



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Volume 71 • Number 2 • 2017

**Military Perspective
of Israel Creates
Unique Trip**
Front Page

**Jewish Warrior
Weekend**
Front Page

Review: The Face of Battle
Page 3

**NEC Paul D. Warner
Announces His Candidacy
for National Commander**
Page 7

**Register Now!
122nd Annual
National Convention**
Page 9

**A Lay Leader's Journey
into the Jewish Faith**
Page 10

**Women Veterans
-Sisters Under the Skin-
Share Experiences
During VA Gatherings**
Page 11

**"And Then There
Were Three"
Long Beach, CA,
VA Medical Center
Renamed for
Tibor Rubin**
Page 22

JWVA News
Pages 18-19

Military Perspective of Israel Creates Unique Trip

By Nelson Mellitz, narrated to
Cindy Chambers

If you are a military enthusiast, served in the Armed Forces, or studied the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), then you want to go on JWV's Allied Mission to Israel. What makes this trip unique is that it is a Mission, not a vacation. Its purpose is to bring veterans and their families—Jewish and non-Jewish alike—to Israel for a first-hand look into Israel's military, security, and safety.

I last visited Israel four years ago with my synagogue and it was a completely different trip. On JWV's Mission, we explored battlefields and had extensive visits with active duty and retired personnel from the IDF. Really, the entire perspective was different. We were viewing the cities as fortresses—the layout, the topography—how did people defend themselves? How do you



Wreath laying ceremony on Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day), at IDF Armored Corps Memorial at Latroun. From left: IDF cadet, NC Carl Singer; LTG Christopher L Powers, Ret., Texas National Guard; Robert Looby, American Legion New Jersey, Vietnam Veteran.

structure your life around possible missile strikes? The conversations are unique to Israel and ones we wouldn't have been able to have elsewhere.

After many days of learning so much military history, the

culminating highlight for me was Akko, the impressive underground Crusader city. It had huge, high ceilings and the walls were all reconstructed by the Israelis. Usually Crusaders simply attacked,

Continued on page 14

Jewish Warrior Weekend

By Dr. Barry Schneider
Ft. Worth Post 755

Twenty-two cadets from the Air Force Academy, Virginia Military Academy (VMI), Amherst,

Princeton, and Colorado State met for a weekend of comradeship and learning at the annual Jewish Warrior Weekend: Aggieland, which took place from April 14-16,



Major General Norton Schwartz, center left, posed with the cadets after his keynote address. Barry Schneider, second from right, was on hand to help answer questions about JWV and provide support. Photo credit: Danielle Freedman, Texas A&M Hillel.

2017 at Texas A&M University. Three of the four military branches were represented.

The cadets arrived in College Station on Friday and celebrated Shabbat at Hillel with a welcome from Brigadier General Joe Ramirez, the Commandant of the Corps of Cadets. He expressed great appreciation for everything Jewish military members have done for the country from the beginning at New Amsterdam to the present.

After a lecture and update on Middle East politics from Andrew Ashford of AIPAC, the cadets were treated to a late night showing of "True Honor," a documentary about Jewish Medal of Honor Recipients

Continued on page 15



THE JEWISH VETERAN

The Jewish Veteran is the Official Publication of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America

National Commander Carl A. Singer
National Editor Monroe Mayer, PNC
Associate Editors Lance Wang
Richard Goldenberg
Managing Editor Jordana Green Laurent
Graphics/Production Editor Christy Turner

EDITORIAL OFFICE

1811 R Street, NW • Washington, D.C. 20009
Telephone (202) 265-6280 x504
Fax (202) 234-5662
E-mail jwv@jwv.org
Web Site www.jwv.org

The Jewish Veteran is published 4 times a year:
Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall, by the

Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Periodical postage paid at Washington, DC, and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to Jewish War Veterans, 1811 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Subscription price in the United States is \$5.00 per year, included in membership. Nonmember subscriptions: \$10.00. Single copies: \$2.50.

Photos and articles submitted to The Jewish Veteran shall be used at the discretion of the organization. The opinions expressed in signed articles and letters in this magazine are not necessarily those of J WV.

Advertising information and rates available from the Editorial Office. J WV assumes no responsibility for products and services advertised in this publication.

© 2016 by the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.
NPA#112285
ISSN 047-2018.

Reproduction without permission is prohibited.

CONTENTS

Your Letters.....	2
Message From the Commander..	4
News From the NED	5
Dispatches From The Editor	5
Membership Corner	6
J WV in Action.....	12
New Members	16
Reunions/In Search Of.....	16
Committee Reports	17
National Ladies Auxiliary	18
Museum News.....	20
Taps.....	22



Are you on the list?

There are two ways to get your name on our mailing list:

- 1) Go to www.jwv.org. On the right hand side about halfway down the page, there's a box that says "Stay Connected." Enter your email, and you're on the list!
- 2) Send an email to jwv@jwv.org requesting to be added, and one of our staffers will send you a subscription email. Click the link and you're good to go!

A few things to be aware of:

- We will never sell or share your email address
- If you hit "unsubscribe," then you stop receiving ALL of our emails. If that wasn't your intention, follow one of the two steps above. If you think we send too many emails, please let us know!

Get Social with JWV!

Use JWV's social media to share pictures and keep in touch with JWV members and friends.



[facebook.com/
JewishWarVeterans](https://www.facebook.com/JewishWarVeterans)



[twitter.com/
JewishWarVets](https://twitter.com/JewishWarVets)

Got Spirit?

Show your JWV spirit with JWV buttons and fans!

Contact Melody Jackson at JWV Headquarters for prices and ordering information. 202-265-6280.



JWV Buttons!



JWV Fans!

YOUR LETTERS

Thank You From A Boy Scout

Dear Jewish War Veterans of the USA,

Thank you very much for your attendance at my Court of Honor. I am honored to hear the very kind words from your letter. Thank you for your letter and certificate!

Alex Weisberger

Korean War Veteran Status

NC (Col) Singer:

Your message in the "Jewish Veteran", Vol 71 - Number 1 -2017, is in question.

Your comment concerning Korean veterans..."similarly shine and contribute significantly"...is certainly in doubt.

Perhaps you could have said, ..."even though it appears that there is no longer a KW committee, we shall continue to support their status and membership as a veteran".

*Richard Aronson
USAF - 1952-55*

Display your JWV Membership proudly!

The JWV supplies store isn't just for pins and poppies!

You can also buy polo shirts, Post flags, badges, caps and jackets!

**Shirts, caps,
and jackets!**



**Post Banners
and Flags!**

Click the link on the JWV home page



**Or call Pat Ennis at 703-753-3733
or by email: pat@asb-va.com**

For JWV caps, call Keystone Uniform Cap Corporation

Phone: 215-821-3434 • Fax: 215-821-3438
www.keystoneuniformcap.com/Jewish-War-Veteran-Caps.html

Review: The Face of Battle

By Cindy Chambers and Jordana Green Laurent

The National Portrait Gallery's "The Face of Battle: Americans at War, 9/11 to Now" examines the toils and tribulations of modern warfare in the lives of U.S. service members. The six installations, ranging from photography to audio-visual, capture moments of pain, boredom, and camaraderie. Death, in all its oppressive forms, lingers through the entire collection.

The exhibit's introduction reminds us "how military service has now become an integral part of advertising campaigns for everything from beer to trucks to real estate; the veteran as a product placement vehicle speaks of a business-as-usual mentality that puts us in danger of losing any sense of what it means to have been in combat."

To combat this danger of sensory deprivation to combat, the exhibit brings the faces of war front and center by literally showing us the humanity—the good, bad, and ugly—of war.

Bedrooms of the Fallen

by Ashley Gilbertson

At first glance, Ashley Gilbertson's photos are almost inviting. Everything is familiar. The bedrooms of young adults in US working- to middle-class suburban homes. The bed with a nearby nightstand, paperbacks, computers, school awards, the U.S. flag on the wall or sewn into a pillow. But then you begin to notice the age of the room. There are posters for movies that released six years ago; a class of 2013 high school letterman jacket; unopened Christmas presents in the corner. The bedrooms are unoccupied both in the photo and in the homes.

Reading the captions on each print, you learn the bedrooms housed U.S. service members before they were killed in action. The human cost of war is never more apparent than when you recognize that the service member died two to six years ago, but their family has left the bedroom untouched. As if a personal museum exhibit, the room expresses the service member's hobbies, religion, musical tastes, and all those habits that

make up an individual's personality. Gilbertson's choice of black-and-white prints, over color, only further locks the room in time.

As much about grief as the ultimate sacrifice of war, Bedrooms of the Fallen reminds you of the importance of kindness. Crawling through traffic, waiting at the VA pharmacy, or listening to your Post member's recitation of his day, all these moments are being lived by someone who might be grieving or trying to move forward.

Homage to 2nd Lt. John Holt Jr. by Vincent Valdez

The sole exhibit with a mixed media approach, Vincent Valdez's work speaks through sight and sound. You are immediately drawn to a video projection of a flag draped-casket slowly floating across the screen with rotating images of an urban American neighborhood in the background. Speakers blast "And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda," an anti-war Irish punk song by The Pogues. It is jarring and upsetting, so you look away only to be transfixed by an oil painting that stretches across two-thirds of the wall. Appearing almost photo-like, the close-up of an army soldier's battle-weary face conveys the trauma of war. When you see the display case housing a tri-fold US flag devoid of color, you feel the exhibit's message, not as a whisper, but as a blunt club to the face. War broke this soldier down and ultimately took his life.

Valdez explained that the featured soldier, John Holt Jr., was a good friend and dutiful citizen. After serving a tour in Iraq as a combat



John by Vincent Valdez / Oil on canvas 2010-2012
Courtesy of the artist and David Shelton Gallery, © Vincent Valdez.

medic, 2nd Lt. Holt Jr. returned home suffering from PTSD. Before deploying for a second tour in 2009, he died by suicide. Duty and loss ring forth in this homage to John, friend of Vincent, attendant of the wounded, and one of our fallen heroes.

A Soldier's Life by Stacey Pearsall

Air Force photographer Stacey Pearsall noted, "I've often heard war described as perpetual boredom punctuated by moments of sheer terror. I've seen and documented both." One of the few



Apple Pie & Baseball by Stacy L. Pearsall
Aluminum print 2007. Courtesy of the artist.

female combat photographers, she has worked in more than forty-two countries, including serving three tours in Iraq.

Pearsall's lens captures the social moments and comradeship of life behind the front lines, as well as the pressure of soldiers as they wait for the inevitable patrol or mission. In "Apple Pie & Baseball," a young soldier practices America's national pastime. He swings a bat with a look of intense concentration, allowing you to momentarily forget that he is standing in front a tank and could be seconds from danger.

By living, eating, sleeping, and grieving with her subjects, Pearsall broke down the boundaries between soldier and photographer. What emerged were raw photos showing the humanity and emo-

Continued on page 15



Christopher Scherer by Ashley Gilbertson / Pigment print 2009 (printed 2017)
Ashley Gilbertson/VII Photo, ©Ashley Gilbertson/VII Photo.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander COL Carl A. Singer

Time flies – although it's only May, this will be my last opportunity to reach out to you in The Veteran as National Commander. It's been a good year—I've had the opportunity to visit several Departments and Posts, and have more on my schedule for May and June.

I just got back from the JWV Mission to Israel. What a great trip—I hope each and every one of you signs up for next year's Mission. Take 44 people, one bus, a great driver, one outstanding tour guide AND a beautiful country, stir gently, and you have the JWV Mission to Israel.

We participated in both Israel's Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day), attended memorial services for the Border Police, and participated in a wreath laying at Latrun for the Armor Corps.

I'm writing this column on May 7, 2017—the 72nd anniversary of V.E. Day. This morning, I attended the Department of New Jersey's 36th Annual Legislative Breakfast. When I asked the World War II veterans to raise their hands, it turned out that there were only three in attendance. We owe a great deal to our World War II veterans and for many years they have provided us direction and guidance. Wars result in new generations of veterans—each with unique circumstances and challenges.

JWV is a respected and trusted voice of American Jewry—we've paid our dues. We must be advocates for veterans, for Jews, and for Israel. Our veterans have earned their keep. Service to veterans is not an entitlement or a gift—it is a debt the nation owes us. Being a veteran is an honorable, respected distinction. I've seen this many times in my travels.

Change is vital to any organization, but we can find it very difficult to even consider change. There's a hidden "that's not the way we've always done it!" barrier that keeps us from even discussing, let alone adopting, new ideas. This mindset

must be overcome. Time and again I hear that we will fade away and the museum (The National Museum of American Jewish Military History) will be our legacy. However, the actions we take today will greatly affect our country's future. Recruitment and retention remain key to our survival. We must keep track of our members to retain and recapture their participation and spirit. As people move, they may find themselves in different communities away from their old friends. We must enable and enhance dual-post membership. In New Jersey, for example, our big city posts have withered as members have moved to retirement communities—and one in six of members live out of state. This calls for reexamining our membership model.

We face many challenges—let me highlight some specifics:

For some young veterans, we need to help them navigate the VA System. Many suffer from PTSD and other service related maladies. Some may benefit from mentoring as they start their civilian careers. Some are looking for positive volunteering opportunities to help other veterans, and some simply are seeking a social outlet to join with other Jewish veterans. We must understand their varied and diverse needs as we integrate them into our organization.

On the other end of the spectrum, we must support our aging members. Whether it's giving them a ride to a meeting or simply calling or stopping by to see how they're doing. Many posts hold meetings where more members are absent than present. We must reach out to the empty chairs.

We need to continue to provide service to all veterans—whether it's at the VA hospitals or the nursing homes or on the streets—we must continue to help our fellow veterans. It is the right thing to do—one homeless veteran living on the streets is one too many.

Helping veterans is also our greatest recruit-

ing and retention tool. Members who get involved helping veterans stay involved.

Lastly, there is no place for anti-Semitism in American society, and we must stand firm. We support a strong, safe, and secure Israel—we must remain a strong voice in that regard.

The underlining message is that we must communicate and we must innovate. We do many great things, but there's always more to do and possibly newer and better ways to do it. I will continue to work with you as we continue to build towards the future.

As the public representative of this wonderful organization, I continue to put our best foot forward—when meeting with a JWV echelon or testifying before a joint Senate and House veterans committee. I'd like to thank the many who have helped me over the past year: Past National Commanders, Past National Presidents, Department Commanders, Department Presidents, Post Commanders, Auxiliary Presidents, and lots and lots of hard workers. Everyone lent a helping hand and encouragement as needed.

A special thanks to Herb Rosenbleeth and his outstanding team, our dedicated professional staff, who are here for us all year. You all make JWV sing!

Thanks also to my Chief of Staff, Nelson Mellitz, and my Chief Aide, Bernie Epworth, who have the unenviable task of trying to keep me out of trouble—I thank them for the efforts, their advice, and their friendship.

To everyone—come to San Antonio for our National Convention—you'll be glad that you did.

God Bless the United States of America.



A Look Back On A Memorable Year!



DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

PNC Monroe Mayer, National Editor

As the days get longer, and the sun rises earlier, we will be simultaneously meeting for our Department and Council Conventions. Part and parcel of those important meetings will be the election of new officers for all levels, and most importantly, the exchange of ideas and the submission of proposed Resolutions.

It is up to us, for JWV's future, to meet and vote for our representatives and bring what is considered at these meetings to the National Convention in San Antonio, Texas later on this summer. For the future, please remember that these events are the life line of our organization.

In addition to these important occurrences, we will also be involved in Memorial Day and

Independence Day ceremonies. Many of our groups participate in events within their local communities, and also celebrate with the other veteran organizations.

Participation is certainly the order of the day, in both Conventions and Ceremonies. It will demonstrate to all that JWV is still active as one of the oldest active veterans' organization. This will be important to our members, our fellow coreligionists, and other participants in these ceremonies. Our members place flags on graves, act as Color Guards for observances, collect money for poppies, and do so much more to make sure our veterans are recognized. If you see them in your community, say hello and thank a veteran

for his/her service.

Being involved in local events demonstrates to onlookers that we must take care of our veterans, maintain the VA medical centers and hospitals, and most particularly, remind our Congressional representatives that they also must provide for veterans as they have promised. Write to your representatives, call, and/or email to help advocate for better care for our nation's heroes. It is what they deserve, and what they have earned.



NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

On March 22, 2017, National Commander Colonel Carl Singer testified before a joint session of the Senate and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. NC Singer presented the legislative priorities of JWV, thereby officially informing Congress of our position on a number of crucial veterans issues. The co-chairs of the committee are Senator Johnny Isakson (R - GA) and Congressman Phil Roe, M.D. (R-TN), each of whom have many years of service with the Veterans' Affairs committees.

NC Singer's introduction spoke of JWV's 120 year history, our strong VAVS program, hosting of educational programs, and supporting patriotic organizations like Boy Scouts of America. He emphasized that the VA must be kept intact, expanding to private care only when VA care is unavailable. He stressed that extending the Choice Act deadline cannot mean priva-

tization. NC Singer said, "JWV believes that the best healthcare is at the VA."

JWV is a strong advocate of equal treatment for female veterans, and NC Singer further emphasized the need for VA improvements in the treatment process for Military Sexual Trauma (MST).

Another issue of great importance to JWV is the plight of our homeless veterans. NC Singer acknowledged that while the VA has made great strides in reducing the number of homeless veterans, even one homeless veteran is one too many.

JWV supports passage of the Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2017 (HR 1472/S594) to expand care-giver eligibility to include full-time pre-9/11 veteran caregivers. These caregivers save the VA healthcare costs and give the veteran desired personalized treatment.

NC Singer stated that JWV strongly supports continued research and treatment for service-related toxin exposure. When veterans have been exposed to toxins while on active duty, they and their families must receive proper care and treatment, no matter when the toxin effects appear. Toxic related illnesses may appear at any time, even decades later. Delayed harmful effects of toxins may be seen from Agent Orange (JWV supports the Agent Orange Extension Act of 2015), from contaminated water (JWV supports the Honoring Americas Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families

Act of 2015), and from exposure experienced by our Vietnam War Navy Veterans. JWV also supports the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017 (HR 299 and S422).

Prevention of veteran suicide is one of the most important issues for JWV. The VA reports that on average, 20 veterans a day die by suicide. This is unacceptable. JWV and NC Singer strongly urges Congress to pass the Sgt. Brandon Ketchum Never Again Act (HR 874). The provisions of this act would help ensure same-day treatment for veterans calling in to the VA crisis line.

The topics mentioned above are just a few of JWV's Legislative Priorities, which are our goals and topics of concern for Congress. The priorities initially start as Resolutions, which are submitted on a yearly basis. They are first determined at a Post level, and then are refined and voted upon by the Department. Any Resolution that passes at the Department level is forwarded to National for further discussion and debate at JWV's annual convention. Those that are voted on and passed by the general body become the policies of our organization and are the basis for the Legislative Priorities.

Stay tuned for more information about how to submit Resolutions and participate in our 2017 Convention Resolutions process, even if you are unable to join us in San Antonio. All JWV members are encouraged to participate in this important process!



National Commander Carl A. Singer presenting JWV's Legislative Priorities before a joint Senate and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on March 22, 2017.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

As many of you know, Membership Chairman Bob Richter is stepping down at the end of the year, and Barry Lischinsky from Massachusetts will be taking over the committee. Membership Coordinator Mara Sherman interviewed Mr. Richter to discuss his time in JWV, what he has learned as Membership Chair, and his hopes for the future of the organization.

Why did you join JWV? Was there an experience that drew you to join the organization?

JWV has always been a family institution for me. My three older brothers all served in combat in WWII. After the war, the three of them joined the JWV post in Bayonne. After serving during the Korean conflict, it was just a given that I would join too, although I was not very involved at that time. Later, I moved to Camden, NJ for work and I became friendly with a neighbor who was commander of Post 126, and he talked me in to transferring to his Post. Again, I wasn't terribly involved in those days. And then I met Ed Siegal, who convinced me to come to meetings, and made me the Adjutant.

You've mentioned before that you weren't initially interested in being a Post Commander. What changed your mind?

My story is intertwined with the story of my Post. The Post became dormant in the late 1980s and early 1990s. NJ Department Commanders at that time wanted me to take over and become Commander but I was not interested. A fellow new member convinced me that a JWV presence was needed in the area. Since no one wanted to be Commander, I reluctantly took the job believing it was not my cup of tea. However, I quickly learned that I had an aptitude for the job and for recruiting new members. I became quite good at it. I made recruiting new members my priority. I pushed myself to do more and more. The Post's presence at the Community and National level grew beyond my wildest expectations.

Since recruitment is your big strength, what advice do you have for recruiting new members?

Ask people to join! That's my number one tip for recruitment—it sounds so obvious, but really, that's what it all comes down to. Go to functions in the Jewish community where you will be exposed to large crowds and new people. Talk to everyone you meet, and ask them if they are a veteran. Recruitment is a virtuous circle—each person you recruit has connections to other Jewish veterans who are potential new members. I cannot stress enough how important it is to be friendly and kind to new people—I recommend assigning each new person a buddy who has been in the group for a while, someone who will introduce them to new members who will make them feel like they are part of the family.

The trick is to take away people's excuses.



Bob Richter, left, pictured here receiving the Membership Recruiter of the Year from then NC Ira Novoselsky in 2008. Bob was a frequent winner of the Recruiter of the Year award.

You don't have a way to get to the meetings? We can get you a ride. On a fixed income? That's fine, pay what you can, I'll make up the rest. No time for meetings? That's okay too, you can pay your dues and contribute in other ways that may not require attending meetings. You have to an-

ticipate the reasons somebody might have for not joining and remove those obstacles for them – you have to make it easy. That's how I averaged 30 new members a year when I was a Post commander, and my success motivated other members of my Post to compete with me.

What are you most proud of accomplishing in your time as Membership Chairman?

Some of my biggest projects include the multi-year dues structure, so you can pay for more than one year at a time at a reduced rate, the payment plan for Life Memberships, and presenting membership status in a more user-friendly manner.

What do you think you could have done better as Membership Chairman?

My biggest disappointment during my tenure is that we didn't get more young people to join up. Post 9/11 veterans, millennials—I never figured how to get them to join the group. That's going to be the big challenge for the Membership committee in the next few years—figuring out how to get the next generation involved.

Speaking of the future—do you have any advice for Barry Lischinsky, the incoming Membership Chair?

Be persistent and be personal. You have to let the members know that recruitment happens person

Continued on page 14

7 Questions with a JWV Member

Member: Dan Helmer

Post: 95

Current Residence: Fairfax, Virginia

Military Service: Army 2003-2014

Member since year: 2017



1. What was a special moment for you, as a Jew, serving in the military?

One was at West Point. Our Rabbi, Carlos Huerta, had deployed to Iraq. My fellow cadets and I often ran Friday night services for the community while he was away. It was an honor to help bring the community together at such a critical time, with our standard bearer away leading the charge, providing ecumenical services down range. I felt a special connection with my faith and with the members of the congregation.

2. Can you tell us a bit about your military service?

I served in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Korea, and in a broad range of domestic postings. Each deployment was different, but everywhere I

went I learned about courage, honor, and the art of building coalitions. When people ask about my service, I usually talk about Afghanistan [where] I was given a chance to found and run the COIN Academy – a school to train coalition forces in counterinsurgency efforts. The academy trained 2,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, coalition and Afghan forces in a year. Collaborating across traditional divides really does yield the best results—it's an age-old, but often-forgotten, truth.

3. What is one of your fondest JWV memories?

Continued on page 17

NEC Paul D. Warner announces his candidacy for National Commander

Paul Warner's candidacy for JWV National Commander has been unanimously endorsed by the Department of New York.

A member of JWV Post 42 (now merged in Post 191) in New York for over fifty years, Paul Warner dedicated much of his life to volunteering in both the veterans and Jewish communities.

He entered the United States Coast Guard's officer candidate school in May 1952 and was commissioned in the Coast Guard Reserve as an Ensign four months later. He was assigned to the Coast Guard's training facility at Cape May, NJ, where he served for over twenty months. During that time he was promoted to Lieutenant, and was involved in various Coast Guard Reserve administrative units, especially those involved in Judge Advocate matters. Unfortunately, extensive educational and business commitments prevented him from continuing in the Reserve, and he returned to civilian life in May 1954.

He received his Ph.D. in Accounting and Computer Applications and Information Systems (IT) and a M.B.A. in accounting from the Graduate School of Business Administration, New York University. He received J.D. and LL.M. degrees from the New York University School of Law. He is a CPA and a member of the New York and Federal Bars.

Paul had a varied and interesting professional career. He joined an accounting firm after completing his active duty with the Coast Guard. Ultimately, as a result of mergers, he became a member of an international accounting firm and National Director of Audit Policy. He re-



tired from the firm approximately 25 years ago. He then joined the faculty of Hofstra University where he spent the last twelve years as the Chair of the Accounting, Taxation and Legal Studies in Business department and where he is currently Professor Emeritus.

He authored numerous articles in his field, which have appeared in *The CPA Journal* and *Management Accounting*. He also authored or co-authored many manuals and guides, including Chasin's Handbook for Auditors, the Kaplan Audit Manual, and the American Accounting Association's Cost Accounting manual.

Paul was a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Auditing Standards Board and Chair of the New York Society of Certified Public Accountants Auditing Oversight and Standards Committees. He was also a member of American Bar Association committees. He lectured extensively for the New York State Society of CPAs, the American Management Association, and Management Center de Mexico.

His previous Jewish War Veterans positions include being the commander of his Post, Westchester County Council, and the Department of New York. He is currently a member of the National Executive Committee, and serves on the National Audit, Personnel and Coordinating Committees. He was Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Department of New York and obtained the passage of the law which increased the real estate tax exemption for New York state veterans by fifty percent.

He is currently a member of the Westchester County Veterans Advisory Committee where he guides its activities so that they will not interfere with the Jewish traditions. He is currently seeking to have an Honor Flight scheduled for observant members of the Jewish War Veterans. In addition to being active in JWV, Paul is also a member of the American Legion, DAV, MOAA, and the Korean Veterans Association.

Paul and his wife Norma have been married for 65 years. They have three sons and one grandson. Norma is a retired elementary school teacher, and also has experience teaching higher education. She is a member of Post 191 Ladies Auxiliary.

JROTC Awards Banquet Tradition Continues

By Stan Levinson, Post 172 Commander

Sarasota/Manatee Post 172 held its annual JROTC Awards Banquet was held on Sunday, February 19, 2017. It was a huge success.

Each year, Post 172 plans one of its monthly meetings as an Awards Banquet, where we award medals to four high school cadets, who have been nominated by their respective JROTC department. This award is based on the Cadet's ability to excel in patriotism, National pride, excellence in academics, and standing up for what is morally right. This year's recipients came from four of the local high school's JROTC Departments.

Each Cadet was presented an Americanism/Patriot medal and ribbon. The Cadets will receive, at his/her school's Award Ceremony, a Certificate from JWV acknowledging the Award. This Certificate is signed by the National Jewish

War Veterans Commander, Col. Carl A. Singer, and then counter-signed by the Senior Army Instructor of the student's JROTC Department.

Post 172 is highly supportive of this JROTC Awards Program, as it provides the students with a great curriculum, as well as instilling discipline, a solid direction in life, originality, and an awareness of other people's existence.

The Jewish War Veterans organization is the oldest active Veterans organization in the United States. The local chapter meets the third Sunday of the months October through April, though this year's April meeting had to be cancelled, due to



The Senior Army Instructors and cadets who were honored at the Post's JROTC awards ceremony. Riverview High School: Cadet Second Lieutenant Katie M; Sarasota High School: Cadet First Sergeant Thomas Ruiz; Booker High School: Cadet Staff Sergeant Kacey Garrison; Lakewood Ranch High School: Cadet Captain Morgan Longle.

the Passover observance at Kobernick House.

For further information about the activities of Post 172, please contact Stan Levinson at stanlevinson172@gmail.com.

Welcome to San Antonio!

The San Antonio area was first explored by Spanish expeditions in 1691 and 1709. The town itself was founded in 1718, as was the San Antonio de Valero Mission, named by first Governor of Spanish Texas in honor of the Portuguese Catholic Priest Saint Anthony of Padua. By 1778, the town had a population of 2,060. The missions were all secularized by 1795, and San Antonio de Valero Mission (later, the Alamo) became a military barracks.

The Alamo is best known as the site of the most infamous battle of the Texas Revolution when Mexican troops under President General Antonio López de Santa Anna massacred the city's Texan defenders over the course of a 13 day siege in 1836, leaving no survivors.



San Antonio was seized twice in the Mexican invasions of 1842, and the population was reduced to about 800 in 1846. After the Civil War, San Antonio prospered as a cattle, distribution, mercantile, and military center serving the border region and the Southwest. The creation of the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway in 1877 helped San Antonio enter a new era of economic growth, with the population reaching over 20,000 by 1880. During both World Wars, San Antonio further established itself as an indispensable city by contributing soldiers to the American war effort from Camp Travis and Fort Sam Houston, one of the Army's oldest installations.

Due to its Spanish, Mexican, and German influences, modern San Antonio has a rich history of patriotism, a robust culture, and a thriving art scene. As the second most populous city in Texas, San Antonio is a bustling metropolis which is visited by more than 20 million tourists annually and is home to multiple institutions of higher learning and art, such as the University of Texas and the San Antonio Museum of Art.

The city has painstakingly preserved numerous landmarks including the Unesco World Heritage Site at the Alamo (two blocks from our hotel), the Casa Navarro State Historic Site, and the King William Historic District. In the late 1800s, this 25-block area was settled by prominent German merchants and was the most sophisticated housing area in the city.

There are also a variety of scenic sites and recreational activities available for families. The San Antonio River Walk stretches for 15 miles throughout the downtown area, flanked on either side by a plethora of restaurants, shops, and historical locations, while 150-miles of city-wide trails weave throughout the urban area. Our hotel, the Hilton Palacio del Rio, sits right on the River Walk- the riverboat rides board right outside the building!

Likewise, the San Antonio Zoo, encompassing 35 acres and housing 3,500 animals, is positioned at the headwaters of the river while the 343.7-acre Brackenridge Park, Botanical Garden, and Japanese

Tea Garden will thrill nature-lovers of all ages. There is also El Mercado (Market Square), a three-block outdoor plaza lined with shops that is the largest Mexican market in the country.

In terms of access and public transportation, our hotel is a 20-minute drive from the San Antonio International Airport, and taxis and Ubers are plentiful. Furthermore, the VIVA Metropolitan Transit system and the VIA downtown transit bus services have routes



which connect downtown San Antonio with the city's various cultural and historical sites. We are fortunate in that our hotel is across the street from several metro stops located near the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

We hope you will join us for JWV's 122nd National Convention in beautiful San Antonio and experience all this vibrant city has to offer!

We have lots more information available on our website including deadlines, airport transportation information, the meeting schedule, and the "Show Us Your Badge" program, which gives discounts to attendees who show their convention badges or name tags! You can find it all here: <http://www.jwv.org/events/convention>.



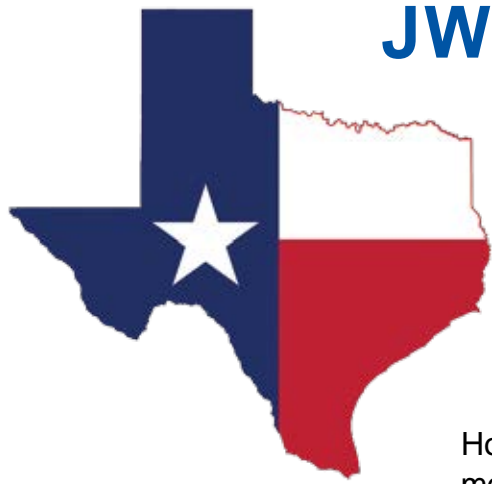
Through San Antonio's **Show Us Your Badge** program, convention attendees can receive discounts and special offers at over 50 restaurants and nightlife establishments in downtown San Antonio simply by showing their conference badge.

Our hotel also participates in this program, so bring your convention badge to the restaurant from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm for a 10% discount.

Check out the JWV website for the complete list of participating venues.

Vietnam Veterans Night Out!

Everyone is welcome to join us for an evening of good food, good fun, and comradery. Contact Jerry Alperstein for details and to make your reservation.



JWV's 122nd Annual National Convention

August 27-September 1, 2017 • San Antonio, Texas

Hilton Palacio del Rio • 200 S Alamo Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205
Phone: 210-222-1400 • Fax: 210-270-0761

Hotel Registration deadline is **Monday, July 10**. A one night (\$155/single or double) deposit is required for all hotel registrations. A 3-night minimum stay is required.

Hotel reservations **must** be made through JWV or the surcharge will be assessed and attendance at meetings will not be allowed. **There is a \$175 Convention surcharge for those not staying at the hotel.** Local members living within a 50 mile radius are exempt.



Convention Transportation

There is a transportation option to and from the airport. The hotel does NOT provide a shuttle.

- If you need a ride to/from the airport, we have put together a special deal. The service is called WINGZ, a pre-booked personal ride service. To make a reservation, you have two options:

- Go to the Wingz website (<https://www.wingz.me/>) and click on San Antonio, Texas. Follow instructions.
- Call directly @ 1-866-341-0637 or 1-888-983-0156

Pricing:

- 1-2 people, \$25 each way (so \$12.50 per person each way)
- 3 people- \$28 per person each way
- 4-5 people- \$39 per person each way

To receive our special price, you must use code RITA12.

Any questions regarding the above please contact PNP Rita Panitz at 407-878-3790 or (cell) 314-853-8780.

Want to submit an ad for our Convention journal about your Post, or a local business? Find the ad Journal form on our website and submit it by July 14! Prices start at only \$50.

There are numerous sponsorship opportunities available, including sponsoring a business session, workshop, or the National Commander's Banquet.

Check out our website for more information: <http://www.jwv.org/events/convention>

Name: _____ Post No: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Room will be shared with: _____

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

JWV 122 nd Annual National Convention	Cost	How Many?	Amount
JWV Member Convention Registration Fee	\$50.00 per member		
Room: I prefer: <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds I need a Handicap room. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please note that handicap rooms are first come-first served and cannot be guaranteed.</i>	\$155.00 per night		
3rd Person in a room	\$77.50 per night		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel	\$175.00		
Commander's Banquet • Thursday, Aug. 31 No. of: Beef_____ Salmon_____ Kosher_____ Sugar Free Dessert_____	\$45.00 per person		
Enter to Win! Raffle Tickets	\$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00		
Total			
Required Minimum Deposit			\$155.00
You must include full payment for National Commander's Banquet. Reservations will only be made if paid in full.		Amount paying now:	
I am paying by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No.		Exp. /	
Signature			
If you are extending your stay, would you be interested in a tour 8/27 or 9/1? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			

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

A Lay Leader's Journey into the Jewish Faith

By Lance Allen Wang, Assoc. Editor

I remember it clear as day. Our Jewish lay leader at Victory Base in Baghdad was redeploying, and she asked the 10-12 of us, located in a small room off to the side of a plywood Chapel surrounded by blast walls, furnished with a few folding chairs and a small wooden ark with a toy Torah (a souvenir from Israel), if any of us would be interested in taking over as lay leader. There was nary a peep from the “congregation”—a collection of men and women from different services, plus a few contractors for good measure. I was hardly in a position to consider myself qualified to take over. Although I didn’t want to be a lay leader, I was unable to stomach the thought that in a war zone some young Jew might not be able to pray at a time that he may want or need to the most, all because I decided not to volunteer. I pulled the lay leader to the side, and said that I’d be happy to volunteer, as long as she understood that my only qualifications were that I’m Jewish and willing to do it.

At the time, I was hardly an observant Jew. Although fiercely proud of my ethnicity and cultural heritage, I was mostly secular in my outlook and lifestyle. I’d been to services a handful of times during the twenty years or so that I’d been in the military, and the last time I’d led a service was when I became a Bar Mitzvah over a quarter century before. I wasn’t a member of a Shul—we had briefly joined one, but it was clear that we had very little in common with the congregation. There were lots of imported European cars in the parking lot in contrast with my dirty pickup truck, and pretty much no one who wore fatigues to work. It was a very Reform shul, but the kind that eschewed kippot and Hebrew in their services. We didn’t stay very long.

Needless to say, I ended up taking on the role. It turned out to be one of the most transformational experiences of my life. I’m sure many people perform that role daily in civilian and military congregations and find it rewarding or mundane, depending upon their circumstances. But as for myself, my time as lay leader became a period of personal spiritual exploration that coincidentally took place during a period of trial and vulnerability.

I’ve always said that the best way to learn something is to teach it. While I felt that my skills as a prayer leader were greatly lacking, it was clear that within the small congregation there were those who knew less about Judaism than me. Some were not Jewish at all, but were in the process of converting at home or were considering it. We had others who recollected bits and

pieces of the service from their youth—but most attended for the same reason I did, to share the company of fellow Jews on Shabbat for a couple of hours. I began to study how to lead a service. I would pick the brains of the Jewish Chaplains that would occasionally visit for a few days. Then something else happened.

I’d been lay leading for a bit over a month and I was in my unit’s headquarters talking with several other officers when there was a rocket attack. It was much larger than the usual 107 millimeter rockets, and this one was far too close for comfort—it roared overhead like a freight train and landed just beyond our blast walls, killing one civilian and injuring several soldiers. Plaster rained down in our headquarters, but other than a blown out window and some shrapnel scattered about the area, we were shaken but no worse for the wear. But I was troubled, and I was fortunate that a week later we had a visiting Rabbi, a reservist from Pittsburgh, I think. I asked him if I could speak with him privately, and he quickly agreed. I think he knew I needed guidance.

We grabbed some coffee and sat in the plywood Chapel. I told him I didn’t get it— as a Jew, as a lay leader, I thought I was doing all the right things. But then there was the rocket attack and I felt nothing. No divine presence, no sheltering hand. Nothing! In retrospect, silly as it sounds, I felt like a spiritual failure and wholly unqualified to lead anyone in prayer.

The Rabbi thought for a moment, and then said, “I’m going to respond to you, but before I do, I want you to be willing to sit and listen to the entire answer.” I wish I could do justice to the way the Rabbi explained it, so I will forego attempting to say what he said, but I will instead tell you what I heard. These may be completely different things, but I internalized what I heard, and in the end, I suppose that is the most important.

He asked me if I believed in God. I knew I couldn’t just dismiss this with a shrug. I’d never really considered the question as a grown-up. I still took many things for granted as though I’d just learned them in Hebrew School, when in fact, that was a long time ago and I’d grown quite a bit since I’d had any form of formal Jewish education. I could no longer take things for granted. God could no longer be seen as the “cosmic Santa



Lieutenant Colonel Lance Allen Wang was part of the Multinational Corps-Iraq in the US Army. This photograph was taken in Al-Quiyyarah, Iraq in 2007.

Claus” such as children see Him. But I needed to find a way to fit an adult understanding of God into the crazy quilt my life had become. So I responded with the old standby, “I’m not sure, but I have spiritual feelings.” Truth be told, I sure wanted to believe in God, and if was going to help me avoid the feeling of spiritual emptiness that I was feeling at my most alone, I was all ears.

We discussed the concept of spirituality, and its connection to faith. What I realized was that spirituality is those things that touch the soul and our ability to feel and appreciate them, while other creatures cannot, is part of our evidence of the divine. But in the end, faith is not a solid line. The divine is not “provable.” Nor is absence of the divine “provable.” That’s why it’s called “faith” and not “fact.” To watchers of “Law and Order”—“Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.” Those spiritual things help connect the “doing and saying the right things” to the divine. Faith helps makes the “doing and saying the right

Continued on page 16

Women Veterans — ‘Sisters Under the Skin’ — Share Experiences During VA Gatherings

By Aimee Caruso, Valley News Staff Writer
Reprinted with permission from Valley News

When Gail Fancher recently met Tish Hutchins, their conversation naturally turned to one thing they had in common: military service. In fact, both had served in the Air Force, albeit during different eras — Fancher from 1984 to 2016, and Hutchins from 1950 to 1972.

“I understand you are Air Force, too,” Fancher, a Hartland resident, said by way of introduction, asking what type of work Hutchins did in the service.

Hutchins, a Charlestown resident, said she was a computer analyst. She then asked Fancher if she had served as a nurse.

“I went in as a nurse and went to medical school to become a doctor,” she said.

“Oh, that’s wonderful,” Hutchins told her.

But Fancher was quick to deflect the compliment and send it back in the direction of Hutchins,

Women veterans are anything but rare. About 10 percent of American veterans are women, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

thanking her for breaking barriers for women.

The Air Force still had a long way to go when Fancher entered in the mid-’80s — she recalls having to “wear a skirt and have a drink in my hand at the club”—but she was appreciative of how much groundbreaking had been done by military women such as Hutchins who had preceded her.

“These ladies ... can never know what they have done,” Fancher said.

The meeting was hardly accidental. Fancher and Hutchins became acquainted at one of the monthly social gatherings for women veterans at the White River Junction VA Medical Center.

Women veterans are anything but rare. About 10 percent of American veterans are women, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. New Hampshire is home to almost 9,000 women veterans, while Vermont has about 3,300.

Still, finding one another isn’t easy. But many women veterans find it fulfilling, not only because of the large gap between civilians and people who have served in the military, but the additional distance between women veterans and their male counterparts.

“I don’t think we share a lot in civilian life, because a lot of people don’t really understand women going into the service ... why we go into

a basically male-dominated area,” said Suzanne Silk, an Army veteran from South Burlington. “It’s nice to connect with other women,” said Silk, who attended the February tea and coffee social for women veterans.

The get-togethers were prompted by Raquel “Rachel” Ardin and her wife, Lynda DeForge, who both served in the Navy. The North Hartland couple had attended veterans’ socials at the VA, but the gatherings attract mostly men.

There aren’t very many places for military women to meet one another, said Ardin, who fashions miniature American flags from beads and safety pins, and loves to give them out. Just over a year ago, she and DeForge talked with Carey Russ, the medical center’s women veterans program manager. Within a month or two, the women’s social was born. They’re held the first Thursday of each month, from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Women’s Comprehensive Care Center, where more than 700 veterans receive their health care.

The medical center has also begun sponsoring writing and book groups for women veterans. In the two years that she’s been program manager, Russ has discovered that such events are a big draw. Women veterans “really flock to programs that are designed just for them,” she said.

In addition to sparking new friendships, the coffee hours have also offered an opportunity for her to share new programming with veterans and provide them an opportunity to ask general questions about women’s health, Russ said. And the medical center’s director, Al Montoya, usually stops in to greet the women, “which they love.”

Hutchins was greeted by those who know her with hugs at this month’s get-together. She’d had back surgery months earlier and been unable to make it to the event.

“We’re glad to see you,” Russ said. “It’s been a long stretch,”

“It’s still stretching,” quipped Hutchins, who said she’d missed the camaraderie. “You don’t have that in the civilian community.”

As they visited, the dozen or so women snacked on oranges, bagels and apple scones. Many wore Ardin’s pins. “I wanted to come and meet the people I totally respect,” said Fancher, who retired from the Air Force in September and now works part time at Global Rescue in Lebanon.

At times, the conversations took on a heavy tone. One woman advised another about resources available for victims of military sexual trauma. Several women described incidents when they had been overlooked as veterans, due to their gender. Gioia Grasso Cattabriga and her husband were fueling up at a local gas station when a pass-

erby spotted Cattabriga’s veteran license plates. The woman walked up to Dick Cattabriga, who is not a veteran, shook his hand and thanked him for his service.

“Thank my wife,” he said.

“That is so very common,” said Cattabriga, an Army veteran who lives in West Lebanon.

Ardin said misinformation persists even among veterans. “A lot of women don’t know they are eligible to come to the VA clinic, and that you don’t have to be disabled.”

For Cattabriga, the monthly socials help fill the vacuum created by two societal trends: waning participation in social organizations and a tendency for people to live far from their extended families.

“There’s a comfort, I think, in sharing memories,” said Cattabriga, who recalled an event for women veterans she’d attended decades ago. She’d written about it afterward, so she’d remember the moment.

There were women in silk dresses, women in jeans and boots, women in blazers and slacks, she wrote, “but we all shared an experience that made us sisters under the skin.”

It’s the same feeling she gets today.

Resources for Female Veterans

- IAVA’s Deborah Sampson Act, which increased the VA’s capacity to provide newborn care and established legal partnerships and expanded peer-to-peer assistance for women veterans: <https://iava.org/press-release/17-veterans-groups-join-iavas-deborah-sampson-act/>
- The VA Center for Women Veterans compiles important statistics and information: <https://www.va.gov/womenvet/>
- To learn about women veteran’s healthcare benefits: <https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/>
- VA Child Care Subsidy Program: <https://www.va.gov/ohrm/worklife-benefits/vachildcare.asp>
- Syracuse University provides business and entrepreneurship training to female veterans through its V-WISE (Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship) program: <http://vwise.vets.syr.edu/vwise>



On Sunday, April 23, 2017, members of the Rockland/Orange District Council were called upon to be the color guard at the Holocaust Museum Center for Tolerance and Education's Yom HaShoah commemoration. The event was held at the New City Jewish Center in New City, New York. Alan Moskin led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Photo credit: Jeff Karg.



PNC Jerry Blum, Post 45 CT, presented Kiddush cups to Kyle Levy and Hannah Heichen, graduating Jewish cadets from the Coast Guard Academy. Norman Hanenbaum and Joanne Blum helped present books from the Jewish Welfare Board.



Post 265 in Deerfield Beach, FL renewed their dedication to work together to give back to their local community over breakfast. They also discussed issues of recruitment and retention and their ultimate goals for the Post. From left to right, Chaplain Richard Berg, Arthur Friedman, Barry Mishkin, Marvin Yellon, and Post Commander Richard Rosenzweig.



Following the annual reading of the Purim Megillah at the Manhattan VA Medical Center, sponsored by Manhattan-Cooper-Epstein-Greenwald Post 1 on March 12, hamantaschen were enjoyed by all including [from left] Department of New York Hospital Chair Mort Weinstein, National Museum Certificate Chair Hannah Deutch, and Post 1 Commander Edward Hochman.



On March 23rd, Post 755 TX co-sponsored a special briefing on BDS and the first Israeli F35 fighter jet. Charles Pulman, founder and President of "Why Israel Matters" a nonprofit devoted to educating the public on Israel's accomplishments, spoke about BDS. Eric Fox, Senior Publications director, briefed attendees on the role and arrival in Israel of their first F35 fighter jet. The Post also awarded State Representative Daniel Goldman a plaque for his assistance in the F35 project and for co-sponsoring the Texas State Legislature Anti BDS Bill.



Enjoying comradery with fellow JWV members, Post 202 FL met on May 11, 2017 for a brunch meeting at a nearby restaurant.



Post 21 NV installed the 2017-2018 officers (pictured) on Sunday, April 23. Outgoing Commander of Post 21, Robert Greene, turned his gavel over to the newly installed Commander Ed Turken. Marian Chudner renewed her term as President of the Womens Auxiliary.



Members of Post 753 TX dedicate a bench at Ft Sam Houston VA Cemetery. The bench has the name of the services on the sides. Pictured from left to right are Herschel Sheiness, Arwin Wilson, Ken Ashworth, Ralph Wilson, Faye Swidler, Sean Sandlin, Garland Scott, and Steve Kohn.



Mat Millen of Post 118 CA presented the JWV Americanism Award to Cadet Daniel Hernandez at Thomas Jefferson High School on May 5th, 2017.



Post members and Auxiliary members of Department of Connecticut served as the Honor Guard for a Holocaust commemoration service at Temple Beth El in West Hartford, Connecticut.



On April 6th 2017, Sheldon Turetsky (left) and Steven Schorr, Commander of MO-KAN Post 605, represented JWV at the Centennial Commemoration of the U.S. Entry into World War I. This 100th year celebration, one of many nationwide, was held at the National World War I Museum and Memorial, The Liberty Memorial, in Kansas City, MO. Photo credit: Sheldon Turetsky.



Like they do every year, Atlanta Post 112 spread out across the city to place flags on Jewish veterans' graves in honor of Memorial Day. From left to right at Greenwood Cemetery in front of the JWV Monument: Richard Chastain, Dept. of SE and Post 112 Cmdr. Robert Max, and Mr. Marc Urbach.

Military Perspective of Israel Creates Unique Trip

Continued from page 1



The group posed for a quick photo in Ben Gurion airport after arriving in Israel!

slaughtered, and moved on. But here, they built a fortress. It is an unbelievable sight and was quite a feat for the Israelis to rebuild.

We interacted with both the US Military Attaché at the US Embassy and the IDF at several locations. The group at the US Embassy



Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day), Armored Corps Memorial Center ceremony at Latrone, Israel. JWV leadership participated in the ceremony by laying a wreath at the monument.

was impressive. They seemed to pull out the stops for us, given the officers in our party. They briefed us regarding the United States' funding and involvement with blockades and settlements, and the partnerships between our two countries. It was not as detailed as most of us had expected, but you can fill in the blanks as you experience the country.

We spent time with members of the IDF's border patrol, as well as an armored division. Both experiences were so welcoming. The individuals who spoke with us and gave tours seemed genuinely happy to meet us, and were highly knowledgeable. The tour of modern and old tanks at Latrun, the Armored Corps

Museum and Memorial was just impressive. We even got into a long discussion about drone warfare, which I found particularly interesting as our own military is adjusting to this modernization. The spirit of camaraderie amongst the IDF soldiers is present, that's for sure.

Something new I learned: retired IDF can no longer wear a uniform. Only active duty wear uniforms. After you retire, you wear pins that denote your service.

We also visited the 9/11 Memorial, which I had never seen before. The very fact that a 9/11 Memorial exists there reveals how connected the U.S. is to Israel! I've not seen a memorial in America that lists every deceased American from all three sites (Twin Towers, Somerset County, and the Pentagon) in one place. The location pulls it all together atop a hill and the Israelis sculpted the landscape around the area – it's just beautiful and truly very moving.

Another new aspect of the trip for me was Tel Aviv. My wife and I were able to go out one night during some free time- now that is a happening place! If I were younger, I'd move to Tel Aviv. The energy is great, with so many new buildings and people in their 20s. It made us feel old! But we had a great time and delicious food. As a tourist, you go to Haifa for a calm, clean city. Tel Aviv is also a clean city that is great for tourists, but it's so much more vibrant. I remember thinking that in Tel Aviv you never really know where anyone is from- people come from across Israel, and all over the world to live there.

Because Israel is so small, it's rather easy to



The spectacular view from Mt Shaul - Gilboa Forest Vista.

see the entire country in ten days, but we made a lot of pit stops along the way, which deepened the experience. Somewhere in the Galilee, we stopped by a kibbutz. You can get taken in by the big markets in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, but this kibbutz had a little gift shop filled with great, handmade items. My wife and I had a good time picking up trinkets for the family, and now, I can't even place where we were. I guess that's the nature of a 10-day trip.

Many trips to Israel don't discuss the country from a military perspective- over thousands of years, the cities and towns developed based on wars and fortification possibilities. You're not going to get that depth of discussion on Israeli military operations, past and present, on any other tour. If you don't go on this trip, you're missing out!



U.S. Military Deputy Attaché from U.S. Embassy, Tel Aviv briefed the JWV group on military cooperation and agreements between Israel and the U.S.

Membership Corner

Continued from page 6

to person. You can't just put an ad in the paper for your Post—you have to take the time to really get to know people.

A goal should be to reduce late payments—it is much easier to get current members to pay their dues than to recruit new ones. I cannot overstate the urgency to work on retention.

This is your last column as Membership Chair. Any last thoughts you wish to share?

I have enjoyed being your membership spokesman and hopefully your motivator in wanting you to recruit new members and in retaining existing members. I will always remember the friends and supporters that I made over the years of my tenure, and I want to thank all of you for making my job a wonderfully great experience.

It is important to note that as of early April 2017, the retention losses are 1,436 members from July 2016. This represents a serious retention loss, up over 1,000 people from 2015. That said, recruitment is still of vital importance, as new members are the future of the Jewish War Veterans. I look forward to seeing what happens next!

Jewish Warrior Weekend

Continued from page 1

created by the JWV Department of California. The cadets were really taken with Tibor Rubin's story and interview- they loved his quote about praying "to anyone who would listen." A special thank you to Greg Lee and the Department for



Participants from Texas A&M working hard to prepare for everyone's arrival by stuffing welcome bags provided by JWV! Photo credit: Danielle Freedman, Texas A&M Hillel.

making the film available to the cadets.

Shabbat morning services were held at the College Station A&M Chabad house, which was followed by a great (Passover) lunch and learn session with the Rabbi's wife. Throughout the day there were campus tours, speakers on leadership, and a visit to the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum. It was clear that the cadets were engaged and attentive; they clearly appreciated the opportunity to meet and talk with each other, military personnel, and veterans.

Former Air Force Chief of Staff General Norton Schwartz shared his thoughts on service and leadership with the cadets, and the importance of making good decisions. Major General David Rubenstein spoke about how the military helped him define his own career path, and the role Jewish cadets play as America's next leaders. He emphasized that you can't lead others if you can't lead yourself; don't let emotions cloud your judgement.

Cadet Daniel Rosenfield commented, "Jewish Warrior Weekend solidified my commitment to the military and the Jewish people. As future Jewish military officers, we must remember that we are defenders of the United States, while ensuring we remain steadfast advocates for our Jewish community. Hearing from active-duty and veteran Jewish military officers rekindled that sense of patriotism and pride."

The conference ended Sunday morning with a round table discussion featuring Chaplain (Maj) Sarah Schechter, USAF Academy Chaplain; Chaplain (Capt.) Menachem Stern, Ft. Hood Chaplain; and Herschel Sheiness, Commander of San Antonio Post 753. I moderated the panel as they chatted about leading the Jewish people, JWV's role in helping veterans, personal experiences in the military, and interesting anecdotes from the panel members.

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the whole weekend was being able to get to know the cadets individually. We talked about our backgrounds, my deployments, and made both

personal and military connections. In addition to sponsoring the event, the Jewish War Veterans Foundation (JWVF) purchased kippot for each of the participants and I also gave them lapel pins with the Israeli flag and the Texas state flag- that definitely garnered a few laughs.

Jewish Warrior Weekend is a wonderful opportunity for young cadets to meet other Jewish officers and develop a sense of comradeship; they know they are not alone. JWV's role for the fu-



Cadets gathered to say Kiddush before Shabbat lunch. Photo credit: Danielle Freedman, Texas A&M Hillel.

ture is clear: we must let cadets and military personnel know that we are available, and that we will support them.

I am thrilled that the JWVF sponsored this wonderful event. We can't wait to see what happens next year!

Review: The Face of Battle

Continued from page 3

tions behind the helmet – reminding us that war is more than bullets. The gritty reality she reveals is one filled with emotional and physical tolls far removed from everyday US civilian life.

In 2014, Pearsall participated in JWV's 119th Convention in Charleston, SC. JWV members posed for full portraits and headshots as part of her Veterans Portrait Project. Like her current exhibit, the compelling images project personality and drive you to ask, "what's their story?" Visit her website at <http://stacypearsall.com/> to review her full collection.

Memorials in Pencil

by Emily Prince

In the early years of the War on Terror, artist Emily Prince began reading obituaries of the deceased to put a name and a face on the losses that had become a montage on TV. She soon created pencil sketches of the fallen, on paper that corresponded to their skin tones. If she could find the information, she also included a few sentences about soldiers.

The archival project features chronological pieces from June 2009 to May 2012 displayed in

a dizzying grid-like order; from a distance, the installation could be a scrabble board. The chaos of the layout is representative of the scale and depth of loss, grief, and memory.

It is eerie to see the painstaking detail Prince put into every portrait—over 2,500 hand-drawn sketches. Up close, you can see every line and read the words she has lovingly inscribed at the top. Each portrait lists the birth and death dates of the subject, a reminder that they are gone too young and too soon.

While only four of the artists are featured here, all six installations showcase the one weapon that has remained throughout all warfare, the human mind. The men and women behind the battles America has been waging since 2001 are displayed and honored in every collection. Less than one percent of Americans currently serve in the military. *The Face of Battle* shines a light on their reality and compels the rest of the nation to recognize their sacrifices and bravery.

The exhibit is open until January 28, 2018 at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC. Learn more by visiting their website: <http://npg.si.edu>.



PFC Eric D. Soufrine is, sadly, one of the names on the list of Fallen Heroes, which remembers American Jewish casualties of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn. Photo courtesy of Cindy Chambers.

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Linda Faust-100 • Larry Schapiro-100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Barry Benn-185 • Irving Garber-680 • Jack Kaplan-603 • Robert Taylor-617 • Sheila Kodimer-603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Alan Laites-51

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

John Elzufon-747

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Georgi Jasper-202 • Harry Katz-300 • Harvey Levine-321

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Kevin Kent-167

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Leonard Wall-331

DEPARTMENT OF NC & VA

Daniel Helmer-95

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Charles Rand-126 • Gerald Singer-972 • Karen Slutsky-126 • Neal Slutsky-126

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Harold Schwartz-64 • Karen Uslan-64 • Mark Uslan-64 • Reginald Underwood-65 • Romy Schnitzer-Cook-65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Bruce Weinfeld-425 • Eugene Vooss-425 • Herman Soblick-652 • Samuel Katz-41 • Stephen Scheffer-126

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

L. Shalom Plotkin-44

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Jack Barbash-98

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Aaron Jaime-112 • Aleksandr Jukowski-112 • Alex Smoot-112 • Austin Price-112 • Benjamin Payne-112 • Benjamin Jensen-112 • Cesar Legaspi-112 • Christian Mitchell-112 • Christopher Fowler-112 • Cody Hall-112 • Daniel Halpern-112 • David Lake-112 • Drew Wright-112 • Dustin Burgess-112 • Hayden Green-112 • Jacob Higham-112 • Jacob Raymond-112 • John-Fredeluis Nyiambayu-112 • Jon Walmsley-112 • Joshua Javenduer-112 • Joshua Vanover-112 • Justin Heller-112 • Kellogg Kellogg-112 • Louis Brown-112 • Luis Espinal-112 • Marc Weinstein-112 • Michael Holt-112 • Nathaniel Kerendian-112 • Nicholas McMurray-112 • Rashad Davis-112 • Scott Tafoya 112 • Seth Rasmussen-112 • Tanner Squier-112 • William Urban-112 • Charles Lutin-112 • Jesse Ehrenfeld-121 • Louis Lipsitz-320

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Franklin Martin-210

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Samloff Alexis-755 • Kramer Brianna-755 • Rosenfield Daniel-256 • Rubenstein David-753 • Pody David-755 • Everett Hannelora-755 • Bogdan Jared-755 • Segal Rebecca-755 • Schlossberg Ryan-755 • Kamin Wyatt-755 • Bugalla Zachary-755

A Lay Leader's Journey into the Jewish Faith

Continued from page 10

things” mean something.

He then offered me some suggestions. “Talk to God,” he said. He asked me if I pray. “I lead prayer,” I told him. “Yes,” he said, “But do you pray?”

I told him I did when I was leading services, but it felt like a one-way conversation, and I never did on my own. He said, “Talk to God. It need not always be in the context of prayer. Watch Teviah in ‘Fiddler on the Roof’—he’s constantly talking to God. He even kvetches at God.” In retrospect, this was helpful advice. Judaism is often so connected with the concept of communal prayer and gathering, we forget our own personal relationship with the divine. In the privacy of the small trailer I called home, the gentle swaying of prayer became the embrace of an omnipresent parent.

Discovering faith and the need for an adult understanding of God helped me become a better lay leader. I was able to lead short discussions with the congregation, conversations which were sorely needed to share the extraordinary circumstances in which we found ourselves. These discussions dealt with hard topics, like the loss of one of our own to a roadside bomb. Another member was a military police officer, who was coming to terms with cleaning blood out of one of her vehicles after a particularly difficult patrol.

It’s almost ten years to the day since I was sent to Iraq. Since then, I’ve retired and settled down outside a small rural village in upstate New York. I still pray twice a day—I make time for spiritual exercise as well as physical. I spent four years as President of my congregation, and still lead a service once a month.

Do I approach faith with the surety of a child? No, I don’t. I’m challenged by it, intrigued by it, and know that whatever it is, it is a part of me. I still wrestle with it – but doesn’t the word “Israel” mean “wrestled with God?” Much like with the regular cycle of reading Torah, we read the same scripture repeatedly, and while the words don’t change over time, we and our world do. So we tease out new meaning, new relevance, and new ways to use it as a prism with which to view ourselves, our lives, and God. So long as I continue to do that, I find myself in a good place.

PEOPLE & PLACES

► Mazel Tov to **Lt Col Alan Winner, Ret.**, of **Post 201** in celebration of his 100th birthday! A WWII veteran, Lt Col Winner flew missions out of France and England during WWII, after which he met his wife, Sylvia. They have been married for 70 years.

► **Post 54 IL Commander Howard Goldstein** was honored on Thursday, March 23, by Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner for his volunteer work at Hines VA Hospital, other veterans’ organization, and the Red Cross. Keep up the great work!

► A special shout out to **Post 753 TX** for their great May 2017 newsletter. They got permission to reprint articles, they give kudos to all the deserving, and the Post offers rides to their monthly meetings.

REUNIONS

► The 71st reunion of the 106th Infantry Division Association will be held from September 13-17, 2017 in Kissimmee, Florida. For more information, please go to <http://106thinfdivassn.org/reunion2017.html> or contact Wayne Dunn at 410-409-1141 or WayneDunn@comcast.net.



MO-KAN Post 605 and the JWV Department of Midwest participated in the Independence School District (ISD) Army JROTC End of Year Awards Ceremony on April 18th at Van Horn High School by presenting the JWV JROTC Americanism Award and bronze medal and certificate to three cadets. These cadets demonstrated their ability to maintain excellence in academics and showed exemplary unit leadership potential. Photo credit: Marv Korn (far left) and Larry Gordon (far right).

Committee Reports

Vietnam Veterans Committee

By Bob Jacobs, Vice Chairman

The Vietnam Veterans' Committee stays active! We have a meeting scheduled for the National Convention in San Antonio and an agenda is being developed. We invite all members of JWV, whether a Vietnam veteran or not, to attend our meetings and see what we are all about.

The various echelons of our organization continue to plan events to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. We have planned a Night Out during the National Convention at the Saltgrass Steak House. Further information will be published in the pre-convention information packet from National, and is available at <http://www.jwv.org/events/convention>.

We will have the President of the local VVA (Vietnam Veterans of America) chapter and possibly several chapter members joining us for dinner. The president of the chapter will address us and tell us what Vietnam veterans are doing locally.

We also continue to collect the stories of Jewish veterans who served during the Vietnam Era, whether "boots on the ground" or wherever Uncle Sam sent you. If you haven't yet submitted your story (which will be placed in our museum's interactive program), please bring it to convention or send it to the committee Vice Chairman Bob Jacobs at conrailbob2003@yahoo.com. It should be about 1-1 1/2 pages with both a "then" photo and a "now" photo. We hope to eventually publish either a book or a disc containing the stories gathered with profits going to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio!

Development Report

PNC Monte Mayer, Chairman

Development covers the fundraising arm of JWV by direct mail programs. This is accomplished by creating the annual calendar, mailing labels, High Holiday cards, and a special mailing directly to donors who may be non-members. There may also be year-end mailing in the event the IRS may allow those with an annual take down of an Individual Retirement Account, that if directed to a charity or in particular a veterans organization, that the take down is not taxed as income. We also remind our members that there are also opportunities to remember JWV via legacy planning in your Will, Trust, or Insurance Policy.

We attempt to remind our members and donors who know of our activities nationwide that we are enjoying featuring moments and memories both in our calendar and in issues of *The Jewish Veteran*. We want to know, and to remember, your actions when serving in our military, and

that is the purpose of our calendar. We constantly ask for photos, and a short biography (no more than 200 words) describing the time in service.

National is always accepting article submissions for *The Jewish Veteran*. We want to know how your Post fundraises—what worked, what didn't, what events you've done, how you publicize, etc. To learn about the submission requirements for both the paper and the calendar, please email jwv@jwv.org.

Education Committee

By Hannah Deutch, Vice Chair

The former Jewish Affairs Sub-Committees pertaining to the Holocaust, Israel Bonds, JCRC, and Jewish Poor have now been consolidated under the Education Committee, a prudent decision considering that we have been educating the public on the Holocaust for many years. Since I retired in 1982, I have participated in its efforts, and now as Vice Chair I will tell you how involved we are in New York State.

I am glad to report that I am not alone in my efforts, as some of our Liberator comrades have been telling the public about their experiences during WWII. I work primarily with the Kupferberg Holocaust Archives and Resource Center at Queensborough College and am also listed on various Speakers Bureaus.

This being my first report, I wanted to introduce you our work in New York. This year I spent seven months with the students of Ramaz Jewish High School studying the lives of five survivors (including mine) which were then dramatized as a play and presented April 23rd/24th for Yom Hashoah for nearly a combined 1200 people. If anyone is interested to see the video that was made, you can contact me via email at hdeutch@nyc.rr.com and I can get the link from Ramaz.

The second annual event is the United Nations International Day of Commemoration for the Victims of the Holocaust, which takes place annually on January 27th worldwide.

As 2017 is ongoing, this represents our efforts thus far. In future reports, I will continue to inform you all on our progress and impact.

**Want to get involved
in a JWV committee?**

**Send an email to
JWV@jwv.org with the
subject "Interest in a
committee" and tell us
about yourself and
professional background.**

7 Questions with a JWV Member

Continued from page 6

I have very fond memories of connecting with JWV members when I was a cadet at West Point. JWV members attended services every Friday on campus, many of whom were veterans of World War II, and some had liberated concentration camps. I remember listening to their stories and being inspired by their courage. It was a beautiful thing to have multiple generations of servicemen and women gathered together in one place, one community.

4. If you could improve, or completely invent, a JWV program to improve our service to veterans, what would you do and why?

JWV already runs many excellent and commendable service projects, and I believe we should challenge ourselves to do even more to mobilize and engage the younger generation of Jewish veterans. I would like to see us 20- and 30-somethings be involved not only in JWV, but also in making our communities better. We can apply the leadership skills we honed on the battlefield to the task of bettering our neighborhoods and our country. Civilian service can take a lot of forms—running for office, engaging in volunteer work, and so on—but if we each find our own way of making our communities stronger, it'll do a world of good.

5. What display of patriotism, in your community or otherwise, makes you most proud?

For me, true patriotism is demonstrated by actions—actions rooted in the values that have always made this country great. My favorite example is a broad one. I live in a community of dedicated public servants—teachers, health care professionals, Federal workers, and military personnel—all of whom go to work every day to make our country smarter, healthier, better-run, and safer. What prouder display of patriotism could there be than that?

6. What is your favorite Shavuot tradition or memory?

My father and I love cheesecake, and we'll take any excuse to eat it. We spent many hours of my childhood trying to find the best one in town. I think it's a genetic issue. So when it comes to Shavuot, I really have to start with dessert.

7. Favorite Mel Brooks film?

Tough to choose! But I think I'd have to say Robin Hood: Men in Tights.

Want to get to know your fellow JWV Members? Then let's play 7 questions! Contact Mara Sherman (msherman@jwv.org) if you know of a Member we should feature.

NATIONAL LADIES AUXILIARY JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.A.



Dear Sisters,

"Hand In Hand, We Stand Tall" has been my theme this year and so far I have seen this in my travels.

Visiting the Ronald McDonald Houses, Veterans Hospitals and the Jacobson Food Pantry in Delray Beach, Florida has given me great pride to represent our National Ladies Auxiliary of the JWV and to be your sister.

As I have stated previously your support of our organization has shown the love we have for our country and the veterans past and present. We must continue to do so! Our National Museum of American Jewish Military History is our legacy, so we need to sustain its existence.

The friendships made and the memories taken away from this journey have greatly impacted my life. They say enjoyable experiences cannot last forever. I will be getting ready for a new chapter in my life, but always remember you have given me the greatest honor one could have as serving as your National President.

I look forward to meeting and greeting you at our National Convention in San Antonio, Texas, August 27th through September 1st. Please continue to always do your best and remember "Hand In Hand We Stand Tall."

THANKS! THANKS! THANKS!

Loyally,
Linda



Linda S. Colón



**Convention Transportation
Details on Page 9**



Donations in honor of NP Linda S. Colon at Ronald McDonald House in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. PAP Kitty Cole, PNP Charlotte Steinberg, NP Linda S. Colon, DP Annette Rose, AP Verna Rosenzweig, PNP Charlene Ehrlich, PDP Pearl Feldman, and AP Eileen Yashpeh.

Dear Sisters and Comrades,

Thank you for your kind words and thoughtfulness after my accident.

*Loyally,
Linda S. Colon, NP*



New York gives a sweet welcome to NP Linda Colon.

Senior Citizens and Driving

By PNP Freda Rosenshein, Chairman

Yes, being a senior is sometimes a challenge. One especially challenging situation is driving. You should be careful when you get behind the wheel because our reflexes are not what they once were. It is difficult to give up some of your independence, but in reality you are helping yourself and your family.

Seven tips for the older driver

1. Stay physically active
2. Schedule regular vision and hearing tests
3. Manage any chronic conditions
4. Understand your limitations
5. Drive under optimal conditions
6. Plan ahead
7. Update your driving skills



Donation made to Ronald McDonald House in Valhalla, New York in honor of NP Linda Colon's visit to the Dept. of New York. from left: Program Coordinator, N. Pat. Instr. Natalie Blank, NJr. VP Linda Singer, CP Rosalie Loewy and NP Linda Colon.

HAND IN HAND WE STAND TALL

Let's Do It Again! Monday, Aug. 28, 2017

Our Pounds Auction was such a good time, we're doing it again!

Please bring a pound of anything, and put it in a brown lunch bag. If you don't have a brown bag, we'll have extras.

Start looking now! Examples are candy, erasers, popcorn, etc.. Use your imagination. As long as it weighs a pound.

You won't know what you are bidding on. Follow the clues of the Auctioneer.

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



Join us for a fun evening!

Everyone is welcome!

**Admission is \$2
Snacks will be served**



National President's Banquet

honoring

Linda S. Colón

Tuesday, August 29

Reception 6:00 PM

Dinner 7:00 PM

**\$45.00 per person in advance
\$50.00 at Convention**

Make your reservation now and join us in this well-deserved testimonial for Linda.

National Ladies Auxilixary Convention Registration and Event Sign-up

Name: _____ Aux. No: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

JWVA Convention Registration and Events	Cost	How Many	Total
JWVA Convention Registration fee (Hotel registration must be made through JWV. See form on page 9)	\$45.00 per person		
National President's Banquet • Tuesday, August 29 Baked Cod w/ Lemon Lime Butter Sauce _____ Flank Steak w/Cabernet Demi _____ Dietetic Dessert _____	\$45.00 per person		
Double Chai Breakfast Buffet • Wednesday, August 30 This is my first Double Chai _____ I already have 15 stones on my pin _____ I am happy with the Double Chai pin I have now _____ I currently have _____ stones on my pin and will need one more on my new pin (15 stones max)	\$36.00 per person		
Please make check payable to: National Ladies Auxiliary of the JWV	Total:		
Sign and mail this completed form, along with your payment to: National Ladies Auxiliary of the JWV 1811 R Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009			

DOUBLE CHAI CLUB

BREAKFAST BUFFET

AUGUST 30, 2017

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

Become a member of our "Double Chai Circle". Join us at an outstanding Breakfast Buffet consisting of scrambled eggs, waffles, french toast, bagels and cream cheese, fruit compote and coffee/hot tea.

\$36.00 per person

**Rita & Barbara look forward to greeting you at the Banquet
and the Chai Club Breakfast Buffet.**

HAND IN HAND WE STAND TALL

President's Message

In the archives of the museum, there is a 1909 program from the Hebrew Veterans of the War with Spain (one of the organizations that eventually became JWV) 10th Anniversary Banquet and Ball held at the Palm Garden in New York. It mentions the need to refute the anti-Semitic libel that Jews do not rise to the challenge of taking up arms to defend his country. It goes on to say "the wounds borne by many of our comrades, the empty sleeves and trouser legs, are all the refutation needed to finally put this last argument of the anti-Semites to sleep." 108 years later, we're still trying to make sure people are aware of "the wounds." Hopefully, this isn't just to refute anti-Semites. I want it to be a way to instill pride in the contributions and sacrifice of Jewish Americans.

Of course, the way we do this is much different than in 1909. It's even different than it was

in 2014. As my term as museum president ends in August, I look back on the past three years. I'm proud of what we accomplished, including opening a major new permanent exhibit with multimedia components alongside historic artifacts. We've also launched a brand-new website that's continually updated. We're using social media and online content platforms like the Google Cultural Institute. We have partnerships with Amazon to sell our exhibit catalogs and other books. We also have our own online store so people can order museum products all over the world directly from us. We're a far more modern museum than we were three years ago. It's enabling us to reach more people on a smaller budget than ever before.

While we've made progress, we need to do much more. The museum can continue to im-

prove with more content, more extensive education programs, more new exhibits. I'll continue to work towards that goal. I hope everyone joins me. Together we can use every method at our disposal to ensure that the world is aware of how Jews contributed to our country. Let's ensure the message of the Hebrew Veterans of the War with Spain is not forgotten.



**PNC Joseph Zoldan
President, NMAJMH**

Program Updates By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

On April 2nd, author Frank Lavin spoke at the museum about his new book, *Home Front to Battlefront: An Ohio Teenager in World War II*. The book is based primarily on letters sent home by his father, Carl Lavin, a high school senior in Canton, Ohio when Pearl Harbor was attacked. He enlisted and served with the 84th Infantry Division in Europe including the Battle of the Bulge. Along with Lavin's descriptions

of training and serving in Europe are anecdotes about JWV. "For some reason or other" he wrote, "the Jewish War Veterans of Canton decided to send me a package of pin-up girls. Very sweet of them. But they're behind the times. The magazines say that the army doesn't like pin-ups anymore." You can hear more about Frank Lavin's book and

his father's experiences in his full talk on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/NMAJMHorg>.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entry in World War I. To acknowledge the centennial, we partnered with the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington (JHS) for an event at the museum on Jewish life during the Great War. Among those who attended were several board members of the historical society, each of whom expressed an interest in continuing to work together on these types of programs. Many of the attendees said they were glad to be visiting the museum for the first time and complimented our

exhibits. Museum historian Dr. Sheldon Goldberg gave a presentation on the role of American Jewish service members in the war, while JHS curator Christiane Bauer spoke about Jewish life in Washington, D.C. during the same period.

Included in Bauer's presentation was a photo of Simon Wolf, standing under an American flag at Washington Hebrew Congregation the day after the country's entry into WWI in 1917.

During the war against Germany, the photo illustrated the importance of showing patriotism at a congregation that was created by German immigrants. Wolf himself was an immigrant from Bavaria.

As the author of the 1895 book, *The American Jew as Patriot, Soldier and Citizen*, Wolf is a key figure in American Jewish

military history. The book contains a history of Jews in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and the Mexican War. Most importantly, Wolf attempted to list the name of every Jew who served in the Civil War. Wolf himself was an honorary member of the Hebrew Union Veterans Association, the original organization that eventually became the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

Wolf also corresponded with Mark Twain, and it was likely his book that led to Twain's retraction of the statement that Jews had an "unpatriotic disinclination to stand by the flag as a soldier." In his retraction, Twain quoted one of the letters in Wolf's book, written to Wolf by



Frank Lavin spoke about his book, based on letters sent by his father during WWII.



Christiane Bauer, curator of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington.

General O.O Howard: "there are no more patriotic men to be found in the country than those who claim to be of Hebrew descent."

A History of Jews in Baseball



**July 16 • 1:00 pm
At the Museum**

Phil Wood will join us to discuss the history of Jews in baseball including Hank Greenberg and others who served in the U.S. military. Wood is the host of Nats Talk Live, the official post-game radio show of the Washington Nationals. He's a long-time radio personality in the D.C.-Baltimore area and an expert on the history of baseball.

By Pamela Elbe • Collections, Archives & Exhibitions Coordinator

Remembering the Great War on its Centennial

Millions of American families sent their sons—and, for the first time, their daughters—to serve in uniform during the Great War. Over the relatively short course of U.S. participation in the war, 116,516 American servicemembers gave their lives. Another 204,000 were wounded. More than 4.7 million Americans served in the U.S. armed forces during World War I. Isadore Greenberg and Frank Brooks were two young Jews who answered the call to serve.

On October 18, 1918, Private Isadore Greenberg was serving as a runner for the 16th Infantry when he saw his regimental commander, Colonel W. F. Horrell, go down after catching a German bullet in the shoulder. Greenberg recalled, “We had orders there was a gas attack. The colonel’s gas mask was hit and I said, ‘Your life is more important than mine; take my mask.’ I gave him my mask and dressed the wound and put a tourniquet on it.” Moments later, Greenberg volunteered to serve as spotter for a blind one-man tank, running beside it and telling

the gunner where to aim. With his assistance, the gunner knocked out two German machine gun nests. Then, as Greenberg held more than two dozen surrendering Germans at gunpoint, a bullet hit his hand, permanently disfiguring him.

While Greenberg received a testimonial letter from his colonel citing his courage, that was all. That is, until a 1977 Israel Independence Day celebration in Miami, Florida. Senator Richard Stone, the guest speaker at the ceremony, began telling the story of a young World War I hero who—because of a slip-up in military recordkeeping—had never received the Silver Star medal that he had been awarded. As Stone was speaking, Greenberg slowly realized that the daring young private he was talking about was him. An honor guard escorted him to the stage as people applauded, drums rolled, the American flag unfurled, and the senator pinned a Silver Star medal on Greenberg’s chest—the medal that he was supposed to have received 59 years earlier.

Private Frank Brooks served in the US Army with the 11th Engineer Regiment (Railway) during the First World War. It was one of three regiments activated to maintain railroads in northern

France in support of the American deployment and the overall war effort. The 11th Engineers landed in France in August 1917, the first American unit to enter the European theater.

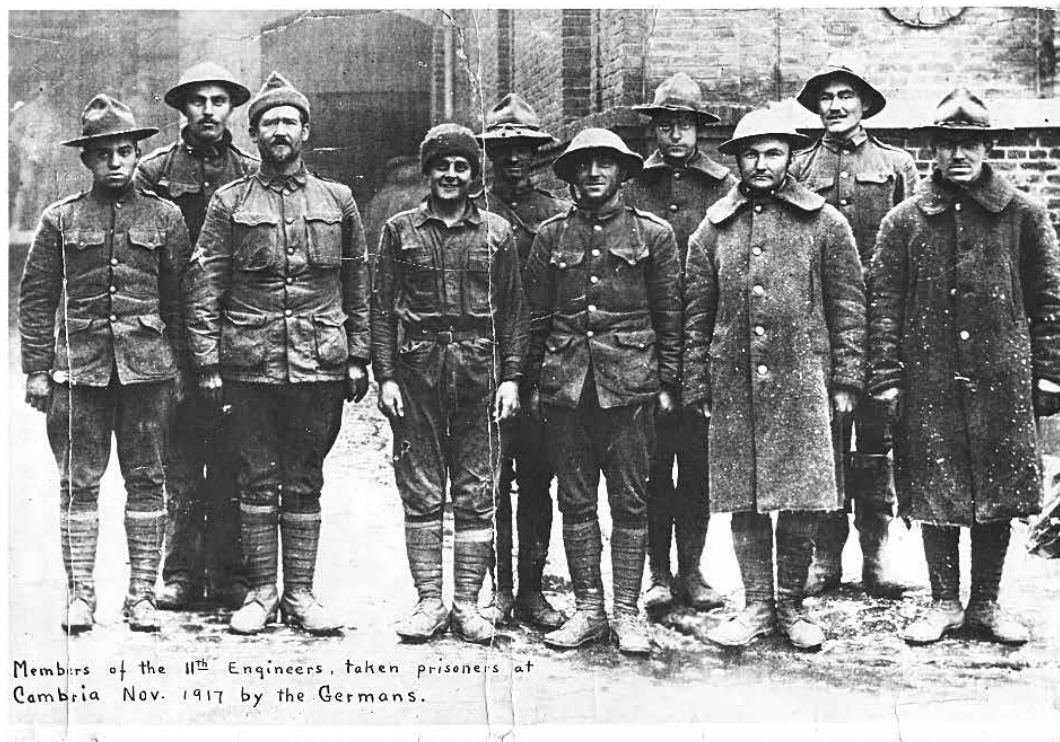
The unit was sent to the Somme, where they were tasked with preparing the rail lines for shipment of equipment to the front. On 20 November 1917, elements of the 11th were repairing a section of railway track when a British attack launched the Battle of Cambrai. In Gouzeaucourt on 30 November, in a desperate counterattack, the Germans penetrated British lines and overran the engineer work

site. Fighting back with pickaxes, shovels, and discarded rifles, the 11th Engineers held their position. The British rallied around the engineers’ site and forced the Germans to withdraw. Thus, the 11th Engineers were the “first to fight” of all American units engaged in World War I. For its valor, General John Pershing and Field Marshall Douglas Haig commended the Regiment.

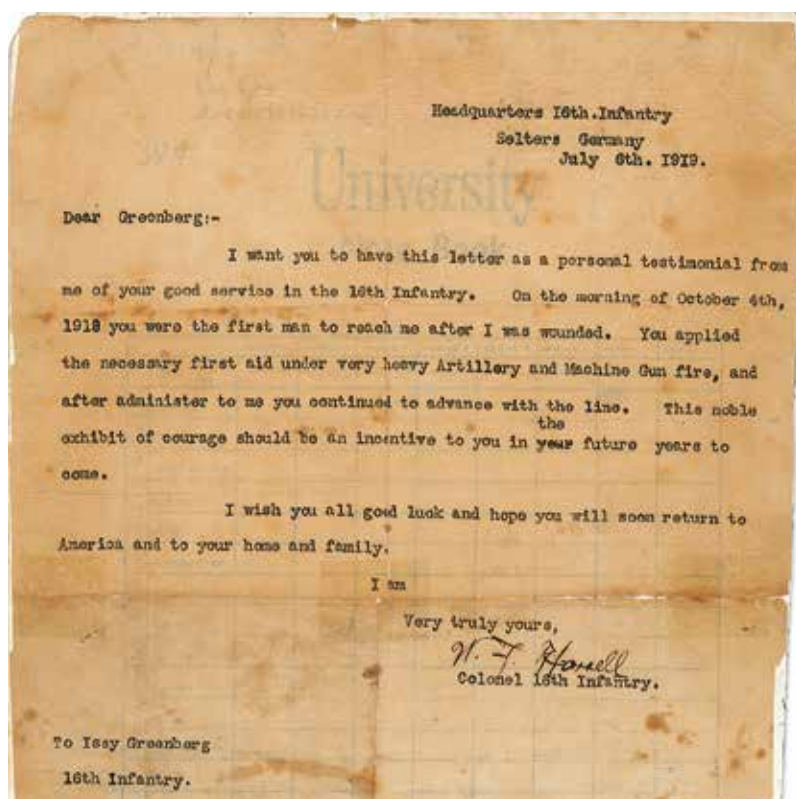
The Battle of Cambrai resulted in a great many casualties for both sides – the British reported losses of dead, wounded, and missing of 47,596 between 20 November and 8 December. Of these, some 6,000 were taken prisoner in the enemy counterstroke on 30 November. The Germans estimated their casualties to be around 41,000 men.

Frank Brooks was among those taken prisoner by the Germans. Twenty-five years old and an Englishman by birth (though a naturalized American citizen living in New York in 1917), Frank and his brother Phillip both enlisted in the Engineers when war was declared.

The day before the battle of Cambrai, their sister Blooma received a letter from the brothers saying that they were happy and expected to take part in an important movement soon. The next she heard was the report from the government that Frank was a prisoner. Frank was among 17 American engineers captured on at Gouzeaucourt. He was sent to the prison camp a Tüchel, Germany. He spent more than a year as a prisoner of war until he was finally released on December 17, 1918.



Members of the 11th Engineers, taken prisoners by the Germans at Gouzeaucourt, France, on November 30, 1917. Frank Brooks is 6th from left.



Letter from Col. W.L. Horrell thanking Isadore Greenberg for applying first aid to his wound and continuing to advance with line in battle.

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Beston Jack Abrams-100 • Benjamin Ettelman-100 • Richard Kingsberg-100 • Harry Roberg-100 • Marvin Romerstein-100 • Ira Rosenberg- 100 • William Schimmel-100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Donald Fishstrom-60

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Ronald K. Jacobs-45 • Milton B. Hollander-142

DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Jack B. Ralph-58

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Murrel Winner- 172 • Kenneth Braidman-243 • William Tatel- 300 • Leonard Frumin-321 • Richard Rock-606 • Gerald Steinberg-819

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Allen S. Warshaw-407

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Larry Martasin-605 • Leonard Korman-644

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Jacob Albert-167 • Joshua Roseman-167 •

Martin E. Chaitovitz-888 • Rudolph Cohen-888

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Irving M. Cooper-32 • Harold W. Gurwitz-32 • Everett M. Joseph-32 • Sherman Plotkin-32 • Sidney R. Stein-32 • Arthur Fishtine-157 • Hyman Zamansky-211 • Melvin Lewis-302 • Julius L. Perler-735 • M. C. Rosenfield-735

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Harold Podolsky-474

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Robert Loewenstein-162 • Edwin Smith-354

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Irving Finver-65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Morris Rosenstein-47 • Wolf B. Topchik-47 • Rudy Polack-76 • Murry Opatosky-125 • Melvin L. Aaranson-126 • Eduino Rivero-126 • Lewis M. Bloom-133 • Harold S. Light-395 • Leon Rosenberg-444 • Leon Jaffe-498 • Charles M. Roman-741

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Joseph Diamond-25 • Jerome Greenberg-25

• Harold Feinberg-41 • Leonard Selk-69 • Leonard Shniper-206 • Alan Handelsman-415 • Neil K. Siegel-488 • Irving Weiner- 648 • Leon Schwarzbaum-717 • M. N. Cember-720 • Max Graber-724 • Paul Weitman-724

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Harold Simon-44 • Jack M. Lederman-62

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Morris J. Zibelman-98 • Arthur Z. Jurkowitz-165 • Jacob Weinberger-215 • Andrew Flager- 697 • Ronald Harvey- 697

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Alfred E. Lipsey-201 • Stanley A. Dolin-619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Rowan W. Blatt-256 • Donald Bruce-256 • Joel M. Mayers-256 • Allan H. Minsky-256 • Daniel Morguloff-256 • Florence F. Rosen-256 • Joseph G. Schneider-256 • Daniel Alexander-580

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

David Wolfson-155 • Melvin Slusky-158 • Gerald Lipson-299

“And Then There Were Three” - Long Beach, CA VA Medical Center Renamed for Tibor Rubin

By Chuck Ashman, Deputy Commander JWV California

Sgt. Alvin York, the legendary Medal of Honor recipient from World War I, was the first person to have a VA Medical Center bear his name in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The second, Audie Murphy, was the most decorated soldier in World War II. His name is on the VA Center in San Antonio, Texas.

And then, there were three!

This spring, the Long Beach VA Medical Center welcomed fellow Jewish War Veterans, friends, and family of their most famous and beloved former patient and volunteer, Tibor Rubin, to rename the Center in Rubin's honor. Lt Colonel Robert Huntly, Tibor's nephew, spoke for the family.

Just days before that ceremony, the past president of the Medal of Honor Society, Air Force pilot and POW Leo Thorsness, passed away. He had described Tibor as a “hero's hero” and remained mindful of how Tibor had used what he learned as a boy in a Nazi concentration camp, to help other POWs survive after he was captured.

For years, Jewish War Veterans leaders and Tibor's relatives joined U.S. Congressman Al Lowenthal in lobbying to have the nation's highest award presented since it had been put forth four times for Tibor's “one man army” exploits and his dedication to others in the POW camp. The half-

century delay had clearly been caused by anti-Semitism when Rubin was fighting for his country in Korea.

In early 2015, then National Commander Maxwell Colon, NEC member Mathew Millen, and California Department Commander Greg Lee went to Capitol Hill only to learn that regulations prohibited naming a facility for any veteran while he was still alive. He passed away on December 5 of that year. Just over a year later, President Barack Obama signed into law a bill changing the medical center's title.

On May 10th, 2017, with the first Jewish Secretary of Veteran Affairs in our nation's history approved by the Senate, the name-changing ceremony took place among hundreds of friends and fans who knew and loved Tibor for his humanity and sense of humor.

National Commander Carl Singer shared the remarkable story of Tibor Rubin's combat conquests, his POW camp leadership, and his dedication to those at the hospital where he was treated.

Darin Selnick, a former California State Commander, is the Senior Advisor to the Secretary and had brought the formal documents signed by President Obama authorizing the name change.

The hospital administration arranged for a



Members of the JWV Department of California and National Commander Singer (far right) proudly display Tibor's portrait.

portrait of Rubin, which was unveiled and will have a place of honor within the medical facility. Meanwhile, the JWV Department of California shared their documentary honoring Rubin and the 16 other Jewish American heroes who had received the nation's highest honor.

As the ceremony concluded, there was a startling roar from the gray skies where the crowd was gathered under a huge tent. Some thought it was a Navy fighter jet breaking the sound barrier with its unmistakable deafening sound. Others thought the Lord was expressing appreciation for the ceremony and welcoming Tibor Rubin to his new home.



USAA is
Proudly Endorsed
by the Jewish War Veterans of the
United States of America

USE THE CREDIT CARD THAT SUPPORTS JWV.



USAA Bank is proud to offer members ways to support organizations like the Jewish War Veterans. You can also benefit from great rewards, competitive rates, and USAA's legendary customer service. Plus, now you can extend your support by redeeming your rewards points for a donation to the Jewish War Veterans.



APPLY TODAY.

usaa.com/jwvvisa or 800-292-8598

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.

Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products, or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for, or membership in, USAA property and casualty insurance companies. JWV receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship.

This credit card program is issued by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. © 2017 USAA. 232411-0916

Happy Independence Day!

“The Declaration of Independence! The interest which in that paper has survived the occasion upon which it was issued; the interest which is of every age and every clime; the interest which quickens with the lapse of years, spreads as it grows old, and brightens as it recedes, is in the principles which it proclaims.”

~John Quincy Adams (1767–1848), The Declaration of Independence



Allan & Sheila Abramson <i>Good Health & Happiness to All</i>	PDC Sidney B. Goldberg <i>Abe Cohen - Leaman Post 50</i>	IMO Post 42's Four Legs of the Table <i>Marty, Morris, Murray & Warren</i>
PNC Lou & Gloria Abramson <i>Good Health & Happiness to All</i>	Alan J. Gould Post 105 <i>In Memory of Sam Gould, Post Cmdr.</i>	Stephen & Helen Sax To the 2%
Any Jewish WWII person captured and sent to Aushchwitz, etc., and survived	Happy Passover • Post 169	Irv Schildkraut PPC Post 440 <i>USMC-USNR-USA</i>
PDC Ed & PDP Louise Baraw	Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321/69 <i>National Adjutant • 2016-2017</i>	Harriet & Norman Schnitzer PDC
Eugene Baraw • Post 336	PNP Petra C. & Jason A. Kaatz	PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman <i>Our Very Best Wishes to All</i>
Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ <i>Chag Sameach</i>	Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health <i>Happy Holiday!</i>	PDP Linda & Stuart Singer <i>In memory of PDC Bill Singer</i>
Howard A. & Dorothy G. Berger <i>Naples/Denver • USFA/USASETAF</i>	CMDR Laurence & Marilyn Kaufman <i>Saluting the Men & Women of Post 46</i>	PPC Norman & Toby Smith • Post 129 NY <i>Toda Shalom & Good Health to all JWV</i>
PNC Jerry & PNP Joanne Blum <i>Good Health & Happiness to All</i>	Jack Kent (Kantrovitz) • Post 62 OH <i>In appreciation of Rabbi&Myra Feinberg</i>	CH Murray Stadtmauer • Post 648 <i>In loving memory of Clare Stadtmauer</i>
In Memory of All who gave their lives <i>Post 652-Merrick, NY</i>	In Memory of PCC Harry Kreiger, DEC <i>Gieir-Levitt Post 655</i>	Shalom & Mazel Tov to all Veterans <i>Greta & Jerry Stolar • Post 346</i>
In Memory of Harold Cohen • Post 212	L'chaim - To Life	To All Surviving Jewish WWII prisoners <i>L'Chaim!</i>
PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749	PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky <i>Happy Holidays</i>	NEC Paul and Norma Warner
Marshall & Diane Duberstein	Bernie Rader • Post's 20 and 642 <i>In loving memory of those who served</i>	NJA Harvey & Linda Weiner <i>Be Well!</i>
Gerald H. Elkan • North Carolina	In Memory of PNC Ed & Helene Robins	In Memory of Joan S. Weinstein
Harold Engleman, K.C.C. / NEC	Jerry & Lea Rosenberg • Post 740 NJ <i>Good Health & Happiness to All</i>	Major Stuart Adam Wolfer <i>www.msawi.org</i>
Nat'I Chaplain Jerry Farris • Post 239	Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth <i>Happy Holiday to You and Yours!</i>	Jeri Zweiman <i>In loving memory of Bob Zweiman</i>
Arthur Fleischman • PPC 717 & 258	To All Our Troops • Be Safe, Be Well!	David S. Zwerin, PDC <i>Post 652 • Merrick, NY</i>
David Goldberg, K.C.C. <i>In memory of Sam Goldberg</i>	PNP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein <i>Good Health & Happy Holidays</i>	
In Memory of Norman Goldberg, PPC #98		
PNC Nate & Selma Goldberg • Albany 105		

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

Only \$30.00 per 1 line, or \$50.00 for 2 lines, you can purchase a one year subscription which includes greetings for 4 issues! 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 ☐
Card # _____ Exp: _____/
1st line _____
2nd line _____
(no more than 30 characters per line)