



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Volume 69 • Number 2

Sergeant William Shemin to be Awarded the Medal of Honor

*By COL Erwin A. Burtnick, USA (Ret)
Chairman, Awards for Valor Committee*

President Barack Obama will award the Medal of Honor posthumously to World War I veteran Sergeant William Shemin and to Army Private Henry Johnson for conspicuous gallantry during World War I. The ceremony will take place on June 2, 2015, at the White House.

Shemin entered the Army on October 2, 1917. He was assigned as a rifleman to Company G, 47th Infantry Regiment, which moved from Syracuse, New York to Camp Greene, North Carolina, joining the 4th Infantry Division. The Division arrived in France in May, 1918.

While serving as a rifleman from August 7-9, 1918, Sergeant Shemin left the cover of his platoon's trench and crossed open space, repeatedly exposing himself to heavy machine gun and rifle



Sergeant William Shemin.

fire to rescue the wounded. After officers and senior non-commissioned officers had become

casualties, Shemin took command of the platoon and displayed great initiative under fire, until he was wounded, August 9.

It took a little over five years from the time I was requested to review Sergeant Shemin's records until the upgrade of his Distinguished Service Cross to the nation's highest military award.

After determining that Sergeant Shemin's actions rose to the World War I level for the award of the Medal of Honor, I contacted his daughter, Elsie Shemin-Roth. I suggested that she contact her congressman as legislation would be required to allow for the awarding of the Medal of Honor to Jewish World War I veterans. She contacted Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), whose office called me for assistance in the drafting of the William Shemin World War I Veterans Act. The bill was introduced in 2010, but failed

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Third Time Was The Charm

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

I had wanted to be part of a JWV Allied Mission to Israel for the past few years, and I am so pleased that I was able to be a part of the 2015 experience. I was delighted with the diversity of our group, both geographically and religiously. Our attendees were from all over the US and were Roman Catholic, Latter Day Saints, converts to Judaism, and of course, those of us that were born and raised as Jews. Twenty-nine people attended the trip, including several JWV members, and we were led by JWV National Commander Maxwell Colon. The Allied Veteran who joined us on the trip was Don Tretola, the State Chair for Employer Support of Guard and Reserve Office of DoD.

We traveled all over Israel, spending much of our time exploring our surroundings and looking at the beautiful scenery as our bus brought us from one destination to another. In Tel Aviv, we met with the staff of TZEvet, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) Veterans' Organization, and received a special briefing by Maj. General Baruch Levy, an officer of the IDF and a frequent speaker at our National Convention.



The JWV Allied Mission to Israel group posed on the steps of Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, where on May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel and the Declaration of Independence was signed.

In Jerusalem we visited the Israel Museum, Yad Vashem, the Old City, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the Mount of Olives for a panoramic photo of the Jerusalem skyline. Other

destinations included Masada, the Dead Sea, a kibbutz, Nazareth, and Haifa.

This trip was especially meaningful to me

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Upcoming JWV Teleconferences

Your opinions and ideas count! All JWV members are encouraged to join in and participate by calling this toll-free number:

Dial 1-866-266-3378 and enter the JWV Code Number: 202 265 6280#. Enter the full number, including the # sign. All calls start at 8:00 PM EST

2015 Schedule

Preparing for the National Convention June 4, 2015

National Convention Review Sept. 3, 2015

Outlook for the Coming Year Oct. 13, 2015



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THE JEWISH VETERAN

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A Question of Nazi Identity

The current (Vol. 69, No. 1) issue of *The Jewish Veteran* includes the touching story of Pvt. Bob Levine whose survival during World War II was dependent on the surgery of a German physician, Dr. Edgar Woll, and Dr. Woll's action to discard Levine's dogtags that identified him as a Jew. The story, apparently reprinted from the *New York Daily News*, identified Woll as a Nazi and elsewhere in the article there are references to "Nazi." Our own headline says, "Nazi Saved a Jewish G.I."

One has to wonder whether Dr. Woll was a member of the Nazi Party or a surgeon in a Nazi-related unit like the *Waffen SS* or was a German military doctor whose code of ethics and belief in the Geneva Convention mandated him to save a life rather than take it.

Do we know if he was, in fact, a Nazi?

Alan Lewis
Post 692

In Response:

Dear Mr. Lewis

I don't know how you verify that someone was a card carrying member of the NSDAP – at least not quickly verify. There are more than enough examples of people ignoring the Geneva Convention and Hippocratic oath. Oskar Schindler was a Nazi, so membership doesn't necessarily preclude someone from having a soul and Josef Mengele presumably should have been guided by some code of ethics, but obviously wasn't.

Dr. Woll is mentioned in an article online as a military doctor and there's a photo of him in a uniform. As Nazi is generally a catchall for any German during that period, much like GI is a catchall for anyone who served in the US military (rather than just draftees), I think it's pretty safe to say that Dr. Woll qualifies as a Nazi.

Sincerely,

Pamela Elbe

Collections Manager/Archivist, NMAJMH

Museum Programming

I want to thank the Jewish War Veterans (JWV) and the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) for the excellent program they provided on Sunday, March 8, 2015. This program included two presentations: the first being Michael Bloom's talk on the history of the siddur and the Chumash used by U.S. Jewish military personnel at home and abroad; and the second being Lee Mandel's talk on his new book, *Unlikely Warrior: A Pacifist Rabbi's Journey from the Pulpit to Iwo Jima*, a biogra-

phy of Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn (1910 – 1995). Both talks were informative and first rate.

I want to especially thank Michael Rugel, the Programs and Content Coordinator at NMAJMH. Mike responded tirelessly and on a short notice request to provide live streaming of the event's audio and video. Live streaming provides a communications capability enabling JWV and/or NMAJMH members, as well as the general public, access to special programming anywhere in the world using a computer. He needed to also connect all the cables and test the new system to ensure proper operation.

Mike, for me, it was a delight to partake in the program from the comfort of my home and without having to travel hundreds of miles to the NMAJMH in Washington, DC. I hope we can experience the use of streaming for other future events. Thank you for a job well done!

Steven J. Seeskin
Senior Vice Commander
Capitol Post 122

We sincerely regret that Gerald Alperstein's name was misspelled in the photo credits on page nine in the last issue of *The Jewish Veteran*.



2016 JWV Calendar

JWV is looking for submissions for the 2016 Calendar. Every year, JWV features Jewish servicemembers from all eras of service, past and present.

The JWV Calendar is received by members and supporters across the country, and we're looking to feature members like you! Send your photos and a brief write-up of your time in the military to Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org.

Photos and other information can also be mailed to Attn: JWV Calendar, 1811 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Please **DO NOT** send originals. JWV will not return original photos.

SOS Program



The ringing phrase from World War II, "Send a Salami to a Boy in the Army," is just one example of how a taste of home has been important throughout history to those who leave their homes in order to defend them.

The JWV SOS (Support Our Soldiers) program is the latest recognition of this desire to let those who are currently serving know that we on the home front are thinking of them and supporting them. Through this program the JWV sends packages, generally of toiletries and kosher food items to those who are serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places of conflict throughout the globe. We also supply special foods and ritual items for those celebrating the Jewish holidays on the battlefield. The JWV can also customize packages to specific requests, such as those we have filled for coffee, packaged kosher meals, or items customized for special needs, such as an Oneg Shabbat.

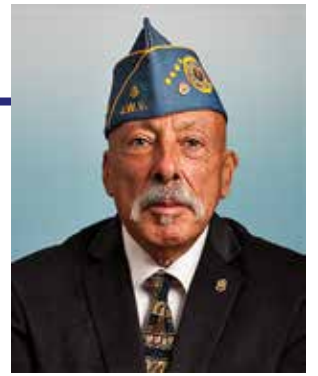
Since 9/11, new rules have been put into effect to protect the security of our troops. Because of this heightened security, packages can be sent only to a specifically named service person with a specific APO or FPO address. No package will be delivered to "Any Soldier," for example.

Therefore, the JWV actively requests that members who know of soldiers who are currently serving send their names and APO addresses with or without specific package requests to JWV National Headquarters, 1811 R St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. We will send packages to all whose names we receive, regardless of religion. All are fighting to protect and serve us.

In order to support the program, we also request that donations be sent to National Headquarters at the address above. Donations should be made payable to the JWV and designated for the SOS program on the envelope and memo line of the check. We rely on the generous donations from our members and other supporters to sustain the acts of loving-kindness and tzedukah that are the basis of our SOS program.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander COL Maxwell S. Colón, USA (Ret.)



Shalom.

I returned from the 29th Allied Veterans Mission to Israel and found it to be one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had. I am very proud of my Jewish ancestry and to be able to share a huge heritage of thousands of years of history. Most of the archaeological sites we toured took us back in history and we walked on the very locations that our ancestors fought and died for. Our trip was very special because we traveled with old and new friends from across the country, my very own Post 385 members, and with three of our first cousins who we haven't seen in over 30 years.

The past few months have not slowed down! Between installing the new officers of Post 603 in California and visiting the Department of Pennsylvania, life has been a whirlwind. I met with the local JCC and VA medical center leaders, and then traveled to Harrisburg, PA to meet with the department's leadership and members. We attended their meetings and an outstanding banquet with the National Ladies Auxiliary President Petra Kaatz.

I returned to Washington, D.C. to share

JWV's legislative priorities with Congress during a joint session of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees. After all the veterans organizations spoke, the members of the committee took the time to question the representatives and provide comments. I used this opportunity to focus on issues I did not have time to mention in my allotted five minutes, including how many veterans are treated as criminals for being homeless, and how veterans are placed in jails instead of going before Veterans Courts. I also asked why we don't have more Veterans Courts throughout

the country.

We returned to California to attend an invite by the Commanding Officer of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton in honor of the Annual Volunteer Service Ceremony and Luncheon. JWV and JWVA both received the President of the USA Volunteer Service Award for our service and presentations to the Marine Corps and Navy personnel at this huge base.

We are preparing for our last official visits and hope to see you in Tampa at our 2015 National Convention. For those unable to attend, I want to thank you for your support and friendship and allowing me to represent you as your National Commander.

May G-D watch over all of you and your families, and G-D always watch over the United States of America and the State of Israel.

National Commander Colón presented JWV's Legislative Priorities before the Senate and House Joint Committees on Veterans Affairs on March 18, 2015.



NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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



JWV Support for the National League of Families

For decades, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV) has been a strong supporter of the national POW/MIA organization, officially known as the National League of Families. We proudly have their flag, presented to JWV by PNC Michael Berman, in the lobby of our building as a visible display of our support.

The Department of Defense (DoD) currently lists 1,019 military personnel as returned and identified since the start of the Vietnam War. Of that number, 966 have been recovered since 1975.

Contemporary science has enabled the identification of remains of those repatriated many years ago. Family members have provided their DNA, helping more of those unknown previously be conclusively identified.

DoD has recently reorganized the offices that work on POW/MIA issues. Senior military

officers were selected to restructure the various elements into one efficient, effective agency with higher priority and support. In doing so, then Secretary Hagel listened to the excellent suggestions and advice of Ann Mills Griffiths, the Chairman of the Board of the National League of Families. For decades, Ann Mills Griffiths has been the Executive Director of the National League of Families, and in that capacity, she has done an extraordinary job and a couple of years ago she became their Chairman. Ann is exceptionally well qualified to advise DoD on POW/MIA issues.

DoD restructured the three major POW/MIA agencies into one agency, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA. RADM Michael T. Franken, USN, appointed as the Interim Director by Under Secretary of Defense for

Policy Christine Wormuth, met with the National League of Families in March. The DoD reorganization is now in the hands of RADM Franken until a permanent Director is in place.

JWV is one of the veterans' service organizations that participates in bi-weekly meetings with Admiral Franken and his staff. These meetings are held either in the Pentagon or by teleconference.

JWV's support for POW/MIA issues is clearly demonstrated during our annual Capitol Hill Action Day and during our yearly National Commander's testimony before the Joint Session of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees.

JWV will never forget those who are still missing!

DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

By PNC Monroe Mayer, National Editor



I am pleased to announce that there are two new Associate Editors now allied with *The Jewish Veteran*. Richard Goldenberg, DEC from Albany Post 105, and Barry Lischinsky, Past Commander of the Peabody Post in the Department of Massachusetts, will now both be serving with us. We are extremely glad to have them on board, and look forward to their contributions well into the future.

That was good news, and unfortunately there's always sad news. Some 70 years since the end of World War II, and the Holocaust that came out of it, the later founding of the state of Israel, yet today we find the ugly head of anti-Semitism again rising in Europe. We see specifically in France, the Netherlands, Denmark,

Sweden and even Great Britain, a greater number of anti-Jewish incidents that have occurred in the past several years. Immigration to Israel is rising from some of the countries in Europe, and it causes concern for all of us. Even here at home, at several college and university campuses, there is a movement afoot to force those institutions to divest themselves from financial activities within the state of Israel.

We find ourselves telling our members and posts throughout the country to be watchful, maintain security, and to constantly be on the lookout for any strange occurrences or events. The Middle East is even more of a problem, especially for Israel. One only has to look at a map, and see the breakup of states that were formed

after World War I and the end of the Ottoman Empire, to see the extent of fighting that is going on between religious groups, and opposing forces in countries many of us never considered too important. In the middle of all of it again is Israel, and their security is in our first thoughts, especially after the recent Hamas war in Gaza. We all hoped that going into the 21st century that we would not be involved in centuries-old problems. But again the more things change technologically, scientifically, financially, sadly human nature has not.



A Supreme Court Victory for Veterans

By Harvey Weiner, JWV National Judge Advocate

In last year's Winter issue of *The Jewish Veteran*, I wrote an article about JWV

and four other veterans groups submitting an amicus curiae ("friend of court") brief in two cases before the United States Supreme Court (SCOTUS). The issue of concern to veterans was whether or not a claim against the Government must be presented under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA), first to the agency within a two year period and then to a court within a six month period, or if special circumstances could excuse a late filing of a claim under the legal doctrine of "equitable tolling." Equitable tolling is an exception to that when the person couldn't bring the suit in time, not for a lack of trying, but because they didn't find out about what they needed to for the case until the statute had already expired.

This was not a case involving VA veterans benefits, but was rather a case of whether someone could sue the Government for personal injury, such as medical malpractice in a public health facility or a VA hospital. Many veterans are unfamiliar with the rigid time guidelines or are unable, for a variety of reasons, to comply, such that they lose their claim by not timely filing. The issue before the Court was whether there could be an exception in certain situations and if the statutes of limitations can be extended.

On April 22, 2015, SCOTUS issued a narrow 5-4 decision that in FTCA matters, the doctrine of "equitable tolling" does apply, so that the two rigid statutes of limitations can be bent in certain special situations. The cases were titled United

States of America v. Kwai Fun Wong (No. 13-1074) and United States of America v. Marlene June, Conservator (No. 13-1075). In a mild surprise, Justice Anthony Kennedy, who usually takes a conservative position, joined the liberal majority of Justices Kagan, Ginsberg, Sotomayor and Breyer. Justices Alito, Roberts, Scalia and Thomas dissented.

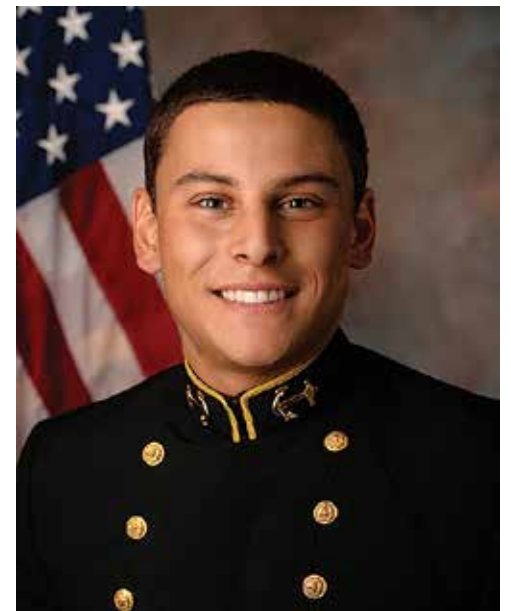
The Government's argument was that a tort claim, ie brought in civil court, against the sovereign United States "shall be forever banned" unless the claimant meets the two deadlines. First, a claim must be presented to the appropriate federal agency for administrative review within two years after the claim accrues. Second, if the agency denies the claim, the claimant must file suit in federal court within six months of the agency's denial. The Government argued that failure to do either of these in a timely manner is fatal to the claim. The Court held that there is a "rebuttable presumption" that such time is equitably tolled, such that some late claims are permissible.

It should be emphasized that claims should always be timely filed, in order to avoid a dispute as to whether a late claim might fall into the narrow exception of equitable tolling. Whether equitable tolling applies is a dispute that the veteran may not win.

Pro Bono Amicus counsel indicated as follows: "Given the closeness of the vote, the amicus briefs almost assuredly pushed things over the top, so thank you for [being] willing to step up to the plate on this one..."

JWV took the initiative and helped this case!

In Memoriam



JWV mourns the loss of Midshipman Justin Zemser, one of the seven victims in the Amtrak train crash in Philadelphia on May 12.

Twenty-one year old Justin was studying at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and was on leave to head home to visit his parents.

May his memory be a blessing.



COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee

Time for a Change!

Ever watch a dog as it runs around in circles chasing its own tail? The tail, while being part of the whole, just eludes being caught. It sort of mimics the reality (or non-reality) of America's Middle East foreign policy.

Reflect back to the Iranian 1979 take-over of the American Embassy with hostages in Tehran. Realize that since then, sadly, Iran has probably been the most politically stable of the Islamic Middle-East nations. Even with the imposition of financial sanctions, Iran has continued to support and direct Hamas and Hezbollah and Syria and terrorism and nuclear development and maintain its internal society and so on.

Right now the US is but one out of six nations in the nuclear negotiations with Iran. Our Congress has put itself into the middle of the negotiations by insisting that the Legislature must play a part in the enactment and ultimately in enforcing Iranian compliance. They did this before in creating specific sanctions against Iran. But what is now required is to have an overall recognition that only when we can honestly analyze where we are and where we must be to avoid direct competition with Iran and Fundamentalists et. al. as controlling influences in the Middle East.

Does it mean taking sides- Shiite vs Sunni-rebel vs insurgent vs government, etc. Is it the matter of dollars (always a dominant and overriding issue)? - is it the retention of autocratic governments (the Gulf nations)? - is it the sphere of influence or the elimination or defined reduction of Western influence (corporate vs governmental)? Is it a continuation of the desire to control not only the Middle East but the world community as well?

The nuclear negotiations have essentially limited itself to restricting research, development, and production of Iran's creation of nuclear weaponry while ignoring other issues such as the requirement of who will control the area. With ISIS succeeding in the takeover of Iraqi cities, the

Iraqi Shiite government is looking to Iranian militia to help drive ISIS out and with the ultimate possibility of replacing the rebels with Iranian influenced governments.

Interesting is that the Iraqi P.M. was just in the US, not to thank us for allowing American troops to die and be injured instead of Iraqis; but he came to ask (sounded like a demand) for billions more of financial pot hole filling funds. Also interesting is that the Iraqi military was supposed to be at about 150,000 strong and it turns out to only have about 50,000 troops. So, what happened to the money, support, and equipment for the missing 100,000- whose bank accounts or to what or whose cause are they being used?

Just look at the Iraqi city of Ramadi, where the Iraqis ran and abandoned newly delivered US vehicles and equipment into the hands of ISIS and then ultimately into the possible hands of Iranian militia. Will there ever be a time when we become or accept a role as guarantors of Iraqi control? I really don't think so- nor should it ever be.

The so-called key provision to the proposed nuclear treaty is the word "verification." Verification- the action; not just the word- it must always be the key requirement in the considering of any and all further proposals for the advancement of US funding- which means that there is no possibility of a true verification without there being some form of control over the disbursement and actual use of the funds. Difficult "Yes"; - Impossible "No." We should never be embarrassed to check on how someone is spending our money.

The best example is when the Kurds and some Iraqi Sunni tribes required funding and equipment to fight ISIS or other rebels- the Iraqi government should not have been in any position to deny funding because of its national political requirements of control; we are not and should not be the protectors of an ineffectual and corrupt government. We should directly have the ability to provide the funding and equipment to

the Sunni tribes and Kurds (hopefully a Kurdish nation). We really are not the venture capitalists

for the Iraqi Shiites. The end result must always be to win or at least to maintain the status quo. Some sort of a victory or uptick is always helpful.

While the full terms have not been fully revealed, we may end up with a nuclear treaty which we can spend the next decade hoping that Iran will comply with- we can even expect the Saudis and Gulf nations to buy nuclear weaponry to even off the quantity of nuclear destructibility and, at the same time, demand the US to accept their security requirements.

No one wants to recall the period of 40 years when the US/Soviet Union had a nuclear stand-off in Europe with approaches known as Mutual Assured Destruction, Flexible Response, etc. So separate and apart for the so-called treaty- there must be a very defined irrevocable condition that use by "any" nation, group, or whatever you want to call them to use, threaten to or hold the world hostage would result in the application of the Israeli approach of "immediate response." There must be no discussion, negotiation or the like- namely "you do the act, you eat the result."

While we cannot walk away, we cannot- we must not- allow ourselves to become absolute patsies to a world desire to ignore their responsibilities and obligations and dump them almost completely on the US- we must not even consider that. Our obligation is directional- we must protect our nation and definitely protect its citizens- it's you for us!

This is a complete mess!! Unless we change. There is no impediment of midstream timing- there can be no limitations on making a complete change of strategy- technology has taught us that there is not only one way to succeed and that is to make the change as timing and conditions may be needed.



JWV Awards



Everyone enjoys being recognized for his/her hard work! The Awards Committee of Jewish War Veterans of the USA is pleased to award Departments, Councils, Posts and individuals for their service in the name of JWV. We will present 30 awards at The National Convention on Saturday, August 8, 2015. The Committee makes determinations on 20 of these awards.

To be considered for an award, an individual or echelon must provide an award submission by August 5, 2015. The guidelines and instructions for submissions are available online at www.jwv.org. Simply download the Awards Guidelines PDF by clicking the link under "Highlights" on the homepage.

Everyone is reminded that the Committee cannot award those who do not submit the appropriate paperwork and documentation. Follow the instructions, guidelines and timeframes and your submission will be reviewed. This is VERY important.

Additionally, the Awards Committee is now asking everyone to consider supplying an electronic version of their submission, along with their hard copy. This electronic version will be archived for posterity, as well as used as examples of awards submissions for future candidates. Submit electronic copies on a thumb drive or by email to Membership Coordinator Cindy Chambers at cchambers@jwv.org.

We appreciate your hard work and look forward to honoring you at the 120th National Convention. Good luck to all!

CALIFORNIA LIBRARY NAMED FOR CORPORAL TIBOR RUBIN

Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, Holocaust Survivor, Korean War Veteran, and Former POW

By Michelle Spivak Melinger

For 17 years, Tibor “Ted” Rubin was the Jewish Santa Claus at the Long Beach VA Medical Center, spreading cheer and using his own funds for gifts for hospitalized Veterans.

Now, at 85 years old, Rubin, who is unable to walk and struggles with constant pain from his war-wounds, has been honored by his community in Garden Grove, CA with a library named in his honor.

The ceremony took place on March 24. Friends and fellow Veterans joined the Rubin family at the Garden Grove Tibor Rubin Library. Rubin was thrilled by the recognition. Soon a bust of Rubin will be mounted at the library.

Rubin, the only Holocaust survivor to be recognized with this country’s highest military honor – the Congressional Medal of Honor – was known at the Long Beach VAMC as a compassionate, funny, and friendly fellow. As a combat-wounded Veteran himself, Rubin understood the fear and loneliness many hospitalized Veterans feel...all too well.

His compassion for others has been demonstrated time and again. As a young boy in war-torn Hungary he was imprisoned in the infamous Mauthausen concentration camp. When the camp was liberated by American GIs, Rubin promised himself he would pay forward this life-saving deed by becoming a GI Joe himself.

After the war, Rubin made his way to America and following two failed attempts (Rubin spoke little English and could not read English.) he past the entry test. During service in the U.S. Army in Korea, Rubin was faced with the anti-Semitism of his unit’s commanding officer who frequently, purposefully put him in harm’s way. But the

“little Hungarian Jew” stood-up to the challenges and proved to be an exceedingly willing, brave and accomplished soldier. On several occasions, he single-handedly saved his unit.

Rubin was recommended for the CMOH three times, the Distinguished Service Cross two times, and the Silver Star. His sergeant refused



Staff Sgt. David Martinez shakes Tibor Rubin’s hand as he greets well wishers during an unveiling of a series of Korean War Medal of Honor commemorative stamps on Friday in Garden Grove. Rubin, of Garden Grove, is a former U.S. Army corporal and Medal of Honor recipient. Photo by Ken Steinhardt, *The Orange County Register*.

to submit the paperwork. Had he received these honors, he would be America’s most decorated soldier.

During a particularly brutal battle, Rubin’s unit was captured and he spent over two years in a Chinese POW camp. Offered freedom by his captors (Rubin was not yet a U.S. citizen), Rubin refused to leave his buddies. He chose instead to use the survival skills he had learned in the concentration camp to help his fellow prisoners.

Years later, Rubin’s comrades-in-arms and the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. cam-

paigned for Rubin to receive his belated honor, and on September 23, 2005, Rubin stood before President George W. Bush and received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Now, the Jewish War Veterans is leading a campaign to name the Long Beach VA Medical Center after this inspiring war hero.

JWV Marks 50 Years of Four Chaplain Commemorations

Brotherhood Award First Presented in 1966 Continues in Albany, NY

By Richard Goldenberg, Associate Editor

Members of Albany Post 105-NY and the Capital District Council celebrated a half century of the annual commemoration of the Four Chaplains and presentation of the Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award in 2015 to honor Albany resident Ray Sestak as the 50th recipient of the Four Chaplains’ Brotherhood Award at the VA Hospital chapel on February 22.

The Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award began with Albany Post 105 in 1965 as a way to commemorate the sacrifice of the Four Chaplains and promote the cause of “unity without uniformity” by encouraging goodwill and cooperation among all people.

The non-denominational award honors people whose deeds symbolize the legacy of the Four Chaplains aboard the transport ship *Dorchester* in 1943.

“Ray Sestak is a veteran who has made a difference giving back to our fellow vets and our community,” said Todd Rosenfield, JWV Albany Post 105 Commander. “I can think of no better representation of the ideals of the Four

Chaplains than Ray’s service to help others. Where he saw a need to help others, he stepped up to do what’s right, to do what’s needed.”

Ray has been a volunteer van driver sup-



Albany Post 105 Commander Todd Rosenfield presented the certificate of the Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award to Ray Sestak during the 2015 Four Chaplains Remembrance Ceremony and 50th presentation of the Brotherhood Award on February 22 at the Stratton VA Medical Center. Photo by Richard Goldenberg.

porting Disabled American Veterans (DAV) at the Stratton VA Medical center since November 2008, having logged well more than 3,600 volunteer hours in support of veteran needs, including offering his time and initiative to support the volunteer transportation program, both as coordinator and driver, along with his personal efforts to support inpatient psychiatric wing patients with a monthly movie night.

First presented in 1966 to Reverend Dr. Carlyle Adams, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Rensselaer, the Jewish War Veterans of the Capital District have recognized civic leaders, community organizers and issue advocates, educators, healthcare providers and clergy for their humanitarian efforts that convey the spirit of the Four Chaplains.

Sestak was quick to point out how after 50 years of such distinguished award recipients, he was humbled by the presentation.

“Fully understanding the sacrifices made by the Four Chaplains on that fateful night in February 1943, and the significance of this award, this is a tremendous honor for me,” he said.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

Lessons to be Learned From Founding a Post

A few months ago the National Executive Committee approved the establishment of three new Posts: Ft. Hood, TX Post 795, Ft. Lauderdale, FL Post 338, and West Chicago, IL Post 54. Since recruitment is on everyone's minds, let's explore how a new Post is established. We can all learn a few lessons for gaining new members and retaining old ones from those who are so driven that they built a Post from the ground up.

West Suburban Post 54: Lombard, Illinois

Last year at the local biannual Jewish Family Festival in Morton Grove, IL, North Shore Post 29 hosted a JWV Booth.

"I had heard of JWV, but had never really considered joining. But after speaking with Post 29 Commander Zimmerman and Department leaders like Jeff Sacks and [PNC] David Hymes, I was compelled to join. And they coached me through the Post founding process," Post 54 founding Commander Howard Goldstein explained.

Through the "Connections Committee" at his synagogue, he met a couple of veterans and began asking if people would be interested in a veterans group.

"At first, I ran into people dismissing the idea because they thought it was just another group or subcommittee of the Congregation. Once I explained that JWV is a national organization focused on telling the Jewish military story, they really perked up...[And] after the Congregation live-streamed a service for a blessing of Jewish vets and we began attracting veterans outside of the Congregation, too."

The Commander emphasizes the importance of engaged members. Once members had volunteered to handle basic Post functions, they brainstormed ideas for projects and began reaching out to their network for collaboration opportunities.

"I'm already very active with the Red Cross and VA. This allows me to stay up to date with hospital events and gains us volunteer opportunities with real public exposure. Not only are we showing the community that we are helpful, but we're also educating them about Jewish military service."

The Post has also laid the groundwork for a collaboration with The Mission Continues, a nonprofit that redeploys veterans in their communities in action-oriented projects. Serving mainly Iraq and Afghanistan vets, The Mission Continues may provide a younger member recruitment opportunity.

Commander Words of Wisdom: "You MUST have interested people involved or there's no point in having a Post. I was very honest in our early meetings – I told them, 'I'm happy to get

it started, keep it organized, but I'm not doing it all!' And that's when members started standing up and volunteering."

Ft. Hood Post 795: Killeen, Texas

With excitement in his voice, newly elected Commander Phil Sutherland explicated, "All you need is one charismatic or energetic person and then you can get a group going."

Sutherland largely credits Ft. Hood Chapel Secretary (also Post Quartermaster) Maj. Edith Freyer and Ft. Hood counselor (also Post Chaplain) Rabbi Gisser, for the founding of Post 795. Both are strong public speakers and socializers. Already a JWV Life member, Maj. Freyer began recruiting last year, posting in the chapel bulletin. After Rabbi Gisser gave a large talk about Jewish veterans, highlighting his father and grandfather's POW stories from World War II, she swooped in to recruit audience members.



From left: Edith Freyer, Quatermaster, and Phil Sutherland, Commander, of Post 795-TALO participated along with other Post members in a Yom Hashoah program at Ft. Hood.

The Post does have the advantage of having a military installation next door, but the interest in community engagement has what truly built it. Members have established the "Mitzvah of the Month" program, in which they donate food and clothing to Operation Phantom Express after every Post meeting. The food pantry serves military families exclusively.

"Our biggest project in the works right now is an Honor Dinner we are planning to host this Chanukah. We are honoring both Jewish Veterans and community members who have helped Jewish Veterans. We will have a candle lighting service and dinner at the Officers Club. Feast of Lights, maybe? The title is a work in progress."

Commander Words of Wisdom: "Take advantage of programs already in your community. Through the Congregation, through another organization, whatever is already a success – work with them and you will find success, too. And never miss an opportunity to be a presence at holiday events. The Congregation is always at its

largest on the holidays."

PFC Herman Pressman Post 338: Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

"I'm the guy they call when a group needs fixing," Commander Ed Forman said with a chuckle.

Forman joined JWV in the 1990's, but never got involved with a Post until a colleague mentioned that his Post was going under.

"Like a lot of vets, I had switched to project management and government contracting, so I was still involved in military life. A riding buddy said he was a member of the Old Dominion Post 158 and it was losing structure. I've always been active in organizations like the Jewish Motorcyclists Alliance, Inc., so I know how to keep up with the finances and paperwork. I helped revive the Post then ended up in Florida."

Forman hunted for a Post that was focused on the next generation of JWV members, but did not find that level of engagement in his area. Founding a new Post seemed to be the best path to meet his energetic goal.

"We recruit heavily through local synagogues/temples and writing articles for the Jewish Journal. We also work with The Broward County Sheriff's Office, which has over 6000 employees, many with an armed forces background. You use the communities you already know to recruit."

The Post is focusing on assisting Jewish veterans with the VA and accessing their benefits. From teaching computer skills to taking vets to the VA, the Post seeks to connect veterans to the benefits they have earned.

Commander Words of Wisdom: "People seem to get scared or turned off by paperwork, whether it's the financials for an organization or forms for the VA. You just need to make them feel comfortable and show them the process. It might take some time, but it's usually easier than they think it is."

Lessons Learned

1. Collaborate with other community groups, especially VSO's.
2. Use the network of every Post member to spread the word
3. Make friends with the individuals who sends e-newsletters, posts bulletins or takes care of the books at your local Congregations
4. Spread the responsibilities around the Post; get as many people involved as possible
5. Never let the Post become a one man show
6. Established Posts and long-time members should mentor and support new Posts and their leaders.

Outreach to the Next Generation



By Colonel Nelson L Mellitz, USAFR, Ret.

In the early morning darkness of June 6, 1944 Madame Renaud was a witness to freedom's salvation: "In the days and weeks that followed, as the U.S. wounded and dead passed before her eyes, she made a simple vow that would last the rest of her life, and beyond. Never Forget." (Reference: Mother of Normandy - Madame Simone Renaud, wife of the Mayor of Ste. Mere-Eglise). As Jewish War Veterans and patrons, we have a similar obligation to "Never Forget" the sacrifices of Jewish and non-Jewish veterans over the more than 239 years of the United States of America.

Outreach to potential members and retention of current members takes work by many people. On April 16, 2015 the JWV held a teleconference with all members invited to participate. I started the discussion with a question for all of the participants:

"What could you say to a Jewish veteran, 20-40 years old, as an incentive to join a Jewish War Veterans Post?"

These are a few of the participant's answers

to this question:

- Welcome the veteran and their "family" to their new home.
- Show pride in the veterans service and in the Jewish War Veterans.
- Tell the veteran what the JWV can offer after they tell you what they are seeking in our "Fraternal" type organization. Demonstrate that the Post will change to meet the newer generation needs.
- Sincerely explain to the veteran and family that we need you.
- Introduce the veteran to members on a one-to-one basis.
- Explain that it is a mitzvah to be a member of the JWV and we continue to serve in-service US and Israel Defense Forces Veterans.
- Show that Post members will be there for them during the transition to civilian life and encourage their continued service to the community with us.

- This is a generation to generation transition; give the veteran and family the resources to transition within our organization.
- Ask the veteran what they did in the service and what they are doing now (show an interest in them).
- Explain how JWV is a patriotic organization which shows the general public that Jewish men and women serve in the US military and are a veteran support organizations.
- Continue to reach out to the veteran after the first meeting with telephone calls, emails, and in-person visits.
- Recruitment is a multi-stage effort that involves recruiting their family.
- JWV is "not just" a Patriot organization but a social organization.

Continued on page 19



A Practical Guide to Planning Your Veteran Funeral

The final act of kindness to your loved ones may come after your death in the form of well-planned funeral arrangements. As uncomfortable as the subject may seem, researching and documenting how you would like to be laid to rest is as much a benefit to yourself as it is to your loved ones. Do you wish to have military funeral honors? Would you like a military marker on your headstone? These are questions that your family must answer for you, if you do not plan now. JWV has created this Practical Guide to assist you with the task.

Veteran Funeral Planning Essentials Proof of Service

Your family will need to prove that you were a veteran to receive your benefits and arrange services. If you do not have your Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD214), you may acquire a copy by:

- a) Visiting <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records> and completing an online request
- b) Downloading Form 180 here <http://www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf> and mailing or faxing the com-

pleted form to the National Archives

c) Consulting with one of our National Service Officers. A full list is found here http://www.jwv.org/programs/service/service_officer_program and on the back of your JWV Calendar.

Veteran Benefits

Your benefits cover some, but do not cover all the funeral arrangements.

- **Casket:** Unless death occurs while active duty, caskets are not free.
- **Non-VA National Cemetery Burial:** For service-related death, the VA will pay up to \$2000 of burial expenses at a private cemetery. Non-service-related, up to \$700, depending on eligibility. (VA Form 21-530)
- **Headstone or Marker:** Upon request and at no charge, the VA will furnish a Government headstone or marker for a veteran's grave anywhere in the world. (VA Form 40-1330)
- **Bronze Medallion:** In lieu of a headstone, the VA will furnish a bronze medallion to be affixed to a privately purchased headstone. The medallion is free, but does not include fees to affix it to the headstone. (VA Form 40-1330)
- **Service Medals, Decorations & Awards:** Next-of-kin may request replacement medals,

generally at no charge.

US Flag

Your family may obtain a free US flag from a VA regional office and most Post Offices. Your family or funeral director submits the request along with:

- a) VA Form 27-2800: Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes
- b) Copy of your DD214 or Discharge Papers In absence of a DD 214, the VA will issue a flag when a statement is made by a person of established character and reputation that s/he personally knows the deceased to have been an honorably discharged veteran.

Veteran Honors

At no charge, an eligible veteran is entitled to:

- **Military Funeral Honors:** includes the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin and the playing of Taps. Generally, the funeral director will make the request.
- **JWV Funeral Honors:** Speak with your local Post to learn what funeral services it offers. Some do a reading, some present the Colors; every Post does what it can.
- **Presidential Memorial Certificate:** A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC)

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Four Important Federal Laws Protecting Consumers



By Tom Domonoske
Of Counsel, Legal Aid Justice Center

To strengthen and enhance our market economy, the Federal government has enacted several different laws that regulate consumer credit transactions. Credit is the fuel of our economy; excluding credit secured by real estate, our personal household outstanding credit currently is over 3,266 billion dollars. Back in November 1994, this number was 981 billion dollars, and it then jumped to 2,183 billion dollars by November 2004.

Because so much of our economy is fueled by credit, the Federal consumer laws seek to create a fair marketplace of credit transactions where people freely and knowledgeably make choices about how to spend their money, when to borrow, how much to borrow, and how to repay.

As the fallout from the financial crisis since 2007 demonstrates, dysfunction in our credit system creates severe and longstanding negative consequences. The Federal laws discussed below are designed to help that credit system function properly by weeding out bad actors, and by allowing consumers to engage in credit transactions with businesses that act fairly and honestly. You can protect yourself by knowing and using these laws.

The Truth In Lending Act (TILA)

The TILA mandates specific disclosures be provided in writing to a consumer before the consumer accepts credit.

Congress created the TILA “to assure meaningful disclosure of credit terms so that the consumer will be able to compare more readily the various credit terms available to him.” As explained by United States Supreme Court, the TILA is carefully designed to promote “the efficient functioning of a free economic system.. To avoid the uninformed use of credit, Congress created this “barrier between the seller and the prospective purchaser in the form of hard facts” and changed “‘Let the buyer beware’ to one of ‘Let the seller disclose.’”

Under TILA’s important purpose, the written disclosures are to be given to consumers before they agree to a credit transaction. The con-

sumer must be allowed to leave with the written TILA disclosures so the consumer can credit shop. The primary disclosures include the identity of the creditor, the Annual Percentage Rate, the Amount Financed, the Finance Charge, the Total of Payments, and the Payment Schedule. If the credit is retail sale, like for a car or furniture where the dealer also writes up the credit contract, the Total Sale Price including any down payment is also disclosed.

The most significant goal of TILA is for the consumer to leave a bank, credit union, car dealership, furniture store, etc., with the TILA disclosures in hand before agreeing to accept credit. All American consumers should utilize the TILA disclosures before agreeing to any credit transaction. Simply take the TILA disclosures, which in many cases may show up as part of the contract, and leave with the TILA disclosures before signing any credit contract. Then, go to at least one other lender and apply for the same credit. Obtain a second set of TILA disclosures and compare them to decide which credit transaction is better. If the American consumer does not credit shop, then the TILA’s goals cannot be accomplished.

The Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA)

Pursuant to the ECOA, creditors and others involved in the credit process must not discriminate, and must truthfully notify applicants about the action taken on credit applications.

Congress passed the ECOA “to insure that the various financial institutions and other firms engaged in the extensions of credit exercise their responsibility to make credit available with fairness, impartiality, and without discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status.” The ECOA regulates entities involved in the granting of credit, and also the entities who buy and act on existing credit accounts. This statute makes the availability, costs, and terms of credit blind to a person’s race, skin color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, or age, or receipt of public assistance. Instead, creditworthiness must be based on the applicant’s assets, income, debts, credit history, etc.

As part of this law, a creditor must inform an applicant about the action taken on an application within thirty days of the application. The creditor must either tell the applicant one of four possible outcomes: the credit was approved, the credit was denied; a counteroffer is being made; or not enough information has been presented for the creditor to make a decision.

When an adverse action is taken on a credit application or an existing credit account, the con-

sumer is to be given a written notice of that action. The consumer is entitled to learn the reason that adverse action was taken. Requiring creditors to provide written notice of the reason for taking an adverse action is an important tool for ensuring that the reason is not discriminatory.

If any person is denied the credit they want, they should obtain the reason for the denial in writing. They can then check to see if the reason actually applied to their situation.

The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA)

Pursuant to the FCRA, users of credit reports must have a legitimate purpose to see someone’s credit information, and when credit information is not accurate the consumer must dispute the information to get it changed.

When the FCRA was passed, Congress recognized that “[i]naccurate credit reports directly impair the efficiency of the banking system, and unfair credit reporting methods undermine the public confidence which is essential to the continued functioning of the banking system.” The Act sets forth certain “permissible purposes” for which a person may obtain and use a credit report. The typical “permissible purpose” involves determining eligibility for credit, insurance, or employment.

An important part of the FCRA is how a person may correct credit reporting errors. Once a year, each person can get a free copy of their credit report from www.annualcreditreport.com. Also when a credit report has been used to take an adverse action against a consumer, the person is entitled to a notice about the source of the cred-

“Because so much of our economy is fueled by **credit**, the federal consumer laws seek to create a **fair** marketplace of credit transactions where people freely and knowledgeably make **choices** about how to spend their money, when to borrow, how much to borrow, and how to repay.”

it information and can then obtain a free copy of their credit file. These should be checked for errors because mistakes are common. If an error is found, the person should send a written dispute about the error to both the credit reporting agency and the entity that furnished that information.

Everyone should check their credit information once a year for errors, and dispute any errors in writing. If the error is then not corrected within thirty days, the person should contact a lawyer to help resolve the situation.

Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA)

The FDCPA protects debtors from harassment and allows legitimate debt collectors not to be adversely impacted by abusive debt collection practices.

The FDCPA regulates people who collect consumer debts on behalf of another. The Senate Report explained that the FDCPA was limited to third-party collectors of past due debts because, unlike original creditors, “who generally are restrained by the desire to protect their good will when collecting past due accounts,” independent collectors are likely to have “no future contact with the consumer and often are unconcerned with the consumer’s opinion of them.”

The FDCPA mandates that debt collectors identify themselves as debt collectors, advise the debtor of the right to verify and dispute the debt, and refrain from harassment, false representations and other unfair debt collections practices. The FDCPA applies even though the debt is actually owed.

A debt collector is prohibited from contacting a consumer-debtor when the debt collector knows that person is represented by an attorney, and may not contact debtors at any “unusual” or “inconvenient” time or place. Most importantly, the debt collector must stop contacting the consumer after written notice that either the consumer refuses to pay or that the consumer wants the debt collector to cease the contacts.

Under the FDCPA, no person should be subject to harassing calls from a debt collector. If you are, you should contact a consumer attorney who can use the FDCPA to protect you.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

The CFPB enforces these laws. It receives and acts on complaints that are filed at www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/. If you think a creditor or debt collector is violating these laws, you should also file a complaint with the CFPB.

The Fair Credit Reporting Act requires each of the nationwide credit reporting companies — Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion — to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months. To order, visit annualcreditreport.com, or call 1-877-322-8228.

A Warning About “Imposter” Websites

Only one website is authorized to fill orders for the free annual credit report you are entitled to under law — annualcreditreport.com.

Annualcreditreport.com and the nationwide credit reporting companies will not send you an email asking for your personal information. If you get an email, see a pop-up ad, or get a phone call from someone claiming to be from annualcreditreport.com or any of the three nationwide credit reporting companies, do not reply or click on any link in the message. It's probably a scam. Forward any such email to the FTC at spam@uce.gov.



YouTube



PUBLICITY



By Larry Rosenthal

We (JWV) do amazing things throughout the year and get involved with numerous veteran and civic groups. However, we keep it all a secret! There are many ways to publicize all the great events that Posts and Departments run.

Assign someone to take pictures on different levels in different areas. Have them send the photos to their local papers and to The Jewish Veteran. Make sure there is someone from the area in the photo, and don't forget to include a caption.

In your email, include who is in the photo

(Post, Council, or Department, and identify all those in the picture from left to right, bottom to top, etc). What the event or occasion was, when it was held, and why this occasion was special. Finally, make sure there is a local person's name, phone number, or email address so the reporter can follow up.

Press Releases

The example below is the basis of a Press Release. Don't forget to include the face: who, what, when, and where. Please note the names, phone numbers, and email addresses so that all ages can reach out to someone.

Sample Press Release

Immediate Press Release:

Date of Event: May 3rd 2015

New Jersey Department Jewish War Veterans & Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary 34th Annual Legislative Breakfast

On Sunday May 3rd, 2015 at the Clarion Hotel, Route 37 East, Toms River, New Jersey the Department will be honoring State Senator Jennifer Beck (11th District), as Legislator of the Year and the GI GO Fund, a charitable organization which “assists veterans with their transition back to civilian life by providing employment and educational opportunities as well as a direct path to their benefits”.

If you would like to attend or make a donation please contact: (name) at (phone number). For more information about the event or the honorees, please contact the Chairman of the event: (name) at (email address) or (phone number) or co-chair (name) at (email address) or (phone number).

For information on the New Jersey Department of the Jewish War Veterans and its mission, refer to Larry Rosenthal at LSR1950@hotmail.com or 609-954-8075.



JROTC



Get your Post involved in a local JROTC program! High schools are always looking for local contacts who would be interested in presenting JWV's Americanism medal and certificate on behalf of our organization. Many Posts and Departments use this program as a way to get the JWV name out into the community and become involved with local youth.

If you are interested in sponsoring a JROTC unit, or wish to obtain a certificate, send the cadet's name, instructor's name, and date of ceremony, to Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org.

You can order the medal via JWV's online supply store; the link can be found on the right side of our homepage, www.jwv.org. JWV National has already sent out over 35 medals this year.

Voting Eligibility at the 2015 National Convention

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

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

If you have any questions about your Post's voting eligibility status, or need additional information, please contact Cindy Chambers at: cchambers@jwv.org or 202-265-6285, ext. 413.

Place Your Ad or Message in the 2015 Convention Journal!



Inside Front Cover	\$750.00
Inside Back Cover.....	\$500.00
Full Page 7.5 x 10 inches ..	\$375.00
Half Page 7.5 x 5 inches ...	\$200.00
1/3 Page.. 7.5 x 3 inches	\$150.00
1/4 Page.. 3.25 x 5 inches..	\$120.00
1/6 Page.. 3.25 x 3 inches....	\$75.00
1/10 Page 2 x 3.5 inches.....	\$50.00

- Deadline for submission is July 1.
- B+W ads only.
- All ads must be accompanied with payment at time of submission.
- Ads submitted without payment will not be included.



Please print or type your ad copy. You may also email it to: cturner@jwv.org

Name of Individual or Echelon Submitting Ad

Address

City

State

Zipcode

Post/Auxiliary Name and Number

Department

Authorized by (Signature)

Third Time Was The Charm

Continued from page 1

because I was able to reconnect with an old friend, and learn about another. Over forty-years of friendship and two other trips to Israel are behind this incredible story.

In 1968, I was selected by the US Army to attend the Florence Heller Graduate School for Advanced Studies in Social Welfare at Brandeis. Among my classmates at Brandeis was Sami Geraisy, who was the Director of Services for Minority (Arab) Youth in Israel and sent by the Israeli Government to earn his Ph.D. We were together until the summer of 1971 when we each finished our Doctoral studies.

After leaving Brandeis, I was transferred by the Army to Ft Knox, KY in August, 1971, where I was assigned to the Armor Center as Director of Army Community Services. I was asked if I would want to sponsor an Israeli Colonel, Ya'akov Hadar, and his family who were in the states while Ya'akov was attending the Armor Advanced Officers Course. This sponsorship, which lasted 9 months, began a wonderful friendship that has continued all these years despite the geographical distance between the US and Israel.

Ya'akov and I saw each other when he was in the States in 1974; two years later I was transferred to Germany and took the opportunity to visit Israel with my family, and we spent some time with Ya'akov and his. During that trip we also visited my old classmate, Sami, in Nazareth.

We had a wonderful reunion over a typical Middle Eastern meal and conversation.

I had infrequent contact with Ya'akov and his family until my wife and I made my second trip to Israel on a cruise in October 2012. Ya'akov and his wife had moved and through the efforts of one of our tour drivers, I was able to phone and speak to Ya'akov but we were unable to arrange a time to get together during that trip...but I promised to come again. Luckily, we were able to arrange a meeting when our tour went to TZEVEV on the Allied Mission to Israel trip.

Another wonderful memory of this year's trip to Israel was my surprise at finding a photo and story about my cousin, Raymond Zussman, which was displayed at the Museum of the Jewish Soldier in WWII, which is located at the Armored Corps Museum in Latrun. Raymond was awarded the Medal of Honor because of his heroism while as a Second Lieutenant commanding his company on September 12th, 1944 in Noroy le Bourg, France.

When our tour group arrived in Nazareth this year, I again tried to contact my old friend, Sami from Brandeis. When our JWV group visited the Basilica of the Annunciation Church, I approached an Arab Christian caretaker and asked him if he knew Sami Geraisy. He informed me that he believed Sami had died, but knew his family and through his efforts he located Sami's son, whom I was able to call and speak with.



Jack Romo (left) met up with friend IDF Colonel (Retired) Ya'akov Hadar.

Despite the current political difficulties in the relationship between the top leadership of the US and Israel, I was again made aware of the long-standing close cooperation between the US and Israeli militaries that has benefited the security of both our countries.

With our Allied Mission itinerary including so many Israeli military venues, we were able to witness the pride and cohesiveness shown by young Israeli service men and women. I was proud of them and even more proud and thankful for my own military career that gave me the opportunity to travel and know my Israeli co-religionists. Coupled with the friends I made and have corresponded with since our return from the 2015 Allied Mission to Israel, I am so pleased to have experienced this. Third time's the charm, as they say, and this third trip truly provided me with wonderful memories to last a lifetime.

JWV's 120th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

AUGUST 2-9, 2015 • TAMPA, FLORIDA

Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore • 2225 N. Lois Ave, Tampa, FL 33607
Phone 813-877-6688 • Fax 813-879-3264 • www.tampaairport.hilton.com

Hotel Registration deadline is **Wednesday, July 1**. A one night (\$145/single or double) deposit is required for all hotel registrations. A 3-night minimum stay is required.

Hotel reservations must be made through JWV or the surcharge will be assessed and attendance at meetings will not be allowed. **There is a \$150 Convention surcharge for those not staying at the hotel.**
Local members living within a 50 mile radius are exempt.

Complimentary airport transportation • Complimentary full breakfast buffet
Free parking • Free transportation within 3 mile radius including shopping
Free wireless in guest rooms

Partial Schedule of Events (Subject to Change)

Daily • Aug. 2-9
Morning Minyan

Sunday • Aug. 2
Welcome to Tampa

Monday • Aug. 3
Visit to Ybor City &
Clearwater Aquarium

NMAJMH Event

Tuesday • Aug. 4
Wreath Laying
NEC Meeting

Committee Meetings

Wednesday • Aug. 5
Joint Opening Session
Resolutions
1st JWV Business Session
Century Club Event

Thursday • Aug. 6
2nd Business Session
Committee Meetings
Resolutions
National President's Banquet

Friday • Aug. 7
3rd Business Session
Committee Meetings
National Commander Election
Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday • Aug. 8
Shabbat Services
NMAJMH
Board Meeting
National Commander's Banquet

Name: _____ Post No: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Room will be shared with: _____

Arriving at: _____ / _____ Departing at: _____ / _____ Total nights: _____

JWV 120 th Annual National Convention	Cost	How Many?	Amount
Convention Registration Fee	\$50.00 per member		
I prefer: <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds	\$145.00 per night		
3rd Person in a room	\$75.00 per night		
Minimum Deposit Only	\$145.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel	\$150.00		
Visit to Ybor City & Clearwater Aquarium • Monday, Aug. 3	\$35.00 per person		
Open to All Convention Attendees! Century Club Event	\$100.00 member		
Wednesday, Aug. 5	\$50.00 guest		
Commander's Banquet • Saturday, Aug. 8			
No. of: Filet of Steak_____ Salmon_____ Kosher_____			
Sugar Free Dessert_____	\$42.50 per person		
Raffle Tickets	\$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00		
You must include full payment for all event(s) that you plan on attending. Reservations for trips or activities will only be made if paid in full.	Total:		
	Amount paying now:		
I am paying by <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No. _____	Exp. _____	/	
Signature _____			

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



San Antonio Post 753-TX members Kenneth Ashworth, Melvin Blumberg, and Herschel L. Sheiness attended the dedication of a park bench the Post donated to the Tejada Texas State Veterans Home in Floresville, TX. Several residents immediately enjoyed the new addition to the outdoors sitting area.



Past Post Commander Jeffrey M. Sohn passed the gavel to new Post Commander, Tom Renna during the Lt. Seth Dvorin Post 972-NJ swearing in ceremony.



Jeffrey Weir (right), Chief of VA Voluntary Service for Central Texas, presented TALO Department Commander Earle Sherrod with an award for 1000 hours of volunteer service.



On March 12, Gary Swanson (left) received the "Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award" from JWV Post 605-KS Commander Sheldon Turetsky, on behalf of The Chapel of Four Chaplains at a special awards ceremony in Kansas City.



With the help of Boy Scout Troop 124, Jersey Shore Post 125-NJ and Congregation Brothers of Israel Cemetery members, flags were placed on veteran graves for Memorial Day. L to R (rear): Henry Lewis, Monty Fisher, Burt Resnic. L to R (front): Star Scout Josh Jacoves, Scoutmaster Jevin Jacoves, Tenderfoot Justin Medina, Ariel Braun, Tova Braun, Mrs. Braun, Talia Braun, Marlene Cohn, Alan Cohn, Gerald Levine. Photo taken by Lew Fisher.

Chaplain (Colonel) Jacob Goldstein Retires From Service

Following a stellar military career of thirty eight years, Chaplain (Colonel) Jacob Goldstein has retired from service. On April 29, 2015, at Ft. Meyer, VA with a US Army parade in the background, Colonel Goldstein was presented his retirement orders along with other awards and certificates.

Following the retirement ceremony, a fabulous program was held in the Memorial Chapel at Ft. Meyer. Goldstein's wife, Seema, their children and grandchildren, and many other military personnel were in attendance.

It was a special pleasure to hear several non-Jewish senior military officers praise Colonel Goldstein's outstanding service, dedication, and patriotism. Colonel Goldstein served in numerous campaigns, including Desert Storm, and in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Chaplain Goldstein is from Brooklyn, New York, and is a proud member of JWV. We salute him and wish him only the best.



Chaplain Jacob Goldstein received an outstanding achievement award from the Office of the Chief of Chaplains.



National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth posed with Rose Lee of Gold Star Wives. Both organizations attended the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs to present our legislative agenda for the year, where National Commander Maxwell Colón testified on JWV's behalf.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Manhattan-Cooper-Epstein-Greenwald Post 1-NY celebrated its 119th birthday on March 15 at a Post meeting at the Manhattan VA Medical Center by welcoming its newest member, Navy Lieutenant Commander Retired Evan Dash (right); including (from left) Mort Weinstein, Post 1 Commander Edward Hochman, Victor Struber, Harold Schaeffer and National Museum of American Jewish Military History Certificate Chair Hannah Deutch. Photo courtesy of Gerald Alperstein.

MO-KAN Post 605 honored Meyer "Mike" Katzman, 94, (right) with the 2015 Veteran of the Year award on March 12 at a ceremony held at the Kansas City JCC. Katzman, a World War II veteran and long-time leader in the veteran community was surrounded by many JWV members, friends, relatives, and representatives of veteran and Jewish organizations as he was presented this special award.

CPL Katzman served from October 1942 to November 1945 in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a gunnery specialist on B-24 aircraft. He later dedicated many years serving the veterans community in many capacities, including as Post Commander, Department Commander, and establishing the Post's famous "Holiday Gifts for Vets" Program. That program has provided over 4,000 gift bags (each containing over 20 useful clothing and grooming items) to area veterans in VA hospitals, domiciliary or similar facilities during the Christmas season, starting in 2003. Pictured on left is Sheldon Turetsky, Post Commander, presenting the award to Mike Katzman.



Post 338 FL held a meeting in February at the Broward County Sheriff's Office in Fort Lauderdale, FL, where several members of a local National Guard unit attended and briefed them on their recent activities. Photo courtesy of Post Commander Ed Forman, who is on the far left.



Kansas City area Jewry was well represented at the State of Kansas Holocaust Commemoration Service held at the Kansas State Historical Museum in Topeka on Monday, April 20. Pictured are (from left) Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, who read the official State Proclamation for the commemoration; Cantor/Rabbi Jeffrey Shron of Kehilath Israel Synagogue, who chanted El Maleh Rachamim; Rabbi Herbert Mandl, Emeritus Rabbi of Kehilath Israel Synagogue, who gave the closing prayer and whose efforts led to the creation of the Kansas Holocaust Commission; and Steven Schorr and Larry Gordon of the Jewish War Veterans MO-KAN Post 605. Photo by Rod Minkin of JWV Post 605.



From left: Post Commander Sheila Berg, Quartermaster Jerome Ginsberg, Chaplain Norman Miller, and Jr. Vice Cmdr. Jay Mellman of Lehigh Valley Post 239-PA were sworn into office by JWV National Chaplain and Past Department Commander E.G. "Jerry" Farris, Senior Vice-Commander of the Post.



Post 210 in Scottsdale, Arizona, held a Passover seder on April 8, 2015, at the Arizona State Veterans Home. Michael Chambers, left, is the Post Commander and led the service with his wife, Ahuva. Pictured at the table are Larry Chesin, Everett Perlman, and Mickey Dingott, who are residents of the Arizona State Veterans Home, and Clair is Mickey Dingott's wife.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Development Committee

By PNC Monte Mayer, Chairman

We are pleased to report that for the calendar year 2014, we met our Development goal, and are looking forward to this year. We wish to thank all who have responded to our direct mail solicitations, and we do hope you enjoyed the premiums that came within each package. Please remember that the direct mail premiums are not a benefit of membership, but of donating. If we eventually do not receive a response from our recipients, the name is removed from the mailing list.

For our calendar however, we do depend on you to supply us with the valuable material that we utilize every year. We hope as you read this, somewhere in the background, you will remember an incident that occurred while you were on active duty, and you have a photo to show of it. As the years go by, these old photos and stories somehow get to the bottom drawer, a closet, or possibly a garage, and then they may possibly disappear along with the veteran. Please, before these eventualities occur, go through them, and send them to us so that we can memorialize them in our annual calendar. Understand also that newspaper photos or any other source but the original photograph is extremely difficult to reproduce for today's viewers, and therefore we prefer a digital scan of the original image. Please also think of a close relative whose possessions you have and served in our military, we want their story too.

To an interested veteran who may join your Post, our calendar, High Holiday cards, and other premiums would certainly be an advantage to your Post to show them. Please use these items to show our JWV story. As we often ask, "if we don't tell our story, who will?"

Hospital Committee

By Jerry Blum, Chairman

Civilian Hospital vs VA Hospital

For many veterans, there is no choice, there is no option of using anything but the VA hospitals. Those of us using these hospitals know that there is nothing wrong with them, and that there are many things good within the VA system. One of the best things about the VA Hospital system is the recent investigations into the system. This has placed the system under the microscope and, therefore, more and more into the limelight. Doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers are highly dedicated individuals who do their best to take care of our veterans. Also, veterans are comfortable in an environment with fellow veterans. In this writer's opinion, two of the main concerns right now are women's treatment and mental or psychological problems due to the stresses of war.

Other veterans may feel that the VA is not much of an option, that with their employment/retirement insurance and/or distance to their local VA hospital that the VA is not for them. The location issue will become less of a problem as

the new Veterans' Choice program is perfected. Others avoid the process to confirm their eligibility. This process is much easier than might be thought.

There is a third option of using the VA System for some procedures such as hearing, vision, and other service connected issues, as well using the medications provided by the VA. The veteran then could use a private physician and hospital for other things such as regular check-ups, emergencies, etc.

NMAJMH Certificate Program

By Hannah Deutch, Chairman

Time is fleeting. Since the NEC (2/11/15 through 5/1/15) we have not done so well. JWV brought in \$926, not too bad, but Ladies, where were you? Not one dollar. That surprises me very much as you are always so supportive. This is one quarter of our year gone, which if we don't do better, would only give us \$3,700 for the year. That is very disappointing after the previous year when we sold \$5,200 worth of Certificates. I wanted to surpass that last number this year, but for that I need your cooperation. We will continue with 5 certificates for \$40, but I am very glad to see that many of you are more generous. Our Certificates are one of the life lines of our Museum and just as important as a brick or a paver as not everyone can make larger donations. It all adds up in the long run. So please, let's get going.

Sergeant William Shemin to be Awarded the Medal of Honor

Continued from page 1

to be enacted.

Representative Luetkemeyer reintroduced the bill in 2011 in the House of Representatives and Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) introduced a companion bill in the Senate. The bills were incorporated into the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2012. The period covered for the award was April 6, 1917 – November 11, 1918. While the original bills had the provision that an award of the Medal of Honor may be made without regard to section 3744, 6248, or 8744 of title 10, United States Code; this was left out of the NDAA.

I kept in constant contact with Ms. Shemin-Roth and Representative Luetkemeyer's staff over the five-year period from the time I received Sergeant Shemin's records. I also wrote a letter of recommendation to Secretary of the Army John McHugh in my capacity as Chairman of the Awards for Valor Committee.

The Awards and Decorations Branch of the US Army at Fort Knox, KY, indicated that they were unable to process the request for award of

the Medal of Honor because they required the original recommendation for the Distinguished Service Cross with original eyewitness affidavits, original wartime chain of command endorsements, and other documentation to Sergeant Shemin's actions during World War I. I called and spoke with the assistant chief of the Awards and Decorations Branch who signed the letter; and explained that there were no more living World War I veterans, that only one eyewitness was required in World War I for award of the Medal of Honor, and that the recommendation for the Distinguished Service Cross which was submitted – albeit not an original – contained a signature of the company commander and the names of six eyewitnesses. I suggested that a review be done to determine if those individuals were at the location of the action for which Sergeant Shemin received the Distinguished Service Cross in 1918.

Ultimately, Secretary of the Army John McHugh sent to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel a recommendation for the award of the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Shemin. On July 29, 2014, Secretary Hagel wrote that he had reviewed

the proposal to upgrade Sergeant Shemin's Distinguished Service Cross to the Medal of Honor and agreed that it meets Medal of Honor criteria. He indicated though that Section 3744 of Title 10, United States Code, requires that the Medal of Honor be awarded "within five years after the date of the act justifying the award." (This was the provision of the original bill that was left out of the NDAA. He further indicated that a statutory time waiver to section 3744 would be required before the President may award the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Shemin.

A provision was included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 which states that "(n)otwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to William Shemin for the acts of valor during World War I..."

JWV is thrilled that Sgt. Shemin's heroic actions will be recognized.



JROTC Program



By Stan Levinson, COL USA (RET)
Commander, Sarasota Post 172-FL

Sarasota Post 172 recently experienced some firsts. Every year, the Post sponsors the JROTC programs at two local high schools. Normally we award the Medal of Merit, also known as the Americanism Medal, to the Cadet at his/her respective school's annual JROTC ceremony. However, this year I decided to bring the event to one of our monthly meetings. That way, the Post membership could witness first-hand what we were supporting and experience the "thrill of the moment!" On April 19th, 2015, the Post invited the Senior Army Instructors (SAI's), this year's Cadet nominees, and their parents to join us for brunch and an awards ceremony.

This year we were quite fortunate, as both cadet nominees were women- another first for our Post. These two cadets were very sharp and quite deserving of the award. In fact, I spoke briefly with one of the cadets prior to the ceremony. She was extremely polite, well mannered, and has received numerous awards, i.e. citations, ribbons, medals, etc. I asked her what she planned to do after graduation, assuming that with all the deco-



Post Commander Stan Levinson, center, posed with the awardees after the ceremony. On the left is Cadet Shoemaker and her mother, and on the right is Cadet Bland with her mother. The mothers were invited to pin the JWV Americanism medal on their daughters. Photo courtesy of Stan Levinson.

rations, she was a senior. To which she replied, "I'm only a sophomore and have several more years to think about that."

The ceremony went quite smoothly. After presenting the certificate, I invited each mother up front to pin the medal on the respective cadet. The Post was extremely pleased with the event and expressed a desire to repeat the ceremony next year. We expect to add two more high school JROTC programs by that time.

I have a personal interest in the JROTC program, having received my Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant through the ROTC program while attending the University of Iowa in 1954. During my four year ROTC program, I was blessed to have had two Captains as my instructors. Both were Korean War veterans, Purple Heart award-ees, and were deeply involved in the battle of "Hamburger Hill." They became my mentors during my four years of ROTC training, and they were instrumental in shaping the beginning of my military career.

I strongly feel that this program is underrated. It is a great way of instilling discipline, resilience, and forward thinking on the part of the student. It provides purpose and direction for many, and it instills camaraderie amongst the cadets. This is a good substitution to fill the void of idle time, which oftentimes leads to misdirection in the life of a teenager.

Supporting the JROTC program is an inexpensive way to foster community recognition for your Post. It also fosters the Jewish War Veterans' goals of participation in local events. If your Post is not currently supporting a local JROTC program, I strongly urge you to get involved.

Who pays for recovery care?



For JWV members and spouses age 65 and older



Know Your Options! Please call:

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

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

GET THE FACTS — NOW.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

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DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Roger R. Cooper-65 • Oscar M. Robledo-65 • Alan R. Weiner-65

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Philip Yankofsky-603

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Milton E. Harr-172 • Morris L. Weinstien-172 • Arthur L. Funk-400 • Melvin A. Gervis-440 • Steven Bernardo-506 • Richard A. Rosenstein-506 • Elliot T. Wasserman-549 • Joel C. Fox-639 • Joel Schneider-639 • Steven P. Taubkin-639 • David M. Rafky-778

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Paul R. Kaufman-29 • Norman Abramowitz-54 • Joel E. Bernstein-54 • Harve R. Bogolub-54 • Barry A. Erlich-54 • Howard G. Goldstein-54 • Robert N. Honig-54 • Beryl E. Jacobson-54 •

Bruce J. Mayor-54 • Michael J. Sawyer-54 • Fred Stopsky- 54 • Jordan H. Trafimow-54 • Leslie Turner- 54 • Mark M. Turner-54 • Ronald J. Weininger-54 • John Wilkerson-54 • Phillip A. Nagle-89

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Eugene L. Sadick-117

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Allan J. Warnick-135

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Peter M. Chodoff-126 • Malcolm Shreibman-126 • Lewis J. Leeson-146 • Murray Korn-536 • Burton E. Topal-695 • Martin O. Fleisher-740 • Ira S. Brodsky-972

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Evan D. Dash-1 • Harold Rosenthal-6 • Richard B. Borkow-191 • Saul S. Fathi- 336 • Douglas K. Cantor-425 • Richard Jarcho-425 • Fred Merrill-425 • William B. Newman-652 • Jay Brick-717

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Charles Nathan Kitts-14 • Irv Aplis- 712

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Joshua Scherer-181 • Joshua E. Segal-215 • Karen I. Dacey-239 • Irwin Weiss-499 • David Friedman-697

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Doneal G. Gersh-112

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Stephen A. B. Krant-256 • Jose L. Reyes- 256 • Bryan M. Rigg- 256 • Michael Rosenberg-256 • Arnold J. Baca-581 • Samantha L. Belles-795 • Daniel M. Demelli-795 • Nathaniel Gartrell-795 • Max D. Greenspon-795 • Howard Grossbard-795 • Naomi J. Horowitz-795 • Phil R. Sutherland-795 • George Wankmueller-795

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Joshua E. Segal-95 • Robert M. Damesek-765 • Melvin W. Labovitz-765

PEOPLE & PLACES

► On Sunday, April 19th, the VA Central Western Mass Healthcare System held its 69th Annual VA Volunteer Awards and Recognition Ceremony in Northampton. **Post 26-MA** Past Commander **Shirley Hersh** received a citation from Leeds Director John Collins for giving over 36 years and 1,320 hours of volunteer service to veterans at Leeds Hospital and at the Holyoke Soldiers Home. Both Hersh and Post Commander **Stanley Light** received Certificates of Achievement as representatives on the VA Voluntary Service Committee.

► Special shout out to **Lt Seth Dvorin Post 972-NJ**, for an excellent and informative newsletter. In the May 2015 issue of the Bugler, **Al Gurvitz** included calendar pages with the Post's upcoming events, contact information, pictures, an article, and a page with birthdays, new members, and TAPS.

► A certificate of appreciation was awarded to **Murray Baker** and **Seymour Shapiro** of **Post 201-AZ** for their support of the 111th Military Intelligence Brigade at Fort Huachuca, AZ during the 2014-2015 holiday leave period. Congratulations!

► **JWV Post 256-TALO** and **JWVA Auxiliary**, participated in a local Kosher Chili Cook Off on March 22, 2015, where they manned a booth to help recruit new members and have a presence in the community. JWV and JWVA both successfully signed up new members.

REUNIONS

► The USS Warrington (DD - 843) is hosting its annual reunion in Annapolis, Maryland at the Double Tree hotel from September 27 - October 1 2015. Please contact Stan Prager at 916-791-6700, stashuman843@msn.com or Michael A. Zippert at 443-904-4098 or mazippe@netzero.net. For more information go to www.usswarrington.org.

► The Marine Air Groups is holding its 2015 reunion in Branson, Missouri from September 16-19, 2015. Marines who served in WWII to the present are welcome! Contact James Jordan at james.m.hordan@hughes.net or 417-535-4945, or Bob Miller at mbobsue13@gmail.com or 636-327-5854.

► USS BOSTON CA-69, CAG-1, and SSN-703- The 2015 reunion of all USS BOSTON ships will be held in Fayetteville, NC from July 16-19, 2015. All former crew members USN, USMC, flag personnel, and family members are welcome. For details, contact USS BOSTON Shipmates, Inc., Barry Probst, Secretary, PO Box 7445, Brockton, MA 02302 or at 508-580-3808. You may also go to www.ussboston.org for more information.

IN SEARCH OF

► Looking for any info regarding Benjamin Wolfson, who served at the US Army during WWII and attended a Seder in Bari, Italy

during Pesach in 1944. Contact Jacob Friedman at etanel@zahav.net.il.

► Seeking veterans, survivors and civilians of World War II to interview. Adam P. Kennedy and his company Chronicling Greatness has just published its first interactive eMagazine, American Heroes of War - World War II History From Those Who Lived It, which presents 1st person accounts from veterans and civilians that lived during and participated in World War II. If you are a veteran of WWII, a survivor, or have first person World War II stories, Adam would love to interview you. You are living history - your stories need to be told, especially to the young so that we never forget. To view the Premiere eMagazine visit his website at www.apkcg.com. Contact Adam at 757 345-0626 or apkwoe@hotmail.com.

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

LINCOLN AND THE JEWS: A HISTORY

By Stephen Dobbs

Abraham Lincoln is a favorite topic of American historians, with 16,000 books on the shelves and 400 new ones added each year. They explore specialized facets of Lincoln's eventful life, death and the continuing aftermath.

But one area relatively neglected in scholarship about Lincoln and the Civil War era has been his relationship with the Jews.

This gap has now been remedied with "Lincoln and the Jews: A History," by Jonathan Sarna, a pre-eminent scholar of American Jewish history at Brandeis University, and Benjamin Shapell, a leading Lincoln archivist and historian.

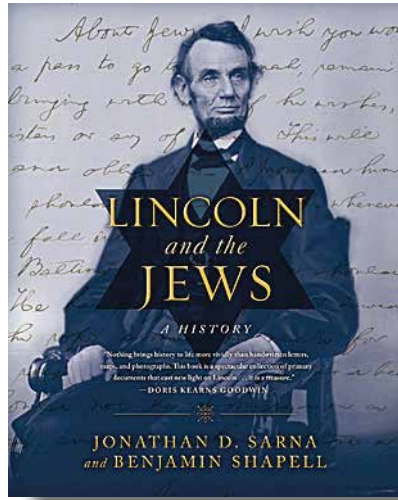
The co-authors have produced a book bound to become the definitive tome on Lincoln and the Jews. Based on original documentary sources, the book features a cornucopia of letters, notes and official papers that provide a detailed accounting of Lincoln's spiritual commitments, political beliefs and observations of people, especially his relationships with the Jews.

The physical book itself is a gem, a hefty, large-format volume featuring crisp color photographs that help readers feel as if they are handling the documents themselves. In broad, sweeping chapters the authors outline Lincoln's life and career, with special attention to his relationships in the political and professional worlds.

Lincoln was born in Kentucky in 1809, when there were only about 3,000 Jews in the entire nation. During his childhood Lincoln did not know any Jews.

He received his religious education at home from his parents — non-evangelical Protestants who imbued their son Abraham with a love of the Bible.

Biblical imagery appears throughout Lincoln's writings, especially as the president.



"Lincoln and the Jews: A History" by Jonathan D. Sarna and Benjamin Shapell (288 pages, Thomas Dunne Books)

But the Old Testament stories took on a more serious tone as the nation raced to confrontation over slavery and its abolition.

Lincoln became president in 1860 carrying the unredeemed promises of earlier presidents: "All men are created equal." His greatest challenge was to create equality while preserving the Union, a cause that Jews were fundamentally committed to support, given America's historic values of freedom and liberty.

We recognize in Lincoln's correspondence affinities for the Jews and other spiritual allies. For instance, Lincoln understood that blacks and Jews had endured bitter oppression and might unify as Republican Party stalwarts in the post-Civil War era, a hypothesis envisioned but never carried out.

We also learn of Lincoln's desire to visit Jerusalem (he was unable to do so), and of his close friendship with Abraham Jonas, a Jewish lawyer and legislator from Illinois. Jonas was one of Lincoln's best friends and a frequent confidant

and strategist for the Republican Party, where 50,000 Jewish votes were up for grabs by the 1850s.

As a young man, Lincoln also had access to biblical stories, which he relied upon throughout his life, often quoting the Old Testament. The Second Inaugural Address, after Lincoln's re-election in 1864, illustrates his affinity for spiritual sources.

"Lincoln and the Jews" includes hundreds of letters and other documents in which the reader is treated to Lincoln's humility, compassion and respect for humanity. Lincoln's own writings demonstrate the value he placed on character and personal integrity.

However, the 16th president had a special feeling for Jews; as he once wrote, "We have not yet appointed a Hebrew" and "I myself have a regard for the Jews."

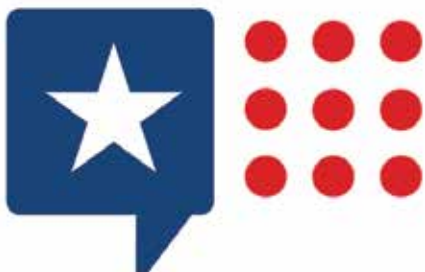
In fact, we find in the book voluminous correspondence revealing he represented Jews, befriended and admired Jews, defended and pardoned Jews, commissioned Jews, and extended rights to Jews.

Lincoln showed no signs of the anti-Semitism that ran rife through the American body politic at the time. Indeed, the president worked to include Jewish military chaplains, as there were thousands of Jews serving in the Union Army. He also rescinded Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's notorious anti-Semitic orders banning Jewish soldiers from the war zones.

"Lincoln and the Jews" is a major new tool and resource for scholars and readers who continue to be fascinated by the remarkable life and achievements of the 16th president, and how he interacted with Jewish friends, allies and colleagues.

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Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

Outreach to the Next Generation

Continued from page 19

- Establish active links in Facebook and other social media with potential members.
- Reach out prior to every Post meeting to the potential and new younger member with what we can do for them and ask what they need from us.
- Give the newly discharged Jewish veteran and family a certificate of recognition for their service.
- Ask the veteran to help us to make JWV a value added organization for the next generation. Ask the veteran "Will you help us make the JWV a quality organization for the younger generation?"

As you have read, this was a fantastic tele-

conference with great ideas from the participants. I plan to use these ideas and others from you to develop a "JWV Five Year Strategic Plan" at our JWV Annual Convention in Tampa, Florida (The Future of JWV Workshop). Please join me at the convention!

Please feel free to use these outreach ideas now. Also email your outreach ideas to Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org so I can use them as part of the "JWV Five Year Strategic Plan."

Marcus Luttrell, Navy Seal and "Lone Survivor" author stated that "separating from the military wasn't easy for him..." It's difficult for everybody to transition to civilian life, but being a member of the Jewish War Veterans family can help the Jewish Veteran with that transition.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we observe Memorial Day in the weeks before and after Shavuot, remember that NMAJMH exists to help every day be Memorial Day. With your help, NMAJMH and the memories, photographs, videos, and stories it holds will be remembered and honored in perpetuity.

However, NMAJMH cannot fulfill its mission without your help. While receiving *The Jewish Veteran* is a benefit of JWV membership, belonging to NMAJMH is not included. It is a misconception that if you are part of JWV, that also extends to the Museum. Membership at

NMAJMH is not automatic. I encourage you to go to www.nmajmh.org and learn more- memberships begin at only \$25, and make a great gift! There are also numerous different sponsorship levels that come with a variety of benefits.

Another way to help the Museum is through planned giving. Distributing your assets to NMAJMH is always an option. With numerous JWV Posts shrinking or disbanding, NMAJMH is the perfect place for your assets and archival materials.

NMAJMH is always free, even for group

visits. We would like to always be able to offer this service to our visitors, but once again, we need your support. Our online offerings of lesson plans, YouTube videos, and digital records is continuing to grow, and we'd like to keep it that way!



**PNC Joseph Zoldan
President, NMAJMH**

Program Updates By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator NMAJMH

We've had some great programs and some special tours in the past few months. On April 26th we hosted Mark Zaid, who spoke about his grandfather, Chaplain David Max Eichhorn. Zaid is the editor of **The GIs Rabbi: World War II Letters of David Max Eichhorn**. He used these letters to share his grandfather's experiences in the Army, including conducting Yom Kippur services in what was officially still German-held territory in Luneville, France. Most notably, he led the first Jewish services at Dachau after the concentration camp was liberated.

We had a nice crowd, including JWV members, groups from local synagogues, and community supporters of the museum.

It's been great to see some JWV posts visiting NMAJMH. Greenberg-Lerner Post 692 from Montgomery County, MD enjoyed a tour and presentation, and South Philadelphia Post 98 made the trip down in April. Post 98 had donated the funds to create the "Place to Remember" vid-



Author Mark Zaid, author of *The GIs Rabbi: World War II Letters of David Max Eichhorn*, spoke at the museum on April 26.

eo that captured the museum in the mid-1990s. We screened the video as the group ate lunch in our Education Center. It was great to see how the museum has progressed in the past two decades while continuing to fulfill our mission.

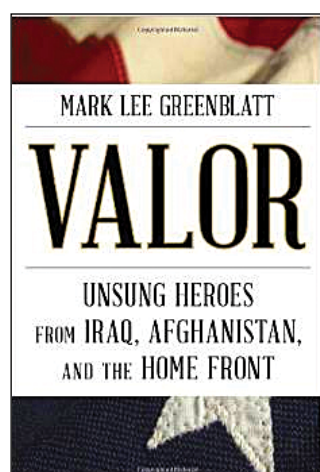
I'd also like to acknowledge the recent finan-

cial support from JWV posts that makes everything the museum does possible. Particularly, I'd like to thank Abraham Kraditor Brooklyn Post 2, whose generosity over the years has been tremendous, and continued with last year's donation of \$300,000. The museum's greatest asset is having JWV as our core community, as we continue to reach other groups in the larger Jewish, and other, communities.

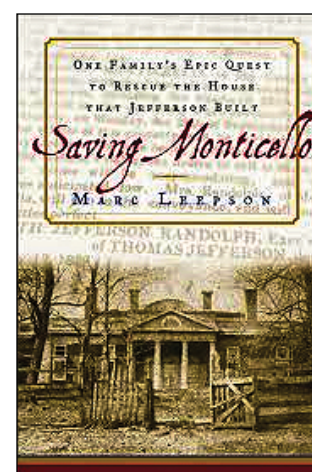
Lastly, we're continuing to develop more online content. The latest video on our YouTube channel features Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut describing the liberation of Dora-Mittelbau concentration camp in 1945. Rabbi Plaut, who died in 2012, is best known for writing *The Torah: A Modern Commentary*. In this video, his vivid description of the camps and encounters with survivors after the war provide powerful testimony of the Holocaust and the role of American Jewish liberators.

Upcoming Author Readings at NMAJMH • 1811 R Street NW Washington, DC 20009

Sunday | June 14th | 1:00 p.m.



Mark Lee Greenblatt, author of ***Valor: Unsung Heroes from Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Home Front*** will present true stories of extraordinary heroism by American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. *Valor* features the thrilling stories that are the fruit of Mark Lee Greenblatt's interviews with brave American servicemen from twenty-first-century wars. These soldiers, sailors, and Marines have risked their lives several times over for their country as well as for their fellow troops and civilians. Still, until now, their stories have largely gone unnoticed by the public, perhaps lost in the frenzied and often nasty debate surrounding those conflicts. As the author writes, "This generation does not have an Audie Murphy. I set out to change that with this book."



Marc Leepson, author of ***Saving Monticello: The Levy Family's Epic Quest to Rescue the House that Jefferson Built***, will discuss U.S. Navy Commodore Uriah Levy and the Levy family's remarkable role in saving the home of Thomas Jefferson.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES By Pamela Elbe • Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

The Service of the Cohen Family Marked by Patriotism and Mystery

Born to Prussian immigrants in 1869, Isidore Cohen volunteered for service in the Spanish-American War. He was born on Baxter Street in New York City, and the family moved to Richmond, Virginia, around 1880. Isidore volunteered for service in the 2nd Virginia Infantry, Company B, on July 13, 1898. Little is known



Photograph of Isidore Cohen (left), taken in Richmond, Virginia in 1898, just before he left for service in the Spanish-American War.

about his service except that he was discharged less than six months after enlisting—minus one leg. He was assigned to Camp Cuba Libre in Jacksonville, Florida. He was medically discharged in December of 1898 after having one of his legs amputated. I was unable to locate any further information on his service, or how he came to lose his leg.

Isidore's nephew, Charles Colman Cohen, ran away from home and enlisted in the New York National Guard on May 10, 1917, shortly after the

United States entered World War I. Just a month later, he was killed in the training camp under mysterious circumstances. The headline on the front page of the June 22, 1917 edition of The Brooklyn Daily Eagle read, "Two Guardsmen Shot By Comrades; One, 47th Private, Dies." The article states:

Charles Cohen, a private in Company H, Forty-Seventh Regiment, was shot and instantly killed by another member of the regiment, it was stated today, while the young guardsmen were protecting some important bridge somewhere up-state.

The young man's body was brought last evening to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Cohen, on the second floor of the tenement house at 193 Osborn Street in the ghetto section of Brownsville. The dead youth's father said today that an examination showed that he had been shot twice, through the back. Not even members of the dead soldier's family were given any information as to just how it happened, except that the shooting was done by a comrade and that Charles had been mistaken for a prowler.

Julius Cohen, the father, who is a tailor, said today that the boy was less than fifteen years of age, although big and robust, and that he had enlisted by claiming he was 19 years old.

In a sad twist of fate, Charles' father had pulled strings to get his son out of the service since Charles was underage; Charles was killed the night before he was scheduled to be released from the service.

The fact that another Jewish soldier was injured in the same regiment less than a week after Charles' death led the family to suspect anti-Semitism played a role. On June 26, 1917, The Brooklyn Daily Eagle reported the accidental shooting of Private Irving Weiss of Company B, 47th Regiment. Weiss was on guard at an airplane factory, but the circumstances of how was

injured are a bit of a mystery. Weiss was off-duty and asleep when he "awoke suddenly and put his hand on the trigger of his gun, the bullet lodging in his leg. This explanation is received with some skepticism."

Charles' funeral, during which his uncle Isidore was a pallbearer, was disrupted by an-

New York State Adjutant General's Office abstract of National Guard service for Charles Colman Cohen, indicating his age as 19 years and 2 months.

archists who tried to make Charles an anti-war symbol, for they saw his tragic death as a reason to prevent America's further participation in World War I. The anarchists tried to rip the American flag from Charles' coffin, held demonstrations in Brownsville (Brooklyn), and created the necessity of a police armed guard in front of the family home during the shiva period. Family members recall police with crossed bayonets at the entrance to the Cohen home, and people had to identify themselves before they were allowed to enter.

Charles Coleman Cohen is buried in Machpelah Cemetery in Queens. His tombstone reads:

*A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled,
Twas for his flag and country
Our soldier boy was killed.*

Upcoming Event!

Sunday | June 7, 2015 | 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dupont-Kalorama Museum Walk Weekend

Visit seven museums in the Dupont-Kalorama neighborhood including, NMAJMH, that open free of charge for this annual festival. The weekend features exhibitions, tours, live music, hands-on activities, and more. Free shuttle bus service is provided between museums. *For more information, visit www.dkmuseums.com.*



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Planning Your Veteran Funeral

Continued from page 22

is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased Veterans. The Certificate is provided to your family upon request from your local VA office.

- **US Flag:** See previous section. on flags.

Burial

VA National Cemetery: If you meet eligibility requirements, you can be buried or inurned in a VA National Cemetery. The VA will furnish the headstone and grave liner and the cemetery is maintained at no cost to the family. However, you may not reserve a space in the cemetery ahead of time, there is no guarantee that a family member will be interred nearby, and ceremonies are not conducted on weekends.

Private Cemetery: In many states you can pre-pay your funeral expenses through a trust account. Obtain a gravesite now, if possible. State funeral homes do not generally sell gravesites.

Questions to Consider While Planning Your Funeral

- Do I want a simple, traditional, or elaborate funeral? At which funeral home will I make arrangements?
- How would I like to pay for my services?
- Who will be in charge of carrying out my funeral arrangements? Does this person know where I keep my discharge papers and other important documents?
- How do I wish to be laid to rest? What sort of headstone might I want?
- What military protocols or traditions might I want included at my funeral?
- Do I want my military service and/or JWV membership to be reflected on my headstone?
- Where do I want to be laid to rest? Who would I like to speak at my funeral or reception?
- Do I wish to have my military service mentioned, fully described and/or honored? At the ceremony? At a reception?

- What organizations, such as JWV, should be informed of my passing?

Get Started Today!

- Acquire copies of your DD214 as soon as possible.
- Choose at least two loved ones with whom you will share your plans. Inform them of your wishes. Give them access to the necessary documents.
- Record your military story. Whether you choose to have your story read by your JWV Post at your funeral or not, help us fulfill our mission of showing the world that American Jews proudly serve. Write your war narrative and submit it to our Museum.

In the meantime, live well, exercise and stay active in your JWV Post.

Read more about veteran burial benefits here
http://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/.



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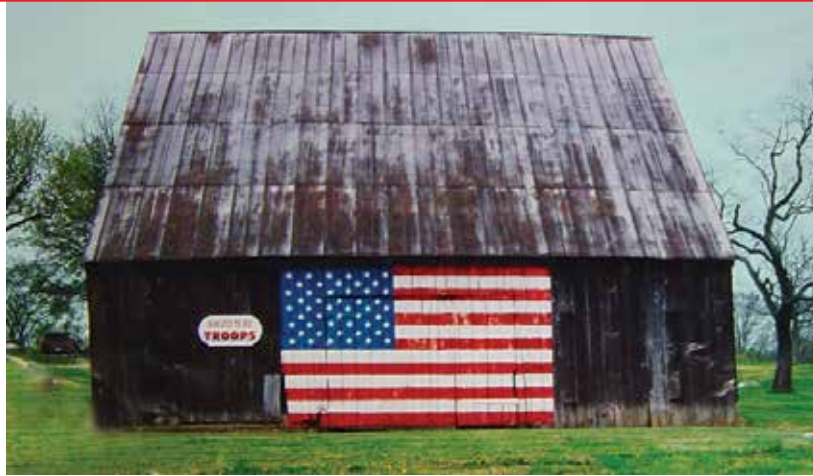
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“You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism.” ~Erma Bombeck

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