



# THE JEWISH VETERAN

Volume 70 • Number 3 • 2016

**Mazel Tov  
to our  
New Leaders!**



**JWV  
National Commander  
Carl A. Singer**



**JWVA  
National President  
Linda Colón**

From this issue forward, the JWV National Ladies Auxiliary will be featured in *The Jewish Veteran*. You can read more on pages 22-23.

## Success in Savannah: Convention 2016

Jewish War Veterans members gathered for the fourth time in Savannah, Georgia, for our 121st Annual National Convention, while the Ladies Auxiliary met simultaneously for their 88th Annual National Convention.

Known for its Southern hospitality and charm, Savannah entices visitors with its architecture, history, and culture- after all, it used to be called "Hostess City of the South!" We certainly felt welcomed from the very start by everyone we met.

Over 30 participants visited Congregation Mickve Israel,



**New National Commander COL Carl A. Singer, on right, sworn in by Chairman of the Coordinating Committee PNC Norman Rosenshein.**

the third oldest synagogue in the country. Five months after General James Edward Oglethorpe established the colony of Georgia, 34 Sephardic Jews and 8 Ashkenazi Jews, arrived in Savannah. Two

years later, they founded Mickve Israel. Due to the growth of the Savannah Jewish population, the congregation erected its first building in 1820, which made it the first synagogue in the state. The synagogue building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, and is still an active Reform congregation today.

The following day a group visited another Jewish historical site- the intersection of Bull and Oglethorpe Streets, the location of the first Jewish burial plot in the city- for the annual wreath laying ceremony. In a powerful moment, all 25 participants said the Mourner's Kaddish together, to remember both those laid to rest below and their fallen comrades.

*Continued on page 6*

## Israeli Innovations in Combatting Veteran PTSD

By Adam Lammon

At JWV, no issue is more paramount than ensuring the health and safety of our veterans. Therefore, we are deeply troubled by findings from the Department of Veterans Affairs that the suicide rate among American veterans has risen 35% since 2001, with an estimated twenty veterans succumbing to an amalgam of afflictions daily. Equally harrowing, as American veterans return from combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, the U.S. National Center for PTSD estimates that approximately 11-20% are being diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). However, the fact that 30% of Vietnam veterans experienced PTSD at some point in their lives illustrates that

this is not a new phenomenon, but a tenacious problem. Thus far, the United States' efforts to alleviate these problems have been unsuccessful, but there is a silver lining. Israel, one of our closest allies, has institutionalized programs into its military, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), that support mental fortitude and may provide the U.S. with an avenue towards removing these dark stains from the integrity of our nation.

Despite that the foundation of the modern Israeli nation-state was laid under the threat of existential conflict, rates of PTSD among Israeli veterans are comparatively lower than those of their American counterparts. Experts believe that



there are likely several reasons for this discrepancy, several of which will be explored below to understand how distinct cultural climates, national identities, and military practices have affected mental illness among American and Israeli veterans.

To begin broadly, levels of mili-

*Continued on page 19*

## Upcoming 2016 JWV Teleconference

Thursday, October 27

### Outlook for the Coming Year with National Commander COL Carl A. Singer

All JWV members are encouraged to join in  
and participate

by calling this toll-free number:

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## Passover Aboard USS Yorktown, 1968

I remember an event that has never left my memory and I would like to share with your readers. Sometime during my only Westpak cruise aboard the USS Yorktown before Passover of 1968 a very interesting thing happened. Unbeknownst to any of us, the word had been passed around that wine was being given out to the sailors aboard numbering several thousand. You can imagine the line that had formed to receive this offering. However, when it became known it was only grape juice and accompanied by a haggadah (which only the Jewish sailors understood) the line had virtually disappeared with the exception of myself and about 10 others. However one Christian sailor (I'll call him O'Malley because he got catcalls from his pals about his ethnicity for remaining on the line) remained and answered them by saying "If it was good enough for our lord Jesus Christ it's good enough for me" (apparently he knew the meaning of the last supper being a seder). The rest of us then invited him to our seder and he complied happy to learn about another religion.

I never forgot this and I've told this story so many times to family and friends they're tired of hearing it. so I decided to share it with a larger audience and hope it shows that Passover has a deep meaning to many people as I have found out over the years. Best wishes to all members of the JWV.

Steven Taylor  
Post 258 NY

## Privatizing the VA

In response to Mr. Giovanni's letter submission Vol 70, Number 2, 2016, I wish to offer the following:

Regarding the "pouring endless money (our tax money – the government has no money of its own)" (sic), perhaps our responsible government officials that place our US Military in 'harm's way' should own that decision. Perhaps they could part with a bit of the military industrial complex lobbying money, as well as ask the military industrial complex to pay up! After all, we were in fact not prepared for two separate wars.

The VA, through legislation, has simplified steps in terminating management and executive VA personnel who have 'fudged' statistics. Also, medical appointments are much quicker than in [the] past from my personal observation.

Private sector and even Medicare providers go to the VA when they desire training in Blindness (VIST program, BRC programs), spinal injuries, amputee prosthetics, and dental care advancements. No way a (for-profit) private sector will provide that training at current costs. Also for profit pharmaceutical care cannot match what 'our tax dollars' the VA currently negotiates

with pharmaceutical companies.

We already observe what the privatization of the prison system created with increases in prison population and recidivism rates.

I personally am blessed to have Medicare, secondary insurance (that does pay VA at special rate lower than private care). However, they cannot deliver any hearing aids, prosthetics, nor dental care and ophthalmology care prosthetics. Have Giovanni visit a VA Blind Rehab Center and observe the weeks of dual training and prosthetic devices delivered to legally, totally, and permanently blind veterans. No private sector will do that at current VA overhead.

Mr. Arnold J. Welber, US ARMY  
JWV Life Member

In regards to Angelo DiGiovanni's response to Col. Rosenbleeth's editorial (Vol. 7 #2), I don't believe that it would be in the best interest of American Veterans to privatize the VA.

By its very nature, a private (for profit) system would allocate resources to those who could most afford the services it provides. I have never read any evidence that a for profit systems is more or less efficient. It certainly would be more costly.

Since many American Veterans are not able to afford basic health care, privatization is not the optimum solution to the challenges faced by the VA.

Henry A. Fanger, USN Vietnam Veteran  
St. Louis Heritage Post 644

## VA Disability System

After reading the article in the current issue of the "Jewish Veteran newspaper" entitled "Why is the VA Appeals Process Broken," I became concerned about the 440,000 veterans who have appeals pending (80,000 of whom have claims over five years and 5,000 with claims over a decade). In my opinion, this is a disgrace!! The answer is to change the VA disability system immediately!

The change to the system that I recommend is to "pay the claim first and then verify the claim later." In other words, when a veteran with a DD-214 form and documented medical evidence submits a claim, the VA should approve the VA disability benefits and start to pay him immediately. Then the process to verify the claims should begin. If the claim proves to be not valid, then restitution of money should be made. If the veteran doesn't have any money to pay restitution, then a lien on his estate should be filed in the appropriate state court. Again, if the veteran commits fraud or is dishonest in his claim, then criminal prosecution should be sought.

It should be noted that MEDICARE uses this

Dear Mr. Gervis and Jewish War Vets Members:

On behalf of the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of stamps and stickers. Your thoughtfulness reflects the concern that you feel for our Veterans and for the service they provided to all of us while in service to our country.

Without your support, we could not provide for the smaller niceties that make hospitalization more bearable. Your thoughtfulness also reflects the concern and compassion that our community feels for our Veterans.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,  
Michael R. Dobbs,  
Voluntary Service Chief

system by paying the doctors first for all medical claims and then verifying the claim later. This keeps the medical system working.

This change in the system by paying first and verifying next will, in the words of the article, "alleviate stress for veterans and address their needs in a timely manner as well as the delivery of the product to the veterans it seeks to help." Again with this change of the system there should be no backlog of claims.

For the Country,

Joel Batalsky  
Member, JWV Post 256, Dallas, Texas

## Thank you to Honor Guards

Many Jewish Veterans are laid to rest in National Cemeteries throughout the United States of America for one reason or another- the Honor Guards from all Veteran posts make up a group of special Veterans that continue to serve their country long after their military service is over- these posts are American Legions, VFW, AmVets, JWV, DAV and many more.

These men and women perform the military rites that honor our Veterans from all wars in their time of need.

Thank you from all Americans for your continued service to our fallen heroes. Our Nation and families of these departed brave veterans thank you. We can't thank you enough for your kind deeds and service. God Bless America.

Sid Gordon, WWII Veteran  
JWV Post 36, Saratoga, NY

# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander COL Carl A. Singer



I joined JWV Post 133 of New Brunswick, New Jersey, about 30 years ago. Like many Posts, it had moved from the city to nearby suburbs. Currently, no comrades live in New Brunswick itself. As a Vietnam-era veteran, I was much younger than most of the members, as many were World War II GI's.

Arnold Sweet was my Post Commander and as he mentored me, I learned from his example. I took on various leadership roles in my Post, and climbed the chain of command, and later became county commander before becoming New Jersey Department Commander for the 2008-2009 year. I subsequently served on the NEC and as National Quartermaster. All along, I benefited from the mentorship and guidance of many others. Department Commanders, National Commanders, Ladies Auxiliary Presidents – they all helped me learn. We all stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.

Enough about me!

I have several thoughts and goals in mind for this coming year:

- **SERVICE TO VETERANS** – Kudos to all who volunteer at hospitals and nursing homes in support of our veterans. We help from the heart. Keep up the good work and encourage others to join with you whenever you visit veterans. Those of us who are fortunate enough to be in a position to help others should seize that opportunity. It is the right thing to do.

We should all challenge ourselves to do more, both as individuals and at every echelon. We must increase our involvement and get others to join with us in efforts to service our veterans. More visits, more participation is needed – for example, bring your (age appropriate) children and grandchildren with you. Young faces light up the faces of our aging veterans – and helping

others is an important life lesson for all involved.

- **ADVOCACY FOR ARMED SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS**– As veterans, we are a strong voice in the halls of Congress. We have earned the right to be heard through our sacrifice and that of our comrades. We must continue to advocate for a strong national defense, for a veterans' healthcare system that is second to none, with special attention to issues such as PTSD, adequate pay for our service members, and for outstanding benefits such as the GI Bill. Also, I believe that the existence of homeless veterans is a stain upon our national social fabric. Even one homeless veteran is one too many! Action is needed.

Yes, we “march on the Hill” annually, but there are opportunities year round to be heard: letters to the editor, calls and letters to elected officials – not just complaints but positive reinforcement when helpful legislation is passed. That said, it's most helpful for Departments to keep track of pending legislation at the state level – speak up!

- **ANTI-SEMITISM** – I cannot stomach anti-Semitism having lost my grandparents, aunts, and uncles in the Holocaust. We must continue to speak strongly against hate speech and hateful acts – both those against our fellow Jews and those against our neighbors.

Read the papers, and listen/watch the news. Maintain open communication with local law enforcement officials. Report incidents, offer rewards – and, most importantly, thank the police for a job well done when they apprehend miscreants.

- **ISRAEL** – As American Jews, we must stand tall for a strong, safe, and secure Israel. We must be visible and vocal advocates and stand firmly

against those who feel otherwise.

Addressing the negative – we must stay aware of the BDS movement especially as it poisons young minds on campuses. On the positive – join me this Spring for our Allied Mission to Israel. Let's show support for our Jewish homeland. Am Yisrael Chai!

- **MEMBERSHIP** – If we cannot sustain our membership, we will cease to exist. Recruitment is everyone's responsibility – I would like to consider an awards program where we regularly offer certificates to individuals and to echelons that successfully recruit members- not just once a year at Convention. Retention is also vital to our survival and our success. We must continue to engage our members, reaching out to those members who no longer are actively involved. Keep in touch – visit or call members who can't make it to meetings. Offer rides to those who are unable to drive or prefer not to.

Recruiting the post 9/11 service members continues to be a challenge. We must continue to listen to them in order to understand their needs so that we may respond accordingly. JWV has much to offer them: a chance to help other veterans, a strong voice on the national stage, help navigating the VA healthcare system. The list goes on.

- **THE MUSEUM** – The National Museum of American Jewish Military History is a well run treasure and it is also our legacy. We need more visitors (I am open to ideas regarding how to accomplish this. Since many groups, Jewish and non-Jewish, tour Washington, DC annually), how do we get to be a stop on those tours?

By nature, I am a problem solver and a leader/manager who is comfortable sharing responsibility and delegating work. However, I am not the “complaint department.” If you see something wrong, don't simply complain, but provide potential avenues to solve the problem so we can attack it together. On the flip side, if you see something being done well (a) give credit where credit is due and (b) work to share the positive: good ideas, good plans, good approaches, good thoughts, etc.

I look forward to a wonderful year for all of us.  
God Bless the United States of America.



Every year on the third Friday in September, Bergen County, NJ, holds a POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony.

This year NC Carl A. Singer was asked to give the keynote address, which focused on POWs and the current efforts to recover the remains of MIAs primarily in Vietnam.

The number of US personnel missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War is still 1,618.



# DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

PNC Monroe Mayer, National Editor



For our 121st year, our organization held its National Convention in the city of Savannah, GA. Though it wasn't the first time we have been there, it is always a treat to visit this historical, friendly city. No matter which way you walked out of the hotel, you encountered a tree-lined small park with benches, and a statue of a Southern hero in the center. Nearby the epicenter of our convention, there were a number of great Southern restaurants, and the prices were astoundingly inexpensive if you were familiar at all with larger cities.

The Convention held a full schedule of events, including our regular business sessions and brand new workshops. There was little open time each

day, as Committees met, speakers were heard, and reports were made. Every evening, a reception in honor of the National Commander candidate was open to all members and guests. Off-site memorials were held in the city of Savannah in order to commemorate certain events.

Our outgoing National Commander, Jerry Blum of the Department of CT, was honored on our last evening at a banquet dinner, while the incoming Commander, Carl Singer, of the Dept. of NJ was installed for our 122nd year.

Our National Staff worked diligently and without rest. Our thanks to NED Herb Rosenbleeth, Greg Byrne, Jordana Green Laurent, Christy Turner, Julia Lasher, Mike Rugel, and Cindy

Chambers.

Our Convention Committee chooses a different city to visit each year and in this respect, we see something new each time and enjoy a distinct piece of America. However, next year's convention will take place in the heart of Texas, in San Antonio. Our 2017 destination will make you feel like you are in a cowboy movie, from the Alamo to the Riverwalk. Any Air Force personnel will certainly remember Lackland Air Force Base and for many of you, it may very well feel like you are coming home...

## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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



### LOOKING AHEAD

We have just completed our 121<sup>st</sup> Annual National Convention. Many thanks to PNC Jerry Blum and to JWVA PNP Freda Rosenshein for their exceptional service and leadership this past year.

This will be a year of emphasis on outreach to younger members. Colonel Nelson Mellitz, US Air Force (Ret), an Iraq veteran who is now the JWV Chief of Staff, will spearhead our efforts to bring in younger veterans to JWV. I am asking everyone in JWV to play your part in helping Colonel Mellitz achieve our goals. We need your support! Our new Department Commanders will be especially important to the success of this vitally important endeavor. Bringing in new members and retaining present members is a challenge for each of us!

Our new National Commander has a very unique history. NC Carl Singer was born on a westbound freight train along the Polish/Ukrainian border, after which he lived in Displaced Persons Camps. Individuals who came from such a background are among our most dedicated, devoted members. They cherish the USA where they found freedom and they respect and value the US military who freed them. Carl's career military background will insure his strong interest in active duty personnel, force strength, the military, and veterans.

We must continue to work closely with The Military Coalition (TMC). JWV is too small and lacks the staff necessary to significantly influence legislation. That is also true of many of the other groups in TMC. Working together, however, we are able to accomplish our legislative objectives.

The coalition has the expertise and the numbers!

On September 22nd, TMC honored Senator Patty Murray of Washington and Congressman Mac Thornberry of Texas. Senator Murray is a previous recipient of the JWV Medal of Merit. Congressman Thornberry is the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

JWV legislative issues of special interest for this year include maintaining the VA system. We need to advocate expanding VA's internal capacity. We want to see the Choice Program (P.L. 113-146) fully implemented.

We advocate for effective measures be taken against poorly performing VA employees regardless of union contracts or Civil Service rules and regulations. This alone is a reason some members of Congress are anti-VA.

JWV gives its full support for Blue Water Navy Veterans. Presumptive benefits should be provided to sailors that were exposed to harmful herbicides during Vietnam. PNC Jerry Blum provided outstanding testimony on this subject in his Congressional testimony.

VA waiting times continue to be unacceptable. JWV asks all our members to contact their members of Congress regarding this issue and demand that veterans be seen at the VA in a timely manner.

This year there will be major changes in the leadership of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. Chairman Jeff Miller will be retiring and Ranking Member Corrine Brown, having been indicted and having just lost the primary, is being replaced by Congressman Mark Takano in an acting capacity. We hope the incoming

leadership of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs will be effective, dedicated, and fully responsive to veterans' issues.

One of the most important events of any year is the Congressional testimony by our National Commander. Each year JWV has the opportunity to present our legislative priorities to a Joint Session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs. Therefore, our resolutions are at least seen by congressional staff and by many, if not all, members of both congressional committees. Our resolutions are an important part of this hearing. Furthermore, members of the Joint Session may ask questions or make comments about around resolutions.

Our Mission to Israel, from April 24-May 4, 2017, is another of our extremely crucial annual events. The mission demonstrates our support for the one and only democracy in the Middle East. Israel faces threats to its existence from Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas, and from many Islamist terrorist groups all too willing to murder innocent men, women, and children. Our mission provides insights to the security situation through meetings and informative briefings, as well as visits to interesting historical sites. For more information, please see page 21 or contact Christy Turner at [cturner@jwv.org](mailto:cturner@jwv.org) or at 202 265-6280, ext 417.

Please join with us on the River Walk in the heart of beautiful downtown, historic San Antonio. Next year at the Alamo!



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 121<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Continued from page 1

On Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, we were fortunate to have Michael Morley as our keynote speaker at the opening session. He spoke about three specific legal cases involving veterans' rights- the Stolen Valor Act, an Ohio veterans voting rights act, and the VA accountability act.

Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens addressed the protection of veterans' and National Guardsmen's rights under the law in the state of Georgia during the Second Business Session. USAA Wealth Managers Gilberto Villarreal and David Topper also gave an excellent presentation about legacy planning. They listed several easy steps that anyone can take to be financially prepared for their future, and the future of their families.

Major General Baruch Levy, now retired from TZEvet, also joined us to offer a briefing on Israel and the turmoil in the Middle East. He noted that Israel continues to be a beacon of light and progress in that area of the world, and those who seek to quench it will



**Murray L. Rosen Award Winner  
PNC Monroe Mayer.**

resolutions were passed, one was defeated on the floor, and two were defeated in committee. The passed resolutions can be found on the JWV website, on the homepage at [http://www.jwv.org/images/uploads/2016\\_Resolutions\\_-\\_Web.pdf](http://www.jwv.org/images/uploads/2016_Resolutions_-_Web.pdf).

Thank you to all those who submitted resolutions; to the committee and to Chairman PNC Michael Berman, thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Additionally, one change was passed to the Constitution and Bylaws. Article V, Section 1(a) now requires candidates for National Commander to be an active member in good standing for the current year and for the previous three years prior to the National Convention where the name is submitted.

The JWV Ladies Auxiliary met simultaneously, and participated in several projects that contributed to the Savannah community. They

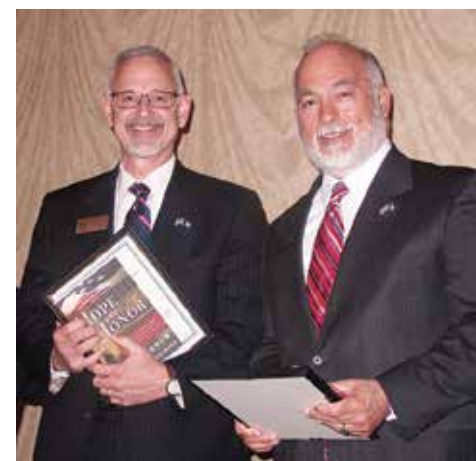


**JWV members from Florida at the Post Commander's Guide workshop.**

gave teddy bears to the police and fire departments and children's hospital, and presented special gifts to the local Ronald McDonald House and VA Medical Center. They also gifted new veteran moms with baby baskets. More about the Ladies Auxiliary can be found on pages 22-23.

This year's Convention featured new meetings dedicated to working in small groups to improve JWV's public materials. The Program Guide Workshop helped fuel the debate for what needs updating, editing or deleting. The workshop also included a broader discussion on how to improve program performance and member involvement at your Post. The Membership Workshop focused on reviewing and rating member

"stories" to help build effective recruitment materials. Participants in the All Commanders Workshop reviewed the Administrative Guide, created by the Membership Department, and provided feedback to help create this helpful book for guiding JWV leaders across the nation!



**Two of USAA's financial planners came and shared information about legacy planning.**



**COL Erwin Burtneck, Post 167-MD, presents Elsie Shemin-Roth with a certificate at the NMAJMH reception.**



**Members layed a wreath at the gravesite of the first Jewish burial plot in Savannah. From left; Steve Lodgen, NC Carl Singer, PNC Jerry Blum, and Sheila Berg.**

never be successful.

Many of the Committee reports on business conducted at Convention can be read on pages 16-17.

The Resolutions Committee worked to finalize JWV's Legislative Priorities. In total, 17



**Savannah Post Commander AJ Haysman offered greetings on behalf of his Post, and welcomed JWV to their beautiful city.**

We also had a great turnout for our second Social Media Workshop, where participants learned how to build an all-star online presence for their Posts and Departments.

Friday night concluded with a sold out Koshers Shabbat dinner. Members, friends, and family members alike were able to spend time together before heading to Friday night Shabbat services, which had its largest attendance to date for the memorial of PNC Robert Zweiman.

Over 160 people attended the National



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 121<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

## MICHAEL MORLEY, A TRUE FRIEND TO VETERANS

Professor Michael Morley of Barry University spoke at the National Convention Joint Opening as our keynote speaker. Professor Morley discussed his involvement in three court cases involving the rights of military veterans and applauded JWV's participation in pursuing legal action. He noted that veterans' groups such as JWV bring credibility to the arguments supporting veterans' rights due to veterans' unique perspective from their years of service and sacrifices.

The first court case, the United States vs. Alvarez, discussed the legality of Congress' 2005 Stolen Valor Act, which made it a federal offense to lie about receiving a military declaration or award, when no such honor had been given. Military awards are a symbol of national prestige and are granted in appreciation of acts of valor, sacrifice, or perseverance in the face of adversity. Lying about having one of these medals tarnished their value as well as the value of our veterans' service.

This case was brought before the US Supreme Court, and the Stolen Valor Act was struck down as unconstitutional due to it infringing on the right to free speech and being overly broad. Fortunately, with Congressional help, the act was revised to include the intent to gain something of value by committing this fraud and the Stolen Valor Act of 2013 was signed into law.

The second case involved the voting rights of military veterans in Ohio during the 2012 Presidential election. The Ohioan legislature enacted a statute that allowed residents to vote 42 days prior to the Friday before the election and allowed military veterans (both active duty and reserve) a few extra days when they alone could vote. This second clause was challenged with the justification that it broke the equal protection clause by not allowing everyone to vote on these extra days. In the end, although an appeals court ruled that you could not allocate special voting accommodations to military voters, disagreement has been expressed by courts in different jurisdictions and therefore the litigation is ongoing.



Professor Michael Morley

The third and final case involved the ability of the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to fire bureaucratic executives based on their performance or misconduct. The VA hospital in Phoenix, VA had been the epicenter of shameful revelations about the falsification of veteran health records and unjustifiable wait times. When evidence was revealed that the hospital's senior executive had been accepting thousands of dollars in gifts from Federal contractors in addition to lying under oath about said gifts, she was removed by the Secretary.

To streamline this lengthy termination process, Congress decreed in the 2014 Veterans Access Choice and Accountability Act that an administrative Judge would determine whether the firing was valid within three weeks. The defendant believed that this law violated the Constitution because the judge had not been appointed by a court, head of an executive department, or the President.

After the US Attorney General sent a letter to the Appeals Court agreeing with the defendant, JWV and other military groups intervened to fight for the legality of the law because the health of veterans was on the line. The outcome in this case is yet to be decided as it is still in litigation.

Professor Morley's presentation was truly excellent. We are grateful to Professor Morley for his presentation and for all the work he has done on behalf of veterans and JWV.



## JWV Foundation Grant Recipients

### Congratulations to the 2015-2016 recipients for the National Youth Achievement Award

#### Seymour and Phyllis Shore Memorial Grant

Jourdan Smithwick  
*Department of New York*

#### Robert and Rebecca Rubin Memorial Grant

Logan Pearlman  
*Department of Illinois*

#### Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant

Benjamin Porat  
*Department of New Jersey*

#### Edith, Louis, and Max S. Millen Memorial Athletic Grant

Ari Hollander  
*Department of Michigan*

### Congratulations to the 2015-2016 recipients for the National Achievement Award

#### Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant

Saveliy Yusuf - US Army

#### Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant

Matthew Adam Klein - US Navy

#### Max R. & Irene Rubenstein Memorial Grant

Arthur Shinder - US Navy

#### Leon Brooks Memorial Grant

Andrea Goldstein - US Navy

**From everyone at JWV,  
we wish you all the best!**



To learn more about JWVF's  
grant programs, go to:  
[jwvusafoundation.org](http://jwvusafoundation.org). The new 2017  
applications will be available from the  
website in November.

Commander's Banquet honoring Jerry Blum after which our new National Commander, COL Carl A. Singer, was installed.

Thank you to all speakers, participants, attendees, volunteers, and staff members for their help in creating such a great event. We hope to see you in San Antonio next year- our first time in Texas!

## Save the Date!

**122<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Convention**

**August 27-31, 2017  
San Antonio, Texas**

**(Commander's Banquet, Aug 31)**



# Congratulations to this year's JWV Award Winners!



## Department Awards

### Feureisen Award

*Doing the Most for Hospitalized Veterans*  
Department of Florida

### National Commander's Award

*Department Performing Outstanding Service*  
Department of New Jersey

### Edward D. Blatt Award

*Outstanding Department Commander*  
David Zwerin • Department of New York

### Joseph Demiany Memorial Award

*Scouting*  
Department of New York

### Outstanding Department Website

Department of Michigan

### JROTC Program of the Year

Department of California



## Council Award Winners

**I. T. Rockman Award - Hospitalized Veterans**  
Nassau Suffolk District Council • New York

**Service to Veterans Award - Service to State Soldier Homes / Veteran Memorial Homes**  
Nassau Suffolk District Council • New York

### National Commander's Awards

*Performing Outstanding Service*  
South Jersey Council • New Jersey

### Outstanding Council Website

Rockland Orange District Council • New York

## Post Award Winners

**Ben Kaufman Award - Hospitalized Veterans**  
Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256, TALO

## National Headquarters Award

### Community Relations Record

Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein- Florence Greenwald  
Post 1, NY

**Service to Veterans Award - Service to State Soldier Homes / Veteran Memorial Homes**  
Cherry Hill Post 126, NJ

### National Commander's Award

*Post Performing Outstanding Service*  
Fegelson-Young Feinberg Post 697, PA

### Brotherhood Award

*Greatest Contributor to Fostering Brotherhood*  
Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256, TALO

### Brenner- Jaffee Memorial Award -Post Bulletins

Monthly - PFC Frederick Hecht Post 425, NY  
Bi-monthly - Lt. Seth Dvorin Post 972, NJ

### Outstanding Post Website

Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126, NJ

### Vietnam Veterans Award

Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Epstein- Florence Greenwald  
Post 1, NY

**Judge Lawrence Gubow Memorial Award-Americanism**  
Gerald Alperstein - Post 1, NY

## Individual Awards

### Signing-up of New Members

Robert Richter, Post 126, NJ

### Membership Recruitment Awards

Group 1 - Martin E. Kirschenbaum Post 320, Southeast  
Group 2 - San Antonio Post 753, TALO  
Group 3 - Atlanta Bicentennial Post 112, Southeast  
Group 4 - Cherry Hill Post 126, NJ





# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

I spent the week at National Convention, along with Cindy Chambers, the National Membership Coordinator, listening, learning, and, most of all, motivating. Whether a PNC or rank-and-file member, everyone had something to contribute to our membership recruitment strategies and plans.

The official National Membership Report delivered at the National Executive Committee meeting boasted a promising outlook. The overall health of the organization improved. Our losses slowed over the last 12 months and our recruitment gains increased.

Member Year	2015	2016
New Recruits	355	390
Members Lost by Death	732	534
Members Lost by Non-Renewal	535	511

Given our 2015 numbers, we focused our efforts over the last year on recruitment and retention. At the start of Member Year 2016, we proposed an overly ambitious goal of cutting our losses by breaking even through increased recruitment. Our goal is to recruit one new member for every 15 current members. The basis for this lofty goal was that four members recruited 10% of the new members in 2015! If part of the re-

maintaining membership could be motivated, we felt the goal could be achieved. Our second goal was to improve retention rates by 50% through better communications at the Post level.

We did not meet our ambitious goals but we did very well, despite a slow start. Net losses were considerably cut compared to last year. Nineteen of the twenty-three Departments improved by either increasing their renewal rates or increasing their recruitment rates. The significance of this is that the recovery was broad based, not just a few Departments pulling up our averages.

Now in 2016, four members have recruited 60 new members, 15% of the total. As with last year, if a few motivated members could do that, then surely a few hundred members can recruit at least one new member. We didn't meet our 1 in 15 goal in 2016, but based on the energy at the National Convention, I believe we can do it this year.

That sort of energy and motivation leads to results. I would like to point out that Post 320, from our host city of Savannah, and Post 126, my Post in New Jersey, won membership increase awards. Post 753 from San Antonio, Texas, where next year's convention will be held, won as well. Each of these Posts were motivated to be shining examples for all echelons and they deliv-

ered. What is your Post's motivation?

Everyone who participated in recruitment and retention – we congratulate you! The results show that if everyone participates, we are capable of further reducing our losses and, slowly, but surely, making some gains.

At the Membership workshop, members worked in groups to rate personal JWV stories to be used as recruitment material. The work will continue through the fall and winter. Help us craft our message and use that energy to motivate your fellow members. This is our legacy. Everyone has a stake. Let's get to work.

Finally, I also had the pleasure of my Granddaughter Jessie, who is a Junior at the University of North Carolina, accompanying me for the first few days. Jessie has been attending the convention with me for a number of years and knows more of the attendees than I. I would be remiss in not highlighting her popularity. She was introduced to the JWV family at the age of nine when she accompanied me to Israel with our JWV mission eleven years ago.



## WHY AND HOW WE RECRUIT ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS

By George H. Heart, Post 122 GA

Post 112 in Atlanta, Georgia, is an active JWV Post, but just like many other Posts, it is aging and in need of new members, particularly younger members. So, we made the decision to put a significant portion of our resources and volunteer time toward outreach. We realized that we wanted to reach not only veterans, but also active duty military personnel who could bring in new life, new ideas, new faces...new energy! Our chosen tactic was hosting Onegs at military installations and academies.

We canvassed the many military installations in Georgia and found that Ft. Benning had an active Jewish military community. Each Sunday around 500 soldiers in Basic Combat Training ("Boot Camp") attend the Shacharit (morning) services and following Oneg. We contacted the Jewish chaplain and offered to sponsor the Oneg several times a year and were welcomed with open arms.

The Oneg is an opportunity to speak with 500 - 600 troops. For such a wide audience, we needed a snappy sales pitch. We developed an "elevator speech," no longer than 120 seconds, to pitch JWV to the troops. The highlights:

1. JWV has been active in fighting for Veterans rights for over 120 years.
2. Most of those attending this service will

become veterans at one point or another. JWV protects and provides access to veteran benefits;

3. Most importantly, we lobby Congress on their behalf and we do that right now! Thus, it is of their immediate interest, concern and applicability;

4. JWV is part of The Military Coalition, which lobbies Congress for such items as compensation, health benefits, Commissary and PX/BX benefits, housing privileges, and dependents benefits;

5. Your local JWV Post will connect you with the plethora of free services for active duty personnel (e.g. the Army Bar Association's pro bono work);

6. JWV educates the public about the



Post 112 "Operatives" handing out JWV applications at Ft. Benning, GA.

unique challenges military families and veterans face each day.

We seal the deal by appealing to their sense of honor – the only way we can accomplish these things is to have the loudest voice. Meaning, more members like them, so sign up! Then we drop on them the enormous cost service members pay for JWV membership - ZERO dollars. Finally, we inform them that we will have a sign-up table at the Oneg for free membership. With an abundance of applications and pens, at least two Post 112 members work the table at all times. Members also work the crowd, handing out applications and pens while socializing.

This outreach has worked very well for us, as we have recruited the most new members in recent history of our Post. Just last month we received the 2016 Post Membership Increase Award at the JWV Convention in Savannah, GA. This was entirely due to our Ft. Benning outreach program! But it goes beyond recruitment. We keep the new recruits involved through our Post 112 Facebook page. The seeds have been sown!

For more information on our "Operation Ft. Benning" program, or to get help to begin your own active duty outreach program, please visit and "like" the Atlanta, GA JWV Post 112 Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/jwvpost112](http://www.facebook.com/jwvpost112) or email us at [613heart@gmail.com](mailto:613heart@gmail.com).



# The Great War Centennial and the Modern Jewish War Veteran

By Rich Goldenberg, Associate Editor  
JWV Capital District Council

We veterans are a unique breed. We served a cause greater than ourselves and value the connections between our service, our sacrifice with fellow veterans, and especially those who came before us and those who follow in our boot steps.

This remains critically important in our upcoming commemoration of the Jewish veterans of World War I and their contribution to JWV and American Jewry.

America marks the centennial of its entry in WWI next spring on April 6, 2017, when more than two million Americans would serve on the battlefields of France, with some 50,000 making the ultimate sacrifice.

“In terms of the development, shape and attitudes of the American Jewish community, in some ways the First World War was as important as the Second World War,” noted Daniel Soyer, a professor of American Jewish history at Fordham University, back in June 2014 when the Great War’s centennial began in Europe.

The doughboys of WWI are lost to us now,



A family farewell as the nation goes to war. Private T. P. Loughlin of the 69th Regiment, New York National Guard, (165th Infantry) bidding his family goodbye. From the Department of Defense.

but it is worth remembering not just their military service, but the basic fact that these veterans from France came home and chartered many of the JWV posts that laid the foundation for JWV’s work in the 20th and 21st Centuries.

Not surprisingly, the role of Jewish servicemen in WWI was in a greater proportion to the wider Jewish community of the United States at the time.

In all, about 225,000 Jewish soldiers served in the US military during World War I, 40,000 of whom volunteered. About 2,800 Jews were killed in action or died of wounds in the fields of France.

Jews, who made up three percent of the United States population, contributed to four percent of the entire death toll of US Army. The number of Jews wounded was estimated at 12,000, according to the 1921 American Jewish Committee Office of War Records.

“During the year and a half of direct American involvement in the war, practically every American Jew had a family member, friend or neighbor who served or sacrificed in some way,” said Chris Sterba, a lecturer in Humanities at San Francisco State University as part of the Centennial commemoration.

Part of our nationwide JWV commemorations needs to recognize that critical role of Jewish veterans of WWI. It marked a key turning point in American Jewry that created a new sense not just of a Jewish identity, but of an American identity.

A good example of this is the story of Bencin Riseman, who joined the Massachusetts National Guard and, after service on the Mexican Border in 1916, saw the storm clouds of war on the horizon and recruited fellow Jews for his unit, Company H, Fifth Massachusetts Infantry, in Boston.

“Whatever may have been said about the Jewish soldier, I am willing to back him against all others for sobriety, loyalty, bravery and intelligence,” Captain Riseman said after the war. “I acted as rabbi for more than a thousand Jewish soldiers on the Mexican border, and therefore I know what they were able to do and how they responded to discipline. When they were given three days off for Passover, I was proud to see them all return at the end of the time as sober and in good shape as when they left. There is no better soldier, when well trained, than the Jew.”

Riseman could be the standard bearer of Americanism of his time. He served in the 26th Infantry “Yankee” Division along with his son Joseph, while his son Jay received an officer’s commission from the Harvard ROTC program. His daughter Rita served as a Red Cross nurse.

The Risemans became the bedrock upon JWV’s service to American Jewry and veterans in the 1920s and 1930s, facing the rise of anti-Semitism during the Red Scare and protesting fascism in Nazi Germany. They were all too familiar with the sacrifice required but knew that



Boston military family Joseph, Bencin, and Jay Riseman during the Great War. Courtesy of NMAJMH.

the voice of the American Jewish veteran was an important one.

These are important lessons and contrasts for JWV today.

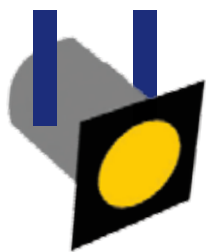
100 years ago, “shell shock” was the term for post-traumatic stress caused by endless hours spent under fire in the trenches of France. Wounded warriors were all too commonly seen as amputees. Returning veterans in 1919 were welcomed home as heroes, but still had challenges reintegrating into civilian life.

JWV helped these doughboys with that transition and helped focus returning veterans to the dual cause of promoting their unique Jewish and American identity. We carry on that work today, no less committed to our fellow veterans.

While the number of returning Jewish veterans today is much smaller in comparison to their doughboy counterparts of WWI, the Centennial commemorations next year remind us all that our work continues – to support veterans, to educate the community, and to confront anti-Semitism. In that regard we remain strong and committed and welcome the newest veterans to join the long line of Jewish patriots who came before.

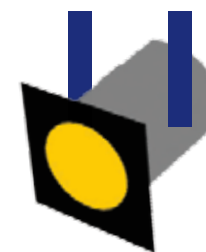
In this way, JWV continues its mission. We will increase our efforts to reach out to our newest veterans and continue the unbroken chain of Jewish military serving Jewish military (L’Dor V’Dor) that goes back to 1896 and will continue through the 21st century. We have 100 years of JWV service from the doughboys of the Great War to today to prove it.





# Spotlight on JWV Programs:

## National Service Officers



### *Learn how the program works and how to get involved!*

JWV understands the frustrations that can arise when filing a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The claims process can be confusing and one that service members and veterans shouldn't try to navigate alone. That's why JWV's National Service Officers Program was created.

It consists of a nationwide network of service officers who deal with the claims process and help thousands of veterans cut through the bureaucratic red tape every year. They are the key to success, recovering approximately \$1 billion in earned benefits and compensation for veterans each year. Service Officers help veterans develop their case with ease by reviewing and applying current law, pertinent legislation, regulations and medical histories. They assist in filing for disability compensation, rehabilitation and education programs, pension and death benefits, and employment and training programs. Furthermore, they won't hesitate to request hearings before the VA and the Board of Veterans Appeals to present oral arguments when needed.

Service Officers are with America's veterans every step of the way once they're ready to file a claim. This is a service the JWV is proud to offer--free of charge--to anyone seeking assistance with the claims process. It's a service our veterans have earned and deserve.

#### **JWV SERVICE OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:**

- Offer research and advice to veterans who wish to handle their own claims.
- Assist veterans who are filing original claims for compensation and/or pension with the Department of Veterans Affairs and complete the required
- VA forms on behalf of the claimant.
- Assist veterans in reopening claims for service-connected disabilities and complete the required VA forms.
- Follow up on status of claims filed by veterans with the VA Regional Office.
- File Notice of Disagreement with the VA

Regional Office if a veteran believes the decision made by the VA was incorrect.

- Review statements of the case from the VA regarding denials of claim and assist veterans with the preparation of responses.
- Assist veterans or surviving spouses in the preparation of appeals for denial of claims and file the appeals with the local VA Regional Office for forwarding to the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, DC.
- Complete VA Forms other than for original claims.
- Answer/research telephone inquiries regarding medical, death/burial and other miscellaneous benefits.

If you are interested in becoming a JWV National Service Officer or would like to speak with a service officer regarding a claim, please contact JWV National Headquarters at 202-265-6280.



## Ensure your online experience is a safe one!

Did you know that 93% of military families currently use Facebook to stay connected? Considering the prevalence of social media, it

is important for everyone to use it responsibly. Online safety includes everything from securing your personal data to ensuring your children and family exercise proper judgement in surfing the internet. Military service members face particular challenges because the United States' enemies use the internet to target military personnel, government officials, and their families. Please be sure to avoid opening suspicious emails or links!

#### **When surfing the internet or using social media, it is important to:**

- Avoid sharing seemingly innocuous personal information. Users with malicious intent can collect data from you and use it to create a fake profile. Only share personal information on trusted websites and with people whom you trust.

- Insecure networks or websites can leak your data. When you click on a link, ensure that you are going to where you intend to by carefully reading the website url.
- Never click on any suspicious popups or open any attachments in emails from strangers. Do not click on links that you do not trust.
- Be wary of pop-ups which display unusual security warnings, ask you to download programs such as antivirus software, or request personal information when you have not done anything to prompt such action.
- Malware and viruses spread most easily because of negligence. Be aware of what you plug into your computer and other devices because infected flash drives, external hard drives, and even smartphones can be used as malignant tools. Never plug anything into your device unless you trust its source or bought it yourself!
- Use strong passwords that have a combination of at least eight letters, numbers, and punctuation marks. Avoid common words or easily memorable passwords.

#### **How do I ensure that my computer, devices,**

#### **and accounts are protected from malicious users?**

- If you use a public computer, make sure that you log out of your accounts when you are done.
- Make sure you update your software programs and apps from their official sources to keep your security up to date.
- Occasionally clear your browser history and cookies through your browser settings.
- Rule of thumb: If something seems too good to be true, it probably is. If a link or email seems suspicious to you, do not open it under any circumstances.
- Secure your home WiFi network with strong and unique passwords so no one else can use it to snoop on your transmissions.

#### **Securing your mobile phone:**

- Lock your mobile phone with a passcode that only you know.
- Enable remote wipe (erasure of all your stored cellphone data) and location features to protect your privacy in case your device is lost or stolen.



# Outreach to the Next Generation

By Colonel Nelson L. Mellitz  
JWV National Chief of Staff

Change was in the air for the Jewish War Veterans at our 121<sup>st</sup> Annual National Convention. In every workshop, conference, and get-together we could hear people ask how we can interest non-member veterans and uniformed military in participating. A particular emphasis was placed on supporting and recruiting “younger” Jewish military members, veterans, and their families.

The Jewish American Warriors, an under 50 years-old group, is growing in numbers and addressing what is needed to support, recruit, and retain the younger military members and veterans into the Jewish War Veterans. In addition, the JWV Outreach Committee is in the process of working with the Jewish Welfare Board to

establish the “Jewish Chaplains Ambassador” program. We already have 25 active and reserve National Guard Jewish Chaplains, who are assigned all over the world, signed up as ambassadors. Just think of the outreach to younger uniformed military we can accomplish for JWV through this program! The Ambassador-Chaplains will be part of the growing Jewish American Warriors.

A continuous theme throughout the convention was that **FAMILIES MATTER**. Currently JWV has provided limited outreach to family members of uniformed military, other than an annual Post picnic and a possible Hanukkah Party. The younger military members have to balance family, work, deployments, demobilizations, social responsibilities, etc. How can

we help military families flourish in such a dynamic military environment?



## JWV Needs Your Help to Help Veterans

I'll conclude this article with a request! As you know, JWV supports all veterans in navigating the complex Department of Veterans Affairs system. Due to illness and deaths, JWV has only five active Veterans Services Officers (VSO) in the entire country. We need an estimated 35 trained VSOs helping veterans. If you are interested in becoming a VSO, please see page 11.

We hope you join us for JWV's Capitol Hill Action Day in February 2017 and the Allied Mission to Israel in April 2017!

## Maryland Public Television Pays Tribute to Vietnam Veterans

By Lt. Colonel Sheldon A. Goldberg, Ph.D.  
Docent/Historian, NMAJMH  
and

Mrs. Frances Minakowski, Special Assistant to the President and CEO of MPT

In September 2012, a task force met at Maryland Public Television (MPT) studios in Owings Mills, Maryland, to outline what became a \$1.9 million, three and a half-year project entitled MPT Salutes Vietnam Veterans. MPT had become a partner with the Department of Defense's 50th anniversary commemorative program and wanted to develop a program to thank the men and women of Maryland who had served in that war as well honor the nearly 1,017 Marylanders who were either killed or missing in action in that conflict.

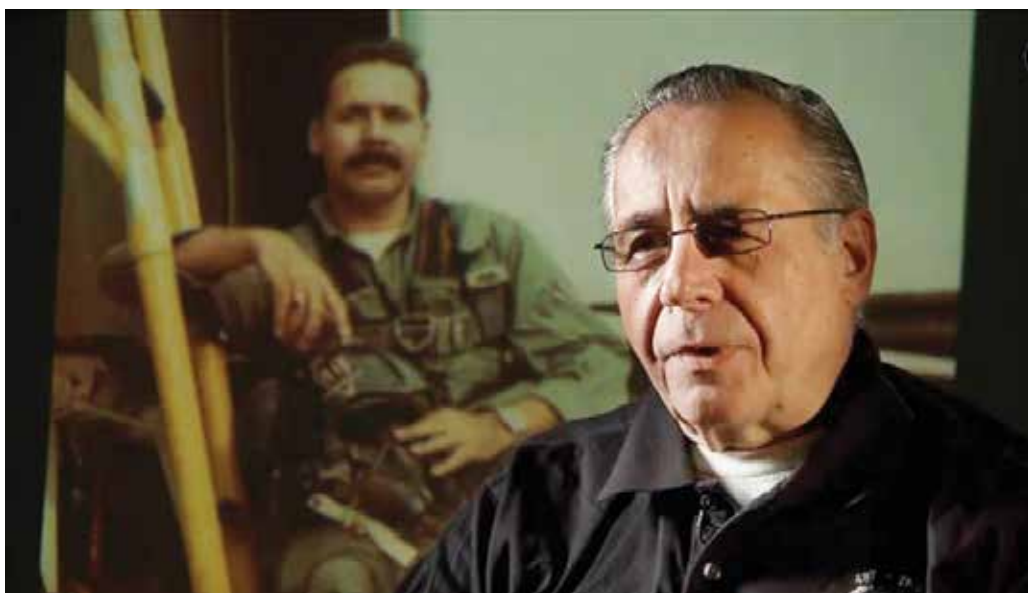
MPT saw the program as having two parts: the first would be a documentary entitled Maryland Vietnam War Stories and the second would be a two-day weekend event entitled LZ Maryland. The latter event would take place at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium on Father's Day weekend, June 18-19, 2016.

To produce the documentary, MPT selected its award-winning executive producer Ken Day. To meet veterans who might be invited to be taped for the film, MPT held 20 listening sessions all over the state during 2013-2015. Several hundred Vietnam veterans attended the sessions from whom 98 were invited to MPT studios for taping. Among the on-camera interviewees were two Jewish veterans, Lt. Colonel Sheldon Goldberg, USAF (Ret), Junior Vice Commander, Department of Maryland, JWV, a former F-4

Weapons Systems Officer who flew over 200 combat missions in Southeast Asia and Colonel David Brog, USAF (Ret), a former F-105 “Wild Weasel” Electronic Warfare Officer who flew 108 combat missions, 100 over North Vietnam. Both

appeared in segments of what became a three-hour documentary that first aired over three nights in May and has now been released nationwide under the name American War Stories: Vietnam. It can also be seen on the internet at <http://vietnam.mpt.org/film/>.

The two-day weekend event, LZ Maryland, took place on 18-19 June as planned and was attended by an estimated 16,000 veterans, families and other visitors. Among the events staged during the two days were military helicopter and military vehicle displays; the Wall that Heals, a travelling half-sized replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, along with letters and mementos from soldiers and their loved ones; a 140-foot map of Southeast Asia on which veterans wrote inscriptions; displays of military equipment; and musical entertainment from The



Lt. Colonel Sheldon A. Goldberg's story is told on MPT Salutes Vietnam Veterans.

Association, the Lovin' Spoonful, the Air Force Singing Sergeants, and a group from the U.S. Army Field Band, the Six String Soldiers.

A solemn part of the exhibition was the racetrack infield, filled with 1,017 white empty chairs for every Marylander who did not come home, and the culmination of a motorcycle “Honor Ride” that had 604 registered participants. When the riders arrived at the fairgrounds after an 11-mile trek, they executed a “throttle salute” for the fallen on a signal given by Maryland's Secretary of Veterans Affairs George Owings III. The event truly honored those Marylanders who served and those who did not return.

★ **mpt**  **SALUTES** ★  
**VIETNAM VETERANS**



By Falk Cantor, Post 100

On August 15, 1945, Captain Jerry Yellin flew in the last combat mission of World War II, an 8-hour flight in a P-51 from Iwo Jima to Japan for strafing runs over airfields near Tokyo.

Captain Yellin was raised in Hillside, New Jersey, where a childhood love of aviation led him to enlist as an Aviation Cadet on February 15, 1942, which also happened to be his 18th birthday. Although limited amount of information was known in his community about what was happening to the Jews in Europe, Jerry wanted to fight against the Japanese because of their attack on Pearl Harbor.

He made his first solo flight in a Stearman biplane and after months of intensive ground and air training graduated as a fighter pilot from Luke Air Field in Phoenix, Arizona, in August 1943. He was sent to Hawaii for advanced training in combat flying with the 78th Fighter Squadron and progressed from the Curtiss P-40 Kittyhawk to the P-47 Thunderbolt and finally the North American P-51 Mustang. On one of his more perilous training flights in the P-40, he was forced to bail out over the ocean and floated for nine hours in a life raft before being rescued.

On March 7, 1945, Jerry landed with his squadron on a dirt runway at the foot of Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi after the Marines had cleared enough land for an airstrip. His first missions were bombing and strafing runs on Iwo



A flight of P-51s from Iwo Jima with a B-29 on a long-range escort mission to Japan.

he made 19 long-range flights over Japan from Iwo escorting B-29 bombers until June, when the B-29s switched to night operations and thereafter ground attack missions.

Jerry was over Tokyo on August 6, 1945- the day the first atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

On August 15, he was again over Japan on a strafing mission - which turned out to be the last combat mission of the war because the Japanese announced their surrender the same day. On that mission, Jerry's wingman, 19-year old Phil Schlamborg of Brooklyn, NY, and the only other Jewish pilot in the 78th Fighter Squadron, was killed, thus quite possibly becoming the last combat death of WWII.

For his service, Jerry was awarded the Distinguished Cross with Oak Leaf cluster and the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf clusters.

Jerry returned to the States, married, had four sons, and eventually became a successful business man. However, he struggled with se-

vere undiagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and was haunted by images from the war and feelings of guilt about his survival because so many of his comrades did not make it back. It was not until 1975 that Jerry found peace and contentment through meditation techniques.

In 1982, Jerry traveled to Japan on a business trip and for the first time saw the Japanese as individuals and was struck by the country's beauty and serenity. His youngest son later moved to Japan and married a Japanese woman whose father fought for the Japanese military in WWII. Through his son's marriage and the joining of the two families, Jerry reconciled his feelings of hatred toward the Japanese and developed a deep friendship with his former wartime enemy. Jerry now has three Japanese-American grandchildren and makes frequent trips to Japan.

Jerry very eloquently tells this story in his book, *Of War & Weddings*, published in 1993 (republished 2009 by 1st World Publishing). Jerry is also the author of three other books related to his wartime and post-wartime experiences.

At 92, Jerry remains very active today, speaking with veterans and other groups to share his story and help bring healing and hope to a new generation of veterans who are battling PTSD.

He also serves as the national spokesman for Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the achievements of the WWII generation so that their example of courage, self-sacrifice, and "can-do spirit" will inspire current and future generations of Americans.



Captain Jerry Yellin, left, on Iwo Jima in front of his P-51 Mustang Dorrie R.

Jima in support of the Marines as they secured the island. Jerry participated in the first land-based fighter mission over Japan on April 7, in which 100 P-51s from Iwo Jima escorted over 400 B-29s. This was an 8-hour flight in a P-51, the longest fighter mission of the war. In total





Members of the JWV Capital District Council, Post 105 NY, and Post 106 NY came together for a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony at Congregation Agudat Achim. Post 105 Commander Paul Zonderman, center of photo in navy blazer, led the community in recognizing military veterans since the events of 9/11. Capital District Council Commander Rich Goldenberg and Post 105 Judge Advocate Gary Hoffmann, standing second and third from left, served at the World Trade Center with the New York Army National Guard's response and recovery efforts.



JWV Post 753 TX members (left to right) Herschel L. Sheiness, Eddie Duchin, Stanley Sherman and Mel Eichelbaum stand before Temple Beth El's World War II-era flag. The flag, originally dedicated in 1944, was re-dedicated during the Armed Forces Shabbat service on July 2nd, 2010. The names of Temple members who served during that war are inscribed on each star. Only one man whose name appears on the flag is still living.



Four top scholar/athletes from Cumberland County high schools were honored by Post 601 on June 5th at Beth Israel Congregation of NJ's 43rd Annual Olympiad Awards Breakfast. The awards breakfast has been held annually since 1974 to memorialize the nine Israeli athletes who were murdered by Arab terrorists at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany by recognizing the top scholar/athletes from five county high schools. From left: Steven Schimmel, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem Counties; Lauren Reed, from Millville High School; New Jersey Assemblyman Bruce Land; Dashawn Lamar-Baldwin, from Bridgeton High School; New Jersey Senator Dr. Jeff Van Drew; Hannah Bokma, from Vineland High School; and New Jersey Assemblyman Robert Andrzejczak.



The 71st Annual Convention of the Department of Rhode Island was held on Sunday, June 26, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, Rhode Island. From left to right, Department Commander Sanford Gorodetsky, guest speaker Captain Gilor Meshulam of Israel Defense Forces, Senior Vice Commander Ira Fleisher, and Junior Vice Commander Michael Penn.



Post 385 CA donated 550 lbs. of meat to the Command Chaplain at Camp Pendleton for military families in need.



Vietnam-Era Veterans from Post 605 KS participated in a Daughter's of American Revolution (DAR) Vietnam-era Veterans Recognition Ceremony in Topeka, Ks on Sat. Aug 27, 2016. Post 605 Vietnam-Era Veterans include (from left to right) Dr. Irv Cohen, Scott Bronston, Steven Schorr, Col Robert "Eric" Duke, Sheldon Turetsky, and Howard Noah.



Post 125 NJ participated in Long Branch's annual July 4th Oceanfest, which involved over 100,000 participants. From left to right, Henry Lewis, Jerry Levine, Commander Dr. Allen Solden, Sam Kaye, Sid Marshall, and Ray Cohen (seated).





National Scouting Chair Barry Schneider of Post 755 TX presented Asher Kogutt with a Certificate of Achievement and letter of congratulation from PNC Jerry Blum, in honor of his accomplishment of reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, the Boy Scouts' highest recognition of achievement. Asher began his Boy Scout career at Troop 729, which is sponsored by Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, TX.



10,000 people gathered at Eisenhower Park, Nassau County, Long Island, NY for a "Salute to Israel Night" and a fantastic concert by DuDu Fisher. From left: Steve Ratnoff, VVA, David Gorkin, Post 652, Jack Holzman, Post 169, Gary Glick, Commander Post 652, Ed Mangano, Nassau County Executor, Avidor Hercz, Post 652, Rabbi Paul Swerdlow, Post 488, Bill Newman, Post 652, Unknown volunteer, Bob Sandberg, Post 336, Unknown volunteer.



The Veterans Hall of Fame was created by the State Senate "to honor and recognize outstanding veterans from the Empire State who have distinguished themselves both in military and civilian life. NY State Senator Brad Hoylman [center] with the delegation from Post 1 NY at its induction into the State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame on May 24 at the Legislative Office Building in Albany. From left, Jerry Alperstein, Sara Alperstein, Diana Glass, and Gerard Petite. Photo credit: Jerry Alperstein.

Post 373 FL took 18 veterans from Haley's Cove to see the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Toronto Blue Jays and provided box lunches and drinks for the attendees. In conjunction with the attendance of the veterans, the Post Honor Guard acted as the Color Guard at Tropicana Field for the opening ceremonies. The Honor Guard consisted of Jim Marenus, Jack Rudowsky, Boris Stern, and Sam Rosenbleeth, pictured above with Rays announcer and analyst Orestes Destrade, who requested to meet with the Guard after the game to thank the group for their service.



On July 6, 2016, representatives of Post 735 MA presented a check in the amount of \$1,900 to Richard Leeman (center left), at the Brockton Campus of the Veterans Administration Boston Healthcare System, from funds Post 735 collected during their Memorial Day solicitation. Since 2009, Post 735 has raised over \$22,000 for this organization, benefiting hospitalized veterans. The representatives of Post 735 are Paul Triber (far left), Post Commander Col Jeffrey Weitzenkorn, USAF (ret) (center right), and Paul Maltzman (far right), Post 735's quartermaster.



Post 336-NY displayed their patriotism and raised awareness of the contributions of Jewish veterans when they marched in the 2016 Fourth of July parade held in Port Jefferson, New York.

Post 609 NJ Color Guard led the entire Concordia community at the annual July 4th ceremony. Some of the WWII members of Post 609 were the first troops that liberated Buchenwald and Bergen-Belsen. Concordia in Monroe Township has the largest population of Holocaust survivors in the country. From left to right front row, Bernie Passer, Ralph Goodman, Maurice Fass, Goldsmith. In the back row from left to right is Arthur Adler and Arthur Seltzman.





# NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

## Women in the Military

By E.G. (Jerry) Farris, Co-Chair

The Women in the Military committee held its first ever meeting at this year's Convention in Savannah. Opened to all genders, about six men came to the meeting. Led by Sheila Berg of Post 239 PA, the discussion focused on ascertaining the number of female veterans who are members of JWV, and if there are any veterans within our Auxiliary.

The issue of homelessness among female veterans, especially those with children, was identified as a major problem. It was suggested to have a letter go to JWV female veterans to see if there were other concerns. This meeting was a fact-finding session. Once goals have been established, we will contact other Veterans organizations about their involvement with female veterans. It is our desire to be able to put together a program which can be implemented in all echelons across the country to address and meet the needs of homeless female veterans and their families.

## Support Our Soldiers Program

By Perry Levine, Co-Chairman

When deployed soldiers receive a package from a veterans' service organization, it lets them know that we are aware they are in harm's way and we are supporting them, and it greatly aids in our efforts to recruit future members.

In my previous reports you have heard me request each Department Commander appoint a SOS Program Liaison Officer. A person to be the 'eyes and ears' of the SOS Program who would notify us if they learn of a deployed unit that would appreciate some items from home.

I'm pleased to report the following have so far volunteered to be the SOS Program Liaison Officer from their Department:

- Department of PA – PNC Louis Abramson
- Department of TALO – PDC George Sepp
- Department of New Jersey – DC Al Adler

If you would like more information about the SOS Program or in volunteering to be a Department Liaison, please send an email to [jwv@jwv.org](mailto:jwv@jwv.org).

## Development Committee

By PNC Monte Mayer, Chairman

Prior to National Convention opening, the NEC always meets. This year, again, all the regular Committees made their semi-annual reports. Our Committee did as well, and reported on the first three direct mail programs of the year- our popular annual calendar, followed by mailing labels. At this time, both are finished, as well

as the "Defenders" mailing to our Donors only. Members do not receive this mail, as it is directed at our supporters.

Our next mailing will be the High Holiday cards, prepared by Jack Oliver and demonstrating the artwork of Israeli artist Smadar Livne. If you do not receive our Direct Mailing, it means you have not sent a contribution in the past. They are not the benefits of membership, as this paper is, but a source of funds to help support our organization and the wonderful things we do. Call, write, or e-mail our National Office to donate in order to receive the mailings again.

Again, we depend on you to tell us your military story. For every infantry man, sailor, or flier on the line, there were 10 more behind him or her, for supply, medical, drivers, mechanics and the like. They too, have a story to tell, and we would like it for publication. Please send pictures and a short story to our National office and help us to keep publishing your history. It is our duty and function to let the world know of the contributions of Jewish war veterans to the story of America.

## Allied Mission to Israel



By PNC Maxwell Colón,  
Chair of Allied Mission to  
Israel

As the next generation of the Jewish War Veterans, it is imperative that we make our upcoming 2017 Allied Veterans Mission to Israel a fantastic success. A triumphant mission will help invigorate our organization for years to come, but to do so, we need your help.

We must have a clear purpose in sending Allied Veterans to Israel. We must send highly qualified and visible non-Jewish leaders to Israel so they can gain direct and personal experience. It is so important that we send leaders to Israel because they are bombarded with propaganda and disinformation everyday by the media. We must prove to the world that terrorism will not succeed through its manipulation of the media. You, the JWV leadership and members, are a vital part of this obligation.

Through this trip, we will foster a succinct understanding of Israel's needs and its status in our world. Candidates should be leaders and policymakers from within the ranks of large veterans' organizations. Our ideal choice for participants are past national commanders, department commanders, and past state commanders.

To accomplish these goals, it is everyone's responsibility to get involved in the process by contacting friends, relatives, Posts, Department members, and most of all, outside associates to join JWV on this memorable trip to the Holy Land. Although funding is tight, we must pri-

oritize and support this mission. Soliciting major donors in your community who recognize this worthwhile objective for contributions is a useful source for support. (It is important to note that you do not have to be Jewish or a veteran to join us on this trip- all are welcome!)

Once our Allied Veterans return from Israel, they act as ambassadors of goodwill by expressing their first-hand knowledge to fellow veterans, the community, and to those in Congress who are concerned with American and Israeli security interests in the Middle East. Be sure to invite these leaders to speak at your Posts and Department membership when they return. Only by countering negative stereotypes and impressions can we effectively change people's negative perceptions towards the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

This trip acts as an eye-opener for the Allied Veterans that we send and we should not allow our support for Israel to waver. This trip depends on your involvement, so please gauge the interest of appropriate people in your communities so JWV can make our next trip the best it can be.

## Scouting Committee



By Barry Schneider, National  
Scouting Chairman

For the first time ever, the Scouting committee, in conjunction with the JROTC committee, met at a convention

work shop.

The general concept is that Scouts and JROTC students are more likely to join the military than those not involved in these activities. The future of JWV lies with the youth of our country who elect to serve. It is imperative that we as an organization make ourselves known to this group. We must ensure that our youth know who we are and where we came from. They must also know our mission and how we can be of service to them while they serve on active duty and later as veterans.

New initiatives of the BSA National Jewish Committee on Scouting include partnering with community Jewish organizations such as JWV. Emphasis was placed on increased involvement by JWV members in various capacities with Scouting Units. JWV offers Certificates of Achievement to scouts who earn the Eagle rank. These certificates are presented at the scout's Eagle Court of Honor by a JWV member to any scout regardless of the religious faith. This is just one way we get our name out into the community.

In summary: Teach our children while they are young and they will not stray from the path.

For more information on how you can be involved contact me: Barry Schneider, National Scouting Chairman at [Dr\\_barrys@yahoo.com](mailto:Dr_barrys@yahoo.com).



# NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

## VAVS

By Jerome Berns, National VAVS Representative

I have served as your VAVS National Rep, Coordinator, and Certifier for quite a number of years. Once again I want to thank our VA volunteers for their devotion to our veterans. As the years go by, many of our volunteers are getting older and it becomes increasingly harder to participate, but somehow they persist.

As the National Representative, one of my responsibilities is to communicate with the

Chiefs of Voluntary Service at VA hospitals throughout the country. They have nothing but praise for this organization's volunteers. In May, I represented JWV at the 70th Annual National Advisory Committee Meeting and Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where I attended classes and met with Chiefs and people from many other organizations. I have to tell you that JWV is well known all over the country for what we do and our contributions to VA hospitals and clinics. I continue to be proud to represent the Jewish War Veterans.

Every year I talk about an outstanding VA hospital. I received an email from Yvette Rodriguez, the Chief of Voluntary Service at the Hudson Valley Healthcare System VA in Montrose, NY, at the Castle Point and FDR campuses. She offers nothing but praise for JWV member Robert Rubin: "He is dedicated and demon-

strates unsurpassed enthusiasm. Rob is a volunteer and a leader at *My HealtheVet Program*."

Yvette reports that 90% of our veterans have enrolled into this program, which is the VA's online personal health record that was designed for Veterans, active duty Service Members, their dependents and caregivers. It provides opportunities and tools to make informed decisions and manage your health care. She says this would not have been possible without Rob's efforts. JWV at Castle Point has contributed nearly 7,000 volunteer hours and has also raised \$32,155 for the hospital.

Another great volunteer is Bernie Storch. Bernie always greets and serves all persons, regardless of faith. Working alongside Bernie from his own district members are Alan Moskin, Al Zeilberger, and PNC Sheldon Ohren. The JWV Ladies Auxiliary is also an integral part of the volunteers. They are instrumental in being there for our veterans.

Hats off to the Montrose volunteers and God Bless America.

JWV Post 510 MI presented a check for \$1,000 to VA Hospital Director Edward Dornoff (far left) at the newly remodeled Battle Creek Veterans Hospital Intensive Care section. Post 510 has made an annual visit to the hospital for the past 25 years. Pictured are Post Commander Larry Berry, Jerry Order, Marc Manson, Steven Haas, Art Fishman, and Joe Goldring.



## Are you prepared for the unexpected...

**Whether on duty, on vacation or just running errands, an accident can happen at any time—and the lives of those closest to you could be left in financial hardship.**

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

You can help your family be prepared for a tragic accident by selecting benefits that best meet your financial needs: from **\$50,000 to \$500,000**.

Eligible JWV members under age 70, spouses and children are guaranteed acceptance into the plan.

The JWV AD&D Insurance Plan offers:

- **Guaranteed acceptance.** As an eligible member, you cannot be turned down, regardless of health conditions.
- **Benefits for military air travel** up to \$150,000.
- **Additional benefits paid** for common carrier, common disaster, and use of seat belt and airbag.
- **Additional benefits paid** to help cover expenses such as dependents' education, injury rehabilitation, day care, elderly care and more.
- **Competitive rates** negotiated by JWV.
- **30-Day Free Look**, no questions asked.

To learn more about how the JWV AD&D Insurance Plan can help you<sup>†</sup>, call **1-800-503-9230** or visit [www.jwvinsure.com](http://www.jwvinsure.com).



<sup>†</sup>Information includes costs, exclusions, eligibility, renewability, limitations and terms of coverage. Coverage not available in some states.

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# NEW MEMBERS

## POSTS NOT AFFILIATED WITH A DEPARTMENT

Jonathan Freeman-77 • Paul Goldman-344

## DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Scott Dunn-100 • Everett Joseph-100 • Russell McAlmond-100 • Jerome Perry-100 • Garlin Pillgrim-100

## DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Les Adelman-138 • Sheldon Balzac-138 • Jerome Brownstein-138 • Ted Goldberg-385 • Robert Huntly-138 • Robert Karbel-138 • Zoe Rachel Kreitenberg-760 • Kenneth Lepore-385 • David Vallens-138 • Sheldon Winston-603 • Fred Zimmerman-118 •

## DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Eric Feinberg-45

## DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

Ole John Hausken-767 • Richard Ivins-525 • Barry Kittinger-525

## DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Stanley Appel-172 • Jerry Barson-300 • William Beck-352 • Jerome Camens-172 • Steven Elias-243 • Alan Goldfarb-172 • Melvin Harf-352 • Robert Klein-300 • Harvey Lee-819 • Richard Mabel-819 • Alvin Morris-172 • Robert Nossen-202 • Phillip Paley-606 • Manis Sax-400 • Jay Taitelman-606 • Samuel Vilker-631 • Joel Weissman-338

## DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Jerry Shifrin-153 • Richard Small-29 • Joseph Wrobel-29 • Scott Zonis-54

## DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Samuel Karlin-140 • Maurice Marcus-211

## DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Daniel Bilow-692 • Allan Darrow-167 • Scott Goldman-167 • Stanley Rodbell-167 • Leonard Safran-167 • Milton Swartz-692 • Marshall Tanhoff-167

## DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Daniel Fernquist-135 • Daniel Hoffer-510 • Stanford Singer-135

## DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Paul Darling-605 • William Greenberg-605 • Larry Martasin-605 • Howard Noah-605

## DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Leonard Becker-609 • Stanley Brown-178 • Stanley Blechman-609 • William Carr-39 • David Davis-609 • Barry Falk-609 • Peter Finnegan-39 • Joseph Freed-39 • Linda Janelli-39 • Leonard Lafer-47 • Nathan Langer-536 • Norman Magaziner-39 • Erwin Meller-311 • Mitchell Radinsky-651 • Melvin Schwartz-536 • Stephen Sunshine-126 • Herman Sklar-651

## DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Vanessa Hopgood-64 • Ben Zano-64

## DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Justin Abualjadail-1 • Irving Baum-625 • Richard Firestone-336 • Gary Ginsburg-41 • George Goodman-336 • Donald Jacobson-46 • I. Bruce Messinger-25

## DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Marc Becker-44 • Charles Kardon-587 • Charles Zeitler-44

## DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Simeon Leonard Shufler-499

## DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Stephen Petti-23

## DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Edwin Feiler-320 • Melvin Haysman-320 • Don Kole-320 • Gustave Kreh-320 • Rabbi Barry Leff-608 • Luis Leon-320 • Gary Levenson-320 • Gary McGoffin-320 • Marvin Rappaport-320 • Allan Ratner-320 • Steven Roth-320 • Stuart Schlansky-112 • Larry Zaslavsky-320 • Michael Zoller-320

## DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Allen Honig-194

## DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Benjamin Chun-753 • Malcolm Cohen-256 • Eddie Garcia-749 • Robert Glosser-256 • Thomas Jones-618 • Gabriel Koshinsky-749 • Bruce Mark-256 • Benjamin Wasserman-753 • Sarah Williams-749 • Ted Wernick-618

## DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Irving Bienstock-765 • Marvin Callif-765 • Jeffrey Halick-95 • Harvey Klipper-765 • Franklin Paul-765 • Stephen Valley-95

## DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Gerald Gersen-145

## JWV Post Commander Performs Wedding Ceremony for Army Sgt on Active Duty

Judge Sol Gothard, Commander of Post 580 LA, recently performed the wedding ceremony of Sgt Jacob Ginsberg and Kristin Pepper at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Harley Ginsberg in Metairie, LA. Judge Gothard began the ceremony by stating:

*"In the 44 years since I was first elected Judge and have since presided over many weddings, this is the first time I am officiating for a member of the armed forces on active duty, and the first time during said ceremony, that I wear my Commander's cap of the Jewish War Veterans of America. I do so in your honor, Sgt Jacob. You make me and everyone else in this room today, proud and grateful to you for defending us."*

Sgt Ginsberg was born and raised in New Orleans, and graduated from Tulane University in 2012. Several months after graduating, he enlisted in the US Army. After basic training, he earned the military occupational specialty of 15T: UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter Maintainer. After being stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY, as part of the storied 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), he was deployed to the unforgiving, mountain-



ous northeast Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan for a nine-month tour of combat duty as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. During this time, he was promoted to Sergeant, but also declined opportunities to become a commissioned officer because he loves his line of work and desires continuing his military career on this tract.

Ms. Pepper was also born and raised in New Orleans. In high school, she excelled on the track team and although she participated in several events, she focused on pole vaulting. She then attended Jacksonville State University in Alabama and earned a bachelor's of science in criminal justice with a concentration on forensic investigation. After graduating cum

laude, she pursued a Masters of Criminal Justice at Loyola University, graduated top of her cohort, and received the "academic scholar" award.

Always searching for new members, Judge Gothard was especially pleased that Sgt Ginsberg joined Post 580, and that his father, Dr. Harley Ginsberg, joined as a Patron.



# Israeli Innovations in Combatting Veteran PTSD

Continued from page 1

tary participation in the United States and Israel are greatly different. According to the New York Times and Al-Monitor, while less than 0.5% Americans serve in the military, anywhere between 50-60% of Israelis will serve to protect their nation. This disparity illustrates the fundamental dissimilarity between American and Israeli society, specifically that the latter faces a resilient enemy which is dedicated to eradicating its existence. Ironically, the fact that Israel remains under siege by antagonistic forces has helped increase Israelis' receptiveness to veteran trauma and has consequently eased their transition back into civilian life. Since the majority of Israelis have served in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), veterans live amongst those whom understand their experiences and share their defense burden. Likewise, Israelis recognize that their service directly ensures their collective longevity. In contrast, the United States was not existentially threatened by the wars in Vietnam, Iraq, or Afghanistan and although this admission does not devalue the sacrifices of American veterans, it has repercussions for them as they rejoin civil society.

Furthermore, the IDF has decisively acted

to ensure that their veterans are strong, both of mind and body. As the head of the clinical branch of the IDF's mental health department, Lt. Col Dr. Ariel Ben-Yehuda, succinctly explained on the IDF's blog, "We believe that a good soldier is measured not only by his or her physical skills, but also by his or her healthy mind." To bring this notion to fruition, the IDF has implemented the MAGEN ("shield" in Hebrew) program, which places the onus for rehabilitating traumatized soldiers on their fellow soldiers, not solely medical professionals. By utilizing mental health training at the individual level, soldiers can more easily recognize when their fellow squad mates are suffering from emotional trauma and communicate about their problems. To supplement this, Israeli teams will often meet with psychologists after missions which stress communication and improve their mental resilience.

Additionally, according to an article by the Ottawa Citizen titled "How the Israel Military is Attacking PTSD," over thirty years ago the IDF created a separate mental health department and more recently put a senior officer specifically in charge of combatting PTSD. To bolster this initiative, the IDF has integrated two mental health professionals into fighting units and specifically trained commanders "in the language of resilience training." This allows mental health practitioners to seek out soldiers whom are in need of help, rather than waiting for the soldiers to seek treatment themselves. Moreover, by stressing primary prevention as part of a "mental health gym" in every unit, the IDF is adjusting soldiers' perceptions towards understanding that one's mind can be trained to withstand stress and trauma like one exercises their body. Similarly, this dynamism has reduced the stigma that exists alongside mental health problems within the Israeli military. As higher level commanders have been incorporated into these programs, the perception that seeking help is not a sign of weakness is being encouraged and gaining traction. These programs have the potential to positively alter Americans' misconceptions about veterans and mental health issues, concerns which have been cited as causing American veterans to not seek treatment.

Although it remains a work in progress, Israel is experiencing success in combatting PTSD. Correspondingly, the United States is closely monitoring developments and cooperating with the IDF, universities, and NGOs to discover innovative methods to tackle this affliction. For example, Judy Siegel-Itzkovich of the Jerusalem Post wrote in July that the IDF in cooperation with Tel Aviv University has recently begun training its soldiers to better perceive threats in their environments using computers, lowering their risk of developing PTSD three-fold. These

kinds of preventative innovations have the potential to change how the American military prepares its soldiers to deal with the brutalities of modern warfare and help them heal after experiencing trauma.

## PTSD and Mental Health Resources for Service Members and Families

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

- **Military OneSource** - a free 24-hour hotline and website that is run by the Department of Defense for Service Members and their families to help with a range of concerns, including mental health issues. Call 800-342-9647 or online at: [www.militaryonesource.mil/](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/)

- **National Resource Directory** - one of the largest online collections of government and non-government resources specifically designed for service members, veterans, families and military caregivers, with a particular emphasis on resources for wounded, ill and injured service members. With a unique collection of more than 17,000 organized and vetted resources, the NRD provides information on a variety of topics, including benefits and compensation, education and training, family and military caregiver support, health, homeless assistance, housing, and other services and resources. Online at: [www.nrd.gov](http://www.nrd.gov).

- **Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE)** - provides informational resources about psychological health, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and traumatic brain injury. Call 1-866-966-1020 for their 24-hour hotline or email [resources@dcoeoutreach](mailto:resources@dcoeoutreach).org for more information.

- **Department of VA** - offers free, online training courses that are designed to help veterans get a better handle on life's challenges. For help dealing with Anger & Irritability Management Skills, Parenting, and PTSD, go to: [www.veterantraining.va.gov](http://www.veterantraining.va.gov).

## PEOPLE & PLACES

- Mazel Tov to Jerry Farris, of Post 239 PA, who spent the month of June training for a 5k, and was the oldest participant in the race at a young 71 years old.

- A huge congratulations to Selwyn "Buddy" Epstein of Post 717 NY on being inducted into the New York State Veterans' Hall of Fame by Senator Todd Kaminsky. A Korean War veteran of the Army, Epstein remains very active in his local community at the Long Island State Veterans Home, the Long Beach Soup Kitchen, and South Nassau Communities Hospital.

- Special shout out to JWV and Auxiliary Post 256 TX for the exemplary publicity their Post has been receiving this year!

## REUNIONS

- The USS Waldron DD-699 will be holding its annual reunion in Houston, TX from April 27-May 1, 2017, at the Doubletree by Hilton at the Houston Hobby Airport. For more information, please go to [www.usswaldron.org](http://www.usswaldron.org) or contact Ron Wells at [hughronwells@yahoo.com](mailto:hughronwells@yahoo.com) or 512-282-4507.

*Has your Post been in your local paper? We want to know! Send the website information or article to [jgreen@jwv.org](mailto:jgreen@jwv.org).*



By Julian Haber, Post 755 TX

Post 755, of Fort Worth, TX, has had a busy year! In June, the Post held its annual installation and awards breakfast at Beth El Congregation. Our four surviving charter signees, Irv Raffel, Ken Sherwin, Rabbi Sidney Zimelman, and David Karsner were given framed copies of the original charter at the awards breakfast. The MRJ of Beth Congregation were given an award for service to the post as they have supplied us with brunch at our installations for more than ten years and have refused remuneration of any kind.

Among the Post's activities this past year was continued sponsorship of the Liberty House, a facility for homeless veterans. This included refurbishing the living room and various other areas, and supplying a large barbecue and freezer. When the men leave the facility they can get an apartment, but many of them are unfurnished and therefore Post 755 supplied a bed, couch, and a kitchen set to get them on the right track!

The Post sponsors scholarships to needy vets at a local community college, and also supplies a book loan fund at two different campuses. At the above event, Mrs. Valerie Groll, the Veterans Success Councilor at Tarrant County College, was given the Morton Herman Service to Veterans Award for her dedication, service, and care for the veterans at this college system.

In addition, we sponsor and work with JROTC programs in the cities of Mansfield, Arlington, Fort Worth, and Plainview. Additionally, in cooperation with Trinity Habitat for Humanity, we helped refurbish a home for an elderly veteran.

Other projects included sending food and gifts to troops overseas for Chanukah and Passover, as well as contributing funds for siddurs for veterans.

Military honors are given to all deceased JWV vets in our area, and flags are placed on graves for Memorial Day. The Post also participates as a color guard for various community celebrations and holidays.

Post 755 also recently received a grant to publish a reprint/revised version of our publication, "They Were Soldiers in Peace and War Vol. I and II" by Dr. Julian Haber. The book contains interviews of more than one hundred North Texas Veterans from WWII through current conflicts. It also contains chapters on early Jewish American military history from pre-colonial times to WWI, women in the military, the clergy, World War II, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam, Radical Islam, and the Yugoslavian Wars. The books are donated and given free of charge to all b'nai mitzvahs in our county. As part of the grant, the books are also distributed to high schools in Fort Worth, Mansfield, Arlington, Texas Christian University, and Tarrant County College (all campuses) among others.

*[Editor's Note: We encourage all Posts and Departments to get involved in their local community! The mitzvahs of Post 755 are a wonderful example. Does your Post do something similar? Let us know by sending a short article (500 words or less) and photos about the Post's involvement in the community and helping others to [jgreen@jwv.org](mailto:jgreen@jwv.org).]*

Veterans service organizations (VSO) have been pressuring lawmakers to include an amendment in the National Defense Authorization Act that protects service-members with mental illnesses, such as PTSD, from receiving a less-than-honorable discharge for things that are out of their control and directly correlated to their time in the service.

At a news conference on Tuesday, September 12th, JWV National Commander COL Carl Singer and National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleth joined other VSOs and veteran advocates in the shadow of the Capitol dome to decry this situation, despite the 90 degree Washington heat.

According to Stars and Stripes, "about 22,000 veterans with mental illness received less-than-honorable discharges ... since 2009." Recipients of this "bad paper" are unable to access veterans' benefits, including health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs and using the GI Bill for education benefits.

Legislation entitled the Veterans Fairness Act was attached to the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), with unanimous support. Similar legislation must pass the House of Representatives – better yet, an interim executive order would expedite the resolution of this situation.

The amendment would require the Department of Defense to create panels that review discharges to consider medical evidence from the veteran's health care provider. Each panel would be required to review every case presuming post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or sexual assault trauma led to the discharge.

Veterans who received a less-than-honorable discharge were also present, and some shared their stories. One Marine was suffering from PTSD symptoms, and used marijuana while on leave to self-medicate. After he was caught, he received a less-than-honorable discharge and lost access to his GI Bill benefits, state veterans grant, signing bonus, service-related injury compensation, and eligibility for VA health care.

### Department of New Jersey Grant Recipients



To learn more about the grant opportunities offered by the Department of NJ, visit their website at <http://www.jwv-nj.org/jwv/> and click on the "Forms and Resources" tab to find the grant form.



Scholarship Chairman Mort Millinger, left, awarded Harrison Slobodien with one of the Department of New Jersey's annual education grants. NJ Department Judge Advocate Henry Wolff, and NC COL Carl A. Singer (far right) were also present.



Another grant recipient, Jorden Ober, with Scholarship Chairman Mort Millinger.

### GovTrack.us

At GovTrack.us you can check the status of federal legislation and find information about your representative and senators in Congress. Learn whether or not your representatives voted, and how they voted. <https://www.govtrack.us/>



# JWV's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Mission to Israel

Monday, April 24 - Thursday, May 4, 2017

*If you have always promised yourself you would visit Israel one day, what are you waiting for?*

Israel is an amazing country to visit any time of the year, but to be present during Yom Hazikaron, Memorial Day, and Yom Haatzmaut, Independence Day, is a special treat. We are excited to present a **brand new itinerary**, with stops in Tiberias, Akko, and the Golan Heights!

Arrive to pleasant temperatures in the 60s-70s, and experience Israel's 69th birthday and a field briefing about the Gaza Strip, in addition to classic sites such as Jerusalem's Old City, Masada, and Nazareth.

You do not have to be Jewish or a veteran to travel with us- bring your friends and family! All are welcome to join us on this wonderful adventure to visit sites off the beaten path of a typical trip to Israel, meet local Israelis and their leaders, and enjoy comradeship with fellow veterans and new friends.

Some new highlights include Akko (Acre), a city that has existed continuously for about 4,000 years. Here you will find the traces of a great many nations and religious movements ranging from the Canaanites, the Romans, and the Byzantines- although today the city is well known for its Crusader fort and history! We will also be stopping in Tiberias, a beautiful waterfront city on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee, and visiting an Iron Dome anti-missile battery outside of Sderot.

## Trip overview:

**Monday, April 24** - Nonstop flight by El Al from JFK.

**Tuesday, April 25**- Arrival Tel Aviv. Panoramic city tour and check in to our beach front hotel.

**Wednesday, April 26** - Meeting with US Military Attache, and a briefing at TZEvet followed by a Tel Aviv city tour including the Palmach Museum or Rabin Center.

**Thursday, April 27** - Drive south to the town of Sderot. Meet Brig. Gnl. (Res.) Shalom Harari for a field briefing about Gaza Strip. Visit an Iron Dome anti-missile battery. On the way to Jerusalem, a short stop at the 9/11 memorial.

**Friday, April 28** - Full day in Jerusalem. We start the day at Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust and a world renowned research center on Holocaust Studies. As you enter this place, you walk from dark to light, to remind us that the Jewish people survived from darkest of times to the light of Jerusalem.

We will also visit the Israel Museum, house of the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea scrolls are exhibited. There is also a world-famous model of Jerusalem during the Second

Temple time and the time of Jesus.

Visit Machne Yehuda market to see how Israelis make their last minute food shopping before Shabbat, and then head to the Western Wall (Wailing Wall), the only remnant of the Second Temple, destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. After, back to the hotel for Kabbalat Shabbat (services) and Shabbat dinner.

**Saturday, April 29** - Shabbat in Jerusalem! Option to visit the Old Jewish and Christian Quarters, including Way of the Cross and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Inside are the last four stations of the Way of the Cross and the empty grave widely recognized as Jesus's burial site. People from all over the world come on pilgrimages to see this important place. Or, relax and take in Shabbat in the holiest city in the world.

**Sunday, April 30** - Masada and Dead Sea tour. Located on top of a rock plateau, 700 Jews choose to commit mass suicide rather than fall into Roman hands. Today, IDF soldiers take their vows here, which end with the declaration "Masada shall not fall again." We'll ascend Masada by cable car to take in the amazing view and see the ruins. Then head to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, to take a dip in the water which has so many minerals that you float on it with no effort.

**Monday, May 1** - Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day). You will see a country that stops in its tracks for a whole day, to honor those who have given their life since 1948 to keep Israel safe.

Participate at the Ceremony at Armored Corps Memorial Center at Latroun. Then, travel north to Tiberias and stop on the way for a visit at Nazareth. After dinner, stroll along the boardwalk and see the Independence Day festivities.

**Tuesday, May 2** - Yom Haatzmaut (Independence Day). Celebrate Israel's 69th birthday! Ascend Golan Heights for a view of Syria from a former IDF bunker. Watch the video about the fierce tank battle of the Yom Kippur War. Visit the town of Katzrin and watch the video about Gamla during the rebellion against the Romans.

**Wednesday, May 3** - Visit Akko - the underground impressive Crusader city that has been dug for over 20 years. Continue to HAIFA and meet cadets of the IDF "Mini West Point". Drive to Netanya for a rest and dinner at our hotel. Transfer to Tel Aviv airport for our night flight back home.

**Thursday, May 4** - Leave Israel.

**You are here!**

Our price- \$3568, includes taxes, fees, flights, hotels, entrances fees and tours, and daily breakfast and dinner!

Not included:

- \* Recommended tips of \$9 pp per day for guide (\$5), driver (\$3), and hotel restaurants.

- \* Travel insurance of \$175 pp covering cancellation due medical reasons, loss or damage of luggage, medical expenses in Israel and more.

- \* Personal expenses.

Price: Based on double occupancy. Single room supplement - \$780.

For more information or to register, contact Christy Turner at [cturner@jwv.org](mailto:cturner@jwv.org), or by phone at 202.265-6280.



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



**Linda S. Colón**

## Hello From The President

It is truly an honor to serve as your 83rd National President and work with our new National Commander, Carl Singer.

We had a wonderful convention and many thanks to the chairpersons.

We must strive to increase our membership, keep our wonderful programs alive and ongoing, and never, ever forget the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

2016-2017 will be a good year because we will be marching to the beat of my theme: "Hand In Hand, We Stand Tall."

To my JWV and JWVA family, I wish you and your families l'shanah tovah tikateyv v'tichatemu- May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

Loyally, Linda

Editor's Note: This is to introduce you to our joint venture with "The Jewish Veteran" which replaces our Bulletin. We will be included in four issues and have wider distribution.

Please continue to send your newsletters, meeting notices, articles, and photos to:

Marion Chasen  
64 Lawrence Drive, Apt. A,  
White Plains, NY 10603

OR email [marionchason@gmail.com](mailto:marionchason@gmail.com).

JWVA's national convention was an exciting and fun week. Some of the highlights of our convention include our visit to the Ronald McDonald House and the presentation of our Grant a Wish to a terminally ill patient. The first "Pound Auction" was one of the fun events of the Convention. Special thanks to PNP Joanne Blum who was the auctioneer for the mysterious one pound brown bag auction. Both JWV and JWVA participated in this fun night. We donated approximately 1500 bears to the Chatham Downtown Police Department and Ronald McDonald House. We also presented a dozen Rhea Sahl Baby Shower Baskets to expectant and new veteran moms. At our annual Memorial Service we memorialize all of our deceased Past National Presidents and auxiliary members who have passed away this year. A successful Double Chai Luncheon and a wonderful banquet in honor of our outgoing President Freda Rosenshein were outstanding celebrations. The Ladies Auxiliary made it an "All in the Family" affair with the election of Linda Colon, wife of PNC Maxwell Colon, as our National President.

We thank all of the chairman for the outstanding job they did with their programs at the Convention. Special thanks to PNP Freda Rosenshein for allowing us to be Convention Chairman.

Thank you,  
PNP Rita Panitz, Chairman & PNP Elaine Bernstein, Co-Chairman

## Meet the new JWVA slate of officers elected and appointed in Savannah!



From left: Iris Goldwasser, Sr. VP, PDP Natalie Blank, Patriotic Instructor, Rosalind Kaplan, Conductress, Linda Colon, President, Sandra Cantor, Chaplain, Debra Miller, Guard, PDP Linda Singer, Jr. VP, PNP Sophie Ruderman, JA, and PNP Arlene Lodgen, Treasurer.



A Presentation and donation of newborn baby hats, onesies, and blankets in honor of NP Freda Rosenshein at the Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital. From left: Hospital Surgeon, PNC Norman Rosenshein, NP Freda Rosenshein, Hospital Commander, Lisa Mulligan, PNC Maxwell Colon, Master Senior Chief of all enlisted personnel and Command Hospital Chaplain.



National President Freda Rosenshein had lunch in the Mess of the Naval Hospital at Camp Pendleton with the military personnel, as well as her husband, PNC Norman Rosenshein seated front left and PNC Maxell Colon seated behind Freda.

**HAND IN HAND WE STAND TALL**

*We deeply mourn the passing of PNP Adele Zucker whose "magic white hat" was donned in 1994-95.*

Dear Sisters: The last months have been life changing for me and my family. As I write this letter to you just before the start of the National Convent, I can't help but think about how Mom always looked forward to Convention. She just LOVED convention! She would be calling me to review her wardrobe especially the shoes, telling me about the paperwork she needed to take with her and, the particulars as to where she would be "in case of an emergency". The last two years that Mom was ill, she missed being able to attend meetings, conventions, special events and most of all, being with you all. JWVA was family to my mother. Your cards, your calls, your well wishes during her illness were all immensely appreciated; they kept her spirits up, kicked her butt when she needed it, supported and cheered her on. Her loss is a tremendous one and the outpouring of love and donations in her memory have gone a long way in healing my grief. As she lives on with me in memory, so too will her spirit always be a part of JWVA. With love and sincere appreciation....Rosie (Z. Aglieco) and family.

## CHILD WELFARE

By Roz Kaplan

The children at Jonathan's Place were all smiles on their first day of school thanks to the generous donation, by Dallas, TX #256, of beautiful new backpacks and a variety of much needed school supplies. Jonathan's Place is a warm and inviting residential facility in Garland, Texas that provides a safe and loving home for children ages newborn to 17 who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected.

Our newest project is to purchase small toys, coloring books, puzzle books, crayons, markers, colored pencils, highlighters, gum, lollipops, etc. for the

Dallas VA Hospital Children's Cart. Many times when a veteran comes to the hospital for treatment they bring their children with them. This cart circulates throughout the hospital giving small gifts to children ages newborn to 14 years old.

These projects are just a small sampling of the types of child welfare projects your auxiliary might be interested in adding to your existing programs.

I urge all my sisters to go the extra mile to support the child welfare programs in your community. Our children are our future!

## Leadership Flashback

By Charlene Ehrlich, PNP

Some people are born leaders. Others, like most of us, acquire leadership ability through training. Within our organization, training begins early on. Do you remember the first auxiliary meeting you attended? How impressed you were with the opening ritual and looking and wondering who the ladies were that wore those blue capes and overseas caps. It all started there.

We took an active interest, accepting a chairmanship was an honor. As a new member you turned to the President or Past President for guidance... asking questions was the best way to learn. No one is a mind reader. If there is something you want to know, just ask. Of course there is the "Blue Book", the Constitution and by-laws of JWVA. How many of you have taken the time to open and read the various paragraphs that affect all of us as members?...Caught you, I only saw a few hands raised!

When you attend your next meeting take notice if the President welcomes everyone and recognizes Past Presidents and guests. Most important, a thank you to her chairmen for their time and effort. At closing, a thank you to all for attending and looking forward to seeing them at the next meeting.

Being gracious goes a long way and don't forget to smile! Thank you for reading my message.

## The National Museum of American Jewish Military History

By Louise Baraw PDP

In October of 1951, National Commander, Paul Ginsberg, urged the JWV leadership gathered at a National Executive Committee Meeting, to move its headquarters to Washington, D.C. He suggested that the headquarters should include a shrine or memorial to Jewish American Veterans. Today the Museum stands as an institution that combats anti-Semitism, particularly the charges that the Jews were less patriotic than other Americans. It is the goal of JWV and JWVA, along with the Museum, to prove that these charges are false by the many exhibits and programs that the Museum has sponsored.

There appears to be a misconception among JWV and JWVA members that as a member, it automatically makes them a member of the Museum. This misunderstanding is partially responsible for the low JWV/JWVA membership totals. We must keep our Museum alive with our donations and additional membership. Become an advocate of the Museum. Join now!

## Student Awards

By PNP JoAnn Lifshitz



The Ethel K. Bornstein Memorial went to Sam Chason, grandson of AP Marion Chason of White Plains #191. Sam graduated Fox Lane High School with honors having had a 92+ average for all four years. He held garage sales and raised enough money to go to Nicaragua twice to help build a women's hospital and houses for the less fortunate. Sam will be attending Wake Forest where he will play soccer and major in mechanical engineering.

The Evelyn Wegman award went to Matthew Wechsler, Grandson of Sandra Wechsler of Bell Oak #652. Matthew attended the Professional Performing Arts School where he held an 89% average and passed nine regents! He started out singing but the acting bug bit and he will be attending Pace University majoring in BFA/Acting.

The Raoul Wallenberg (William Singer Memorial) was won by Samuel Weyser grandson of Ethel Holiner of #256 Texas. Samuel held a 96 GPA in General Studies and a 94GPA in Judaic studies. Besides studying in two academics, he did biomedical research, played varsity basketball and worked with special needs players for the Special Olympics. Samuel will be attending the University of Texas and majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

The Raoul Wallenberg second award went to Gabrielle Hartstein, granddaughter of Muriel Laub of #122 Ohio. Gabrielle carried a GPA of 3.3 all throughout high school. She has been in the American Sign Language Club and has taken that course every semester. She also handled a huge event for the hearing impaired community. She is very proud of her grandparents' involvement with JWV and JWVA. Gabrielle will be attending the University of Cincinnati.



## President's Message

I returned from the annual Jewish War Veterans convention in Savannah with a renewed commitment to the Museum and appreciation of the importance of its mission. The Museum is our legacy. Let's make sure it's a great one.

Savannah is filled with all kinds of history, including a long connection to Jews in the military. It was a pleasure to walk the same streets that Colonel Mordecai Sheftall did during the Revolutionary War. He and his son, Sheftall Sheftall, helped defend the city against the British invasion. They also helped create a historic synagogue, Mikveh Israel. Sheftall was one of the great American patriots. Being a part of this tradi-

tion that goes back hundreds of years is important to me. I hope it is important to all Jewish veterans and all Americans interested in history.

Of course, it was also a pleasure to spend time with members of the Jewish War Veterans. Everyone I speak to supports the idea of the Museum and appreciates the history it holds. Unfortunately, not everyone supports the Museum by becoming a member or making a donation through one of our programs like the new photo kiosk. Please join us and help us to continue to tell the amazing stories of Jewish service in the American military.

As always, keep an eye on nmajmh.org and



**PNC Joseph Zoldan  
President, NMAJMH**

our Facebook page to keep up with what's going on at the museum. We hope you stop in for a visit soon!

## Program Updates

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

This last quarter, we continued some of our established traditions at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, including holding our annual Memorial Day Shabbat service at Sixth and I Historic synagogue. It's



always a meaningful moment when we acknowledge the fallen. National Commander Jerome Blum was in attendance and read the names aloud of the 54

identified Jewish service members who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. Sixth and I is a great partner for the Museum as is the Jewish War Veterans, who helped us reach out to Shabbat service attendees who might not otherwise think of remembering the casualties of war.

June 5th was the annual Dupont-Kalorama Museums Consortium Walk Weekend. The Sunday of Walk Weekend is always one of the busiest days of our year. Visitors are spread throughout our neighborhood to visit the diverse museums in the consortium. The Phillips Collection exhibits artwork from the most famous artists in the world, and presidential history is



on display at the Woodrow Wilson House. Our subject matter generally appeals to a narrower audience. But on days like the Walk Weekend, when we get different visitors through our door, they see our stories are equally compelling and shine an equally important light on American history and culture.

On July 17th, we had a different kind of visitor—the dogs of the Caring Angels Therapy program. The Caring Angels run a program called



Warriors Angels where service and therapy dogs are provided to veterans. Six dogs and their handlers were at the museum to explain the services and capabilities of the dogs.

A Navy veteran spoke about how his dog had changed his life by giving him the ability to sleep through nights and enter public places that used to trigger tremendous anxiety. This organization does wonderful work and it was a pleasure to have them at the museum.



We've also hosted interesting visitors such as Israel Blajberg, an expert on the history of Jews in the Brazilian military. Blajberg visited the museum prior to speaking at Brazilian embassy. He's the author of a book, *Soldados que Vieram de Longe: Os 42 Heróis Brasileiros Judeus da Segunda Guerra Mundial*, that describes the contributions of 42 Jews who served with Brazilian forces in Italy during World War II. Since he wrote the book, Blajberg has identified an additional eight Jewish Brazilians who served. It's remarkable to be able to tell the story of every individual Jew who served from Brazil. We'll never be able to have that individual focus for each of the over half-million American Jews who served in World War II, but looking at the Brazilian experiences is a good reminder of the importance of every individual story.



The certificate (above) for the Medalha de Campanha (The Brazilian Expeditionary Force Medal) below, issued to American Isadore Tabachneck for contribution to troop transport from Italy to Brazil.





From Our Archives By Pamela Elbe • Collections, Archives & Exhibitions Coordinator

## How to Donate Memorabilia to the NMAJMH

The collections and archives of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History have been built on the donations of JWV members. Nearly all of the objects in the Museum's collection have been acquired through the generosity of veterans and their families, making our collection one that truly reflects the diverse experiences of Jewish Americans in the US armed forces.

While we greatly appreciate the generosity of our members, please do not send items to the Museum unless requested. We cannot accept actual artifacts or photographs for review without prior consultation. All collection offers must be made in writing; via snail mail or email please describe each item, attaching a list if necessary. If possible, please also include photographs of objects. Since the background of the item is as important as the item itself, provide as much

detail as possible. Also be sure to include information regarding the military service of the person involved. The information provided will be reviewed and you will be contacted with a response.

Please remember:

- Only the legal owners of an item (or their legally designated representative) can donate (transfer title to) items.
- The Museum cannot guarantee that donated items will be exhibited.
- All donations must be made free and clear, with no restrictions.

Unfortunately, the Museum does not have the capacity to accept all items offered for donation due to a variety of limitations (space, duplication of items already in the collections, lack of prov-

enance, etc.). The Museum currently has a sizable collection of materials relating to both World Wars and so we are not able to accept additional memorabilia from these periods. However, more recent service is not well represented within the Museum's collections. We need your help to fix that. The Museum is actively seeking to preserve the stories and experiences of our nation's newest veterans. If you served in Iraq or Afghanistan, please consider donating items that document your personal experiences for future generations.

Items of interest to the Museum include, but are not limited to: letters, photographs, military equipment and uniforms, and memoirs. If you have material that you are willing to donate to the NMAJMH, please contact Pamela Elbe, Collections, Archives, and Exhibitions Coordinator at [pelbe@nmajmh.org](mailto:pelbe@nmajmh.org).

## Jews and Basketball and WWII



Douglas Stark, author of *The SPHAS: The Life and Times of Basketball's Greatest Jewish Team and Wartime Basketball: The Emergence of a National Sport during World War II* spoke at the museum on September 18<sup>th</sup>. He discussed the history of Jews in basketball beginning with the great team from the South Philadelphia Hebrew Association. His latest book described how World War II changed the sport. Legendary figures like Red Auerbach and Red Holzman



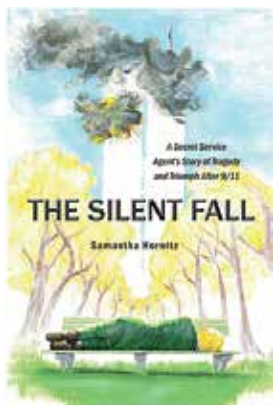
played on Navy basketball teams. Service teams played not only each other, but regularly played games against college teams.

## Coming Up

**October 16 • 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Samantha Horwitz: A Secret Service Agent's Story of Tragedy and Triumph after 9/11**

Samantha Horwitz will discuss her 9/11 experience at the World Trade Center and the challenges of overcoming post-traumatic stress.



## Coming Up

**November 11 • 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Veterans Day at the Museum**

Stop by the museum and help us create care packages for patients in VA hospitals and other veterans in need.



## Coming Up

**December 28 • 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

**Annual Chanukah Party**

Join us and celebrate with latkes, doughnuts, and songs, and a menorah lighting.





**DEPARTMENT AT LARGE**

Rubin Laskoff-99 • Abe Baker-100 • Samuel Nahoum-100 • Julian Weissgold-100

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**DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT**

Lawrence J. Cohen-45 • Morey Oster-45 • Seymour Leff-51 • George Cooper-141 • Arthur I. Miller-141 • George Sichel-141

**DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST**

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**DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN**

Louis Goodstein-145 • Irving Kahn-145

**We regret that Gertrude Lowenstein was mistakenly listed in TAPS in the last issue of *The Jewish Veteran*. We are delighted to report that not only is Ms. Lowenstein living; she looks forward to celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!**

### Jack Berman 1922-2016

Past National Commander Jack Berman passed away on September 20, 2016. He was 94 years old.

A longtime member of Post 613 FL, he served JWV and NMAJMH at all levels, in addition to being actively involved in his own Jewish community.

His funeral took place on Thursday, September 22, and he was interred at the South Florida VA Hospital.

May his memory be a blessing.



Elliott Donn, Post 45 CT, paid his respects at the grave of Pvt. Jack Barshak of New York at the American Cemetery at Colleville-Sur-Mer, Normandy, France.





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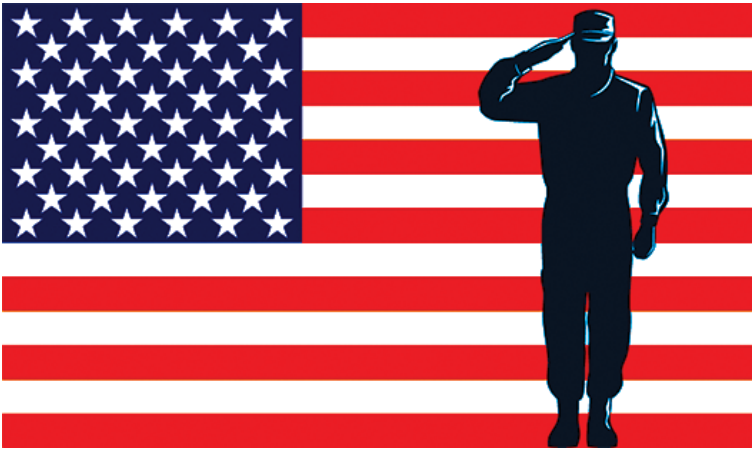
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# Happy Veterans Day!

Thank you to all of the  
men and women in the  
American Armed Forces for  
your bravery and sacrifice.  
We proudly salute you.



Allan Abramson & Wife Sheila  
PNC Lou & Gloria Abramson  
*Good Health & Happiness to All*

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

PDC Ed & PDP Louise Baraw  
Eugene Baraw • Post 336  
Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ  
*Chag Sameach*

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

Jerry Berns - Chicago Post 153  
*In Memory of my Ethyle and Evelyn*

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

In Memory of Harold Cohen • Post 212

PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749  
Marshall & Diane Duberstein  
Gerald H. Elkan • North Carolina  
Harold Engleman, K.C.C. / NEC  
David Goldberg, K.C.C.  
*In memory of Sam Goldberg*

In Memory of Norman Goldberg, PPC #98

PNC Nate & Selma Goldberg • Albany 105

NEC Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321  
*In Memory of Those Who Have Served*

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health  
*Happy Holiday!*

PNP Petra C. & Jason A. Kaatz

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

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

L'chaim - To Life

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky  
*Happy Holidays*

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

From Ed Robins, in Honor of Helene  
*Your memory will stay with me forever*

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth  
*Happy Holiday to You and Yours!*

PNP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein  
*Good Health & Happy Holidays*

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

Stephen & Helen Sax  
To the 2%

Irv Schildkraut PPC Post 440  
*USMC-USNR-USA*

Harriet & Norman Schnitzer PDC

PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman  
*Our Very Best Wishes to All*

PDP Linda & Stuart Singer  
*In memory of PDC Bill Singer*

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

Chaplain Murray & Clare Stadtmauer  
*Bell Park Post 648 • Queens, NY*

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

To All Surviving Jewish WWII prisoners  
*L'Chaim!*

NEC Paul and Norma Warner

Veterans-Thank you for your service!  
*David Weiner • Post 239 Allentown, PA*

NJA Harvey & Linda Weiner  
*Be Well!*

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

To All Our Troops • Be Safe, Be Well!

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

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