## DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Frederick E. Roberts-157

## DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Alan J. Kimmel-333

## DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Sidney A. Blum-64 • Jerold W. Bootzin-64 • Dan Barsel-65 • Michael Sinderman-65

## DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Fredric R. Klein-39 • William Kremer-39 • Harris Sirota-39 • Robert P. Berger-126 • Lawrence R. Lesiger-126 • Abraham Magid-536 • Frances P. Greenblatt-609 • David Kuropatwa-609 • Steven

L. Marone-609 • Arthur B. Seltzman-609 • Barry Wagner-609

## DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Harvey Lerner-6 • Stuart Cohen-105 • Harlan R. Harrison-105 • Harry Stein-105 • Howard M. Brilliant-106 • Danyiel Brustmeyer-250 • Meyer Rothstein-652 • Marvin Schiffrin-717 • Barry D. Lomove-724

## DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Arthur L. Actor-44

## DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Stanley Nagel-575 • Lawrence M. Schorr-697

## DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Robert M. Wolfson-112

## DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Burton I. Harris-201 • Gregory M. Clark-619 • Allen L. Leibowitz-619 • Thomas S. Moore, III-619

## DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Seth J. Alberts-574 • Ralph H. Burdett-574 • Nicholas L. Morgan-574 • Julius Walsh-580 • Carl L. Scoggins-749 • Fran A. Hom-753 • Nana Y. Atkens-755 • Keith J. Pelusi-755

## DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Stewart J. Levy-299 • Jerome Liess-299 • Gerald Lipson-299 • Jay P. Lucas-299 • Lawrence W. Vogel-299 • Gerald Miller-765 • Herman A. Ziegler-765

## Medals of Honor

*Continued from page 5*

War, JWV had just celebrated only 20 years of service in the name of Jewish Veterans, following the merger of the Hebrew Union Veterans Association and Hebrew Veterans of the War with Spain. World War One was to become a watershed event and would change the nation's view of Jews as part of American society and led to the creation of JWV in our modern era.

As a Jewish soldier, I was especially proud of the Jewish War Veterans, in particular the efforts of retired Army Reserve Colonel Erwin Burtnick, Department Commander from Maryland, to assist and support Elsie Shemin-Roth as she sought ways to draw attention to her father's valor.

A former personnel officer and expert in awards and decorations, I too was amazed at Burtnick's candor and enthusiasm as he described for me his efforts to help the Shemin family in documenting and forwarding the medal recommendation through all the hurdles of the Army staff. JWV may be a nationwide organization of posts and departments, but the acts of an individual can often make the biggest differences.

As a symbol of JWV's support and admiration to the resiliency and spirit of the Shemin family, I was pleased to present Elsie with the Capital District Council and Albany Post 105 military challenge coin, and offer her our praise and congratulations.

The coin depicts the JWV logo, military service emblems, and the Hebrew phrase "Lions of Judah." I thought it a fitting tribute to Sgt. Shemin, one of our earliest Lions of Judah in the 20th century, from another part of the "tribe" carrying forward his values today.

## Military Suicides

*Continued from page 12*

support doesn't have to be hard. The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource that veterans and their families and friends can access any day, anytime. Trained professionals — some of them veterans themselves — are ready to listen, 24/7. Since launching in 2007, the Crisis Line has answered more than 1.25 million calls and made more than 39,000 lifesaving rescues.

The first step in preventing suicide is understanding the warning signs. Warning signs include hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out, anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings, feeling like there's no reason to live, rage or anger, engaging in risky activities, increasing alcohol or drug abuse, and withdrawing from family and friends.

If you notice these warning signs, tell a veteran about the Veterans Crisis Line, or make the call yourself. Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text to 838255 for free, confidential support, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

## PEOPLE & PLACES

► **PNC Michael Berman** was honored on Thursday, September 17th, 2015 by The Ocean County Jewish Federation as "Volunteer of the Year." Mazel Tov!

► News of **Sharon Post 735 MA's** mitzvahs were published in The Jewish Advocate's "Honorable Mentschen" section in the July 3, 2015 issue.

► **Baseball News:** Washington Nationals fans know that veterans are publicly honored at each home game. Now a Jewish prayer service (afternoon mincha or evening ma'ariv) has been started at the ballpark by a JWV Chaplain. It meets after the fifth inning behind the kosher food stand on ground level near right-center field. Join in as we 'play and pray'. For questions, contact JWV National Deputy Chaplain/ Museum Chaplain **Michael Bloom** at (571-236-1189).

► **Post 69 NY** will be hosting a Memorial Ceremony on Sunday, November 15, 2015, at the Van Cortlandt Park Memorial Grove in the Bronx. All are invited to attend. This will be the Post's 9<sup>th</sup> ceremony for the restored WWII

memorial. Check out [www.facebook.com/memorialgrove](http://www.facebook.com/memorialgrove) for pictures and articles.

► **Alan Moskin**, of **Post 756 NY**, was elected the "2016 Veteran of the Year" by the Rockland County Veterans Coordinating Council. The Council is made up of 8 different Veteran organizations throughout the County. He will be officially inducted at a Veterans Day Ceremony in New City, NY on Sunday, November 8, 2015. Mazel Tov!

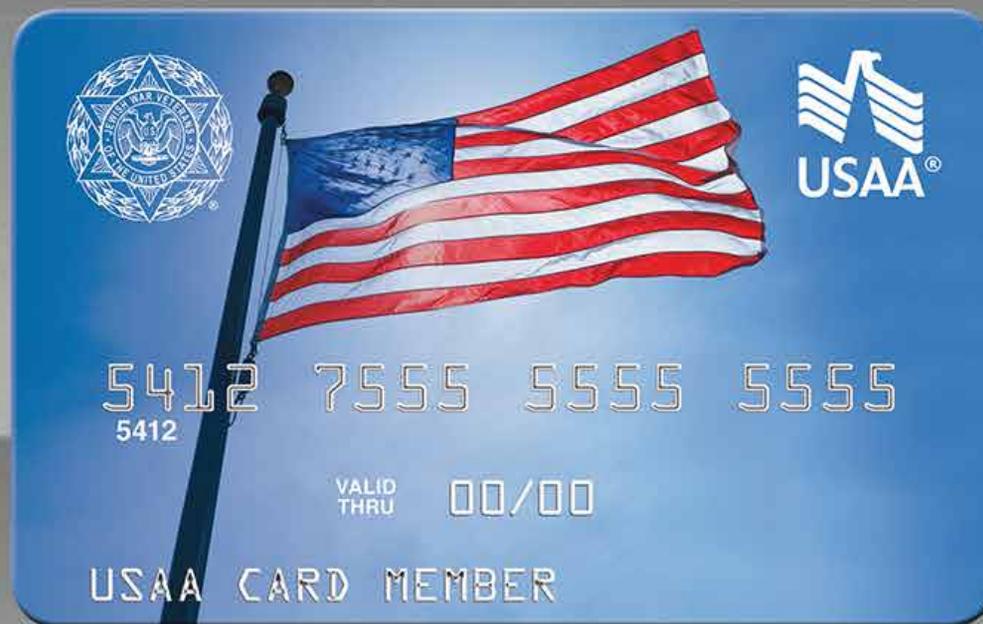
## IN SEARCH OF

► Looking for Jewish GI's who were German POW guards: I am in the research stage of a book on this subject and would like to interview these GI's. My father, Arthur Greenberg, served at Camp Clinton in MS (near Jackson, MS) guarding German PW's. He was in charge of the compound holding Marshal Hans-Jurgen Von Arnim, who surrendered the Afrika Corp in Tunisia. Served there from Feb, 1944 to August, 1944. Would like to document other's experiences. Interested parties can contact me by email at [gumboyl@gmail.com](mailto:gumboyl@gmail.com) or phone: 847-714-6631.



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We want each and every member of the Jewish War Veterans to support the museum by becoming a member. Memberships start at just \$25 and we need this support to ensure the legacy of the JWV will continue for many years to come. Currently, the vast majority of JWV members are not also members of the museum. The museum is its own organization and just paying your JWV dues does not make you a member.

I particularly want to encourage leaders within JWV to join. Each person who sits on the museum's board of directors is required to hold a

\$100 Guardian-level membership. I'd like to request that all commanders do the same. Lead by example. Purchase at least a Guardian membership for \$100 and urge your members to follow you and join the museum at any level of membership. I want to use this space to talk about the great things that the museum is doing and I'm proud of the work we've done in the past year. But without your financial support we can't continue to produce new exhibits, hold programs or produce content for our website or social media.

I'd also like to acknowledge and promote a

challenge made by PNC David Hymes at our recent board meeting. PNC Hymes offered to donate an additional \$50 for any \$1000 gift from any individual. Let's get some big donations to the museum so we can take him up on his offer.



**PNC Joseph Zoldan  
President, NMAJMH**

## Program Updates By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator NMAJMH

It's been a good summer here at the museum. Our unofficial start of the season was on June 7<sup>th</sup> with the annual Dupont-Kalorama Walk Weekend, where we partner with six other neighborhood museums to promote "off-the-mall" experiences. It was an absolutely beautiful Sunday in Washington and we had a record turnout. The day is always a pleasure because we get so many visitors eager to explore D.C. cultural institutions they might not think of visiting another time. Visitors from all over the area, young and old, Jewish or not, praised the museum and our exhibits.

There have been some great speakers here as well. Mark Lee Greenblatt, author of *Valor: Unsung Heroes from Iraq, Afghanistan and the Homefront*, discussed the extraordinary achievements that people are capable under certain conditions. He showed how the incredible bravery of these men can serve as inspiration for all of us.

One of the most frequently discussed figures in the history of Jews in the American military

is Uriah Phillips Levy. He was a veteran of the War of 1812 and the first Jewish Commodore in the United States Navy. He was the key figure in abolishing the practice of flogging in the Navy. He also purchased Thomas Jefferson's Monticello estate and began the work of restoring the large estate which had fallen into disrepair by the time he bought it in 1834. Marc Leepson, author of *Saving Monticello: The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House That Jefferson Built* spoke at the museum on July 5<sup>th</sup>. There was a nice crowd full of questions for Leepson who spoke eloquently on Levy's career and his admiration for Jefferson.

We continue to bring in interesting tour groups including the young professionals group from the D.C Jewish Community Center and a BBYO group spending the summer on campus at the University of Maryland through a Hillel program. It was also great to have the JWV Department of Delaware bring a large group

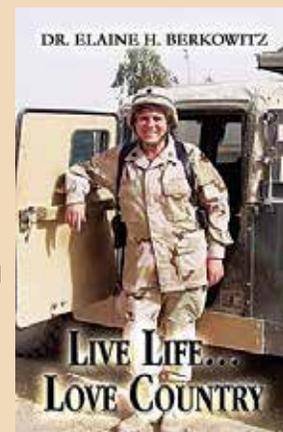
through on August 18<sup>th</sup>. If you're close enough to get to the museum, please contact us to organize a tour.

For those that can't make it here, please keep an eye on our website and social media. Thanks for supporting the museum!

### Guest Author at the Museum!

Sunday,  
October 25, 1:00 pm

Dr. Elaine H. Berkowitz will discuss her book, *Live Life... Love Country* and her experiences traveling around the world as an Army dentist. Dr. Berkowitz will describe her fascinating experiences as a Jewish female soldier in Iraq, Kosovo, Pittsburgh and elsewhere.



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

### A Nurse in Vietnam

Marita Silverman Bowden's parents, Seymour and Roselyn, met at a boardinghouse in Washington, DC, during the early days of World War II. They married in 1942, shortly after Seymour was inducted into the Army Air Corps. When Seymour was shipped overseas, Roselyn settled in Portsmouth, VA, and it was there that Marita was born. In 1945, while stationed in Guam, Seymour mailed his young daughter a coconut. If you visit the Museum, you can see this coconut on display in our permanent exhibit.

Marita attended high school in Washington, DC, and graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in nursing. Wanting to further her education, she joined the military in 1969. This was the peak of the war in Vietnam, and Marita felt that she wanted to "do her part to take care of the fighting forces" while also chal-

lenging herself. She served in the Army Nurse Corps from 1969 to 1973, including a year in Vietnam from August 1970 to July 1971. Marita was stationed at the 8th Field Hospital in An Khe for four months, then the 95th Evacuation Hospital in Da Nang for eight months. While at the 95th Evac, they received many casualties from the invasion of Laos. She describes her strongest memories from this time as "frustration [with] the never ending wounded; tired all the time." She worked the twelve-hour night shift in a combined ICU and post anesthesia recovery unit.

Following overseas duty, Marita was selected to study for a graduate degree. She received her Master's degree in pediatric nursing from the University of Arizona in 1972. She currently lives in Arizona with her husband, who also served in the Army (artillery, 1966-68). On every

trip back to Washington, DC, she faithfully visits the Vietnam Memorial.



**CPT Marita Silverman, Army Nurse Corps, lighting Shabbat candles at services in Da Nang, Vietnam, January 25, 1971.**



**Sgt. Edward Goldwasser**

U.S. Army - Korea 1955-1957 Post 125 Miami, FL

Dear NMAJMH members and supporters,

For a limited time only, we are offering echelon membership at a special rate that we call our BOGO sale- buy one year's membership and get a second year free. If your unit joins in 2015, it will receive its 2016 membership free - *a 2 for 1 special opportunity*.

We advertised this special opportunity several months ago but echelon participation was limited. We hope for 100% participation for echelon membership- your unit's membership should set an example for your individual members and encourage them to become members as well.

To purchase an echelon membership or learn more about the Museum's many individual membership options, go to <http://www.nmajmh.org/membershipInfo> or contact Mike Rugel at [mrugel@jwv.org](mailto:mrugel@jwv.org) or 202-265-6280.

I also wanted to update you regarding NMAJMH's newest project.

We have constructed a revolving hexagon shaped unit that will hold photos of our American veteran. Each 4"x6" picture of your hero, pref-

erably in uniform if at all possible, will have an identifying plaque underneath it with their name and rank, the conflict in which they served, branch of service, years of service, and Post and Department if applicable.

Any veteran, alive or deceased, may be added to the hexagon. Membership in JWV, JWVA, and NMAJMH is not required. Please, tell your friends about this amazing opportunity to honor our heroes within the walls of NMAJMH.

As always, there is a form to complete: mail the form, picture, and donation of ten times Chai (\$180.00) to our Washington office at 1811 R St NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. For any questions, call Mike Rugel at 202-265-6280.

It is about time we recognize our veterans- those who played such a special role in building our nation and keeping us safe and whose stories are encased within our museum walls. Let all our visitors who tour our exhibits see for themselves the faces, young and old, who protected us all.

Iris Goldwasser, Development Chairman



## NMAJMH Photo Kiosk

4"x6" photo and 4"x.75" ID plate • \$180 (10 x Chai)

Mail form and payment to: NMAJMH, 1811 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Years of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

JWV Post No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Location of Post: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach photo or email image to [nmajmh@nmajmh.org](mailto:nmajmh@nmajmh.org)

Payment:  Check (Make all checks payable to NMAJMH)

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**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST**

Joe Goldstein-544

**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST**

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**DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC**

Sam Kornblau-155 • Ida A. Schreiber-155

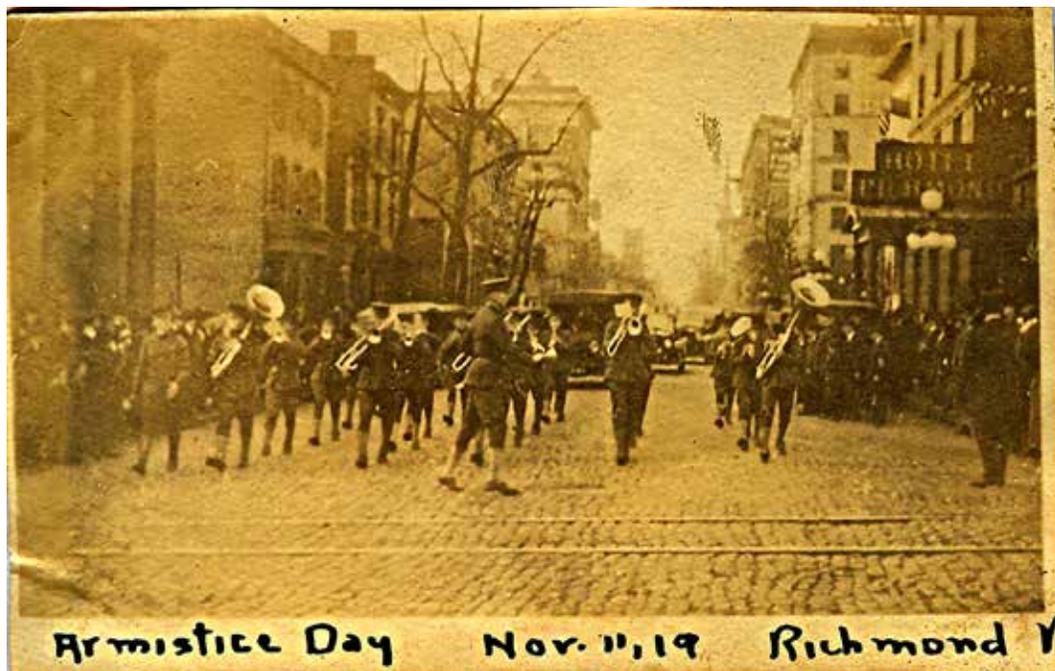
“In 1948, the World War I and Spanish War veterans started me putting flags out for Memorial Day and the High Holidays. When they all passed away I continued, with the help of my wife, Jerry (Geraldine). Now, I get help from the UJF, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. At the age of 93 it's time to slowdown and do more fishing.” -Code Gomberg, Post 499 PA.

[Editor's note: This year, five synagogues helped place over 2,200 flags on graves in the Pittsburgh area.]



# Happy Veterans Day!

**We honor those who served in the past and those who serve today.**



From the Jay Riseman Collection, NMAJMH.

**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**

**Gerald H. Elkan • North Carolina**

**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*

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

**Greta & Jerry Stoliar • 346 St. Louis**  
*Toda Shalom & Good Health to all JWV*

**NJA Harvey & Linda Weiner**  
*L'Chaim*

**Major Stuart A. Wolfer Institute**  
*www.msawi.org*

**Jeri & Bob Zweiman, PNC**  
*To Life*

**David S. Zwerin, PDC**  
*Post 652 • Merrick, NY*

**To all our troops • Be safe, be well!**

Join your Comrades and send a greeting or message to family and friends in the next issue of ***The Jewish Veteran!***

For only \$30.00 per 1 line of names, or \$50.00 for 2 lines, you can purchase a one year subscription which includes greetings for 4 holidays!

Names and greetings can be submitted anytime. Please fill out the form and send it along with your payment to:

Jewish War Veterans  
1811 R Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Check  Visa  MC  Amex

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1st line \_\_\_\_\_

2nd line \_\_\_\_\_  
(no more than 30 characters per line)

# Join us! JWV's 30<sup>th</sup> Mission to beautiful and historic Israel will take place from February 21-March 1, 2016.

We visit sites off the beaten path of a typical trip to Israel, meet local Israelis and their leaders, and enjoy comradeship with fellow veterans and new friends. JWV's missions to Israel are more than tours, they are meaningful experiences. You do not have to be Jewish or a veteran to travel with us-bring your friends!

## \$2990.00

*includes airfare, hotels, meals, and a great tour of Israel!*

**Sunday, Feb. 21:** Nonstop flight on EL AL, the primary Israeli Airline. Dinner, breakfast, and in-flight entertainment included on board.

**Monday, Feb 22:** Afternoon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, where you will be met by aviatours staff and transferred to your beach front hotel. Enjoy a welcome dinner and get a good night's sleep - the trip is only just beginning!

**Tuesday, Feb. 23:** After breakfast, we'll meet with a U.S. Military Attaché for a briefing. We then depart for a panoramic tour of Tel Aviv and visit Independence Hall, where David Ben Gurion announced the Israel independence in 1948, a very meaningful moment in the history of the Jewish people. Continue to visit Rabin Center, where we'll learn about major events in Israeli history, followed by an afternoon briefing with Maj. General Baruch Levy of TZEvet – the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) Veterans' Organization. Back to the hotel for dinner and overnight rest.



**Wednesday, Feb. 24:** Visit Ayalon -an underground ammunition factory during the British Mandate period and rediscovered by accident in the 1970s. Proceed to Latroun, the Armored Corp museum and the museum of the Jewish Warrior. We will view the valley of Ayalon and discuss the famous battle of Joshua to help Gibeon fight their enemies because it made peace with Israel (Joshua 10). Then, we begin our ascent to Jerusalem. On the way we'll visit the 9/11 memorial, second only to the Ground Zero memorial, and Ammunition Hill, where a fierce battle took place during the Six Day War. Check into our hotel, in the center of the city. Dinner and overnight.

**Thursday, Feb 25:** First, we head to the Mount of Olives for a beautiful panoramic view of Jerusalem, and then enter the Old City to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Inside are the last four stations of the Way of the Cross and the empty grave widely recognized as Jesus's burial site. People from all over the world come on pilgrimages to see this important place. We will have a short lunch break (try the Jerusalemite Falafel) and head to Bethlehem, home of both King David and Jesus Christ were born. We visit the Nativity Church and the cave where according to tradition, Jesus was born. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Friday, Feb. 26:** We start the day at Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust and a world renowned research center on Holocaust Studies. As you enter this place, you walk from dark to light, to remind us that the Jewish people survived from darkest of times to the light of Jerusalem. We will also visit the Israel Museum, house of the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea scrolls are exhibited. There is also a world-famous model of Jerusalem during the Second Temple time and the time of Jesus.

Following the Israel Museum, we will head to the Western Wall (Wailing Wall), the only remnant of the Second Temple, destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE, and then back to our hotel for Kabbalat Shabbat (services) and

Shabbat dinner.

**Saturday, Feb. 27:**

Optional Day -Masada and Dead Sea or Sabbath in Jerusalem. We leave Jerusalem and head east towards the Judean desert to Masada, where 700 Jews choose to commit mass suicide



rather than fall into Roman hands. Today, IDF soldiers take their vows here, which end with the declaration "Masada shall not fall again." We'll ascend Masada by cable car to take in the amazing view and see the ruins. Then head to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, to take a dip in the water which has so many minerals that you float on it with no effort. We reach Kibbutz Lavi hotel for dinner and overnight.

For those who choose to stay in Jerusalem, after Shabbat you will be driven to meet up with the group at the Kibbutz hotel.

**Sunday, Feb. 28:** Tour the synagogue at Kfar Naum, where Jesus preached his sermons, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. From here we ascend to the Golan Heights and travel to Mount Bental for a view over Syria. Nearby is Emek Habacha (the Valley of Tears), the site of the fiercest tank battle of the Yom Kippur War of 1973. Our last visit of the day will be to the Shalom Observation, which overlooks the entire Sea of Galilee, to discuss the strategic significance of the Golan Heights. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Monday, Feb 29:** We depart our hotel towards Nazareth. We visit the Church of Annunciation, built over a typical house of the time, including a mikvah (emersion bath). Continue to Mount Tabor for a bird's eye view of the Valley of Jesre'el and talk about the Biblical battle of Barak and Deborah against Sisera (Judges 5). A short distance away, we'll visit Beit Shean, a historical town and site of archaeological excavations dating back to biblical times.

We will then continue to beautiful Haifa for a bird's eye view over the amazing Baha'i Gardens, and then visit the Pnimiya Zvait -IDF "West Point Academy" to meet cadets who will become the future commanders of the IDF. We end the day with dinner and rest at our hotel. Transfer to Ben Gurion airport for our flight back home.

**Tuesday, Mar. 1:** 12:45AM – Flight home. Early morning arrival in New York.

### Paris -Normandy Extension

Break the long flight on the return in charming Paris. Be greeted by a guide and visit the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, Montmartre, take a boat ride on the Seine and more. Then travel to Pointe du Hoc -a 90 feet cliff overlooking the ocean where on June 6th 1944 US rangers fought a fierce battle, discover Omaha beach -the famous landing beach of Normandy, and show respect to our heroes at the American cemetery.

4 days / 3 nights, 4 star hotels, breakfast and dinner daily, daily tours including entrance fees and airport transfers.

*We will operate this group only if a minimum of 10 join*

For complete information, please contact

Christy Turner at JWV Headquarters:

Phone: (202) 265-6280 • E-mail: [cturner@jwv.org](mailto:cturner@jwv.org)

If you would like to extend your stay in Israel, or take optional extensions to Petra (Jordan) or other side trips, please contact David or Mary at Aviatours directly.

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