



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Volume 71 • Number 1 • 2017

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JWV Foundation Honors Gold Star Families

On Saturday, February 18th, the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America Foundation (JWVF) held its third annual fundraiser event, this year to honor Gold Star families.

Our fallen heroes made the ultimate sacrifice while on active duty in the US Armed Forces, and it is because of them that we enjoy our freedoms in this country. Their Gold Star families may not have enlisted, but they also served. They have also sacrificed, and it is a designation they never asked for and never wanted.

The term 'Gold Star family' comes from the Service Flag first flown by families of those who served during World War I. The flag displayed a blue star for every immediate family member serving during any period of war. If that loved one was killed, the blue star was replaced by a gold star. Anyone who



Keynote speaker, Karen Kelly

saw the flag would know the horrific price the family paid in the name of freedom.

These families are the ones who must fight to pick up the pieces after a loved one is killed in action. They band together, and offer each other comfort in times of sorrow and support in times of need.

We gathered to honor them, and

their sons, daughters, husbands, and wives. A portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to Gold Star family organizations, who offer a wide range of support programs and initiatives ranging from transition assistance to grief counseling to scholarships.

We were also joined by the Armed Forces Color Guard, who presented the Colors at the beginning of the evening, and the United States Marine Band Brass Quintet, who played patriotic music during the cocktail hour followed by a medley of the anthems from all service branches and the Gold Star Family anthem.

Prior to dinner, attendees watched a short video created by the National Museum of American Jewish Military History based on an interview with Beth Agami, whose son, SPC Daniel J. Agami was

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A New Anti-Semitism

The rise of anti-Semitism on a national level is a concerning and bipartisan issue.

In a viral Facebook post written on February 4th, a New York City subway rider recounted how he and his fellow passengers worked together to erase Nazi symbols scrawled across the subway car using Purell hand sanitizer and tissues. This particular anecdote has a happy ending, New Yorkers worked together- in a city where people notoriously keep to themselves on public transit- and did not let hate win. However, few expected swastikas and "Jews belong in oven" to be scribbled all over a public train in one of the most diverse cities in the world. In 2017,

It is no secret that anti-Semitism is at an all-time high, likely in part because anti-Semites feel safe expressing their horrific opinions given the current political climate. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) website lists numerous reports from 2015 demonstrating the rise of anti-Semitism on both a national and global level. Although they have not yet published reports from 2016, it is likely that the numbers will continue to rise.

Over three separate days in January, 57 bomb threats were called in to 48 Jewish community centers



Gravestone damaged at Chesed Shel Emeth Society cemetery in St. Louis
Photo credit: Hilary Benjamin.

(JCC) across the country; another 11 hoax bomb threats occurred on

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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!



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For JWV caps, call Keystone Uniform Cap Corporation

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www.keystoneuniformcap.com/Jewish-War-Veteran-Caps.html

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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!

Got Spirit?

Show your JWV spirit with our JWV buttons and fans!

Wear the buttons at festivals. Sell the fans as a fundraiser at parades.

Supplies are limited. Orders are filled on a first come, first serve basis.

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



JWV Buttons!



JWV Fans!



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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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

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RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

In the recent edition of *The Jewish Veteran*, one of our readers expressed concern over the possibility that our Jewish military chaplains might be granted the privilege of wearing a beard. He expressed worry that some of the men and women in the military might harbor negative thoughts over men in uniforms with beards, and it was possible that anti-Semitic attitudes and actions might result.

He really has no reason to be concerned: Not only are we probably the only military in the world where such facial wear is not tolerated, but, apparently unbeknownst to him, we are already in the process of granting this privilege to a number of other groups and individuals.

I refer to the recent notice of the Defense Department to grant groups such as Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, and others who have religious reasons to use facial hair, such as beards. A few years ago, a Sikh American army surgeon was granted the right to wear his turban and beard. Now, all servicepeople (including, Jewish chaplains I presume) with religious grounds will be afforded the opportunity that they have sought for many years.

As an aside, I was amazed, if not amused, to read (in his letter) that there are approximately 100,000 Jew[ish] service personnel on active duty in today's military.

Would that were the case. However, I believe he has misplaced a decimal: That number should be closer to 10,000, if that.

Howard Leavitt
Post 512

Page 9 under the picture of Arnold Sandler, he is standing next to his granddaughter who is wearing a patriotic dress and saluting. A very cute picture, reminds me of my granddaughter. She should have been identified.

Also in the letter to the editor, regarding Jewish Chaplains in the military by Joel Batalsky, I agree with him 100%. Beards are not necessary for chaplains of any faith in the military.

Great publication. Keep up the good work!

Bill Silverman
Post 68

THANK YOU COL SINGER

I am writing to thank your organization for your generous scholarship. The members of the Jewish War Veterans served this country during times of war, and continue to serve through programs including the scholarship program.

I am a freshman studying electrical engineering at the University of Pennsylvania. I hope to work towards developing ways of generating electrical energy using safe, efficient, and environmentally sound technology that will also help to decrease dependency on foreign resources.

The scholarship you have awarded me is helping me to reach that goal.

Your generosity and commitment to the principles of this country are greatly appreciated as well as inspirational. I hope one day that I will be able to give back to the community as your organization and its members have done.

Benjamin Porat

You sent me a thank you letter for my recent contribution to the JWV of the USA. My contribution is my thank you to the JWV. I was a recent immigrant when I served in the US Army. Upon my discharge, I enrolled in college under the provisions of the GI Bill for those who had been granted a medical retirement. The VA provided me with a letter- describing the injury and the diagnosis- and that I would be eligible for free medical care. The diagnosis however was flawed and I was about to go to the VA office to request a correction when a fellow student suggested that

I let your organization handle it. I have never regretted that advice. The JWV obtained an accurate description for the diagnoses, but more importantly, they were able to get the VA to agree to raise my disability rating from 30% to 50%. I do not need to spell out the significance of this change.

And so, my dear COL, I never miss making a contribution to the JWV. It is my way of saying thank you for my eligibility for Tricare for Life, and commissary and PX facilities if desired.

Thank you.

Louis de Groot

AN ENJOYABLE READ

While at the V.A. in Loma Linda, California, I picked up a copy of your publication. It was a most enjoyable read. Enclosed is a check for the quarterly publication. Keep up the good work.

Dennis L Martin

National Youth Achievement Program

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

Clifford Lee Kristal Education Grant: \$1,250
Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant: \$1,000
Edith, Louis, and Max S. Millen Memorial Athletic Grant: \$1,000

Applicants must be:

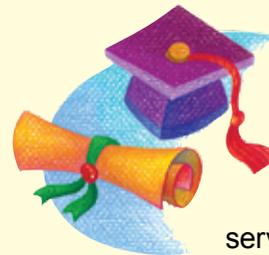
- A high school senior at the time of application
- Accepted into an Associate's, Bachelor's, or nursing degree program by an accredited institution.
- A direct descendant (children, grand-children, great-grand-children, etc.) of a JWV member in good standing who has been a member since 2013.

Minimum standards for eligibility:

- SAT: 400 average or 1200 cumulative and/or ACT: 30
- GPA: 92 or 3.7 (unweighted), 4.5 (weighted)

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

Due May 27, 2017



National Achievement Program

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

Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant: \$2,500
Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant: \$1,000
Max R. & Irene Rubenstein Memorial Grant: \$1,500
Leon Brooks Memorial Grant: \$1,000

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

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

2017 Essay Theme: What was your military experience AND how will that experience help you pursue your academic studies?

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

Applicants must submit the first page of the application, their most recent transcript (high school or college), a copy of a college acceptance letter, and proof of honorable military service to jwv@jwv.org with the subject line "National Achievement Program" by **May 30, 2017.**

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander COL Carl A. Singer

State of the JWV

Candidly, we're doing well, but we are getting older. The torch is passing, but it is dimmer in numbers. God Bless our World War II veterans – they impart wisdom, a sense of history and continuity, and that same can-do spirit that seventy years ago won the war. Our Korean veterans similarly shine through and contribute significantly. The bulk of our active membership are Vietnam or Vietnam-era veterans. We, too, aren't getting any younger – but as many of us retire we should be able to devote more time to helping other veterans via JWV. Our Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are fewer in number, but they bring with them new visions, fresh ideas, and renewed energy.

We need to respect all of our members and realize that we may be as much as 50 or more years apart in age, having grown up in different times with different outlooks and vastly different experiences. Nonetheless, we can focus on what we all share: A love of country, an orientation towards service – especially to fellow veterans – support for a safe and secure Israel, and a visceral anger toward anti-Semitism.

I've had the opportunity to do some traveling and look forward to future trips as well. Here are just a few of the great experiences I've had over the past months:

- Post 1 Luncheon in New York City. *A chance*

to socialize with fellow JWV members.

- VVA Press Conference in front of the Capitol Building. *We joined with the VVA and other veterans groups in support of legislation so that those who receive a less than honorable discharge due to possible mental (PTSD?) issues can receive appropriate diagnosis and treatment.*
- Spoke at a county wide POW/MIA observance in Bergen County, NJ. *The third Friday in September is dedicated to POWs & MIAs, and I was honored to be the keynote speaker.*
- TMC meeting at DVA headquarters. *This business meeting focused on plans for the Veterans Day observance at the White House and at Arlington National Cemetery.*
- Rededication of headstone for MOH William Shemin. *I came as an observer to pay homage to a Jewish American hero.*
- Veterans Day – at the White House and at Arlington National Cemetery. *Words cannot express the feelings associated with Veterans Day and ANC.*
- In honor of MOH Dr. Ben Salomon at Amer-

ican Friends of Dental Volunteers for Israel. *I attended as an observer to pay homage to a Jewish American hero.*

- Monument dedication – Passaic, NJ, Third Ward Park. *In 1961, 78 Army recruits were killed in a plane crash while in route to basic training. Fifty five years later a monument dedicated to these young soldiers was dedicated.*
- Met with Veterans at an assisted living community. *I was invited to host a discussion with a group of veterans. I listened as they shared memories of their military experiences.*
- Dept of Massachusetts “Classmates Today – Neighbors Tomorrow” Brotherhood Breakfast. *This was their 63rd annual brotherhood breakfast – outstanding! They invite every high school in the Commonwealth to nominate a candidate for their scholarship awards. This well attended event shows the JWV in an outstanding light. Other depart-*

Continued on next page



NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

Veterans are counting on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs for health care, disability benefits, and multiple other services.

Our new secretary of the VA is Dr. David Shulkin. Secretary Shulkin, who was born at the Ft. Sheridan U.S. Army base in Illinois, is the 9th U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Under the VA umbrella are 168 hospitals and 1,053 out-patient clinics of varying complexity. He also manages the VA disability system and the National Cemetery System.

Dr. Shulkin received his MD degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania, did his internship at Yale, and his residency and fellowship in General Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. He was the President and Chief Medical Officer of Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City and the Professor of Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, among other roles.

Secretary Shulkin faces excessive and intolerable patient appointment waiting times, unac-

ceptably slow processing of disability claims, and a cemetery system that doesn't meet the needs of all veterans.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs is the authorizing committee for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Shulkin will need to have as good a relationship as possible with the Committee, and its chairman, Congressman David Roe. Chairman Roe is also a physician, which I believe will prove to be a blessing for Dr. Shulkin.

The House Committee on Veterans Affairs represents America's veterans, their families, and survivors. The Committee recommends legislation that expands, curtails, and/or fine tunes existing laws that relate to veterans' benefits. This committee also monitors and evaluates the functioning of the VA.

The Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs is the younger of the two Veterans Committees. The Chairman of the Senate Committee on VA is the Honorable Johnny Isakson of Georgia. The two committees develop legislation on the fol-

lowing topics:

- Veterans measures generally
- Pensions of all the wars of the U.S.
- Life insurance issued by the government
- Compensation, vocational rehabilitation, and education of veterans
- Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief
- Transitioning to civilian life
- National Cemeteries

As we go to press, our National Commander, COL Carl A. Singer, is preparing to present JWV's legislative priorities before the joint session of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs on March 22. We hope you were able to watch the live stream.



DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

PNC Monroe Mayer, National Editor



As occurs twice a year, the National Executive Committee (NEC) met in February and will meet again at the National Convention in August. The NEC meeting is always held in Washington, DC, to give our members the opportunity to meet their Congressional representatives and advocate for veterans and JWV's legislative priorities. The summer meeting is held wherever the National Convention takes place. This August, we will be in San Antonio, Texas.

This year, we had a brand new schedule filled with guest speakers, training sessions, and fresh ideas on how to move forward. Attended by members from across the country, the Leadership Conference included sessions on fundraising,

non-profit management and best practices, and partnering with the Jewish Welfare Board. A huge thank you to all our speakers for helping make our conference such a success!

Together with this aspect, our meeting also provides our members an opportunity to get together, exchange views from different parts of the country, and report of the progress of our Departments. This year, the growth of anti-Semitism in many parts of the world signaled our organization to be on the lookout locally and nationally for this growing problem. The Allied Mission to Israel was also in focus. Certainly, meeting in the nation's capital also allows for some sightseeing and the opportunity to visit the

National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

Members of the NEC itself are selected by their Departments, but the event is open to all members and friends of JWV.

At the close of the meeting, a dinner was held to honor Gold Star families on Saturday evening. This well-planned and successful event closed our latest NEC meeting and Leadership Conference, and we are all looking forward to our National Convention. See you in Texas!

FROM THE COMMANDER

Continued from previous page

ments should consider doing something similar. I spoke briefly and the Patriots won the Super Bowl that evening.

Why do National Commanders travel?

- To pay homage to our fallen soldiers. To be at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day is an overwhelming experience. Similarly, attending memorials for fallen soldiers is a sobering experience and definitely the right thing to do.
- To visit JWV echelons to meet comrades, to share ideas with them, and to hear both suggestions and complaints. As necessary to sound a call to action.
- To share ideas with other veterans organizations, seize the opportunity to meet other veterans, and to see and be seen by other organizations. To show the JWV "flag."
- To show our unwavering support for a safe and secure Israel.

Some thoughts: I am honored to be a member of JWV. As National Commander, I hope to well represent us all. I urge all members to participate to the best of their abilities – understanding, however, that not everyone will always agree with your ideas and suggestions.

Reluctantly, let me share a negative example. We are a large organization with varied opinions. Someone sent a lengthy email to HQ condemning a JWV position – and a few days later followed with a nasty email because he had yet to get a response. Understand that neither the staff nor I are interrupt-driven. Correspondence is carefully evaluated before responding – but that takes time.

Let me share a humorous example – a World War II veteran approached me with his recent bill from the DVA pharmacy and wanted to know why they hadn't credited his most recent payment. (I was able to provide him with a phone number to call.)

Lastly, a heartwarming example – another World War II veteran told me the story of an in-

cident that happened to him while in the service. He lit up – he spoke as if it occurred only yesterday – not over seventy years ago. He seemed rejuvenated. Accordingly, let me urge you all to take the opportunity to have conversations with other veterans and let those who want to tell you about their service do so.

God Bless the United States of America.

In Memoriam

PNC EDWIN ROBINS • 1928-2017

Past National Commander Edwin M. Robins passed away on February 11, 2017, at the age of eighty nine.

Ed was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and enlisted in the Army on the day he graduated from high school. He was an Acting Sergeant Major at the time of his discharge.

A member of Paul A. Rosenblum Post 44 in Cleveland, Ohio, Ed held many positions in his Post. He also served in all positions in the JWV Department of Ohio and had been Department Commander twice.

He was a Representative at the Louis Stokes Brecksville Hospital for over 30 years and had over 8,000 volunteer hours at both Wade Park and Brecksville Hospitals. He was elected to the Ohio Hall of Fame in 2006, and was a member of the American Legion.

Ed served for 30 years on both the Joint Veterans Commission of Cuyahoga County and the Memorial Day Association of Cuyahoga



County, and he was President of each organization three times.

At the National Level of JWV, he served as National Adjutant, a member of the National Executive Committee, on the Resolutions and Awards Committees, and on the National Board of Inquiry and the National Court.

A past Director of JWV's National Service Officer Program and the first ever winner of the Murray L. Rosen Member of the Year Award, he was elected as the 2009-10 National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA at JWV's 114th National Convention.

Ed, who worked as the State Manager for Bankers Life and Casualty Company, was married to former Helene Goldberg for 57 years. She is also deceased. They have three children, sons Michael and Joel and daughter Shari, and two grandchildren, Eliana and Odelya.

May his memory be a blessing.

Gold Star Families

Continued from page 1

killed in 2007 while serving in Iraq. Afterward, all Gold Star family members in the audience were asked to speak about fallen loved ones. It was a touching and emotional evening.

We are honored that Mrs. Karen Kelly was our keynote speaker. Her son, 1st Lt. Robert Kelly, was killed by a roadside bomb during a foot patrol in 2010. Mrs. Kelly and her husband, Secretary of Homeland Security General John F.



Beth Agami, Janice Chance, Mona Gunn, and Esther Wolfer accept a donation to the American Gold Star Mothers.

Kelly, chose to channel their grief into something positive to honor their son. As a Gold Star family, they created the First Lieutenant Robert Kelly Memorial Scholarship in 2011.

Mrs. Kelly spoke about her own experiences growing up in a military family, marrying a member of the military, and raising a family that moved constantly due to relocations and deployments. She described the feeling becoming the



Karen Kelly and the evening's Master of Ceremonies, PNC Dr. Robert Pickard.



Kathy Moakler accepts a donation on behalf of Tragedy Assistance program for Survivors (TAPS).

base mother when the units were deployed, how the families would work together, meet regularly, and offer support. Her descriptions of her son and his love of country resonated with everyone in the room, many of whom had lost a loved one during war.

We are grateful to our donors, sponsors, and attendees for joining us and supporting this worthy cause. Because of you, JWVF donat-



Donna Eldridge, Lupe Maguire, JWV NED Herb Rosenbleeth, and Rose Lee hold the check that was presented to the Gold Star Wives.

ed \$5,000 each to Gold Star Wives, Gold Star Mothers, TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors), and the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation's First Lieutenant Robert Kelly Memorial Scholarship. Representatives from each of the aforementioned organizations were in attendance, and were honored for their dedication and sacrifice.

JWVF is pleased to sponsor Texas A&M's inaugural Jewish Warrior Weekend!

This April will be the first warrior weekend held during Passover and the first at Aggieland. PDC Barry Schneider (TALO) will represent JWV, gifting kippot to the Cadets. He is also hosting a showing of True Honor, a Department of California-sponsored documentary about Jewish Medal of Honor recipients.

A highlight of the weekend is a talk given by Maj. Gen. David A. Rubenstein (USA, ret.) who served for 35 years as a military healthcare manager and is a proud Life member of San Antonio Post 753! A graduate and Cadet of Texas A&M, he returns to his alma mater to discuss how the military helped him define his medical career path:

"I had designs in college of eventually going to graduate school to become a physical therapist. I applied to two programs and was



the number-one alternate at each. Both told me to reapply the following year. I graduated from college and was commissioned a lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps. I was interested

in healthcare, and if I was going to be in the Army, that was what I wanted to do. My interest in healthcare is centered on taking care of soldiers and their families. That is what has driven me. Interestingly enough, a year later when it was time to reapply to the two physical therapy programs, I found myself in Germany as a medical platoon leader in charge of 35 medics and two providers and taking care of 800 infantrymen. I was enjoying myself and never reapplied to those physical therapy programs. One of those two programs was the Army graduate program in physical therapy, over which I am now the commanding general (Journal of Healthcare Management, May/June 2012)."

To register or refer a Cadet, simply email JWWAggieland@gmail.com.

2017 CAPITOL HILL ACTION DAYS & NEC LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE



This year, the National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting took on a new role. In addition to being a gathering of JWV leadership and NEC members (representatives of each Department) to conduct official JWV business and decide on policy, the four day conference also featured new meetings, training sessions, and workshops.

It is a misconception that the NEC is only one day- the meeting itself always is held on a Friday afternoon, in addition to other meetings and workshops that all members are encouraged to attend!



JWV members Greg Lee and Marsha Schjolberg with Adam Tennen, Chief Development Officer at the JCC of Greater Washington.

The first two days of the conference are set aside for JWV members to visit their Congressional representatives to advocate for veterans and Jewish issues. JWV provides a list of national legislative priorities, and members are also encouraged to discuss concerns relating to veterans in their local communities as well. This year, in an effort to be more focused and effective, we held a Capitol Hill Action Day (CHAD) debriefing session after the first day to discuss

The Policy Committee, which meets to discuss potential changes to JWV doctrine, traditionally hosts a guest speaker for the first meeting segment. This year, we held a panel featuring a discussion on Veterans and Mental Health. Our panelists were Emily Blair, Manager of Advocacy Campaigns at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and Dr. Howard Schulman, Chief of Psychology at the Washington, DC, VA Medical Center. They discussed topics ranging from understaffing at the VA to the mental health stigma that has made it more difficult for veterans to seek assistance in dealing with mental and behavioral illnesses such as PTSD and depression.

As is true for all JWV meetings, all members are welcome and encouraged to come hear both the speaker and the debate, although only committee members can vote on any proposed actions to be taken.

There were several new and informative workshops, in addition to the regular meetings this year. One of these was a Fundraising 101 workshop with Adam Tennen, the Chief Development Officer of the Bender JCC of Greater Washington. Members who attended this workshop learned effective fundraising strategies and shared information about what other Posts around the country do to raise money for their local programs. Mr. Tennen also stressed the need to “think outside of the box” and the importance of a good 30 second elevator speech to promote JWV.

Rabbi Irving Elson, Director of the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) Jewish Chaplains Council, gave a presentation about JWB’s purpose and history (the organization is celebrating its centennial this year). It was a great reminder that JWV and JWB have a long, and often intertwined, history of working toward a similar goal – to help the Jewish men and women who have been called to the line of duty.

Elson also shared some thoughts on how our two organizations can partner together in the future on both a local and national level. For example, we are in the early discussion phases of creating an “Adopt a Chaplain” program in which a chaplain would be paired with a JWV Post. Then, no matter where that chaplain is based, the Post can communicate and coordinate with

him/her to help make home feel a little less far away and fulfill any needs the Jewish personnel on base may have, such as matzah for Passover or candles for Chanukah.

Programs and Public Relations Coordinator Jordana Green Laurent shared ways Posts can model their leadership structures on how many non-profits Boards are set up. Members are en-



Members from the Department of CT met with their representative on the Hill, Senator John Larson. From left: Elliott and Elissa Donn, PNC Jerry Blum, Senator John Larson, PNP Joanne Blum, Jerrold Baggish, and Marty Levitz.

couraged to think of Post leadership as a mechanism of business. In addition to a comparison of common board roles to JWV positions that are in our bylaws, she also encouraged attendees to



JWV members from the Department of New Jersey met with Rep. Josh Gottheimer (NJ-05) as part of Capitol Hill Action Day.

preparations, get feedback, and begin collecting data for next year. *[Editor’s note: If you participated in CHAD and haven’t filled out the feedback survey, please email jwv@jwv.org.]*



Rabbi Irving Elson, Director of Jewish Welfare Board (JWB), talked about opportunities for JWB and JWV to partner together in the future.

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Lt Col Maury Rosenberg, US Air Force (Ret.)

An Air Force Career of Flying, Fighting, and Spying

By Falk Cantor

Lt Col (Ret.) Maury Rosenberg was a US Air Force pilot who flew combat missions in Vietnam and was one of the relatively small number of Air Force pilots qualified to fly the SR-71. The SR-71, nicknamed the “Blackbird,” was the Air Force’s preeminent spy plane that could fly faster and higher than any other aircraft in the world.

Lt Col Rosenberg, a native of Southern California, graduated from Northrup Institute of Technology in 1964 with a degree in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering. After graduation, he joined the Air Force and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt upon completing Officer Training School in March 1965. He volunteered for flight school and after 55 weeks of flight training was awarded his pilot wings at Laughlin AFB in Del Rio, Texas. Maury was then assigned to the backseat of a McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom, a two-seat jet fighter/bomber, for a combat tour in Vietnam.

Maury served 11 months at Cam Ranh Bay flying 212 combat sorties, of which 69 were over North Vietnam. The majority of the other sorties were close air support missions over South Viet Nam and Laos. While flying in Vietnam, Maury was able to sharpen his flying skills from the backseat of the F-4 including bombing runs and other weapons deliveries in combat. He then volunteered for a consecutive overseas tour and was assigned to Yokota AFB, Japan, for three years during which he upgraded to the front seat of the F-4. While at Yokota Maury qualified as a “Wild Weasel” pilot flying specially equipped F4s to detect and neutralize SAM (surface-to-air missile) missile sites.

From Japan, Maury was assigned to Nellis Air Force Base (AFB) in Las Vegas, Nevada, for a 30 month tour where he flew as a Wild Weasel pilot and graduated from the prestigious Air Force Fighter Weapons School.

He served as an instructor in both the Fighter Weapons and Wild Weasel schools and also flew flight test and evaluation of new and advanced weapons systems.

The Vietnam War ended while Maury was at Nellis, and he was reunited with several friends

who had been POWs. This was a difficult time for Maury, as he lost numerous friends in the War. His roommate, who he saw get shot down, spent over six years in the Hanoi Hilton. Maury experienced mixed emotions of joy and guilt that haunt him even today.

Maury left Nellis after volunteering for and being accepted into the Air Force’s

secret SR-71 program at Beale AFB, California. The SR-71 was developed by Lockheed Aircraft’s famed “Skunk Works” and was a long-range photographic and electronic reconnaissance aircraft capable of flying at speeds over Mach 3.3 (2,200 mph) and 85,000 feet, attributes that enabled it to outrace any threats. Only 32 SR-71s were built and only 85 to 90 pilots were qualified to fly operational missions in the SR-71 throughout its 25 plus years of service. The SR-71 conducted operational (spy) missions over virtually every hot spot in the world including North Vietnam, North Korea, Cuba, Libya, the Suez Canal, and parts of Russia; no SR-71 was ever lost to enemy action.

Maury had two tours at Beale for a total of over nine years flying the SR-71. He was an SR-71 instructor pilot and has the unique distinction of having

flown the most operational hours in the plane’s history: 1,090 hours.

However, he had two major incidents while flying the SR-71. The first was in 1974 at Mach 3 and 78,000 feet when the right engine suffered catastrophic failure and caught fire. Not only was



Lt Col Rosenberg in his special pressurized flight suit in the cockpit of the SR-71 Blackbird. Photo courtesy of Lt Col Rosenberg.



Lt Col Rosenberg, left, and Major Ed McKim, his Reconnaissance Systems Officer, in front of their SR-71 Blackbird. Photo courtesy of Lt Col Rosenberg.

the right engine lost but during the supersonic descent the left engine flamed out causing the loss of cockpit pressurization and all electrical power except for battery operated systems. Maury and his Reconnaissance Systems Officer were able to extinguish the fire and relight the good engine, thereby recovering safely.

The second event Maury was involved in was an international incident. On August 26, 1981, while flying through the Korean Demilitarized Zone, the North Koreans fired a SA-2 SAM missile at Maury’s SR-71. Maury obtained a visual sighting of the missile and while Major Ed McKim, the RSO, employed jamming techniques he was able to maneuver to avoid the missile. This incident received the attention of senior members of the US government and made the front page of the New York Times.

As the Operations Officer of the 1st Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron at Beale, Maury had the honor to fly retired Brigadier General Chuck Yeager, the first man to break the sound barrier (Mach 1). Maury flew Chuck in the SR-71 to speeds in excess of Mach 3, the fastest General Yeager had flown during all of his years of flying in an illustrious career.

Maury’s final Air Force assignment was as Director of Reconnaissance, 15th Air Force, at March AFB, CA. He retired from the Air Force as a Lt Col. in June 1987 and completed his aviation career flying for United Airlines before retiring in 2003 as a Boeing 767/757 Captain.

Maury and his wife Carolyn, a former Air Force Weather Officer who Maury met at March AFB, currently reside in Southern California.

Send Bullets, Not Men. Oh, and Robots....Send Robots

Lance Allen Wang, Assoc. Editor

In one of the classic books on the evolution of American warfare, historian Russell Weigley described how conventional American warfare developed into a strategy of “send bullets, not men.” Indeed, it is a fundamental truism of American warfare that there is a trade-off between large numbers of American casualties and public support for military operations. This aversion provided the impetus for development of weaponry with longer range, higher capacity and more power, in addition to other technologies which served to reduce casualties among American servicemen and women. The immediacy of wartime media coverage combined with the willingness of the press to show the human cost of war has helped spur the further leverage of technology to extend our military capabilities

The newest developments are “movers and shooters” which are completely unmanned weapons— indeed, when we look back on the Global War on Terrorism, armed unmanned aerial drones will likely be seen as the most important technology to emerge.

ROOTS IN WORLD WAR II

Creating robotic technology was a natural extension of the American strategy to reduce casualties. As with many explorations of new technology, it had both failures and triumphs in its development. Perhaps one of the most famous failures was the BQ-8, which was a “robot” B-24



A B-24 Liberator bomber - those used as 'robots' in Operation Aphrodite.

Liberator bomber, used in Operation Aphrodite in 1944.

The concept turned old bombers into “flying torpedoes,” flying by radio into their target and exploding. The plan called for a pilot and co-pilot to get the bomber off the ground, arm the explosives, and bail out. Then, under radio control, the bomber would crash into its target. The target for one mission was Nazi sub pens at Heligoland in the North Sea. Soon after the explosives were armed, the BQ-8 detonated, killing the two crewmen on board before they could bail out. One of them was Navy Lieutenant Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., brother of future President John F. Kennedy. In all, there were 14 missions in

Operation Aphrodite during 1944-45. None of them were successful.

EXPANDING CAPABILITIES IN VIETNAM

During the Vietnam War, heavily modified target drones, specifically the AQM-34 Ryan Firebee, were turned into unmanned photo and electronic reconnaissance aircraft. This classified operation called for the Firebee to be launched by C-130 transport aircraft, flying either a preprogrammed path or piloted by a remote operator, then recovered in midair by a specially designed helicopter. The US military learned a great deal about drones during the Vietnam War, knowledge which would help make unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) commonplace decades later.

THE MIDDLE EASTERN TESTBED

Israel's conflicts and wars have often provided a test bed for technology and doctrine – the Yom Kippur War pointed out the limitations of air-power against surface to air missiles, and the limitations of armor against wire-guided anti-tank missiles while at the same time helped develop combined arms solutions to these challenges. Israel's 1982 operations in Lebanon against Syria demonstrated the value of integrating operational (as opposed to experimental) drone aircraft into their manned formations, with drones fulfilling the role of reconnaissance and electronic warfare. Currently, Israel has a robust and developed drone program.

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES COME INTO THEIR OWN

After limited use in Desert Storm, the United States increased its development and use of unmanned aerial vehicles, including for strike targeting during the Kosovo conflict. Their ability to fly lower because of the absence of pilot risk made them excellent for post-strike assessment also. By the time of the Global War on Terrorism, the ability to arm drones,



DC-130 mounted Firebees.

as demonstrated on the MQ-1 “Predator” and MQ-9 “Reaper” drones, marked an evolutionary change in warfare – the truest manifestation of “send bullets, not men.” Numerous high value targets have been attacked by remotely piloted vehicles. Depending upon the type of strike mission and who is conducting it, pilots are sometimes half a world away, leveraging technology to provide capabilities far beyond what veterans of Operation Aphrodite could have ever imagined.

However, robotic warfare is not confined to the air. The use of robots in explosives ordnance disposal has been very successful and has been integrated into combat operations as a counter-Improvised Explosive Device (IED) measure; again, reducing personnel risk in extremely hazardous operations. Current trends in development include autonomous “wingmen” for tanks, with manned armored vehicles flanked by robotic ones, controlled by the primary manned vehicle. However, unmanned land vehicles have not yet developed the kind of durability and reliability for them to assume some of the load of land-based warfare.

POTENTIAL PITFALLS, AND THE FUTURE

From a technological standpoint, other than the durability issues, the issue of artificial intelligence as an obvious next step for robotic technology raises practical as well as ethical questions. In the end, who makes the decision to fire a weapon

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MQ-9 “Reaper” armed drone taxis for takeoff in Afghanistan, 2007.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By PDC Bob Richter, National Membership Chairman

I am sure many of you saw the job description for Membership Committee Chair in the last issue of *The Jewish Veteran*. I have held the job for a number of years and am now reducing my commitments because of visual difficulties. I will still be involved in membership – my labor of love – but I am pleased to report that we had several quality applicants to step into the role. Ultimately, our leadership chose Barry Lischinsky from the Department of Massachusetts. By August at our National Convention, Barry will be Co-Chair and taking lead with my full support.

Currently, we are over halfway through member year 2017 and our membership renewal rates are troubling. The latest January Alpha Rosters show a potential loss of members that

is quite serious. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2017, please do so as soon as possible. National Headquarters recently mailed a second invoice, which even offered an option for renewing online. All Posts should follow-up with dues reminder notices in April and May. Experience has shown these personalized letters to be effective appeals.

Recruiting new members is also of vital importance. To ensure the health and longevity of our organization, a national task force of post-9/11 veterans has formed to develop programs and recruitment material relevant to them. Many of these recently recruited young vets have indicated that they had not heard of JWV, or had not considered joining, until they were approached

by an existing member. Therefore, the most effective – not to mention easiest – way for you to ensure the future of JWV is to continue word-of-mouth recruitment. And once they do attend a meeting, make them feel included, ask them what sort of events or volunteering they are interested in, and listen. Recruitment is not only about asking, but also about listening.

A final note about our national staff: Mara Sherman is now the Membership Coordinator and Lauren Hellendall her assistant. They both have backgrounds in support services and both are proud granddaughters of Jewish veterans. The National Membership Department is in good hands.



Membership Developments

- I am happy to introduce PDC Barry Lischinsky as our incoming Membership Co-Chair. Barry has dedicated his professional career to focusing on the needs of American military veterans and active duty. He is currently the Deputy Superintendent of Chelsea, MA Soldiers Home and has previously worked with JROTC and the National Guard. Barry is eager to get to working on membership retention and recruitment.
- You can now renew your membership dues online! Check out your most recent bill or go to jwv.org/membership/renew for instructions.
- Last but not least: please be on the look-out for a new and improved JWV website in the coming weeks. We are very excited to unveil a more efficient, easier to navigate, and more aesthetically pleasing website very soon.

Never hesitate to contact the Membership Department with any questions or feedback you may have. You can reach us at membership@jwv.org or at 202-265-6280. We look forward to hearing from you.

7 Questions with a JWV Member

Member: Aaron Scheer

Post: Albert S. Aronovitz Post 373-FL

Current Residence: Tel Aviv, Israel

Military Service: US Air Force, 1996 – 2014, Operation Northern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom, 4 NATO Tours

Member since year: 2000



1. Tell us a bit about your military service.

Like my grandfather and father before me, I joined the Air Force. For the first couple of years my job was to set-up banks in austere conditions. Then I went to officers' school in 1998, served in Iraq, Africa, the Balkans... eventually I became a Turkish linguist. I never got shot, I earned two degrees, traveled the world, and learned another language. Military service made me a better person. I can't emphasize enough how the military truly offers you an opportunity to better yourself.

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

In 1999, I was stationed at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. There was a defunct synagogue in the small town of Minot. Founded by frontier Jews in the late 19th century, the synagogue was in decent condition, but was open maybe twice a year at that point, for high holidays. So, a couple of buddies and I worked to reopen it. In the process, I became more Jewish. It deepened my faith. And my friend, Major Michael Bram, became a rabbi because of that experience and he is still serving as a Chaplain, stationed in Anchorage at the moment.

3. What is one of your fondest JWV memories?

I was recruited into JWV through my synagogue in Carrollwood, north Tampa. I'd never experienced that sort of community before. There were veterans of all generations – Vietnam, WWII, Desert Storm – and we'd gather, socialize, share. I really enjoyed my time in Tampa. There was great scenery, good work, and that JWV experience really adds to the positive feelings I have about that time.

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

I love what you've started with the members-below-age-55-group [Jewish American Warriors] and I think we'll be more successful if we work with Aleph or JWB to improve our contact with active duty Jews. You know, when you're in basic training, you tend to become more religious. You rely on that comfort. So, you're probably connected with a Chaplain or outside group like JWV. But then you leave basic and get lost in the process. There's not a good handoff system in place. That's where JWV should enter the picture – become the point-of-contact to keep

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Deciding the Future of Arlington National Cemetery

When George Washington Parke Custis, step-grandson of our first president, chose the peak of a stretching verdant slope to construct Arlington House, his primary goal was to build a mansion with a view of the planned Federal City (later named Washington, DC). A respectful intention, to be sure, but an action that ultimately influenced the Union's decision to capture the property sixty years later. The view was not simply beautiful, but also a strategic outlook for the men in blue.

Now over 600 acres with 400,000 graves, Custis' property transformed into America's sacred ground, Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). Arlington House and the surrounding graves are flanked by the Potomac River and military installations, including the Pentagon. American service members from every war have been buried or reinterred at ANC. Additionally, presidents, Supreme Court Justices, and slaves who perished during the Civil War have been laid to rest. The US Army manages ANC, unlike the 133 cemeteries across the nation administered by the VA National Cemetery Administration. While that results in slightly different eligibility requirements, it also enhances the prestige.

For many, burial at Arlington goes beyond honor. It is a place to remain in the arms of brothers and sisters – to sustain the comradery only service members understand.

During a 2010 interview with CBS anchor Harry Smith, former Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell remarked, "When I walk through Arlington what strikes me is, when you look at these headstones and tombstones, you can't tell what color they were, what part of the country they were from, were they rich, were they poor... when you step back and just look across, lined up the way they are – 300,000 of them – you see all the greatest generations of Americans... America



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Photo credit: Wknight94 via Wikimedia Commons.

has been blessed to have greatness in every single generation."

Seven years later and 100,000 more veterans laid to rest leaves ANC questioning its burial restrictions. It is simply running out of space.

Space and Requirement Issues

Small swaths of land abutting the cemetery have been purchased or acquired from National Park Service, Department of Defense, US Army, and even Arlington County over the past 25 years. Dubbed the Millennium Project, the expansion has been slow going. Changes include restructuring a roadway and major interchange, as well as assessing the environmental impact of destroying old growth woodlands edging the Arlington House.

Even with the additional land, ANC cannot keep pace with the growing needs of WWII and Korean War veterans. The cemetery is expected to reach capacity in 2050. There is a possibility of purchasing private land that would extend the date to 2072.

Debating the Course of Action

The Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC), a federally-chartered inde-

pendent committee that advises the Secretary of the Army, has been considering 14 options that include expanding land and changing eligibility requirements. Their debate has narrowed down the choices to two courses of action.

Both Courses of Action include:

1. Expectation that the current land expansion is complete.
2. Adopting the VA National Cemetery requirement of 24 months of service. Currently, a person need only serve one day to meet ANC eligibility.

Major differences lie within the changes to the eligibility requirements and timing of these changes. The more restrictive plan, for instance, would keep the cemetery open as far out as 2265. The changes, however, are alarming to Veteran Service Organizations and their constituents.

"Our most pressing concern is for the large population of aging retirees. Currently they're eligible for interment at Arlington, so many have already made arrangements. If you take that away over the next few years, what's going to happen to them?" asks JWV National Executive Director and President of The Military Coalition, Herb Rosenbleeth.

MOAA Leads the Charge

The Military Officers of American Association (MOAA) has been conducting veteran surveys to provide feedback to congress, which ultimately controls the funding of ANC. Worried that the advisory Committee is not hearing the VSO voice, MOAA is leading the charge to speak directly to Congress.

Concerns to Address

- If the least inclusive restrictions are implemented, what does that mean for ANC's relevancy? Will fewer people visit the cemetery?
- If ANC purchases additional land that is non-contiguous, does that make burials less special? Does it degrade the unique nature of ANC?
- And if non-contiguous land is used, how does that affect the operations of the staff who perform burial rites?
- If retirees can no longer be laid to rest at ANC, will additional cemeteries be opened and/or will other cemeteries lessen their restrictions?

JWV encourages its members to get involved. Follow MOAA's efforts on by reading their Retiree Issues at www.moaa.org. Stay up to date on the Advisory Committee's progress at www.arlingtoncemetery.mil. Finally, call your Congressmembers and voice your opinion. Those who serve our country honorably have the right to a military funeral, but where? Have your say.

Course of Action One	
Next 1 - 3 years	Adopt 24-month service rule;
	Expand southern land
3-10 years	Change eligibility for in- and above-ground burials of Medal of Honor (MOH) recipients, KIA active duty, and retirees
10 - 20 years	Change eligibility to MOH and KIA active duty only
Course of Action Two	
Next 1 - 3 years	Adopt 24-month service rule;
	Expand southern land;
	Prohibit future monument erections
3-10 years	Change eligibility for in- and above-ground burials of MOH, KIA active duty, and retirees;
	Begin campaign to acquire adjacent land;
	Set aside 20k spaces for MOH and KIA
10 - 20 years	Change eligibility to MOH and KIA active duty only
	Negotiate for adjacent land
	Reimagine ways to use space

JWV IN ACTION



Commander George Barnett, Post 65 NV, presented a check to NVAL President Bob Garlow at the Nevada State Veterans Home for sponsorship of their fifth room. From left: Morris Dubin, Chaplain; Mike Sinderman, Quartermaster; PDC Ed Kranson, George Barnett, Bob Garlow, President NVAL Julie Boyster, Coordinator/Secretary NVAL.



On Dec. 17th, Post 400 FL members served food to the Homeless Veterans of Lee County and their families at the Hearts and Homes for Veterans Annual Christmas Party. The Post supplied toys for all the children. Photo credit: Harvey Charter.



Post 239 PA met with 5th and 6th grade students of the Jewish Day School of the Lehigh Valley. JWV members Jerry Farris, Maur Levan, and Sheila Berg spoke with the students about their experiences in the military, as each JWV member is from a different era of the Military. The students were interested and asked great questions. Photo credit: Sheila Berg.



Gold Star mother Beth Agami holds the Jewish War Veterans Flag displaying her sons name and the name of two other veterans that paid the supreme sacrifice. Post 265 FL changed the name of the Post in 2013 to honor the three veterans. On the right is Richard Rosenzweig, Commander of Post 265 and Vice Mayor of the city of Deerfield Beach. Photo credit: Sid Birns.



Members of Post 757 TX's Honor Guard attended the Bat Mitzvah of a young lady whose school mitzvah project was geared towards the Jewish War Veterans. From left: Barry Mann, Bob Kaplan, Francesca Stuart, Mike Miller, and Audrey. Photo courtesy of Bam Rubenstein.



Post 605 of Kansas City has conducted a Holiday Gifts for Vets Program for more than 13 years delivering Gift Bags to Veterans at the VA Hospital and Domiciliary in Leavenworth, KS, and to the VA Hospital and the St. Michael's Veterans Center in Kansas City. In December 2016, they assembled over 435 Gift Bags for delivery. Photo credit: Steven Schorr.



On January 2nd, Post 220 MA was represented as part of the veterans organizations who participated in the honor guard for the inauguration of Peabody's Mayor, Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr. This event also commemorated the 100th anniversary of Peabody becoming a city. Pictured from left to right are Sydney Gold, Jacob Romo, Mark Tolpin, Barry Lischinsky, and Morris Sack. Photo credit: Jack Romo.

JWV IN ACTION



On Sunday, February 5, at the Livingston, NJ Senior/Community Center, there was a special service honoring four U.S. Army chaplains who died aboard the Dorchester in 1943, after it was torpedoed by a German submarine. The chaplains on the ship distributed life jackets, but there weren't enough, so they gave their own life jackets to the troops. Then they linked arms as the slant of the deck increased and went down with the ship, losing their lives along with 668 of the other men on board that terrible night. Pictured above are four participants in the program linking arms, just like the chaplains did. From left: Tony Ciccone, VFW Post 2856 Commander; Roger Flartey, JWV Post 760 Commander; Dr. Frederick Friedman, American Legion Post 201 Commander, and Charlie Quinn, VFW Post 2856 Chaplain. Photo courtesy of Roger Flartey.



Members of the Post 336 NY during the poppy campaign to raise funds that benefit all veterans. Pictured (right) is 90-year-old World War II veteran Stan Feltman with Marty Kupferberg, poppy drive coordinator. Photo credit: Alan Golnick.



Henry Lapidus, of Post 125 NJ, was among 15 Second World War veterans awarded the Insignia of the French Legion of Honor at a Veterans Day 2016 ceremony at the Lycée Français de New York by Mme Claire Legendre, Consul general of France in New York, and by Mr. Guy Wildenstein, President of the American Society of the French Legion of Honor. Lapidus served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946 and was with the 276th Infantry Regiment in France and Germany. Photo courtesy of Sid Marshall.



On February 5, 2017, Post 210 AZ held a Super Bowl 51 Party for approximately 40 of the residents of the Arizona State Veteran Home. Pizza and non-alcoholic beverages were served by members of Post 210. Everyone enjoyed the shocking comeback of the New England Patriots in the 4th quarter to win 34 to 28 over the Atlanta Falcons. Photo credit: Steven Troy.

California JWV NEC members visit Congressman Darrell Issa's office in Washington, DC. Pictured from left to right, CAPT Marsha Schjolberg, Mathew Millen, staffer Veronica Wong, and PNC COL Maxwell S Colón.



Members of Post 753 TX serve dinner to military members and their families at the Warrior and Family Service Center, Ft. Sam Houston, TX. The Post sponsors the dinner twice yearly. Pictured serving are David Solomon, Denise Miner-Williams, Natalie Barath, Norton Sheckman, and Emily Sparks. Photo credit: Herschel L. Sheiness.



JWV Department of New Jersey and Post 126 NJ sponsored a Chanukah Party on December 29 at Joint Base McGuire/Dix/ Lakehurst. From left to right, Colonel Nelson L Mellitz, Department Commander Al Adler, Brig Gen Mike Cunniff, Colonel Frederick Thaden, Chaplain (Rabbi, LtCol) Yaakov Bindell, and Major Menashe Miller.

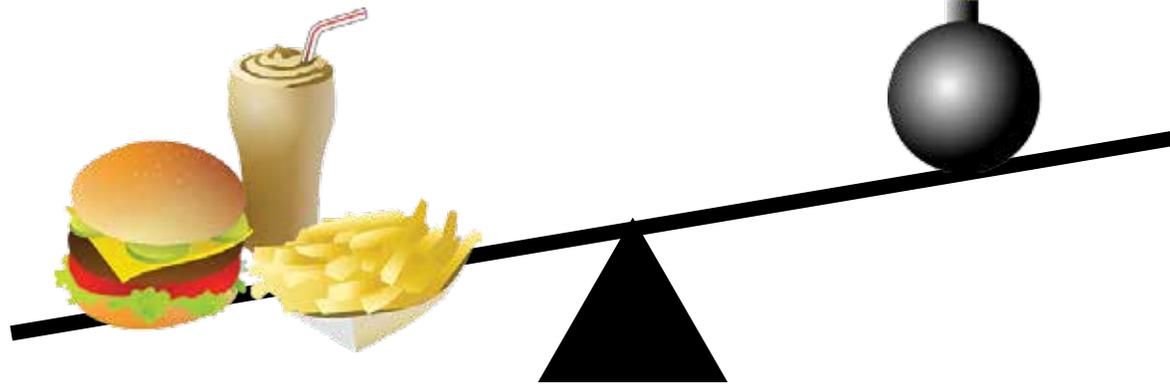
How Perception Eats Away At Our National Security

By Adam Lammon,
JWV Programs Assistant

Americans do not typically define their security through factual analyses, but instead rely on abstract metrics such as perception and emotion. Therefore, we often focus on the most salient problems, while ignoring the discreet, but truly deleterious.

For example, despite an extensive war on terror, vast oceanic buffers separating us from foreign conflict zones, and a sophisticated domestic security apparatus, a 2016 poll by the Pew Research Center found that 40% of Americans believe terrorists can strike our homeland with greater ability than after September 11, 2001. We feel vulnerable to terrorism not because it actually poses an immediate or likely threat to our personal security, but because we think that it does.

Terrorists seek to exploit the media's coverage of violence to incite public fear and provoke a political overreaction that changes the nature of our society. We thus find their intentions so



(this percentage balloons to over 50% when other health problems are included). Then when one accounts for educational requirements (25% of young Americans lack a high school diploma) and prior convictions such as a felony or misdemeanor (10%), the enormity of the problem is revealed: at least 75% of Americans aged 17 to 24, *26 million young Americans*, are currently ineligible to fight for our country.

Due to technological innovations such as autonomous weapons, detractors may extrapolate that fitness is no longer critical to military readiness because the utility of large ground forces has become dubious and the prospect of great-power land wars fantastical. Unfortunately, contingencies are nearly impossible to predict and skepticism must not result in complacency. Despite our acceptance of the all-volunteer force, we should not disregard the possibility of having to reinstate the draft in the future. If that day is coming soon, we will find ourselves sorely unprepared.

We have failed to effectively combat obesity because we have fundamentally misunderstood that people do not eat foods and nutrients, such as fats or sugars, in isolation, but in combinations as part of an overall eating pattern. In an article for *Undark Magazine*, Dr. Alice Lichtenstein, vice chair of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, succinctly explained that Americans switching to low fat cookies does not solve the problems precipitated by a dietary deficiency in fresh fruits, vegetables, fish, and whole grains. To reverse this trend, we must transform the way that both the public and corporations view food. We can no longer afford to allow companies to advertise products to us that superficially follow governmental dietary guidelines without actually encouraging healthier eating. Tolerating this behavior only makes us complacent in our societal degradation.

Moreover, obesity's linchpin is what the World Health Organization calls "an energy imbalance between calories consumed and calories expended," which can only be solved by smarter dietary choices. Even exercise, which the United Kingdom's Academy of Medical Royal Colleges

has called the "miracle cure" because it reduces a multitude of physical and mental ailments, is a very poor way to burn calories. The only option is to eat less while stressing a balanced diet and teaching our children good habits at school and home. Changing America's dietary behaviors is admittedly an arduous task, but we must make the effort now to address the silent killers harming us from within and not just the obstreperous ones from without.

Send Bullets, Not Men

Continued from page 9

is a decision fraught with risk if it is delegated to a machine. This remains a huge question in strategic nuclear warfare – shall a computer make the decision determining if an attack is real, and should we delegate our retaliation decision to a computer? Just the same – should a drone determine if a target is the high value one we are seeking, and shall its digital innards make the decision to shoot?

The other challenge we face is the delusion of bloodless warfare which drone warfare seems to promise on the surface. We may send bullets... and robots.... But we will always have to send men and women with an accompanying cost in blood and treasure.

T.R. Fehrenbach wrote, in his oft-quoted book on the Korean War, *"This Kind of War: A Study in Unpreparedness,"*

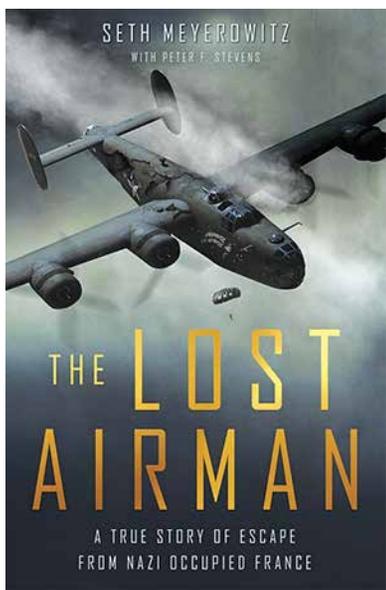
"Americans in 1950 rediscovered something that since Hiroshima they had forgotten: you may fly over a land forever; you may bomb it, atomize, pulverize it and wipe it clean of life – but if you desire to defend it, protect it and keep it for civilization, you must do this on the ground, the way the Roman legions did, by putting your young men in the mud."

For an in-depth look at how drones and unmanned system technologies are creating opportunities and challenges for civilian and military leaders, visit Bard College at:
<http://dronecenter.bard.edu/>

**75% of Americans
aged 17 to 24
(26 million young Americans)
are currently ineligible to fight
for our country.**

disconcerting that we dismiss that the statistical likelihood of being killed by a terrorist is minuscule compared to our chances of being killed by a firearm or in a car accident. In this light, the threat of terrorism has been so inflated that our policymakers are often unable to concentrate on other problems without appearing negligent.

Our prioritization of security threats has been manipulated by hostile actors and it is imperative that we shift attention to the neglected, but enduring hazards, such as the obesity epidemic. To argue that obesity is threatening American national security is sure to engender incredulity and amusement in shallow observers, but this is due to the issue's framing as an individual problem, rather than a security one. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, more than 2/3 of American adults are overweight, while one in three are obese. Among children, 1/3 are overweight, while one in six are obese. Mission Readiness, a nongovernmental organization representing over 600 retired admirals, generals, and top military leaders, released a report in 2010 which noted that 27% of young adults are too overweight to fight in the military



The Lost Airman:

A True Story of Escape from Nazi Occupied France

By Seth Meyerowitz with Peter F. Stevens

Book review by Sheldon A. Goldberg, Ph.D.
Docent/Historian, NMAJMH

One of the greatest fears of airmen during World War II – especially Jewish airmen – was to

be shot down and captured by the Nazis. Allied airmen, regardless of their religion, were labeled terrorflieger – terrorist airmen – by the Nazi hierarchy. Many of those downed over German territory were captured and sent to POW camps, the less fortunate were lynched by German civilians, shot on sight by German soldiers, or if captured by the Gestapo, tortured and then killed. Those shot down in France and not captured by the Nazis but rescued by French citizens and given over the Maquis – the French resistance fighters – were extremely lucky and smuggled out of France. Staff Sergeant Arthur Meyerowitz, a young Jewish B-24 flight engineer and top turret gunner who was shot down over France on his second mission on 31 December 1944 was one of the lucky ones. The Lost Airman is the amazing true story of his 6-month journey with the help of the French resistance to escape from Nazi-occupied France.

Injuring his back after cutting himself out of the tree in which he landed after bailing out of his burning B-24, Meyerowitz takes a chance and walks to a French farmhouse to seek help from its occupants. His luck holds out – the French family are in close contact with a French resistance group, the Morhange and its leader, Marcel Taillandier. Marcel takes Arthur and his journey

through a number of safe houses begins. He is taught to be and act like a deaf mute to avoid possible capture by the Nazis, always on the lookout for downed airmen. The perilous journey takes him through France to Toulouse where he spent four months hiding in the open and finally over the Pyrenees into Spain and eventually to Gibraltar and Allied control.

Aside from the description of Arthur's journey, there are a number of excellent reasons anyone interested in World War II history should read this well-written book. First, it tells the story of a young, Bronx-born Jew who, disqualified from the Aviation Cadet program due to an accident affecting his eyesight, opts to become a flight engineer rather than an administrative officer because he wanted to fight for his country. Second, it is the story of an individual with tremendous will power, fortitude and courage that enabled him to do what his French rescuers required of him in order to survive. Third, it provides an in-depth look at the French Maquis and how they operated, including infiltrating the German occupation authorities. Finally, it describes the heroism of those patriotic French men and women who faced torture and death rather than give up the names of their resistance colleagues.

The Lost Airman is based on Arthur Meyerowitz's escape debrief, post-war letters from his French rescuers, and interviews with Arthur's brother Seymour, and the narration reads easily like a novel. Whatever literary license that was taken, smoothly bridges gaps and is factually based and logical, portraying Arthur and the members of the Maquis as true heroes.

7 Questions

Continued from page 10

our servicemembers engaged with their Jewish heritage.

5. What display of patriotism, in your community or otherwise, makes you the proudest?

Both of my grandfathers served in WWII and my father served in the Vietnam era. All have since been buried with military honors. I have my father's burial flag and it makes me feel so proud. The entire legacy of military service makes me so proud.

6. What is your favorite Passover tradition or memory?

In 2002, I was stationed at Incirlik Air Base in Adana, Turkey. I celebrated Passover with Turkish Jews. There was about 30 of us at the

minyan and then I went home with one of the families for the Seder. It was an amazing, welcoming moment.

7. Favorite Mel Brooks film?

Spaceballs. I saw it in the theater with my best friend when I was 14 years-old. And I just recently introduced it to my 10 year-old son, Sagiv. So much fun!

If you'd like to connect with Aaron, he is the lead writer on the satirical blog The Daily Freier. (daily.freier@gmail.com)

Want to know what your everyday JWV member is like? Then let's play 7 questions! Contact Cindy P. Chambers (cchambers@jwv.org) if you wish to be featured.

Committee Reports

Development Report

By PNC Monte Mayer, Chairman

The function of this committee is to raise funds for JWV by sending direct mail to our members, donors, and supporters. We send four different appeals- an annual calendar, mailing labels, a request only to our donors (Defenders Mailing), and High Holiday cards. Over the years these have been successful campaigns, and we have raised significant funds.

The year 2017 is no different, many of you have received our first mailing for this year which is the Annual Calendar. Please understand that these premiums that we mail are not the benefit of membership, but is for the sole purpose of fundraising. If a response with a check is not heard for a number of years, your name is removed from our mailing list. There have been instances where some donors name was removed as the entire process goes through a number of hands.

None of these items are done in house. We have to use outside sources. Printing is done at one site, then forwarded to the mail organization, then sent to the post office.

We consistently ask our members and donors to notify us that you failed to receive a premium mailing, and we certainly will replace the item.

Suggestions are always welcome, and we hope you will enjoy and utilize our products.

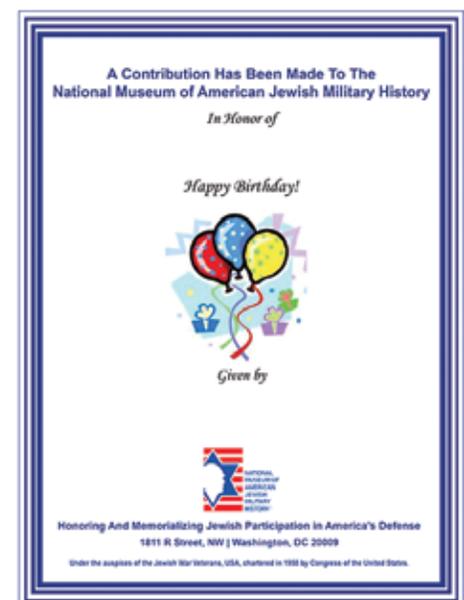
Museum Certificates

By Hannah Deutch, Chairwoman

I am very happy and proud to give this report as it shows an increase over many previous years. I knew you could do it and I thank you, but I will keep on prodding you as we need more and more money in years ahead. The existence of the NMI Certificate should be brought up at every meeting on every level and they should be available for sale by the Fundraising Chairman at all times. Thank you again and keep up the good work.

Certificates sold Feb 2016 - Feb 2017

\$6,172



NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Samy Fineman-100 • Linda Faust-100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Barry Benn-185 • Sandra Fichter-385 • Irving Garber-680 • Jack Kaplan-603 • Sheila Kodimer-603 • Robert Taylor-617 • Robert Lewis-185 • Frank Paplanus-752 • Muriel Zollman-603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Howard Goralnick-45 • Maxine Klein-51

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Joel Banow-202 • Carl Barrish-639 • Fineman Edward-631 • Hal Levin-819 • Merlin Lickhalter-202 • Herbert Needle-440 • Murray Steinberg-300 • Conrad Wicks-172

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS-

Stephen Braverman-54 • Lee Silverglade-800 • Bob-Zavell-800

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Kevin Kent-167 • Mike Zippert-167 Philip Goldberg-567 • Philip Justus-692 • Gerald-Perlman-692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Morris Azrin-735 • Deborah Butler-157 • Stephen Golden-157 • Morris Seigal-157 • Gerald Isenberg-211 • Juan Rivera-157 • Stephen Shimberg-74

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Leonard Wall-331

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Steven Cook-65 • Howard Levine-65 • Phyllis Miller-65 • Harold Schwartz-64 • Stephen Seiden-64 • Reginald Underwood-65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Stanley Lurie-651 • Lloyd Sherman-72 • Jeffrey Sherman-972 • Sydney Silverman-126 • Karen Slutsky-126 • Neal Slutsky-126 • Sidney Shuster-651 • Davis Stephen-126 • Inga Jones-Sullivan-795 • Robert Von Bargen-126 • Richard Wasserman-47

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Eugene Altman-106 • Erica Berger-106 • Joseph Brier-425 • Sidney-Cramer-106 • Abraham Finkel-106 • Harvey Finkelstein-106 • Brian Goldstein-1 • Peter Hanson-488 • David Hendler-425 • Howard Hirsch-36 • Barry Lefton-106 • Daniel Matz-1 • Lynn Moore-41 • Emanuel Plesent-488 • Herman Soblick-652 • Ivan Vamos-105 • Eugene Vooss-425 • Allen Walberg-6 • Marc Wolf-1

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

L. Shalom Plotkin-44

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Elaine Madonick-98

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

David Talan-406

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Christopher Adams-112 • Elijah Alexander-112 • Timothy Allen-112 • Payton Benzen-112 • Myles Blossey-112 • Andrew Borquez-112 • Frederick Breslow-112 • Daniel Caudill-112 • Ryan Chastain-112 • Kelly Convery-112 • Juan Cuba-112 • Taylor Davis-112 • Drew Dunlop-112 • Jesse Ehrenfeld-121 • John Ellison-112 • Marcos Garcia-112 • Jacob Gluckman-112 • Joshua Goertz-112 • Owen Iverson-112 • Aaron Kronick-112 • Seung Hyeok Lee-112 • Louis Lipsitz-320 • Calvin Lueken-112 • Charles Lutin-112 • Justin Maenlis-112 • Sakxit Vang Mingmitviboor-112 • Ulisees Miranda-112 • Jonathon Ngo-112 • Hunter Norris-112 • Brandon Nowak-112 • Hunter Pedersen-112 • Israel Reymero-112 • Daniel Roberts-112 • Joshua Samet-112 • Kurt Sanchez-112 • Eric Sandersfield-112 • Holly Sandler-112 • Chan Seo-112 • John Swanay-112 • Marc Urbach-775 • Howard Wagner-112 • Trevor Westmoreland-112 • Alfred White-112 • James Wilson II-112 • Eric Windom-112

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

David Foland-256 • Robert Koppel-580 • Jerry Rosenstein-210 • David Rubenstein-753 • •

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTHWEST

Barbara Siegel- 619

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

William-Burns-145

REUNIONS

▶ Attention veterans who served aboard the U.S.S. John R. Craig DD885. The U.S.S. John R. Craig DD885 Association will be having its 27th reunion on September 6-10, 2017 in Norfolk, Virginia. The point of contact for this reunion is the Association Secretary, Jerry Chwalek, who can be reached at (734) 525-1469 and jemail@ameritech.net. For more information, visit www.ussjohnrcraig.com.

▶ The Association of the USS Hornet (CV-8, CV, CVA, CVS-12) is inviting all Officers, Air Groups, Crew, Marines, and families to the Hilton Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri on September 13-17, 2017 for its 69th Reunion. The association's contact is its secretary, Sandy Burket, who can be reached at (814) 224-5063 or hornetcva@aol.com. Visit their website <http://www.ushornetassn.com/> for more information.

▶ Attention Brothers in Arms who served with the 3/5 Cavalry, 9th Infantry Division, RVN 1965-1973! Your brothers are eager to reconnect with you at the Squadron Reunion, July 26-30, 2017 in Columbus, GA. If you cannot

attend, please get in touch with us anyway. Please contact Al Cavasin at (517) 524-6228 alcavasin@frontiernet.net, Richard Wandoff at (561) 747-2282 rwandoff@bellsouth.net, or Mike Cook at mcook159@tampabay.rr.com

▶ Veterans of the Army's renowned 1st Infantry Division, the Big Red One, will hold their 98th Annual Reunion in Kansas City, Missouri from July 26-30, 2017 at the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center. Everyone who ever served in the First Infantry Division or any unit attached to it is cordially invited to attend the reunion. More information can be found on our website at www.1stID.org or by phone (215) 654-1969 or email SFIDPA@gmail.com

▶ Post 425 NY is hosting a seder on April 11 for veterans and active-duty personnel with no where to go for the second seder. RSVP is required, if interested please contact Bill Farber ASAP at 845-357-2990. Space is limited.

▶ If you are interested in participating in JWV's information table during Rolling Thunder on Sunday, May 28, email JWV@jwv.org.



JWV member and centenarian Benjamin Schulman (center), is presented with a framed lifetime membership certificate by PNC Maxwell Colon (left) while Post 385 Commander, Jerry Silverman (right), reads letter from National Commander Carl Singer at the monthly general membership meeting.

Mazel Tov, Mr. Schulman!

A New Anti-Semitism

Continued from page 1



February 20. Under-reported by mainstream media, the coordinated threats were often called in at the same time or within hours of each other. The JCCs followed proper procedures- calling the police, informing the ADL, and evacuating the premises- and Jewish institutions across the country are re-evaluating their security measures and assisting the FBI and the ADL in investigations. While bomb threats are a tactic often used to incite fear, they still need to be taken seriously. That these threats were coordinated speaks to the likelihood that they were premeditated and the fact that only Jewish buildings were targeted indicates an anti-Semitic undertone.

A quick perusal of headlines from Jewish newspapers reveals similar stories that also flew under the radar. In a strip mall in Philadelphia, a *mikveh*, Jewish ritual bath, was vandalized with illegible graffiti and the area's security cameras were all damaged, while the other storefronts were unscathed. In Washington, DC, the police are investigating a litany of anti-Semitic threats made against a family who voiced support for Black Lives Matter, including a letter with the notorious yellow "Jude" star. At Hebrew Union College, the Reform affiliated rabbinical school in Cincinnati, a sign was spray-painted with a swastika. So many hate crimes have been reported since November that it would take pages to list them all.

While many incidents were perpetrated by anonymous vandals, others were organized and supported publicly. A neo-Nazi group organized (and later cancelled) a march against the Jewish community in Whitefish, Montana, and sought to recruit a Hamas member to speak at the armed march. The coordinators further encouraged attendees to bring copies of *Mein Kampf* for a neighborhood kids' "story hour." March organizer Andrew Anglin originally picked January 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, as the "James Earl Ray Day Extravaganza." This event was created specifically to target Jews, Jewish businesses, and everyone who supports the Jews. The names, photos, phone numbers, and addresses of the town's Jewish residents have been made public by an alt-right and white supremacist website, The Daily Stormer.

Worthy of note is that this rise in anti-Semitic incidents is not confined to the United States. In the United Kingdom, anti-Semitic hate crimes rose by 36 percent in 2016, the highest numbers since the Community Security Trust charity started keeping records in 1984. On average, there were more than three incidents per day, ranging from vandalism and property damage to hate mail and graffiti.

Anti-Semitism has persisted through the ages and Jewish history is littered with attempts to hurt, defile, embarrass, and exterminate the Jews. During late Antiquity and the early Middle Ages, the Romans first expelled the Jews and later classified them as second-class citizens. Hundreds of years later, Jews were massacred in the name of the Crusades. By the 15th century, the Jews had been banished from England, France, and Austria; many of these Jews settled in Eastern Europe.

The Spanish Inquisition of the 15th century and the Reconquest in the 16th century expelled the Jews again, forcing them to either convert or face punishment. In the Italian Papal States, Jews were forced into specific neighborhoods called ghettos and the pogroms of the late 19th century were often backed by the Russian tsars, and continued through the rise of Nazi-Germany. The Jews who had fled to Eastern Europe once again found no escape from persecution.

It is a sad world we live in when we must question whether the vandalism of headstones in a Jewish cemetery was a hate crime, and when our college students are afraid to express their Judaism on campus. Often, anti-Israel and anti-Zionist sentiment bleeds over into anti-Semitic rhetoric, and many on college campuses seem unable to tell the difference.

On September 6, 2016, the Israel on Campus Coalition (ICC) released its annual report for the

2015-2016 academic year. ICC observed that anti-Israel activists have refocused their efforts on displays of anti-Israel sentiment, heckling, and disruptions of Israel-related events that attempt to frighten and silence guest speakers. Conversely, ICC noted that despite these attempted intimidation tactics, there has been a 151 percent increase in pro-Israel activities and rallies on campus overall.

At the United Nations' International Holocaust Remembrance Day gathering on January 27, new Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told attendees that "a 'new normal' of public discourse is taking hold, in which prejudice is given a free pass and the door is opened to even more extreme hatred" due to the rise of xenophobia. We must work fervently to reject this trend to the annals of history.

If you, someone you know, or your community experiences anti-Semitism, the ADL has a secure form on its website (adl.org) to report the incident. Call the police and file a detailed report, and be sure to let us know by emailing jwv@jwv.org.

Editor's note: This article was written prior to further bomb threats in March.



JWV encourages all members to remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings, regardless of whether you are at a JCC, synagogue, Jewish day school, or other religious center.

The ADL provides numerous resources on its security website (<http://www.adl.org/combatting-hate/community-security/>), including Bomb Threat Guidance provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

While Posts may not meet every day, it is still essential that everyone is aware and familiar with security procedures. We encourage all members to review and discuss appropriate rules and procedures, and what to do in an emergency.

2017 Capitol Hill / NEC

Continued from page 7

think of ways to get more Post members involved in committees while strengthening the communication hierarchy. For example, an officer of the board should be the Post Quartermaster, who would then run the budget committee which would be made up of members of the Post.

The penultimate event was the screening of the Department of California's *True Honor*,

an informative documentary about Jewish Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients. It features interviews with Tibor Rubin, after whom the Long Beach Medical Center is now named, and Colonel Jack Jacobs, among many others. Department Commander Greg Lee also shared how members can bring the film to their local communities and participate in its screenings.

To learn more about this, please contact Greg at goleel@hotmail.com.

To cap off a very busy week was the JWV Foundation's Evening Honoring Gold Star Families. To learn more about this fantastic event, please see page one.

Thank you to all who participated and to our guest speakers for making this week a huge success!

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



Dear Sisters,

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. Let us not forget that JWVA is the best service organization.

Now that the New Year has begun you should think about JWVA and what it teaches us: serving and caring. Serving our veterans at the VA Hospitals, caring for the veteran with our Grant A Wish Program and Operation New Start. Caring for a child who needs a friend in time of need is what our Bear Program represents. All our programs are for the betterment of a person in need.

As I continue my journey, I will always represent you and our organization with the very best positive attitude.

May you be blessed with happiness, prosperity, peace and good health on Pesach and always! Happy Passover!

Loyally,
Linda



Linda S. Colón

Rhea Sahl Memorial Baby Shower For Pregnant Military Women

We're holding a baby shower for our pregnant military women during our National Convention in San Antonio, Texas on Monday, August 28, 2017. It is one of the ways that we can say Thank You to these women for serving our country.

We would like to fill baskets for each pregnant mom-to-be with items needed for a newborn, such as: Diapers, bath towels and wash cloths, bibs, onesies, bottles, baby lotion, cotton balls, burping cloths, crib sheets, receiving blankets, night clothes, etc. Each baskets costs at least \$100.00.

If you would like to purchase these items yourself, you may do so. You can send them directly to the hotel, between August 18, 2017 and August 25, 2017.

Address packages to:

Hilton Palacio Del Rio
200 S. Alamo Street,
San Antonio, Texas 78205.
Attention Rita Panitz, PNP
Convention Chairman JWVA.
Elaine Bernstein, PNP • Chairman

If you would like to donate money, send your check to PNP Rita Panitz to purchase any items for the Stuffed Animal Program or the Sahl Memorial Baby Shower Program.

Make your check payable to:

Rita Panitz, PNP
858 Cardinal Pointe Cove
Sanford, FL 32771.

Please earmark which program(s) you are donating to.



PARTNERS CLUB

Dear Sisters:

I am writing this release to you after our NEC in Crystal City, VA. We had a productive and great time. As a reminder, this program is for the sole purpose of helping our administration function. These funds help to operate our Washington office. Also reminder, anyone can be a partner. If you know people who would like to support our cause, please ask them.

The cost is \$50.00 to join, and \$25.00 to renew every year after the first year. I hope all the members that originally joined will see it in their hearts and wallets to rejoin again and help our Nationals Ladies Auxiliary.

We will be having our annual Partners gathering at the JWVA Convention in San Antonio, TX. I promise this year we will have wine! I hope to see you all there.

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

Name _____ Aux. # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(____) _____

Sisters, if you would like to email me at estherruth519@gmail.com or call me at 971-404-6264 I would love to chat with you.

Sincerely Yours,
Esther R. Rosenshein PAP • Partners Club Chairperson



Let's Do It Again! • Monday, August 28, 2017

Our Pounds Auction at the last Convention was such a good time, we're going to do it again!

Please bring a pound of something-anything, and put it in a brown lunch bag.

Shhhhhhh, it's a secret! If you don't have a brown bag, we'll have extras.

Start looking now! Examples might be candy, erasers, popcorn.

Use your imagination. As long as it weighs a pound.

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

It will be a fun night. Everyone is welcome!

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

Join us for a fun evening! • Admission is \$2 • Snacks will be Served

HAND IN HAND WE STAND TALL

Stuffed Animal Here, Stuffed Animal There,



Big Ones, Small Ones Animals from 10 inches or bigger, all shapes, Big Smiles and Happy Faces

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

On Monday, August 28th we have made arrangements to donate the stuffed animals to the San Antonio Fire, Police Departments and EMS and the Ronald McDonald House. Think of the publicity we will receive as residents in the San Antonio area notice the label attached to each bear. The label will read National Ladies Auxiliary, Jewish War Veterans.

Let's Aim High. Bring or mail your bears to convention. Each auxiliary should send, every sister should bring and please ask your posts to help with this wonderful project. Let's make this the **BEST** Stuffed Animals Convention ever.

Rosalind Kaplan, National Conductress
Chairman

Are you thinking about becoming a member of the Ladies Auxiliary and there is not an Auxiliary near you? **Join our Chai Auxiliary** for the life of our organization previously known as Members at Large.

Contact PNP Charlene Ehrlich at (561) 499-1841. Your support is needed and will be greatly appreciated.

Charlene Ehrlich, PNP
Membership Chairman

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION AND BANQUET RESERVATION

On Tuesday, August 29, 2017 we will honor our National President Linda S. Colon at a Testimonial Dinner at the Hilton Palacio Del Rio at 6:00 P.M. Make your reservation now and join us in this well-deserved testimonial for Linda

Cost is \$45.00 per person in advance - \$50.00 at Convention

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ reservations for the Nat'l President's Banquet.

Name _____ Aux. # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Aux. # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Indicate Food Choice:

_____ Baked Cod w/ Lemon lime Butter Sauce

_____ Flank Steak w/ Cabernet Demi

_____ Dietetic Dessert

Make checks payable to:
National Ladies Auxiliary, JWVA
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

***A fantastic banquet is planned. There will be entertainment.
We promise you a "SUPER EVENING."***

DOUBLE CHAI CLUB • JOIN US FOR A 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.

Yes, I want to be a member of the Double Chai Club. Please reserve a place for me for only \$36.00. This entitles me to join with other members at the breakfast buffet.

Name _____ Aux. # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

_____ 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).

Make checks payable to:
National Ladies Auxiliary, JWVA



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



HAND IN HAND WE STAND TALL

HOW TO SAVE MONEY ON YOUR TAXES AND DONATE TO THE MUSEUM

By Mat Millen

This article provides an overview of how to donate money to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History directly from your traditional IRA and secure a charitable deduction for income tax purposes.

Congress has provided that those people who make a “Qualified Charitable Distribution” from their traditional IRA using their minimum required distribution directly to a 501(c)(3) are eligible to take the amount donated as a charitable deduction. This is a win-win. You satisfy the requirement to withdraw the minimum required distribution, but the money withdrawn is not taxable if donated directly to a 501(c)(3) charity.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution can be counted toward satisfying your minimum required distribution for the year as long as certain rules are met.

The rules for making a Qualified Charitable Distribution with your minimum required distribution are as follows:

1. You must be 70 ½ or older to be eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution.
2. Qualified Charitable Distributions are limited to the amount that would otherwise be taxed as ordinary income.
3. The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a Qualified Charitable Distribution is \$100,000.
4. For a Qualified Charitable Distribution to

count towards your current year’s Mandatory Required Distribution, the funds must come directly out of your traditional IRA by your Mandatory Required Distribution deadline, generally December 31.

5. Any amount donated from your IRA above your Mandatory Required Distribution does not count toward satisfying a future year’s Mandatory Required Distribution.
6. Funds distributed from your traditional IRA directly to you, the IRA owner, and which you then give to charity do not qualify as a Qualified Charitable Distribution.
7. The charity must be a 501(c)(3) organization, eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.
8. When making a Qualified Charitable Distribution, the Museum will send you a letter acknowledging the donation. You need this to claim a deduction for a charitable contribution.

Almost all the mutual funds have a special form to direct your Mandatory Required Distribution be paid directly to the 501(c)(3) charity of your choice. For example, Fidelity instructs their shareholders to make the Mandatory Required Distribution check payable to the name of the charity. Fidelity sends the check to the account holder, who then mails the check directly to the charity. In this way the charity will send the acknowledgment letter back to the donor.

This article is not meant to provide legal or tax advice. A tax advisor can help you determine if both your IRA and your charity qualify for



the contribution of your mandatory required distribution to a qualified charitable distribution for a tax deduction.

Mathew Millen is commander of Post 118. He will be 70 ½ this year and intends on donating his mandatory required distribution from his IRA to the Museum.

[Editor’s Note: Both the National Museum of American Jewish Military History and the Jewish War Veterans of the USA Foundation are 501(c)3 organizations, meaning they are both eligible for Qualified Charitable Distribution.

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA is actually a 501(c)4, so while all donations to JWV itself are tax-deductible, it cannot accept Qualified Charitable Distributions.

For more information about Qualified Charitable Distribution, go to:

<https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/retirement-plans-faqs-regarding-iras-distributions-withdrawals>]

Program Updates By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

Our annual Chanukah event is always one of the most exciting nights of the year. It’s frequently attended by a great crowd; young and old, Jew and gentile, from near and far, first-time visitors and long-time friends, war veterans and kids just beginning school. Museum chaplain Michael Bloom gave a talk about some of the history of

the holiday and the origins of many of the traditions. We lit the candles and sang the holiday songs. The party has become one of the museum’s most beloved traditions.

It’s always great when we can combine social events with the chance to educate about the history of Jews in the American military. We got that opportunity on January 31st when we hosted an evening for young professionals at the museum. Our partners for the night were the EntryPoint program of the Edlavitch Jewish Community Center of Washington D.C. and the Experiential Education and Jewish Cultural Arts Program at George Washington University.

Professor Jenna Weissmann Joselit speaks to a group of young professionals at an evening event at the museum.



GWU’s Professor Jenna Weissman Joselit was our guest speaker for the evening. She calls herself a “historian of everyday life,” specializing in the history and culture of America’s Jews in U.S. cultural history from the late 19th century through the 1950s. She has no particular background in military history, but was able to contextualize some of the objects in our exhibits through Jewish American cultural life.

She discussed the transition from the common use of the word “Hebrew” to describe American Jews to the more familiar “Jewish.” This change is exemplified by transformation of names of the predecessor organizations of JWV. The first group of Civil War veterans selected the name Hebrew Union Veterans Association at their first meeting. The Spanish-American War Veterans called themselves Hebrew Veterans of the War with Spain. When Jewish veterans organizations merged after

Continued on next page

By Pamela Elbe • Collections, Archives & Exhibitions Coordinator

Be A Part of the Exhibit: *Request for Stories*

One of the great things about the multimedia pieces in the Museum’s new permanent exhibit is the ability to add material as new stories and photos find their way to us. The number of veterans in our “Service Around the World” interactive computer touch table has continued to grow since the exhibition opened. Jerry Alperstein has been collecting stories from Vietnam veterans and passing them along for inclusion in the exhibition, helping to fill out the section on the Vietnam War. We would love to add more stories from around the globe to the interactive, and to do that we need your help.

The theme of this interactive map is American military service around the world (1948 to the present) and it includes the personal stories and photographs of those who have served.

We need your help to show how Jews have contributed around the globe while serving in the American military. This includes the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, but we also want to include the many, many smaller operations that are so often overlooked. Whether you participated in the Berlin Airlift, were stationed at Thule Air Base in Greenland, or recently returned from serving

in Afghanistan – we want to document just how varied Jewish military experience has been in the past 70 years.

We have already received many wonderful submissions, but we have room for more. We



want to document as many veterans as possible. To have your story and photograph included, please send an email to Pamela Elbe (pelbe@nmajmh.org) with the following info:

- Your name and contact info
- Your branch of service and rank at the time
- Military operation
- Location

- Dates of service
- A brief statement. This does not need to be anything elaborate—it can be as simple as why you joined the military. Describe a specific, memorable incident that occurred during your military service. How is it representative of your overall experience? Were you stationed somewhere remote, or have an interesting MOS or duties?

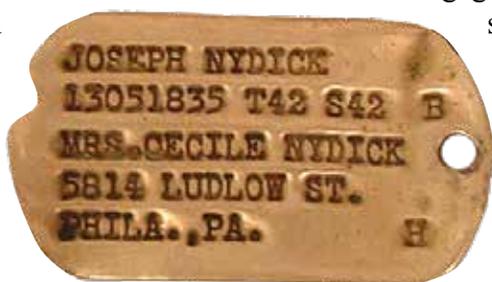
- Provide an image with a caption
Please include one or more photographs from your time of service. In order to be able to use your images, we ask that the digital photo file be higher quality resolution (file size of at least 1 MB). If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Elbe at pelbe@jwv.org. If you are a Jewish veteran who has served in the US

military any time since 1948 to the present, you can be included in this display. You do not need to be a member of JWV to be included (though we would love to have you as a member.) No need to resubmit your story if you previously sent it in to the Museum. Please help us show visitors that Jews have served—and continue to serve—in the US armed forces around the world!

World War I, they became Hebrew Veterans of the Wars of the Republic. In 1924, the name changed to Jewish Veterans of the Wars of the Republic and in 1929, the name was finally changed to Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.

That change from using “Hebrew” to using “Jewish” was typical of the 1920s. The word “Hebrew” to identify Jews was fading out of American life by the end of that decade. This brought Professor Weissman Joselit to the WWII-era dog tags on display in our exhibit. If the word Hebrew was long out of favor by the 1940s, why were the dog tags of Jews identified with an “H” rather than a “J”? During World War II, dog tags had one of three religious identifiers: “H,” “P,” or “C”—you were either Hebrew, Protestant, or Catholic. It wasn’t until 1952 that the military shifted to a “J.” The military was well behind the American mainstream in its terminology regarding Jews.

The “H” on the dog tags prompts as much discussion from visitors as any other object in the museum. It was a pleasure



to hear it discussed by someone unfamiliar with NMAJMH. We’ll continue to bring in authors and visiting scholars to the museum for programs, and we are looking forward to what comes next!

I want to remind everyone to keep an eye on the museum website—nmajmh.org—to stay up to date on our programs. We also regularly publish new articles telling the stories of Jews in the American Military. Recent articles include David Salisbury Franks and the Founding Fathers American Revolution. Franks was an associate of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and perhaps most interestingly, Benedict Arnold.

Another recently published story is *Echoes of the Maccabees: Restoring the Temple after WWII* which describes American Jewish soldiers who worked to rebuild and rededicate synagogues. We’re trying to use the website as a way to reach the people around the world who can’t make it to Washington. We’ll continue to work on projects to bring the museum to you wherever you are.

Thanks for your continued support of the museum!



It was a pleasure for the museum to be able to host a special preview screening of the film *True Honor* on February 18th. The film was produced by Greg Lee and Chuck Ashman of JWV’s Department of California. It tells the some of the stories of the 17 Jewish Medal of Honor recipients that have been identified by the museum. Lee spoke about how he sees the film as a tool to increase Jewish pride across the nation. Certainly, anyone who hears these remarkable stories of bravery should feel pride in our people. As the film near completion and distribution, we should all do what we can to assist the Department of California with this project. The finished product promises to be a tremendous resource for our museum.

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Save the Date!

August 27-September 1, 2017



San Antonio River Walk. Photo credit: Bob Howen



Attention members of JWV and friends of veterans! Now that we are moving out of the frigid winter months, it is time to start planning for JWV's 122nd annual National

Convention, being held this year at the Hilton Palacio del Rio in sunny San Antonio, Texas, from August 27 – September 1, 2017.

If you plan on attending Convention, please note that you must make your reservations through JWV. We also highly recommend that you plan your flights early. Our rate is \$155 a night and you have the option to extend your stay by three days either before or after the convention dates with the same room rate. We anticipate that registration for Convention will open by mid-April. Since the end of Convention coincides with Labor Day

Weekend, make your reservations early because it is first come, first served. If you are extending your trip, let us know by emailing jwv@jwv.org.

Just a reminder:

if you live within 50 miles, you do not have to stay at the hotel. However, you still must fill out a reservation form so we know you are attending.

Over the next several months, we will be releasing more information about our 2017 convention, so please join our mailing list on our website www.jwv.org if you have not already done so. We anticipate that registration for Convention will open by mid-April.

We look forward to seeing all of you in San Antonio to help us advance JWV's mission of fighting for veterans!



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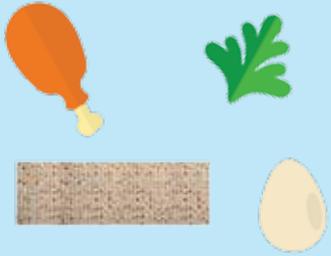
¹Not available in New York. Premium bonus (boost) offer is limited to the purchase of a new USAA Flexible Retirement Annuity only. The advertised rate shown is the rate currently in effect and is subject to change without notice. Premium bonus amount will never be less than 1% of your first-year premiums. Rate/bonus lock time periods and premium bonus are subject to change. Bonus match percentage is fixed and will not change after the contract is issued. ²Guarantees apply to certain insurance and annuity products and are subject to product terms, exclusions and limitations and the insurer's claims-paying ability and financial strength.

An annuity is a long-term insurance contract sold by an insurance company and designed to provide an income, usually after retirement, that cannot be outlived. There are fees, expenses and surrender charges that may apply. Money not previously taxed is taxed as income when withdrawn. Withdrawals before age 59½ may be subject to a 10% federal tax penalty. Annuities are suitable for long-term investing, particularly retirement savings. You may wish to seek independent legal or financial advice before selling or liquidating any assets and prior to the purchase of any life or annuity products.

Flexible Retirement Annuity: ARA33846ST 03-99 (varies by state); in NY, NRA36171NY 05-00. Call for details on specific costs, benefits, limitations and availability in your state.

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Happy Passover! Chag Sameach!



Allan & Sheila Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

PNC Lou & Gloria Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All

Any Jewish WWII person captured and sent to Aushchwitz, etc., and survived

PDC Ed & PDP Louise Baraw

Eugene Baraw • Post 336

Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ
Chag Sameach

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

PNC Jerry & PNP Joanne Blum
Good Health & Happiness to All

In Memory of All who gave their lives
Post 652-Merrick, NY

In Memory of Harold Cohen • Post 212

PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749

Marshall & Diane Duberstein

Gerald H. Elkan • North Carolina

Harold Engleman, K.C.C. / NEC

Nat'l Chaplain Jerry Farris • Post 239

Arthur Fleischman • PPC 717 & 258

David Goldberg, K.C.C.
In memory of Sam Goldberg

In Memory of Norman Goldberg, PPC #98

PNC Nate & Selma Goldberg • Albany 105

PDC Sidney B. Goldberg
Abe Cohen - Leaman Post 50

Alan J. Gould Post 105
In Memory of Sam Gould, Post Cmdr.

Happy Passover • Post 169

Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321/69
National Adjutant • 2016-2017

PNP Petra C. & Jason A. Kaatz

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

CMDR Laurence & Marilyn Kaufman
Saluting the Men & Women of Post 46

Jack Kent (Kantrovitz) • Post 62 OH
In appreciation of Rabbi&Myra Feinberg

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

L'chaim - To Life

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

Bernie Rader • Post's 20 and 642
In loving memory of those who served

In Memory of PNC Ed & Helene Robins

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

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

To All Our Troops • Be Safe, Be Well!

PNP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein
Good Health & Happy Holidays

IMO Post 42's Four Legs of the Table
Marty, Morris, Murray & Warren

Stephen & Helen Sax

To the 2%

Irv Schildkraut PPC Post 440
USMC-USNR-USA

Harriet & Norman Schnitzer PDC

PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All

PDP Linda & Stuart Singer
In memory of PDC Bill Singer

PPC Norman & Toby Smith • Post 129 NY

Toda Shalom & Good Health to all JWV

CH Murray Stadtmauer • Post 648
In loving memory of Clare Stadtmauer

Shalom & Mazel Tov to all Veterans
Greta & Jerry Stoliar • Post 346

To All Surviving Jewish WWII prisoners
L'Chaim!

NEC Paul and Norma Warner

NJA Harvey & Linda Weiner
Be Well!

Major Stuart Adam Wolfer
www.msawi.org

Jeri Zweiman
In loving memory of Bob Zweiman

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