



# THE JEWISH VETERAN

Volume 71 • Number 3 • 2017

Mazel Tov  
to our  
New Leaders!



JWV National Commander  
Paul D. Warner



JWVA National President  
Iris Goldwasser

*Convention Round Up!*  
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## We crushed the Nazi movement in America in the 30's and we will do it again!

The horrific events that occurred in Charlottesville, Virginia should be a stark reminder to Americans that although the fires of Nazism were contained in the 1940's, the spark was never fully extinguished. As we see the rise of Nazism in America today, it is important to look back at how our predecessors dealt with this hate in the 1930's and the 1940's.

When Adolf Hitler came to power in January of 1933, the Germans unleashed a brutal campaign against German Jews. It was so bad that on the morning of March 20th, photos of Jews being beaten, terrorized and ultimately murdered in the streets of Germany covered the front pages of newspapers on both sides of the Atlantic. At the same time, the German American Bund Party, an American-Nazi or-

ganization, was holding rallies in support of Hitler and beating up Jews in the streets of New York.

When members of the American Jewish Congress refused to respond to these atrocities, members of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV) decided they had to do something. They could no longer sit on the sidelines while they watched these horrors unfold. That very night, they convened a committee that would address Nazi Germany and the growing number of Nazi supporters in America, ultimately deciding that they would start a boycott of German goods.

Three days later on March 23rd, JWV headed a massive protest march to kick off the boycott. This march, which ran from

*Continued on page 17*



1933 JWV Protest March Against Nazism

## The G.I. Bill – the Great, the Bad and the Ugly

By PNC Carl Singer



### The Great

First a quick history lesson – the original G.I. Bill was

enacted in 1944. JWV proudly can claim to have been a strong supporter and advocate for the G.I. Bill. We, along with other veterans groups, made it happen!

Some say that World War II brought America out of the Depression, but I say that the G.I. Bill enabled and sparked the remarkable growth of the post-World War II American economy. Young soldiers that came home from the war got their education thanks to the G.I. Bill, and they applied their learning, can-do spirit and military discipline to building

a better America. VA loans also enabled these GI's to buy homes and reach for the American Dream.

"The World War II G.I. Bill, it's one of the most cherished programs in American History, it paid the full cost of an education at any four-year college or university," said Aaron Glantz of PBS.

For the G.I. – the G.I. Bill provided opportunity and an open door to a brighter future.

For colleges and universities – the G.I. Bill filled classrooms with enthusiastic students and revenue to build, expand and do research.

For America – the G.I. Bill was the catalyst for fantastic growth, international leadership, the space age – you

name it. All thanks to the G.I. Bill.

### The Bad

Over the years G.I. Bill benefits withered – with a less understanding Congress and less pressure from voters, benefits were reduced. In 2008, this was finally addressed in support of the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill.

However, there are still many issues to be addressed. For-profit schools have gotten into the act - preying on veterans because they see the opportunity of providing services where the recipient doesn't pay.

Kate O'Gorman of IAVA said, "many veterans are being aggressively

*Continued on page 17*

## Thank You

My name is Cadet Liam Kuelbs, and I am a 4th year cadet at West Lincoln High School's "Rebel Navy" JROTC. I deeply appreciate receiving the Junior ROTC award at our Blue & Gold award ceremony. I am extremely proud that your organization selected me to receive your award. I look forward to wearing my award on my uniform with pride.

Thank you for your continued support of my unit.

*Cadet Liam Kuelbs*

On behalf of the cadets and staff of the Brunswick High School NJROTC, I would like to offer sincere appreciation for the prestigious award you provided to a deserving cadet in our unit. We enjoy every occasion to recognize cadets who demonstrate excellence, whether in academics, service or participation.

By taking the time to recognize cadet efforts, you provide much needed encouragement that spurs the individual cadet on to future success. Specifically, each award provides a sense of accomplishment and the knowledge that the recipient's efforts are appreciated in the community. Be assured that your participation in the annual award ceremony is helping to build good citizens both now and into the future. Thanks again for all you do on behalf of our youth! We look forward to the next opportunity to work together in making Glynn County a better place for all citizens.

*Herbert M. Hadley  
Senior Naval Science Instructor*

## Warrior Weekend

The annual weekend of comradeship and learning for Jewish cadets is a wonderful idea that has apparently been running for a number of years. And the front page coverage that prints an article by Dr. Barry Schneider of Fort Wort Post 755 with several photographs in The Jewish Veteran is admirable. As is sponsorship by the Jewish War Veterans Foundation and others, apparently including Post 755.

It's a shame, however, that The Jewish Veteran did not properly perform its professional editing (vetting) duty regarding Dr. Schneider's submission or added incorrect information to his submission.

The article declares that "Three of the four military branches were represented." That is a MAJOR inaccuracy and a slap in the face of hundreds of thousands of our omitted military veterans who served our country proudly over more than 200 years in the omitted one of our FIVE military branches. Which Armed Service of The United States was omitted? It's obvious that the Army and Air Force were included but it's hard to determine which of the other Services was omitted when the article declares that there are only four military branches. Was it (listed alphabetically): the U. S. Coast Guard, the U. S.

Marine Corps or the U. S. Navy? Regardless which Service was omitted, this mistake is egregious and it is particularly embarrassing that it was made on the front page of The JEWISH Veteran.

Please be more careful and professional in the future.

*Fred S. Golove*

# D'vei HaShomrim



**Rabbi Michael Gisser, MSMFT (CPT)**

The High Holy days are upon us. The past year is coming to an end and we start to look back at the past year and begin our plans and outlook for the coming year. It is a chance for each of us to have a certain amount of closure and a renewal of our energy. This year had its moments with hurricanes, threats on our peace and a tumultuous political climate. We have had our ups and downs and are now getting ourselves prepared once again.

There is a Yiddish expression "Mann Tracht, Un Gott Lacht" ("People Plan, and God Laughs"). No matter how organized we are in our planning. No matter how perfect we might think it is, it is never a certainty. Each of us lives with some level of uncertainty. Whether is as an individual, or from a national and international level. We have seen this over the past few weeks with chaos from Mother Nature, various health concerns, and both domestic violence and Military threats.

When we chant the poem *Unetanah Tokef*, we understand it to be a describing God's judgement. We shall ascribe holiness to this day.

*For it is awesome and terrible. Your kingship is exalted upon it. Your throne is established in mercy. You are enthroned upon it in truth. In truth You are the judge, The exhorter, the all-knowing, the witness, He who inscribes and seals, Remembering all that is forgotten. You open the book of remembrance, which proclaims itself, and the seal of each person is there.*

*The great shofar is sounded, a still small voice is heard. The angels are dismayed, they are seized by fear and trembling as they proclaim: Behold the Day of Judgment! For all the hosts of heaven are brought for judgment. .... Visiting the souls of all living, decreeing the length of their days, inscribing their judgment.*

*On Rosh Hashanah it is inscribed, and on Yom Kippur it is sealed...But repentance, prayer and righteousness avert the severe decree.*

In Judaism, our beliefs center on this, a judgment and decree. It is one that at that moment, can be averted through our own actions. Whether that decree is an unforeseen challenge or other literal and figurative storms that may cross our paths, this poem shows us that suffering is not without hope. No matter what our own actions prior and in response to difficulties, one need only follow the advice of the Sages, "Three things cancel the decree, and they are prayer, charity, and repentance" (Genesis Rabba 44:12).

It is also to understand in these times, even though He is our judge, He is merciful. We are but dust and He is without limit. When we recall our partnership, we are strengthened in the challenges that life brings. "Chizku v'imzu; al tiru... kee Adonai



THE JEWISH

# VETERAN

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Elohehecha hu haholaech imach, lo yarpecha v'lo ya'azvecha". Be strong and of good courage; have no fear . . . for Adonai your God is the One who goes with you, never failing you or forsaking you.

"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." Winston Churchill. Be an optimist. If plans change. If life throws a curveball your way, let the shofar blasts on Rosh Hashannah and at the conclusion of Yom Kippur be the alarm that wakes up your soul. Let it be the starting point for a year where challenges are met and where each of us has the courage to walk through those difficult times knowing that we are not alone.

No matter what this New Year of 5778 might bring, be prepared to adjust and go with the ever changing flow. Recognize our own part as pieces in the puzzle of life and meet every challenge head on. For those of us who are Veterans, we are strengthened by our bond and our camaraderie. May we blessed this year with resiliency to overcome adversity in our lives and in our world. Abraham Lincoln gave us many memorable quotes, but this is one that we may want to take ownership of this year. "Whatever you are, be a good one."

Wishing the JWV a Shana Tovah U'Metukah – A Happy and Sweet New Year.

# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Paul D. Warner

## Critical Veterans Issues

Many veterans are not familiar with the work done by veterans' organizations for over 30 years, which results in the publication of "The Independent Budget." This year, the detailed study was performed by DAV, VFW, and the Paralyzed Veterans of America. The report is supported by 27 veterans' organizations including the JVV. The following comments are based on this year's report. The critical veterans' issues identified include:

1. Strengthening and reforming the VA was the major issue before Congress in 2014. All veterans' organizations agree that the best way to modernize veterans' healthcare is by creating a system which coordinates the VA and community providers. The VA would be the primary provider and coordinator.
2. Comprehensive caregiver support for veterans has been provided by federal legislation. Unfortunately, Congress was more concerned with cost considerations and only provided full support for veterans injured on or after September 11, 2001. It is now up to Congress to provide funding for caregiver support for all 5.5 million veterans requiring it.
3. According to the Independent Budget (Report), "The current backlog, dysfunction, and resource needs for the appeals process is the major driver for urgent fundamental reform. Much of the dysfunction within the appeals process relates directly to inadequate resources."

These critical issues can be addressed with proper funding by Congress. The Congressional appropriation for 2017 is \$63.3 billion, and Congress estimates that the VA will collect \$ 3.3 billion this year from Medicare and other insurance companies - for a total of \$66.6 billion. The Independent Budget recommends \$72.8 billion, which leads to a 6.2 billion shortage. The projected shortage is even greater since the VA has not been very successful in collecting funds from other organizations.

## Improving VA Administration

The VA has many problems, which have

been identified by members of the VA staff. Unfortunately, those complaining can be fired. This problem has been rectified. On June 23, 2016, the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act was passed by Congress and signed into law. It streamlines the process to remove, demote, or suspend VA employees for poor performance or misconduct. In addition, it authorizes the VA Secretary to recoup any bonuses awarded to employees who have acted improperly.

Another situation which appears to be finally receiving attention is the record keeping problem stemming from the non-compatibility of the Department of Defense and the VA medical recording systems. Patient and research data should be shared by both systems. There finally appears to be an attempt to resolve the problem.

## Critical Jewish Issue – Anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitic incidents seem to spring up each week on college campuses throughout the United States. According to a study, "The strongest predictor of anti-Jewish hostility on campus is the presence of a Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel."

We have a group of young people who believe that the problems of the world are being caused by Jews. For many years we overcame this problem, but now successful propaganda from the Palestinians and others have provoked a frightening backlash against Jews around the world. This includes the U.S., where there are groups like the "Students for Justice in Palestine" (SJP) that have a history of harassing and intimidating Jewish students. They are making colleges an unsafe environment for Jews. Here are some examples:

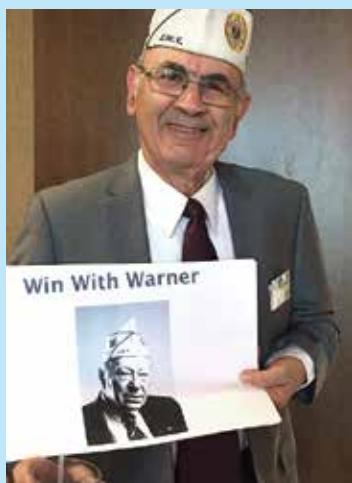
1. At Vassar College, this hate group tried to shut down a class trip to Israel to study water issues.
2. At Northeastern University, the SJP has endorsed terrorism against Israeli Jews and called for Israel's

destruction. During midterms, the SJP invaded students' privacy rights by planting authentic-looking "eviction notices" under dorm room doors.

3. At University of Chicago Illinois, their Black Lives Matter chapter and Student for Justice in Palestine strewed fliers around campus that claimed "Jews are the 1%", "Zionism equals Nazism" and one stating Israel puts people in jail around the world.
4. At Temple University, the SJP demanded that a pro-Israel speaker be cancelled, threatening that otherwise Jewish students would face increasing hostility on campus.
5. At UCLA, the SJP demanded that candidates for student government sign a pledge not to go on any trip to Israel sponsored by three Jewish organizations.

Student groups like the SJP – with support from anti-Israel faculty and outside groups, focus their rage singularly on Israel, condemning the Jewish State with a viciousness that is not applied to anyone else, and Jews around the world are being held collectively responsible for Israel's actions. This is anti-Semitism, according to U.S. government standards.

We must not tolerate Jewish students being targeted. According to the FBI's latest hate crime statistics, two-thirds of all religious hate crimes committed in 2012 targeted Jews. You must exercise your moral duty as leaders and publicly speak out if anti-Israel speech and conduct on campus crosses the line into anti-Semitism. We appreciate that college campuses should encourage free and open debate and the robust exchange of ideas. We support these principles, but none of us should tolerate a campus where students and student groups flagrantly disregard university rules and policies supported by university funds without consequences.



Sidney Goldberg, Post campaigns for Paul Warner at the National Convention.

## Paul D. Warner Elected National Commander at JVV's 122nd Annual Convention!

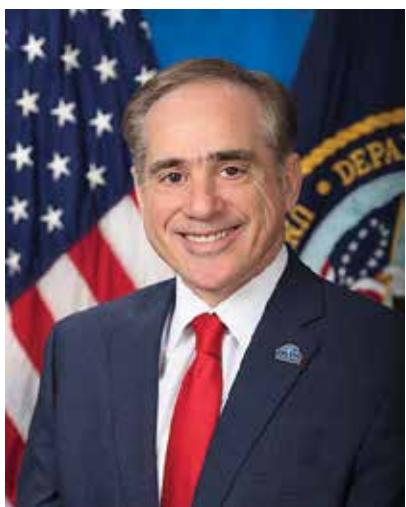


National Commander Paul D. Warner was elected to office during the National Convention. Paul was pinned by Past National Commander, Carl A. Singer, and capped by his wife, Norma.

NC Warner has set out his 2018 goals for JVV, and is already getting to work!

NC Warner is looking forward to representing JVV at the White House Veterans Day Breakfast, and afterwards, hosting a very special Veterans Day Shabbat at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

## Secretary Shulkin's Five Priorities By Herb Rosenbleeth, National Executive Director



**Secretary David Shulkin**

At a recent meeting in the Omar Bradley Conference Room in the VA Central Office, I got to hear Secretary David Shulkin present his five most important priorities for reforming the Department of Veterans Affairs:

The Secretary's first priority is to increase choice for our veterans. "We think that is an important way for reforming the VA," said Shulkin. Veterans are going to be allowed to have much greater choice in their

decision making when seeking medical care. Shulkin reported that the VA is working with Congress to redesign the Choice program so that veterans will have much greater choice in interacting with their providers and in making decisions about where it is best for them to get their care, either in the VA or in the community, or a combination of both.

The second priority presented by Dr. Shulkin is to modernize the VA. The system has experienced years, if not decades, of neglect. The VA must keep up with today's technology and business practices. For example, the electronic medical record, which is thirty-five years old and extremely expensive to just maintain, needs to be updated.

The VA is getting rid of some 1,100 vacant, underutilized buildings, some dating back to the Civil War, and even the Revolutionary War, which are extremely expensive for the VA to maintain. Updating of business practices, particularly accountability to hire and fire is crucial. (As I am writing this column, the VA has fired the Director of the VAMC in Washington, DC.)

VA's third priority for reform is to improve the timeliness of its services. The VA is making progress on this and they now publish wait times on the internet

for everyone to see. VA is trying to improve the timeliness of its benefit claims and appeals. Over 90,000 disability claims are over one hundred and twenty-five days old, which is too long. The time involved in the appeals process is being greatly reduced.

Secretary Shulkin's fourth VA reform priority is focusing VA's resources. Many of the VA's services cannot be replicated in the private sector. VA delivers world class services in polytrauma, spinal cord injury and rehabilitation, prosthetics, and orthotics, traumatic brain injury, PTS treatments and other behavioral health programs.

The VA's top clinical priority and Shulkin's fifth reform priority is the prevention of suicide. "This is our most serious concern," stated Shulkin. He added that twenty suicides a day are twenty too many. The VA will be expanding its suicide prevention crisis line service, working more closely with communities and looking at social media to identify veterans that may be asking for help.

Secretary Shulkin certainly has things in focus. He has the vision, the managerial experience, and the professional medical skills to make him a truly great Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

## On the Role of Women By Lance Wang, Editor

I must be honest. I spent over 20 years in the Army, almost all in Infantry units. I enjoyed the camaraderie of all-male units until I arrived at Brigade level. Periodically, I would leave the world of polite society and head out to the field among other men - to go do "manly" things as President Theodore Roosevelt would have said.

Over the years, I have often found myself on one side of an issue because I found the arguments in favor of the other side vacuous, specious or unsupportable. I have never been in favor of lowering standards to accommodate women in previously all-male skill fields such as the combat arms, but to make such an argument, I must be willing to concede that if women can meet the male standards, they should be allowed to do the job.

"Tzedek tzedek tirdof" – "Justice, justice you shall pursue" admonishes Deuteronomy 16:20. It's not about what is "fair," but rather what is "just" that we are commanded to pursue. Anybody who has worn the uniform is more aware than anyone that life is not fair. Indeed, it was a mantra that I taught many of my own soldiers. "Get over it. Life isn't fair and neither is the Army." Discussions on the issue (which is a policy issue) must be based upon sound reasoning where justice can be applied - blinded to anything other than fact-based logic.

So with that said, should women be subject to Selective Service registration and by extension, the draft? We already have a gender-integrated military since the advent of the all-volunteer force. About 15% of the today's active duty military is women, and 18% of the reserve components. Even without women in the combat arms, the majority of combat support and combat service support career fields are open to women, so it would stand to reason that in a full or partial mobilization that involves the draft,

women would be necessary to expand the army to the necessary wartime strength.

In the end, the purpose of an army is to provide for war. Instead of focusing on one's gender, the focus should be upon ensuring that each soldier, sailor, airman, coast guardsman or marine meets the standards for their position.

To arbitrarily deny those women who meet established standards from serving to their maximum abilities is not just.

It is interesting to note that the same rubric I use to examine the issue of the mobility of women within our military allows me to visit the issue in Israel regarding the place of women at worship at the Western Wall. Recently Prime Minister Netanyahu, under pressure from ultra-Orthodox elements within Israel, shelved plans to allow denominations of Judaism which support equality for women in prayer and ritual, to allow mixed prayer at our holiest of sites.

Again we find ourselves in a position where arguments are made by dogmatic, fundamentalist views – ones which do not take into account the constant reinterpretation of our holiest of texts based upon our intellectual and moral growth as a people. Rather, we now have several continuums of Judaism which coexist, yet do not always agree with each other's interpretations of Torah. If Israel purports to be a modern democracy as opposed to a theocracy, it must find a way to balance the needs of multiple denominations within Judaism. There must be areas of common interest (including our survival as one people) that allow us to unite as opposed to divide.

As for the role of women in today's society, I defer to 19th Century orator Ernestine Rose, "I suppose you all grant that woman is a human being. If she has a right to life, she has a right to earn a support for

that life. If a human being, she has a right to have her powers and faculties as a human being developed. If developed, she has a right to exercise them." I'm not sure that I could justify using prejudices of the past as precedent to say that things should be other than so.

## Song of Service Contest



Attention cantors, musicians, and others! JWV is partnering with the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) and the American Conference of Cantors to sponsor a new cantorial work for the U.S. Armed Forces. Dubbed the "Song of Service," submissions must put the Prayer for the United States Armed Forces from the new edition of the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council Siddur to original music.

"Regardless of denomination or affiliation within the American Jewish community, this prayer will remind us that our American freedoms don't come without risk and cost," said JWB Director Rabbi Irving Elson. "And that those who defend them should never be far from our prayers and our hearts."

All submissions are due by March 1, 2018 and must include the English/Hebrew version of the prayer, a recording, and the musical score. The winner will receive a \$1,250 cash prize. Contact Anna Selman at [aselman@jwv.org](mailto:aselman@jwv.org) or 202-448-5409 for more information.

## Taylor Force Act By Adam Lammon, JWV Programs Assistant

For former U.S. Army officer and West Point graduate Taylor Force, traveling to Israel with a group of Vanderbilt University students was supposed to broaden his horizons and jumpstart a career in global entrepreneurship. However, on March 8th 2016, this young combat veteran was murdered by a Palestinian terrorist in a knife attack in Jaffa, Israel. Rather than condemn the murder of an innocent civilian, the Palestinian Authority (PA) decided to treat Force's attacker as a "martyr," epitomizing one enduring obstacle to attaining an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

As the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in the West Bank (and formerly Gaza), the PA has a responsibility to improve the livelihoods of its constituents by promoting a dialogue of peace and decrying violence. Instead, it has institutionalized and rewarded a culture of violence against Israelis, Jews, and American citizens.

The *Washington Post* reported in April that the PA allocates approximately 7.6% of its annual budget, or \$300 million, towards two funds which incentivize terrorism. The first, the Foundation for the Care of the Families of Martyrs, earmarks \$173 million to support individuals and civilians "wounded, killed, or otherwise affected" by Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) "as a result of their joining the revolution" against Israel. The second provides \$140 million in salaries to jailed Palestinians - rewarding bloodshed by granting higher stipends to Palestinians who are sentenced to longer terms in Israeli prisons, and at times, dwarfing the average monthly salary in the West Bank.

Considering that the U.S. continues to deliver economic and non-lethal security assistance to the Palestinian territories, the PA's "martyr's fund" is an unacceptable insult to the American taxpayer. American dollars sent to the PA should be spent financing humanitarian needs, fostering stability, pro-

moting self-governance, and supporting Israeli-Palestinian coexistence—not subsidizing those who endanger Israeli security and execute American citizens in the street. Here at Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV), we find this arrangement to be morally abhorrent and demand justice.

Fortunately, Congress is currently debating the Taylor Force Act, which was introduced last year by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Roy Blunt (R-MO), and former Senator Dan Coats (R-IN) and would require the State Department to stop economic (not security) assistance to the PA until it abolishes its infamous practice of "pay to slay."

Graham recently observed that "these rewards for terrorist attacks are inconsistent with American values. They are inconsistent with decency. And they are certainly inconsistent with peace. Simply put, you can't be a partner in peace when you are paying people to commit acts of terror. It is long past time to let the Palestinian Authority know that these practices are wholly unacceptable."

As this is a contentious issue, the Taylor Force Act has its detractors. For instance, PA officials have argued that many Palestinians have been killed or jailed for political reasons, but a plethora of evidence supports a contrasting chronicle of deliberate acts of violence against Israelis and Americans like Taylor Force. The PA must end preferential payments to those who have clearly chosen violence.



**Taylor Force**

Other officials have cautioned that due to the Palestinian public's support for armed struggle against Israel, eliminating payments to "martyrs" will empower extremist alternatives in the West Bank, such as Hamas. However, as long as the PA refuses to condemn violence, Palestinians will feel justified employing terror against civilians in Israel. To achieve progress in a stymied peace process, the Palestinian leadership must change Palestinian culture through political, legal, and economic means to discourage terrorism and show that peace and violence are discordant.

A last criticism of the Taylor Force Act is perhaps the most worrisome, that defunding the PA will compromise its stability and jeopardize its security partnership with the IDF. While this is a legitimate risk, one can take solace in the fact that the PA is run by rational actors who desire to remain in power. If their choice is between political collapse or ending payments to "martyrs," they will certainly prioritize their own longevity. As Representative Doug Lamborn (R-CO) argues, "this is not about causing the Palestinian Authority to collapse—this is about causing them to change their ways."

As the Taylor Force Act progresses through Congress, JWV will be closely monitoring the debate, adding it to our list of 2018 Legislative Priorities, and aggressively advocating for its adoption. We welcome support from organizations and individuals who will stand beside us in condemning terrorism and supporting a more peaceful Middle East, beginning with Israel and Palestine. As Taylor's parents have said, "This is not a partisan issue. It's the right thing to do."

## An Analysis of the PAWS Act By Bart Sherwood

In response to the proposed House Resolution 2327 – "Puppies Assisting Wounded Service Members (PAWS) Act of 2017," the Department of Veterans Affairs will be authorized to spend \$10 million to again study the benefits of approximately 400 Service Dogs (valued at \$25,000 each) given to Veterans surviving with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The grants will be awarded to non-profit service dog training organizations, recognized as members of Assistance Dogs International (ADI), a foreign entity operating in the United States. This organization, and its American affiliates, have been recipients of similar grants since 2012, when studies on the therapeutic effectiveness of service dogs for PTSD started, including the recently awarded 2017 Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program of \$5-million for 20 grants for 200 Service Dogs in 2017.

According to the statistics drawn from this proposal, there will be 36,500 Veteran suicides over the 5-year period, in which the study will produce 400 service dogs for less than 1.1% of the affected population. This does not appear to be a good rate of re-

turn on investment. However, it is fair and true to say, whatever money spent to save the lives of Veterans surviving with PTSD, in attempting to prevent and reduce suicides is worth the expenditure of time and money. BUT it is also time to study the effectiveness of such organizations and establish criteria for which such grants should be awarded.

Research and studies need to reflect Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO), which address how the effectiveness of such therapy has made a difference. The users of the benefits need to be recognized and annotated, as this presents a clearer view of the results to the beneficiary of the service dog.

Other criteria for awarding grants, should be based on the organization, and not the affiliation of the member, which is a discriminatory practice and needs to be based on 'bid-type' policy, like other governmental contracts.

Each organization awarded a portion of the grant should be required to document past performances, and meet or exceed the following criteria:

1. Minimum of 50 service dogs, or teams trained,

annually for the last 2 years,

2. Minimum 15% of service dog recipients, or teams, have been minority Hispanic and African-American) Veterans, and
3. Minimum 25% of service dog recipients, or teams, are female veterans.

In order to make a significant difference, we must in fact "change the culture" from within, whether it be the recommendation of service dogs or scheduling appointments.



**Colonel**

# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

In this issue we welcome JWV's new Membership Chairman, Barry Lischinsky. Barry has held a variety of leadership positions within his Post and Department and is a proud member of Post 220 in Massachusetts. Barry spoke with JWV staff membership coordinator, Mara Sherman, about the membership challenges and opportunities facing JWV as we move forward.

## **What drew you to join JWV?**

While I was on active duty, my uncle (Edward Lischinsky), a life-long member of JWV in Massachusetts and proud member of the Army told me about the history of JWV and that I should consider joining. Shortly thereafter I was approached by another member of JWV (Past National Commander Ira Novoselsky). Ira explained while I was on active duty that I could be a member of JWV in an In-Service membership status.

**My big takeaway from your response is that recruitment isn't just a one step process. It can take more than one person more than one conversation to get a new member. It also demonstrates how valuable a recruiting tool the In-Service Membership is.**

Agreed. In-Service membership affords the active duty member a chance to learn and share the values of JWV while fulfilling their military obligation.

**So when they leave the service, they don't even have to think about whether or not they want to join. They already know how special the organization is and are ready to get involved. You joined because you were asked. But why did you stay?**

I stay because JWV is an organization that I believe serves a tremendous purpose and support network to members of our faith. It is an organization that has provided me with coaching and mentorship and has allowed me to take an active role in our post and military community. I am fortunate enough to belong to an organization that makes it a priority to take an active commitment to the ideology of supporting our nation, our community and our veterans. As a member of the JWV team it allows me to participate and give back to veterans that came before me that helped make my tour of duty a bit easier. The freedoms that they fought for are the rights and privileges that we all enjoy today.

**Just like a lot of the Members I talk to every day, you think of your work at JWV as a continuation of your service. As you step into this new leadership role, what do you think the biggest challenge is for the Membership Committee?**

Recruiting younger members to pick up the flag and move our organization forward. We are always trying to actively recruit new members that is a given. The days of members knocking on our Post door and wanting to join are over, which it is unfortunate because we as an organization became very comfortable and relaxed in our recruitment process. This is compounded with a decreasing target market of members of our faith; I admit we are in a challenging situation.

**Agreed. The population of Americans who serve in the Armed Forces has decreased by over 90%. Jews are already a minority, so the number of people eligible for Membership had decreased dramatically. Demographics are not going to aid us in our recruitment efforts.**

That said – it's challenging – but not impossible. The current situation does not mean that we cannot try different ways to introduce JWV to Veterans of our faith. To increase membership, "thinking out of the box" may help. Maybe we have to look at where we locate our posts and what activities to get involved with. Perhaps we could consider creating new posts or relocating existing posts closer to active duty military bases.

**Proximity to large numbers of active-duty personnel would certainly make recruiting In-Service members easier. There are also colleges and universities that are full of potential future members of JWV. But what about average JWV members, who might not have the time or the resources to start a new post near a base or a college? What can they do to help ensure the future of the organization?**

JWV is a strong organization and the secret ingredient of the success of JWV lies with our membership. Our membership is made up of many dedicated and loyal individuals that continue to volunteer and serve. The one thing every JWV member can help with is recruiting. Remember when you first joined JWV, something sparked your interest to raise your right hand and volunteer to take the oath of JWV. Share that experience and let potential members know your reason why you joined JWV. Make it your personal goal to recruit one new member into your Post within the next twelve months. It all starts with an ask.

**Yes! As your own recruitment story illustrates, it's the personal connection that can really make the difference. At National, we talk to potential new members on a regular basis, and oftentimes there are people who want to join but don't have any friends in the organization. We are usually able to pair them with a sponsor, but sometimes we struggle to find someone who is willing to really take that step and commit to really welcoming the new member.**

Yes, the first initiative is ours, and not just in recruitment. We must be willing to take that first step and get involved in every aspect of the organization. If recruitment isn't your strong suit, get involved with your Post, Department, County, and National Committees. I guarantee each level is looking for help.

In a few weeks, JWV will be rolling out our new revamped website, where you will be able to find:

- A dues payment portal
- A Post locator map
- Important tax information
- Recruitment material
- Info about JWV's activism on behalf of Veterans
- Back-issues of The Jewish Veteran
- And much more!



## 7 Questions with a JWV Member

**Member:** Selina S. Kanowitz

**Post:** Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126, NJ

**Current Residence:** Voorhees, NJ

**Military Service:** Desert Storm,  
USAF Reserve, 21.5 years

**Member Since Year:** 1991



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

In basic training I was appointed Dorm Chief, in charge of 45 women in the flight. I was the only Jewish person in my flight. I attended Friday night services each week, accompanied by a group of non-Jewish airmen who were interested in learning about Judaism. Whenever possible, I also included them in Jewish base activities.

**For what one thing is Post 126 best known?**

Post 126 is one of the largest and most active JWV posts!

**What is one of your fondest JWV memories?**

After the call up for Desert Storm, I was invited to a speaking engagement with a JWV post, and was awarded an honorary membership. After that, my command was motherhood. I retired from the Air Force after 21 1/2 years. More recently, with our children grown and out of the house, I turned my attentions to JWV Post 126, while still pursuing my career as a nuclear medicine technologist. With time, the post recognized my contributions and then, it was just a few short steps to rising to the rank of Post Commander.

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

"Companions to Heroes" is my pet program for this year, which unites veterans and homeless animals. It is a win – win situation. The animals are saved and the disabled veterans of varying degrees are also saved by benefitting from the compassion and assistance of the animals.

**What display of patriotism in your community makes you the proudest?**

I live 10 miles from the Liberty Bell, and two blocks from there is the Mikveh Israel Synagogue, the oldest formal Jewish congregation in Philadelphia. In its 270-year history, Mikveh Israel has consistently demonstrated that Jews could be patriotic to the American cause, most notably, in the person of

*Continued on next page*

# NEW MEMBERS

## DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Bressman, Joel - Post 100  
 Faust, Linda - Post 100  
 Perin, Elliot - Post 692  
 Reichbach, Cary - Post 100  
 Rosen, Robert - Post 344  
 Schapiro, Larry - Post 100  
 Shannon, Brent - Post 100  
 Shultz, Matthew - Post 100  
 Steiner, Alan - Post 100  
 Zavala, Antonio - Post 100

## DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

Martin, Franklin - Post 210

## DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Benn, Barry - Post 185  
 Garber, Irving - Post 680  
 Gordon, Max - Post 603  
 Gordon, Rhoda - Post 603  
 Kaplan, Jack - Post 603  
 Kodimer, Sheila - Post 603  
 Roos, Joel - Post 385  
 Rosenbaum, Mike - Post 680  
 Sklute, Stanley - Post 617  
 Taylor, Robert - Post 617

## DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Laites, Alan - Post 51  
 Shalett, Stanley - Post 22

## DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

Elzufon, John - Post 747  
 Meyer, Matthew - Post 575

## DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Albinder, Kenneth - Post 352  
 Deutsch, Harold - Post 631  
 Goldfarb, Alan - Post 172  
 Jasper, Georgi - Post 202  
 Katz, Harry - Post 300  
 Levine, Harvey - Post 321  
 Maloff, Hilbert - Post 819  
 Soble, Eugene - Post 819  
 Yellon, Marvin - Post 265

## DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Caplin, Brian - Post 710  
 Miller, Ronald - Post 10  
 Ruback, Michael - Post 265  
 Ruffolo, Robert - Post 710

## DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Kent, Kevin - Post 167  
 Fridling, Joseph - Post 692  
 Perin, Elliot - Post 692  
 Wasserman, Zachary - Post 380

## DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mitchell, Jame - Post 211  
 Oshry, Richar - Post 211  
 Sachs, Sumne - Post 157  
 Snyder, Davi - Post 735

## DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Brody, Michael - Post 510  
 Mindlin, Alan - Post 510  
 Stanfield, Kenneth - Post 755

## DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Holtzman, Howard - Post 644  
 Reed, Charles - Post 644

## DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Wall, Leonard - Post 331

## DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Hofmeister, Harvey - Post 21  
 Rosenberg, Sheldon - Post 21  
 Schnitzer-Cook, Romy - Post 65  
 Schwartz, Harold - Post 64  
 Stein, Lewis - Post 21  
 UnDelawarerwood, Reginald - Post 65  
 Uslan, Karen - Post 64  
 Uslan, Mark - Post 64

## DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Bachman, Joel - Post 717  
 Danksy, Bernard - Post 178  
 Garber, Ralph - Post 498  
 Greenspan, Louis - Post 740  
 LaKind, Harvey - Post 126  
 Masanoff, John - Post 126  
 Rand, Charles - Post 126  
 Sacks, Glenn - Post 695  
 Singer, Gerald - Post 972  
 Slutsky, Karen - Post 126  
 Slutsky, Neal - Post 126  
 Soled, Howard - Post 651  
 Uretsky, Cal - Post 695

## DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Chaskin, Noah - Post 380

## DEPARTMENT OF NC/VA

Henken, Michael - Post 1  
 Foster, Conrad - Post 488  
 Goodman, Marvin - Post 652  
 Greenberg, Joe - Post 652  
 Katz, Samuel - Post 41  
 Kofler, Lawrence - Post 488  
 Krakower, Leon - Post 625  
 Reiner, Victor - Post 105  
 Schechter, Lawrenc - Post 652  
 Scheffer, Stephe - Post 126  
 Sier, Morri - Post 2  
 Soblick, Herma - Post 652  
 Vooss, Eugen - Post 425  
 Weinfeld, Bruc - Post 425  
 Weintraub, Rober - Post 1

## DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Blum, Joseph - Post 122  
 Dobrow, Davi - Post 222  
 Epstein, Rober - Post 44  
 Gottlieb, Richar - Post 222  
 Plotkin, L. Shalo - Post 44

## DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Barbash, Jac - Post 98  
 Zeisler, Harr - Post 697

## DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Cohen, Georg - Post 23  
 Schrutt, Barr - Post 23

## DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Brown, Louis - Post 112  
 Burgess, Dustin - Post 112  
 Davis, Rashad - Post 112  
 Ehrenfeld, Jesse - Post 121  
 Espinal, Luis - Post 112  
 Fowler, Christopher - Post 112  
 Green, Hayden - Post 112  
 Hall, Code - Post 112  
 Halpern, Daniel - Post 112  
 Heller, Justin - Post 112  
 Higham, Jacob - Post 112  
 Holt, Michael - Post 112  
 Jaime, Aaron - Post 112  
 Javenduer, Joshua - Post 112

## DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Jensen, Benjamin - Post 112  
 Jukowski, Aleksander - Post 112  
 Kellogg, Kellog - Post 112  
 Kerendian, Nathaniel - Post 112  
 Lake, Davis - Post 112  
 Legaspi, Cesar - Post 112  
 Lipsitz, Louis - Post 320  
 Lutin, Charles - Post 112  
 McMurray, Nicholas - Post 112  
 Mitchell, Christian - Post 112  
 Nyiambayu, John-Fredeluis - Post 112  
 Payne, Benjamin - Post 112  
 Price, Austin - Post 112  
 Rasmussen, Seth - Post 112  
 Raymond, Jacob - Post 112  
 Smoot, Alex - Post 112  
 Squier, Tanner - Post 112  
 Tafoya, Scott - Post 112  
 Urban, William - Post 112  
 Vanover, Joshua - Post 112  
 Walmsley, Jon - Post 112  
 Weinstein, Marc - Post 112  
 Wright, Drew - Post 112  
 Zeller, Mark - Post 112

## DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Bogdan, Jared - Post 755  
 Bugalla, Zachary - Post 755  
 Douthitt, Nathaniel - Post 749  
 Everett, Hannelora - Post 755  
 Halperin, Allen - Post 256  
 Himmelhoch, Marc - Post 256  
 Kamin, Wyatt - Post 755  
 Korngut, Fred - Post 755  
 Kramer, Briann - Post 755  
 Lewis, Mark - Post 755  
 Lopez, Guadalupe - Post 795  
 Pody, David - Post 755  
 Reed, David - Post 757  
 Reiman, Lionel - Post 256  
 Rosenfield, Daniel - Post 256  
 Rubenstein, David - Post 753  
 Samloff, Alexi - Post 755  
 Schlossberg, Ryan - Post 755  
 Segal, Rebecca - Post 755  
 Wolf, Joseph - Post 436

## 7 Questions with a JWV Member

Haym Salomon, who provided crucial philanthropic aid during the American Revolution.

### *How does being an American Veteran shape the way you celebrate the High Holidays?*

JWV was founded on the principle that a Jew could be as American as anyone else, but we must not lose touch with what makes us Jews. The High Holidays unite us in our Judaism as an expression of our American right to worship as we choose and be as we choose.

### *Favorite Mel Brooks film?*

Young Frankenstein.

Do you know a JWV member whom we should feature in **7 Questions for a Member?** If so, contact Mara Sherman at [msherman@jvv.org](mailto:msherman@jvv.org) and let her know.

## Leaders of the Jewish Community – Younger Than You Think

By 2LT Daniel Rosenfield

Who are the people that our Jewish community should look to for leadership? Clergy? Politicians? Your Bubbe?

Millennial Jews, such as myself, are the ones who should be looked to for leadership. They are ready to take on obstacles and are not afraid to stand up for themselves, their faith, and the Jewish people.

But with the need for committed Jewish leaders in such demand, there must be a shift in the Jewish community. There must be an effort to look past the stereotypes, what we see on television, and understand why it is imperative for the Jewish youth to be a part of JWV programs and the greater community.

We want to take responsibility. We are invested, and want to have the op-



**2LT Daniel Rosenfield**

portunity to create initiatives and programs that will impact our community. We are willing to learn about what it means to take responsibility – no matter how much that may be – and do more

than talk about what needs to be done.

**People listen to us.** With so many methods of communication at our fingertips, we know how to not just be heard – but listened to. We know the avenues where people are tuned in, and have a desire to make our message loud and clear! Even better, we do not rely on typical media. Social media runs our organizations, and Jewish organizations for youth are plugged into one another. When one idea, issue, or cause catches on within an organization, the entire Jewish community can be on board within hours.

**We want a challenge.** We do not want it easy. We want to live up to the expectations of others, and more importantly, those we set for ourselves. Amongst Jewish youth groups, there is

*Continued on page 17*

# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

## PNC David Hymes Marks His Centennial

On September 16th, David Hymes marked his centennial birthday. Most of us know David as our Past National Commander, but I got the opportunity to sit down and speak with him about his story for the past 100 years.

According to David, he was born on the kitchen table. "My mother couldn't leave my sister alone in the apartment, and my dad was away working. To be honest, I don't even know if we could have afforded to go to the hospital. So, I was born right there," said David. David grew up on the West Side of Chicago, and he went to Marshall High School. His parents owned a small produce store that they both worked at 7 days a week. "We weren't rich, but we always had food on the table," he said.

"I wanted to study dentistry, but my parents couldn't support it," said David. After he graduated high school, he ended up getting a job at the local post office while he attended Northwestern at night. He studied for 6 years, and he graduated as an accountant or, as David calls it, "a Jewish engineer".

After graduating, David and his friend rented a car, and they took a trip to Denver. The day after they drove back was the day that David's draft number was picked. While he was at basic training, Pearl Harbor was hit, and as he put it, "my two year mandatory service turned into a four year mandatory service."

He first got stationed in Panama, and he was able to transfer to finance. After he reached sergeant, David was able to attend Officer Candidate School, and he obtained the rank of second lieutenant. He spent some time in the states before he was transferred to

By Anna Selman



New Centennial, PNC David Hymes was presented with a birthday cake at the National Commander's Banquet at the National Convention.

Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, (SHAEF) headquarters in Europe.

"When I arrived there, I asked the guy what my job was going to be. He told me that I was going to be a postal finance officer, and I asked him what the hell a postal finance officer was. He said, 'I heard you had a degree in finance and that you worked in a post office.' I said yes, and he said, 'there you go.'"

He was in charge of getting supplies for different units that were in combat on the European front. While on duty, Mr. Hymes was shot in the arm, and he was hospitalized for nine months. He was discharged from the Army when he finished his rehab, and according to David, "I did not go back to the post office." The first job that David applied for was an accounting job.

In those days, you had to put your religion on your application, and when he went for the interview, the manager said that they did not hire Jews. David told me that he said some things that would have not made his mother proud. However, he got another interview lined up for an accounting position at a liquor distribution company, and he ended up working there for a couple of years.

Around that time, David met his wife, Evaline, and they found an apartment in Hyde Park, Chicago. They ended up having two daughters. He also went into business with his brother in law, where he worked until he was 90.

He joined JWV in 1963, and he helped form the Dr. Samuel Pearlman Post 800 in 1967. He served as the Post Commander from 1970-1972. He subsequently was elected to the Illinois Department Commander in 1976. He served on the National Executive Committee from 1976 to 1994. He was then elected to National Commander in 1994. He also has served on the National Museum of American Jewish Military History's board of directors.

David's wife, Evaline, passed away in 2004, and David said he sold his house for an apartment in Chicago. He ended up retiring 3 years later. "I mailed all my accounts, and I told them that their accounts had been paid in full because I was retiring," said David. He says his grandson is getting married in September, and he cannot wait to be there. We wish David all the luck in the world, and "Ad Me'ah Ve-essrim."

## What's a Good Jewish Boy Doing in Vietnam?

That is the question Mr. Cary King told me he was asked when he came back from fighting in Vietnam. King is not your average or ordinary attorney. On Sunday, June 25, the highly decorated soldier spoke to the Jewish War Veterans USA, Atlanta Post here in Dunwoody.

"It's a great honor to present information to fellow Vet's of all wars, WWII to the present," said Cary. A packed audience of fifty individuals was eager to hear from this man, who was awarded the Purple Heart and five Bronze Stars.

"I was born in 1941 and loved the post WWII generation, John Wayne and was attracted to the Army. I found a place in the ROTC for four years at Georgia State," said Cary. "I joined because I love the military and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on August 22, 1963. Went to Emory Law School on a deferment, but I dropped it for active duty," said King. "Went to Fort Still Oklahoma, artillery school, then to jump school at Fort Benning. I asked myself, why am I jumping out of a plane when it's not on fire? My third jump I ruptured my Achilles tendon. I volunteered for Vietnam in 1966 and was sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Kansas where my daughter was born. Volunteered again, January of 1967 sent to Vietnam with the 1st Infantry and was told, "don't need artillery, we need infantry. My first night was a major attack that lasted for three days. Got wounded, but wanted to go back, so I did," explained King.

Cary then described the horrific fighting during,

By Marc Alan Urbach



Cary King

"The Tet Offensive." "We got hit from every direction possible. The fighting lasted 45 days, house to house fighting. On June 21, 1968, we landed in the middle of the jungle and were attacked by a regiment of Vietcong, lost three men that night. You can breathe the dirt," said King. "I ordered the infantry guns low to the ground and we fired "Bee Hives" over their head. That night I said to myself, God, if you get me out of this with my arms, legs and half a brain, I'll do something to give back, I want to see my daughter and come home," said Cary.

King explained how Vietnam Veterans weren't treated well when they got home. "Treated apathetically, like we didn't exist. I had no politics about the war and didn't talk about it for years." But what King has done with the rest of his life is nothing short of remarkable.

"Mac, Greg Studdard and I started the first VA Pro Bono legal clinic in the United States. We're now

the model for others. I am the director of the Georgia VA Clinics," said Cary. "We have provided over 15 thousand hours and seen over two thousand Veterans," explained King. This is exactly the information all Veterans need to hear, as I have a close friend in need of legal assistance. "In 2013 as Chairman, we opened more clinics; now we're in Fort McPherson with seven lawyers, Augusta, Carrollton and Rome, looking at Columbus and Savannah," said Cary.

"They raised for the Vet's 4.2 million dollars in benefits they wouldn't have gotten. We have the Georgia State Clinic, these are various outlets you can go to, Court or not, these are services provided to you. UGA opening, Pro Bono Veteran Clinic and Psychology counseling and therapy," explained King.

Cary is very proud of the Veterans Courts in Georgia, but said, "we need for Veteran mentors to assist them by working with veterans."

King concluded with a short statement that he was not the best student at the AA Synagogue and not the best behaved at Ft. Still. Amazingly, Rabbi Murray Berger who was sitting in the front, humorously commented, "Who do you think was your Chaplain at Ft. Still?"

"Linda Klein, President of the American Bar Association is hoping to use the legal Pro Bono services for Veterans program on a national basis, but it's going to take some time," said Cary. "Thank you again for being here this morning." A standing ovation ensued for Mr. Cary King.

# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

## Pickles to Peppers

By Greg Lee, Department Commander of California

Pickles to Peppers is a green growing project put together by the JWV Department of California in order to help veterans have access to fresh fruit and vegetables at their local VA. Its mission is to integrate local communities with veterans and academia in economically viable enterprise based upon sustainable and healthy technology. This is accomplished by growing, processing and marketing a variety of pickled vegetables.



Its concept is derived from the Israeli Moshev operations that permit larger participation. A Moshev can best be described as "A cooperative community made up of small farm units." The Moshav has proven itself as a viable model for more than 60 years.

It is the perfect platform for community-supported agriculture as urban areas rarely have the space required to produce quantities sufficient for the community's needs. However these areas almost always have small plots of misused or under used growing areas.

The yield this year has been great with lots of peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes and more! It is definitely great for the veterans and their families.

## Seattle Post Teaches Local Students on Memorial Day

By Zelle Rettman

To honor Memorial Day this year, seniors at the Northwest Yeshiva High School (NYHS) went to the Sephardic Brotherhood Cemetery on Friday, May 26th, and placed flags on the gravestones of Jewish veterans. The program was led by Bob Shay, a member of the Jewish community who volunteered in the Navy from 1964-1970. He is currently a Committee Chair for Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), as well as a Post Commander for Jewish War Veterans of the United States (JWV).

Bob Shay explained that the JWV is the longest active US veterans organization, and the Seattle branch is the second largest flag project under the JWV umbrella across the country. When Bob Shay began the Seattle program in 1996, he had 58 names. Today he has over 850.

While placing flags at the cemetery, NYHS students learned about the Seattle Jewish community's connection to the American armed forces. Students asked questions about the history of Jews serving in the US armed forces, the burial process, headstones and cemetery maintenance. They were especially moved when placing a flag by the gravestone belong-

## Dayton Volunteers at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

By Steve Markman

It would be difficult for any major museum, or other major public attraction for that matter, to function without an army of dedicated volunteers. The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base just outside of Dayton, Ohio, is no exception. While visitors will see staff members just about everywhere they venture in the Museum's four massive buildings, just about all of them are volunteers. From the information desk at the entrance to docents stationed at most of the exhibits, and others throughout the complex, most staff that a visitor will see are volunteers.

Members of Jewish War Veterans Post 587 always have supported the Museum. Currently, six members serve in various roles throughout the complex, which is the largest military museum in the world.

Three members volunteer in the Holocaust exhibit: Ira Segalewitz, Henry Guggenheimer, and Joe Bettman. Ira and Henry are Holocaust survivors and routinely tell of their personal experiences from this sad era to large groups of school children. Both also are Army veterans of the Korean War. Joe Bettman has visited two former concentration camps and relates his thoughts of this experience to Museum visitors.

Leslie Buerke and Bert Cream serve as docents in different galleries throughout the Museum. They study about the aircraft and artifacts in their areas and are ready to answer the most-often asked questions from the public (getting stumped usually results in their researching the question to be better prepared for the next time). Bert always is ready to answer technical questions based on this thirty-six years experience in military aviation R&D. Their duties also include watching for any problems visitors may have and providing assistance or calling in professional staff as needed.

## Seattle Post Teaches Local Students on Memorial Day

ing to a name they recognized, which happened far more frequently than any of them anticipated.

Before leaving the cemetery, Bob Shay gave each student a small red booklet containing the United States of America's founding documents. He explained that these documents are among the oldest and most long-standing documents of any country to allow Jews to live and practice their faith freely. He thanked the students for their time, impressing upon them how appreciative veterans are of the recognition.



Bob Shay working with students to place flags on graves for Memorial Day.

Steve Markman, former Post 587 Commander and now Dept of Ohio Commander, volunteers in the Restoration Division. He works out of sight of the public, helping to prepare aircraft for display. For over ten years, Steve has been restoring the historic Memphis Belle. The Memphis Belle was the first U.S. Army Air Forces heavy bomber to return to the U.S. after completing 25 missions over Europe. (The Memphis Belle will go on public display in May of 2018.)



Steve Markman cleans the Norden Bombsight that will be installed in the Memphis Belle.

## Dallas Post Goes Flagging with the Boy Scouts



By Art Kaplan

The Harvey J. Bloom Post 256 in Dallas met their local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts at the Dallas Jewish Community Center in order to honor our fallen Veterans at 3 area cemeteries. There were 32 volunteers present, and they all went to the Shearith Israel Cemetery on Dolphin Rd. Back in 1955, Post 256 sponsored a monument honoring our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to preserve our American way of life.

A few words were spoken by TALO Commander Art Kaplan, and then NEC, PDC Jerry Benjamin played TAPS. After the ceremony, the Boy Scouts alongside the JWV members proceeded to put flags on the graves of our Veterans.

After Shearith Israel Cemetery ceremony was complete, some of the group went on to Temple Emanu-El's Cemetery on Lemmon Ave and some went to Sparkman Hillcrest Cemetery to put flags on the Veterans graves there. "The day was a humbling experience knowing what these deceased Veterans did for us to be able to enjoy all the freedoms that America has to offer," said Art Kaplan, Commander of TALO.

# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

## Talking Old Soldiers By David Hozel

The men of JWV Post 692 are mustering for one last battle – against being forgotten

One long night during the Vietnam War, Air Force Capt. Sheldon Goldberg was killing time, waiting for the fighter planes to return from their missions. “I was the duty officer, sitting with nothing to do, and I had a ridiculous epiphany,” he says. “I took a grease pencil and I wrote on the board, ‘What’s a nice Jewish boy like me doing in a place like this, killing Buddhists for Christianity?’”

It was 1969 and the “M\*A\*S\*H”-like bit of subversion didn’t land him in hot water with the brass. “Everyone thought it was quite humorous,” says Goldberg, now 78, who served just under 30 years until his retirement in 1985.

That relatively few Jews serve in the military today irks men like Goldberg. The profound experience of war stamped them in a way like no other. Those experiences, from the ridiculous to the hair raising, are threads in a uniform that he and his fellows in Jewish War Veterans Post 962, representing Rockville, wear every day. Increasingly, they say, fewer people respect the uniform.

“Is JWV anti-Jewish veteran or just anti-military?” read the subject line of an email Goldberg sent in June. That’s how this story began. It isn’t just this newspaper, it’s the Jewish community at large, Goldberg said when I called him after receiving his email. JWV is fighting a rear-guard battle against being forgotten.

That’s why they built the memorial. It stands in front of the Bender Jewish Community Center in Rockville — a 12-foot-tall sculpture by Bethesda artist Phillip Ratner, a Wall of Honor facing the sculpture. The memorial is hallowed ground for them — standing “so that the Jewish community will see that there is a place where its heroes, both alive and dead, can be honored for their service and for their sacrifice,” Goldberg wrote in his email.

But what if you built a memorial and nobody came? When Post 692 held a rededication ceremony last November, 100 people showed up. The Jewish response was underwhelming. “We contacted all the



Members of Post 692-MD in front of the Jewish Veterans Memorial in Maryland.

synagogues in four counties and nobody responded,” says Stuart Freeman, the post’s commander. “The bigger problem is that we did a lot of publicity,” says JWV post member Marshall Sneiderman, 78. “And nothing.”

And so they gathered at the memorial on a hot day in June, five Jewish vets, to vent about the Jewish community’s dereliction of duty when it comes to the military and the contributions Jews like them have made to this country’s defense.

Except that once out of the hot sun, anger subsides to low-grade resentment. What comes out instead is that barring another mass mobilization, another World War II or even Vietnam, there will be few new Jewish veterans because so few Jews enlist. The best these

men in their 70s or better can do is search for a way to reach the young few and try to preserve and protect their organization’s past accomplishments.

And tell stories, lots of stories. Like Goldberg’s whiling away a dull night with a grease pencil, each one

has been honed to a sheen. He erased the board, but he kept the story.

There were half a million Jews in the U.S. military then. Since Vietnam cast a shadow over military service, those numbers have declined. Today, Jews form only 1 percent of the military, says JWV member Elliott Robinson, 78, who spent six years in the Maryland National Guard.

When Robinson signed up in 1957, there was no question of why. “Everybody was going into the military in one fashion or another at that time.”

Gold says there is room in fewer people’s lives for that kind of service. “People have two jobs now.”

And the young are hooked on their electronics.

The memorial went up in 2008, but proved inaccessible. The post made plans to move it to its current spot — you can’t go from the parking lot into the JCC without passing it — and Gold raised \$30,000 to pay for it. In November, the post rededicated it.

But you don’t get a real sense about what war and service is about unless you talk to the guys. Freeman’s two years in Vietnam influences his views today.

In all this time, “I never joined anything,” he says. But the dwindling number of Jewish vets and the memory of what it was to serve in uniform brought him around. Five years ago, he joined the Jewish War Veterans.

*This article was first published in the Washington Jewish Week.*

## Poughkeepsie Post Attends Franklin D. Roosevelt 135th Birthday Commemoration

by Martin C. Hochhauser

On a cold but clear day on January 30, 2017 dignitaries came to Hyde Park, NY to commemorate the birth of our 32nd president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Born on January 30, 1882, this year we celebrated FDR’s 135th birthday. It was a beautiful ceremony as The Long Gray Line of West Point cadets came marching into the Rose Garden to the beat of a solemn drummer. Following this majestic entrance came over a dozen dignitaries who presented wreaths to honor President Roosevelt. The local community was on the periphery of the Rose Garden to witness this annual event.

Among the twelve groups presenting wreaths, one group was the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Pvt. Herman Siegel Post #625 of Poughkeepsie, NY. Representing the Post was Past Commander Ralph Schwartz and Chief of Staff Martin Hochhauser.

Our Post was named after a local resident, Herman Siegel, who was born and bred on May Street in the City of Poughkeepsie. Born in 1925, he graduated Poughkeepsie High School in June 1943 and joined the Army. Eleven months later, on May 18, 1944, at age 19, Pvt. Herman Siegel was killed in action in Anzio, Italy. He was the first member of the local Jewish community to die in World War II.

In addition to Commander Schwartz presenting the JWV wreath, Chief of Staff Hochhauser placed a stone on FDR’s tombstone in the Jewish tradition to indicate that a visitor has come to show respect, that the deceased has not been forgotten and to rekindle the memories of the past.

An additional wreath and flowers were presented by the family of FDR and finally the Presidential wreath was presented by Brigadier General Cindy R. Jebb, Dean of the Academic Board, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY.

The formal event was concluded with salutary volleys of an Army firing squad followed by the sounding of Taps. The Long Gray Line marched out of the Rose Garden once again to the sound of a drummer.

Finally, everyone was invited back to the Visitors’ Center to partake in two huge birthday cakes and hot beverages.



Staff Martin Hochhauser.

# JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

## JWV Post Rededicates Bus For Disabled Veterans

By Randall Lieberman

In 1998, the Jewish War Veterans "Irv Steinberg" Post 440 of Boynton Beach raised \$146,000 to purchase a 17-passenger bus for the exclusive use of the Veterans Administration Medical Center of West Palm Beach to transport disabled veterans.

Then, in late 2016, the post was told by the center that the bus had become inoperable after about only 60,000 miles — and that the bus would have to be scrapped.

Post Commander Jerry Schnur, 90, of West Palm Beach, a Coast Guard veteran from World War II, vividly recalls the moment he heard the news.

"When the member was talking about how the bus had to be scrapped, I interrupted his report to go on record that I took full responsibility for getting this bus back on the road," Schnur said.

said. "In the memory of those members who had worked so hard to purchase this bus, I knew we had to do something."

Schnur decided to have Michael Corbett, 71, of Boynton Beach, a Marine Corps veteran from Vietnam, look into the matter.



**Jerry Schnur, commander of Jewish War Veterans Post 440 of Boynton Beach, speaks at the VA Medical Center in West Palm Beach at a rededication ceremony for a bus the post purchased to transport disabled veterans to and from the center.**

had served their country. We, in turn, are so grateful for the company's generosity."

After the necessary mechanical repairs were done, an official presentation was made on Friday

morning, June 30 in which Schnur presented the keys to the bus to Jon Roberts, chief of facilities management at the center, in recognition of the bus being able to get back on the road.

"Thousands of veterans have already been served by this bus, and we hope thousands more will now be able to be served," said Roberts after accepting the key. Schnur and Corbett were thrilled

with the turn of events.

"This is one of the happiest days I've had in a while knowing that we put this bus that bears our name back on the road," Schnur said.

Added Corbett, "We cannot sufficiently thank the Thomas Built Buses Company for its generous response to our need to revitalize the bus that means so much to the thousands of disabled veterans in South Florida who rely on this transportation to attend to their life-saving medical appointments."

Officials of Thomas Built Buses were glad to be able to provide this donation.

In an email to Corbett, Ricky Myers, technical service manager of Thomas Built Buses, wrote, "As for Thomas Bus, we are proud of our veterans, and we cannot thank them enough for what they did and what they do."

In addition to Roberts, other center officials thanked the post during the presentation.

"The Jewish War Veterans do so much for our medical center," said Mary C. Phillips, the center's chief of voluntary service, in her intro-

ductory remarks. "They are one of the organizations we can count on the most for help." Added Donna Katen-Bahensky, the center's director, in her closing remarks, "I want to thank everyone for coming to this wonderful day for the VA Medical Center."

For more information about JWV Post 440, contact Michael Corbett at [ocusmc@hotmail.com](mailto:ocusmc@hotmail.com) or 561-742-8016.

This article was originally published in the Jewish Journal (South Florida).

## New Jersey's Jewish War Veterans Education Grant Program

Mort Millinger

At the 86<sup>th</sup> JWV Department of New Jersey Annual Convention, the Leo A. Seigel - Dr. Philip Shapiro Education Grants were awarded to three deserving recipients – Austin Grant, Joshua Schuman and Eric Schneider. All are direct descendants of JWV members, and we could not be prouder of their education, athletic and community accomplishments that contributed to them getting these awards.

The JWV NJ Education Grant program awards these grants annually to graduating seniors from public or private high schools in the state of New Jersey. All applicants must be a direct descendant of a member, living or deceased, of a Jewish War Veterans Post in New Jersey for a minimum of three years.

This year's recipients are a prestigious group of young adults, and we know that they will go on to do great things for our community as well as the United States. Austin Grant of Verona, NJ, will be attending Duke University. Joshua Schuman of West Orange, NJ will be attending the University of Delaware. Lastly, Eric Schneider of Livingston, NJ will be attending the University of Maryland. Congratulations Austin, Joshua and Eric! Now, go make us proud!



**Post member and VA chair Arnold Zenker observes operation of wheel chair lift.**

"Michael is my left-hand man and also my right-hand man," Schnur said. "He's like a magician. I knew he would get things done."

Corbett had the bus checked out and it was determined the cost of replacing the engine (which had a cracked block), including labor, would be in excess of \$16,000.

"We operate on an annual budget of around \$5,000 a year," Corbett said. "And 85 percent of that goes back to our own veterans. I didn't think we'd be able to come up with that kind of money."

So Corbett contacted the bus manufacturer — Thomas Built Buses, headquartered in High Point, N.C. — to see what that company could do.

Following some discussion between Corbett and Thomas officials, the company first offered to donate a new engine for the bus. Following further discussion, the company agreed to pay for the installation of the new engine, as well.

"At all times, company officials at Thomas Built Buses were concerned for the welfare of our veterans," Corbett said. "They wanted to give back to those who



**Recipients of New Jersey's JWV Education Grant, from left: Austin Grant, Joshua Schuman and Eric Schneider; and Mort Millinger, Chairman of the National Youth Achievement Program.**

**JWV Foundation 2017 Grants have all been awarded. Information for the 2018 Grants will be available on the JWV website in the spring of 2018.**

# Convention Round-Up!

By Herschel L. Sheiness, Commander Post 753



Herschel L. Sheiness

Post 753, San Antonio, TX would like to thank everyone who attended the 2017 National Convention in San Antonio, and I sincerely hope you enjoyed your stay. Everyone in Texas has waited a long time for a J WV convention to be held in Texas, but when it was scheduled in our own backyard,

we were pumped! There is no greater place to hold a convention for a military-based organization than Military City U.S.A. All involved at this end put in a lot of time, planning and organizing with TALO and National to successfully pull it off. Bottom line - we certainly hope you liked the accommodations, and if you ventured out of the hotel, you found what our great city had to offer in the way of attractions, shopping and cuisine to your liking. Even the weather cooperated by not being too, too hot, for August that is, although the uninvited guest, Hurricane Harvey, did disrupt the plans of some.

Speaking of hurricanes, we send our best wishes, hopes and prayers to not only J WV members, but everyone affected by hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

From our perspective, one of the highlights was the outstanding presentation of the colors at the Joint Opening Ceremony, the Auxiliary President's banquet and the National Commander's banquet. The colors were presented by the Ft. Sam Houston Veterans Administration (VA) Cemetery Memorial Detachment, the Brackenridge High School Women's color guard and the Joint Base San Antonio – Randolph AFB Honor Guard, respectively. Incidentally, in the 2016 school year the Brackenridge High School Women's color guard placed number one in the national competition!

We hope you enjoyed all of the presentations, but especially by two Post 753 members, David Rubenstein (USA MG Retired) and Post 753 Commander Herschel L. Sheiness. General Rubenstein, who is the former commander of the AMEDD Center and School, gave

an excellent presentation about inspiring young leaders. Also, we hope you had time to meet with Post Member Bart Sherwood and his service dog, Colonel, to learn more about the Train A Dog Save A Warrior program he administers.

Our other presenters included MG Patrick Sculley, General Baruch Levy, General Christopher Powers and J WV members – Marc Wolf and Darin Selnick. MG Sculley, the former Chief of the Dental Corps, was the keynote speaker at the Museum reception, where he spoke about the Army Dental Corps' effort to give Captain Salomon the Medal of Honor. Generals Levy, the past commander of Tzevet, and Powers, the past commander of the Texas National Guard, gave a wonderful presentation at our Israel Update Panel. Marc Wolf, the Director of Development for the Northeast Region of the Navy Seal Foundation, presented on the future of J WV, and Darin Selnick, the Assistant to the VA Secretary, represented Dr. Shulkin, the VA Secretary, on a very special VA update for J WV.

It was especially moving to say goodbye to PNC COL Carl Singer. I know all of us here at TALO will enjoy seeing Carl walking around town with his new cowboy hat. To National Commander Paul Warner, we know you will do great things, and don't forget to visit us Texans in your travels.

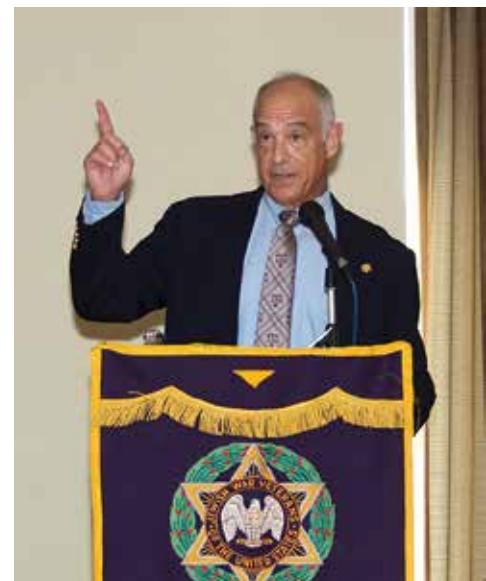
All of us here at Post 753 had a great time attending the talks, the workshops, the meetings and of course, the Commander's Banquet! I was especially appreciative to host the workshop on JROTC engagement, where we brought in LTC Jerry Cheatom from Sam Houston High School to speak about engaging JROTC students.

We loved attending some of the other workshops as well. We learned about the new Kol Israel Connections Program with the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, where Posts will be partnered with oversea military bases. We also got a sneak preview at the new J WV website as well as learned about improving our public relations. I attended the membership workshop, where I learned about recruiting younger members. It was really great all around!

Thank you all for coming! Should any J WV members be in San Antonio, we welcome you to join us for a bagel at our monthly meetings. In any case, we look forward to seeing y'all next year in Tampa!



Robert Richter, Post 126-NJ, was this year's recipient of the Murray L. Rosen Award for Member of the Year.



MG David Rubenstein



Darin Selnick



LTG Christopher Powers receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from PNC Carl Singer.



PNC Carl Singer and MG Baruch Levy.

# Convention Round-Up!

## JWV 2017 Award Winners

### Feuereisen-I. T. Rockman Award

Department of New Jersey  
Nassau-Suffolk County Council, NY

### Ben Kaufman Award

Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256, TALO

### Wolfson Award

Manhattan-Cooper-Lt.Col Larry Epstein-Florence Greenwald Post 1, NY  
Department of Massachusetts

### National Commander's Award

Maurice Kubby Post 749, TALO

### Joseph Demiany Memorial Award

Nassau-Suffolk County Council, NY

### Post-9/11 Veteran Support Award

Manhattan-Cooper-Lt.Col Larry Epstein-Florence Greenwald Post 1, NY

### Recruiter of the Year

George Hart, Centennial Post 112-SW

Barry Schneider, Martin Hochster Memorial Post 755, TALO

### Edward D. Blatt Award

Albert Adler, Department of NJ

### Brenner-Jaffee Memorial Award

Best Monthly Publication  
Valley of the Sun Post 194, SW

Best Bi-Monthly Publication  
PFC Frederick Hecht Post 425, NY

Best Quarterly Publication  
New Beacon, Dept. of NY

### Outstanding Email Newsletter

Martin Hochster Memorial Post 755, TALO

### Most Improved Online Engagement

Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256, TALO

### Post Growth

#### Small Posts

- Sam Luna Post 106, NY

#### Medium Posts

- Colin J. Wolfe Post 95, VA

#### Large Posts

- Edward D. Klein Post 138, CA

#### Bountiful Posts

- Atlanta Centennial Post 112, SW



From left: PNC Sheldon Ohren, Post 425-NY; Michael Menschel, Post 250-NY; Lewis Wunderlich, Post 488-NY; and Gerald Alperstein, Post 1, NY



Albert Adler, Dept. of NJ



Marc Thurston, Post 138-CA



Peter Levy, Post 755-TALO

From left: Allan Cantor, Post 256-TALO; Scott Stevens, Post 749- TALO; Art Kaplan, Post 256-TALO; Barry Schneider, Post 755-TALO; Ken Ashworth, Post 753-TALO; and Andy Lavigne, Post 256-TALO.



## JWV IN THE COMMUNITY

### Boston Chapter Donates Collections To Needy Hospitalized Veterans

On January 30, 2017, representatives of Sharon Post 735, Jewish War Veterans of the United States presented a check in the amount of \$1,600 to Richard Leeman, Assistant Chief, Voluntary Service and Lana Otis, Voluntary Services Program Manager at the Brockton Campus of the Veterans Administration Boston Healthcare System. The Post collected these funds during their Veterans Day solicitation at Shaws Supermarket in Sharon which took place from November 9th through 11th of last year. These funds will be used for the benefit of hospitalized veterans for the personal needs of these men and women while undergoing treatment and extended care within the VA facility. Among the items provided are specialized telephones for the use of paralyzed patients so that they may more easily maintain contact with their families.

Since 2009, the OPost has raised and contributed over \$23,000 to this organization. In addition, Sharon Post 735 has received the Jewish War Veterans Department of Massachusetts Community Service Award for their continued support of hospitalized veterans for the years 2014 and 2015. The Post also regularly sponsors deserving seniors from Sharon High School and Stoughton High School at the annual Massachusetts Classmates Today Neighbors Tomorrow scholarship breakfast program.

The Jewish War Veterans is the oldest veterans' organization in the United States. It was formed in 1896 to support the veterans returning from battle with grave wounds, both physical and mental. The Jewish War Veterans Post #735 is a Sharon Massachusetts JWV Post dedicated to carrying on the traditions of



From left: Richard Leeman, Lana Otis, and Paul Maltzman, quartermaster of Post 735-MA.

supporting veterans in need and fighting intolerance, racism and bigotry.

# PROFILES IN SERVICE

## IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST

By Julian Haber

The United States Navy commissioned the USS Texas on March 12, 2014. A New York Class battleship, she contained the last coal-driven propulsion system used in this type of ship. Her fourteen coal fired boilers propelled her to 21 knots at full speed. Some of vessel's multiple five inch and fourteen inch cannons thrust a more than one ton shell thirteen miles. Before World War I the Texas became the first ship to mount antiaircraft guns and develop a capability to launch aircraft.

Abie Fox, a Polish émigré and Fort Worth, Texas coffee shop owner, entered the U.S. Navy in April 1917 and immediately shipped out for training at the Great Lakes Naval Air Station. He eventually joined the USS Texas as a Fireman Second Class on June 28, 1917. He looked forward with much anticipation to action as part of the 9th Battle Squadron operating out of Scotland. However, a funny thing happened before he ever got there. Trying to avoid a minefield off the coast of Rhode Island at the mouth of Long Island Sound, the Texas ran aground on Brock Island. She could not maneuver off until towed to open water by tugboats. Suffering extensive damage and needing repair, the ship did not get into the fight until January 1918.

The life of a fireman in the belly of a battleship in World War I could at best be described as difficult and at worst as horrible. A coal barge anchored next to the ship. Large cranes lifted the fuel onto the Texas' deck. Then Abie and much of the rest of the crew shoveled coal down large chutes that led to coal bins in the engine room. As a Fireman 2nd Class Abie Fox transferred large black chunks from the bins onto floor plates where it passed to others of similar rank who placed the fuel into the boilers. He along with his comrades sweated profusely from the searing heat, inhaled unhealthy coal dust and thick smoke that led to occasional shortness of breath. One of his crewmates stated that his skin turned so dark after his shifts in the engineering/fuel room that he hardly recognized himself in the restroom mirror at the end of a shift.

Another fellow sailor, Charles Hergut, said, "Hell can't be any worse than firing these boilers."

When the vessel ran at slow speed and the boilers dimmed somewhat, Abie and his shipmates often got meat, onions and potatoes from the galley, placed them in a coal scoop and cooked a stew in one of the fire-boxes. Only by the grace of God did most of them not get black lung disease, pulmonary or stomach cancer.

When the Texas arrived on February 11, 1918, at the Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands off the coast of Scotland, she was assigned to Battle Division 9 of the 6th Battle Squadron of the British Grand Fleet. Abie and his crewmates in the boiler room kept the fires burning and the screws turning as they helped the great ship move forward into the North Atlantic escorting Allied convoys in the vicinity of Norway.

Only once did the German battle fleet venture out of its estuary on the Jade and Emms Rivers to challenge the Allied shipping. However, after seeing the Texas and other large ships, they retreated beyond gun range and a major encounter never occurred.

On November 21 together with the English Grand Fleet, Abie's ship met the German Navy forty miles east of the Isle of May and escorted the enemy to the Firth of Forth, Scotland, where surrender and impoundment of the Boche vessels occurred. She got under way again December 12, when together with other vessels of Battle Division Nine she escorted the USS George Washington carrying President Woodrow Wilson to Brest, France on his way to the Paris Peace Conference. Two days later the ship embarked for home and arrived in New York just in time for the holiday season. Fireman 2nd Class Abie Fox finished his service to America two months later and left his battleship to return to civilian life.

## SHE THOUGHT SHE WAS "HARDLY WORTH MENTIONING"

By Joel Michaels



Gladys L. Lonstein-Gaman, a member of our country's "greatest generation," recently passed away, just two weeks shy of her 100th birthday. She served in the United States Army Nurse Corps during World War II (1943 -1946), where she was assigned to the 121st Station Hospital in Braintree, England. After the War, she lived most of her life in Peabody, Massachusetts where she raised her family. Her two sons, Steven and Philip, survive her. I am Gladys' nephew.

Gladys came from a modest background in Worcester, Massachusetts, where she lived with her two sisters and younger brother. She was an unassuming woman who did not seek recognition for her military service. During an interview in 2004 by the Veterans History Project, her first inclination was to diminish the extent of her contributions to the War effort. When asked why she enlisted as a nurse at age 24, she said "I had to be a part of it in some small way" and nursing was the only way she could make a contribution. She went on to say that "my involvement seemed so small to me" as she compared it to the many young men who saw combat and thought it was

"hardly worth mentioning."

Like many American Jews who served in World War II, Gladys gave two reasons for her service. The first was the protection of America, as she concluded that if "England had been taken over by the Nazis, we would have been next." The second was to "help my people who were being persecuted in the concentration camps." Supporting American soldiers in the field was how Gladys perceived she could best provide some outreach to her fellow Jews who were victims of the Holocaust. Her remarks provide context for why a young Jewish girl from Worcester left for New York alone to enlist and go on to England to face an uncertain future during a most troubled time.

Although Gladys saw her contributions as a member of the Army Nurse Corps as small, not all saw it that way. One night, while on duty at the hospital in England, Gladys experienced the impact of a German warplane's bomb. After she emerged from the rubble and from under the desk she used for cover, she saw the significant damage surrounding her. Gladys immediately directed her attention to ensuring the safety and health of the patients in the ward. Her response and actions that day were the subject of a Major's letter of commendation, which affirmed that "under extremely hazardous conditions, Second Lieutenant Lonstein did calmly and efficiently carry out the necessary work of attending to the patients in the ward." Gladys explained her reactions that night by saying that she probably was "too dumb to be scared" and "all I knew was that I had to get the patients to a safe place."

Since World War II, the role of women in the American military continues to evolve. Some of this change can be attributed to the actions of many women, including my aunt, who served in the Army Nurse Corps. Like their male counterparts, they too were fearless in ensuring that our country would not fail in defending its security and freedom for its citizens, while restoring peace throughout the world. To this day I remain in awe of the contributions they made.

## DON'T FORGET TO DUCK

By PNC Sam Greenberg

Marty was born in Wilks-Barre, PA, and he was one of three brothers. They grew up in a small town with around 4,000 Jews, which was a large Jewish population for Wilkes-Barre's size. He was a Boy Scout, and he always wanted to serve his country and to follow in the footsteps of his brother Sam.

His chance came when he was drafted at the beginning of the Korean War. His brother Sam dropped him off at his local train station to go to basic training. Sam told him, "Don't forget to duck," and he laughed and continued to smile as he got on the train.

He trained at Fort Sam Houston to become a combat medic, and he joined the First Armored Division at Fort Hood, where they deployed to Korea. He worked a lot in the field – dragging and caring for other soldiers. He always said, "War was hell," and that's pretty much all he would say about it. He was wounded three times during the battle of Pork Chop Hill, and he received a bronze star and a silver star for performing his duties.

# PROFILES IN SERVICE

He spent 10 months in Walter Reed recovering before going home to Pennsylvania. He decided he would become a watchmaker and diamond setter, which he really enjoyed quite a bit – he did it the rest of his life. There, he met Sondra, and they had three sons – Mark, Allan and Kevin.

Marty was a dedicated member of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., and spent more than 40 years giving back to other veterans. Marty passed away earlier this year, but we will always remember him, still smiling.

## HOW JEWISH VIETNAM VETERANS WERE TREATED

By Jerome Frank

My name is Jerome Frank, and I am a Vietnam Veteran. Let me tell you that being a Jewish Vietnam Veteran was not easy. In the Army, I was subjected to anti-Semitism, and when I came back, I was shunned by the Jewish community. Here is my story:

In the fall of 1961, I was in night school taking classes in accounting right around when the Berlin crisis was starting. I was drafted in January 1962, and I went to basic training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina and advanced individual training (AIT) was in Ft. Eustis, Virginia. After completing school, I was sent to Ft. Knox, Kentucky. My wife joined me there where we rented a property off of the base.

My landlady owned practically the entire town of Muldraugh, Kentucky. One day she was in the house we rented and happened to see my wife's Jewish cookbook. At that time she said to my wife, "had she known we were Jewish, she would never have rented to us."

The next day, we were about to leave for Shabbat services when the sheriff came to our house with his siren on. The sheriff happened to be our landlady's brother. He was also the fire marshal and postmaster. He told us that we were being evicted and we must be out of the house as soon as possible.

About a week later, I received a call from Ft. Knox telling me that I had to be off the post by Monday at 4 PM. I called a friend of mine in Personnel and asked him, "Where was I headed for"? The friend called back and said I was not on any deployment.

We started packing up our car over the weekend. I was told to take my dependent home and to report to Ft. Riley, Kansas. In order to leave a military installation, I had to clear post. I spoke to the officer in charge of the airfield, and he told me to wait outside while he called the Dept. of the Army. After that call, I was called back into the office and was told he cannot stop the orders. I was a Private E-2.

After I arrived back in Philadelphia with my wife and our belongings, I was off to Ft. Riley, Kansas for deployment. After a month or so, we formed a company and packed up our gear and left for points unknown.

After being in the air for a few hours, we were informed that our destination was Vung Tau, South Vietnam. I don't have to tell you how it was in Vietnam during that period of time. My tour of duty lasted for 10 months, 3 weeks and 3 days.

Upon arrival back home, we were treated as baby killers and even had things thrown at us. I tried to join a Jewish War Veterans Post, and I was turned down

because Vietnam was never declared a war at that time. I told the people who were at the bank looking for people to join the War Veterans groups that soldiers are dying there, but no one cared. Finally, I told a friend about being denied for membership, and he made sure I could join.

During Vietnam and coming home, Vietnam veterans and their loved ones were the only people who honored Vietnam veterans. Now, with Honor Flights, it only took fifty years for Vietnam veterans to get recognized, regardless of their religion. No veterans should be treated like the Vietnam veterans.

## LEADERSHIP UNDER FIRE

By Marc Wolf



In my roles as an Anti-Submarine Warfare Intelligence Officer assigned to the Commander of Patrol and Reconnaissance Forces in the FIFTH and SEVENTH Fleets, as well as the Senior Intelligence Officer for Naval Special Warfare's SEAL Team TWO, I have always led with the Boy Scout Oath and Law as my guide posts. "On my honor, I will do my best." Those words are the opening lines of the Boy Scout Oath. You see, I grew up as a Boy Scout, earned the Eagle Scout by the age of 15, and those words are the code -- let watchword be duty -- by which I'd lived my entire life, especially when my own leadership came under fire on my third trip to Afghanistan.

An enlisted man under my charge, but one year my senior, Jesse Harrahill is one of the finest intelligence specialists I ever worked with during my tenure in the United States Navy. A true professional with a can-do spirit, Jesse is one of the few people I've known who truly "gets it" and whom I would trust to lead in all situations. At the time, he'd been doing what he does best for almost ten years and has what it takes to make it in any position in any organization. The Navy is lucky to have him, and I was lucky to work with him during the two years I served as the Senior Intelligence Officer assigned to SEAL Team TWO.

The Navy places a significant emphasis on the advancement process. How else do we retain and promote our finest Sailors? The year I met Jesse, he was ten years in and was selected as "Intelligence Specialist of the Year" for the entire Navy, but despite all his accolades, Jesse had still not achieved an important status: Chief Petty Officer. He had one designation to earn before he would make this important career advancement. He hadn't earned a "Warfare

Device." His best chance would've been on a previous tour of duty aboard an aircraft carrier, but he was so busy looking after others, he missed his chance to meet all the requirements and was turned down by the review board.

No matter how other members of the SEAL Team leadership and I argued for Jesse, the Navy would not grant an exception for Jesse. So the senior leadership promised Jesse in my presence that we would make it happen -- I made that commitment.

As Jesse's superior, I not only had a personal interest in seeing this thru, it was my responsibility as an officer to ensure the integrity of the chain of command. I vowed that under my watch, Jesse would advance.

A month later our situation changed, we had to act fast to take advantage of our enemy's position, and we had to move men into place to be ready. I was sent to another location in Afghanistan, but before I left, I laid out plans for how our manpower should be used. I made it part of my plan to keep Jesse behind. He was just three weeks from reaching his goal -- his Warfare Device -- and I wanted him to finish. Though Jesse was one of our best, I trusted the other Sailors in my department could complete the mission, and for personal good and the good of the Navy, Jesse was to remain in place. My commanding officer had a different idea.

In the military structure, you don't question your command. It's virtually unheard of and carries serious consequences, but I reminded my superiors of the promise they made to Jesse and of how important it was for us to keep that commitment.

I believe a person is defined by his character and the greatest asset he can have is a good name. So, I put myself on the line to help Jesse Harrahill -- to help him earn his warfare device and advance to Chief, to help the overall group and to help morale -- to let them know they can believe and trust the chain of command and the Navy to take care of them, and to always do the right thing.

In the end, Jesse was able to accomplish his goal. Today, he proudly wears the khaki uniform of a Chief, and the Navy and all of us are better for it.

Jesse knew I stood up for him in Afghanistan. He knew I put career and myself on the line. On my last day of active duty service, he honored me with a plaque inscribed with my own words, my mantra: "Always do the right thing and take care of your people no matter what." He added his own sentiment to the plaque: "It is because of your devotion to this principle that I proudly wear my pin."

In my life I hope to always remain true to those words -- my own words, my own promise and watchword -- whether as a supervisor, in management as an executive or as a member of a group taking care of my teammates. It is my hope to always surround myself with people of integrity and honor, who stand up for what's right, who consider the good of the group, and most importantly, who keep their word, no matter the risk. Words such as these remind me of my sense of duty, honor, purpose, doing what's right in the most difficult of situations and the importance of looking out for each other, my fellow Sailors and Marines, my comrades-in-arms, my band of brothers. I know I always will.

# Movie Review • • • • •

## DUNKIRK

By Lauren Hellendall, JWV Membership Assistant

Fewer events in modern history have captured the public interest and imagination as utterly as the battles and machinations of the Second World War. The source of countless films, novels and other dramatic retellings, cultural depictions often focus on hard won victories and uphill struggles against the Axis powers. In Christopher Nolan's newest film *Dunkirk* we see a rarer, yet incredibly powerful, glimpse into an event that holds more ambiguous ground in the annals of history.

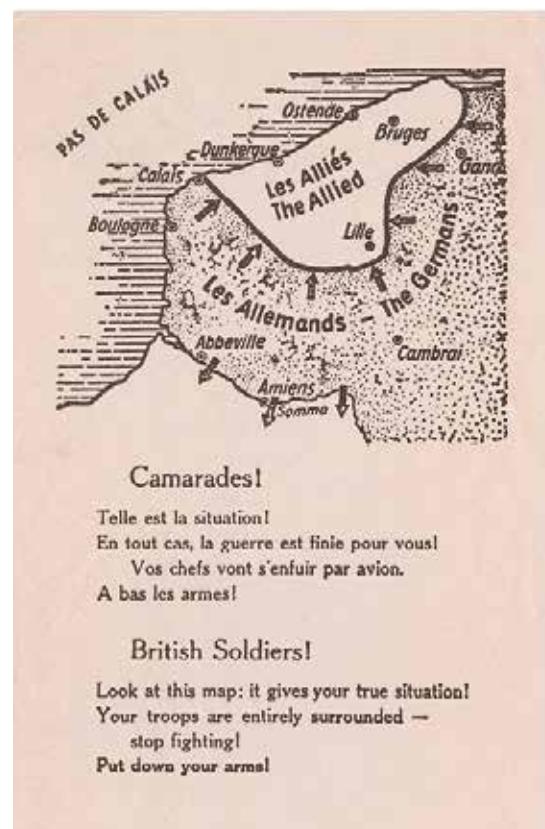
Opening on Nazi pamphlets fluttering down from an overcast sky, the story of *Dunkirk* begins as Nolan slowly brings the viewer into a tension-wrought film that proves to be as harrowing as it is compelling. Alternating between the perspective of a rank-and-file British soldier, Royal Air Force pilots, the civilian rescue fleet and at brief intervals, the commanders present, the audience can palpably feel the terror from every perspective.

The Battle of Dunkirk, alternately referred to as Operation Dynamo or the Miracle of Dunkirk, unfolded in May and June of 1940 in the small coastal French town of the same name. Surrounded by quickly advancing German troops and an incoming Luftwaffe (the German air force) over 400,000 soldiers, primarily British, became stranded once the totality of the enveloping German army became clear. The aforementioned pamphlets informed soldiers on the beach "WE SURROUND YOU" with arrows indicating the German position. *Dunkirk* captures the following battle, evacuation and activation of the British civilian vessel fleet that was sent to assist in the effort.

*Dunkirk*'s greatest strength is its ability to successfully flaunt conventional war film tropes by focusing upon the visceral terror of the conflict rather than emotional and interpersonal drama. Throughout the film dialogue is sparse and direct, and we are given little insight into the personalities of the characters themselves. The film instead chooses to provide us with an anxiety inducing and brutal experience of survival in war. As the invasion proceeds we see the beaches of Dunkirk descend quickly into unrelenting chaos. Soldiers blindly trust and mistrust one another, rescue vessels are boarded only to be mercilessly bombed and abandoned while British command struggles to comprehend the calamity.

The tension escalates further as we follow a man captaining a small British fishing boat with his son and a boy from their hometown. The marked contrast between the calm of crossing of the Thames on the way to rescue and the frantic stranded soldiers comes to a heartbreakingly crescendo as the vulnerable fishing boat slowly breaches the zone of combat. This pivotal intersection is captured by quick shots of the vast unforgiving sea and deliberately unsteady camerawork that serve to inextricably draw the audience in. It becomes difficult to imagine the true experience of events was much different.

The powerlessness and crippling fear omnipresent throughout is captured with a spine-tingling score that leaves the viewer on the edge of their seat. Coupled



**"The Luftwaffe (the German Airforce) dropped these flyers on British soldiers over the coastal French town of Dunkirk in May of 1940, threatening an imminent attack. By this time the German forces had conquered their way through Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and France, they had stranded 400,000 British Expeditionary Forces on the beach when the fliers fell."** Photo credit: Cornell University - PJ Mode Collection of Persuasive Cartography.

with contrasting panoramic shots of destruction at sea and claustrophobic vignettes of desperate and struggling soldiers, the camera takes us on an exhilarating ride. Calling to mind director Christopher Nolan's *Inception* and *The Dark Knight* trilogy, *Dunkirk* delivers another sweeping and expansive epic that has proven to be just as successful at the box office.

A Nolan favorite, Tom Hardy stars as a stoic Royal Air Force captain executing precarious assaults to protect the beaches of Dunkirk from inside his minuscule cockpit. Harry Styles, making a surprisingly smooth leap from boy-band stardom to the silver screen, delivers an aggressive and yet undeniably talented performance as a low-level British soldier. Finally, British acting legends Kenneth Branagh and Mark Rylance round out the eclectic cast with characteristically complex performances. Branagh plays the hand wringing and desperate Commander Bolton who artfully exhibits a restrained compassion for the troops he desperately tries to rescue throughout the film. Rylance respectively showcases his skill portraying a fishing boat captain calmly eager to join the civilian rescue fleet that was deployed at the 11th hour.

Held aloft by its stunning cinematography, subtle and yet profound acting performances, and irresistibly tense score, *Dunkirk* has proven itself to quite possibly be the war film of the decade. Unique in its approach portraying the sober British military and the understated fear and panic of battle in the midst of overwhelming violence, we are treated to an un-

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glamorous and gratingly tense masterpiece. Brutally honest and horrifyingly realistic, the film will leave you shaken and yet full of awe – and for this reason *Dunkirk* is undeniably worth the watch.

Lauren Hellendall has been the Membership Assistant at JWV since December 2016. Lauren loves working with veterans and is excited to have her first film review published in *The Jewish Veteran*.

# We crushed the Nazi movement

Continued from page 1

Cooper Square to New York City Hall, included representatives from the Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and even a group from the Manischewitz Matzah Company. In total, 8,000 participants paraded in front of over 10,000 onlookers. When they reached City Hall, Mayor John O'Brien firmly stated, "Any regime which encourages religious intolerance as its basis must and will meet with the moral opposition of the entire world."

JWV successfully led the "Boycott Against German Goods" for almost a decade, when it was then superseded by the United States Government's official boycott following the country's entrance into WWII in 1941. Signs stating, "For humanity's sake, don't buy German goods," littered the store fronts of the East coast. Pamphlets informed shoppers on what products to buy and where to buy them. Stores eventually gave in, and they refused to carry any more German products.

JWV also partnered with their fellow veterans organizations to root out the American Nazi menace. JWV and other veterans' groups monitored over 21 Bundist camps throughout the United States, until the government disbanded them in 1941. These veteran groups also regularly "broke up" the Friends of New Germany and the Bund Party's rallies, which often ended in notable brawls such as at the Yorkville Casino—where in 1938, 100 members of the JWV and the American Legion faced over 1,000 Nazis.

Additionally, JWV actively lobbied their legislatures to act against the Nazi movement. Their most successful victory was the passage of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, which required foreign agents or citizens acting as foreign agents to register with the U.S. State Department. Under this law, the leader of the German American Bund Party, Fritz Kuhn, had his citizenship revoked and was deported back to Germany, where as the New York Times reported, he died a "poor, obscure chemist" that nobody missed.

Kuhn's fellow American Nazis also became nothing more than societal rejects and historical footnotes. The Friends of New Germany and the German American Bund party were disbanded by the United States government and never heard from again.

Like their predecessors, these new Nazis must be shown that we do not share their un-American beliefs. We remain vigilant, but aware of the resurgence of American Nazism. Our friends, parents and grandparents did not fight and die in World War II to see this abhorrent philosophy reemerge, and we will do our part to not let their sacrifices be in vain.

"We begin by exercising our freedom of speech and the political process – insisting that our elected representatives take a strong, unequivocal stand against this scourge. Today, it's a war of words, but we, along with our fellow veteran organizations, stand ready to confront hate and bigotry whenever and wherever it shows," proudly proclaimed JWV Past National Commander COL Carl A. Singer.

The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. is currently working with other veterans organizations to limit the reincarnation of American Nazism. Alongside JWV, veterans groups like the American Legion,

the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America have all issued statements condemning the Nazi hate and even ordering their membership to resign if they ascribe to these shameful ideologies.

"The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. was on the right side of history then, and now, rather than remaining silent, we are speaking up against hatred," said JWV Past National Commander COL Carl Singer.

## The G.I. Bill

Continued from page 1

and deceptively recruited by some bad actors in the for-profit school sector."

For the G.I. – Less benefits with an uncertain future.

For colleges and universities – Huge payouts with very little accountability on how the money is being used.

For America – Veterans that are demoralized and might need constant government assistance.

## The Ugly

Lastly, some schools, like ITT Tech, have abruptly closed, leaving veterans high and dry – having used their benefits, but leaving them without their diploma. These service members are not getting their money's worth – many do not get their degrees and many do not learn the skills they need to succeed in the market place. It's not only the dollars wasted, but about the lives being impacted!

For the G.I. – No benefits with a poor outlook of the future.

For colleges and universities – Receiving veterans' money without having to do anything for the veteran.

For America – Veterans that might be unable to provide for themselves.

## The Answer

There are several bills before Congress that address some of these problems that JWV is currently promoting with The Military Coalition. They might not be voted on or passed this year, but we will continue to fight for these inclusions.

As National Commander, I introduced a resolution at our National Convention this past August in San Antonio, which included 5 major tenets:

1. Provide effective initial counseling to transitioning service members so that they may select appropriate education and training venues, leading towards productive careers.
2. Provide additional counseling at the request of service members who are receiving GI Bill stipends.
3. Monitor for profit training and education venues to assure that they are providing appropriate services to GI Bill recipients.
4. Decertify those training and education venues which fail to meet established criteria.
5. In the event that a training or education facility closes prior to a service member's completing their contracted program, provide appropriate added GI Bill benefits so that the service member is made whole.

## Leaders of the Jewish Community

Continued from page 7

constant competition for how much can be raised for philanthropy. At Hillels across the nation, young Jews challenge one another for how many students they can engage and bring into Jewish programming. There is a hunger for success that you will not find amongst any other group.

**We want to improve.** Millennials, no matter how brilliant we are, are always seeking ways to get better. We are hungry for educational trips, such as Birthright Israel, or personalized learning, such as Chabad's Sinai Scholars. Young Jews are effective because we know that we must constantly sharpen our skills and knowledge base to compete and provide an edge that is needed in our world.

As I begin my first assignment as an Air Force Public Affairs Officer, I cherish the memories made and the lessons learned as a growing leader of my Jewish community. From fundraising to writing to program planning and more, so much of my leadership experience was because members of the Jewish community invested in me. They saw the potential in younger Jews and provided unmatched opportunities. They made a place for young Jews and created a path for their success.

At your next Post gathering, I urge you to spend a few minutes discussing how you can engage young Jews – especially those planning on wearing the same uniform that you so bravely wore. By passing on your lessons and laying the foundation for us, together we can strengthen the Jewish people.

Your Bubbe would be proud.

*Second Lieutenant Daniel Rosenfield will be a public affairs officer stationed at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. He is an in-service member of Jewish War Veterans Post #256 out of Dallas, Texas.*

## Display your JWV Membership proudly!

**The JWV supplies store isn't just for pins and poppies! You can also purchase polo shirts, Post flags, badges, caps and jackets!**

**Shirts, caps,  
and jackets!**



**Post Banners  
and Flags!**

**Visit the online store at the JWV website or contact Pat Ennis at 703-753-3733 or by email: pat@asb-va.com**

**For JWV caps, call Keystone Uniform Cap Corporation**

*Phone: 215-821-3434 • Fax: 215-821-3438  
[www.keystoneuniformcap.com/Jewish-War-Veteran-Caps.html](http://www.keystoneuniformcap.com/Jewish-War-Veteran-Caps.html)*

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

## National President Iris Goldwasser

The Bible relates that when G-D called to Abraham our patriarch responded "HINENI" or "Here I Am". In that single word Abraham communicated that he was ready to accept the mantle of responsibilities being placed on his shoulders.

Many years ago I was crowned your "Lend a Hand" Chairman as a joke because I always said "HINENI" and never "NO" to any request for help.

But today is no joke and I stand before you, my Sisters, as your National President and again, I say "HINENI." I have been a member of this organization for 56 years and always felt compelled to participate in our many programs but until recently never felt the need to lead this national organization. I want to thank the many PNP Sisters who encouraged me to take this step. I also want to thank my husband, PNC Ed Goldwasser, for his support. I never expected to be here at this podium, in this position with this hat on. I thank you for your vote of confidence and appreciate your faith in me. You have honored me today and I feel privileged to follow the illustrious history of National Presidents who served our organization before me. I hope to never disappoint you and I will call upon each of you to do the same for me. This position is not a "one woman" job so I expect to work with all of you to benefit JWVA. We must work together to support JWVA and all its service programs. We encourage our sisters to participate in Auxiliary programs even while at home. We knit hats and baby blankets for the Baby Basket program and also knit crutch pads for our veterans to make using crutches more comfortable. Innovative ideas of individual Auxiliaries are important to Sister Auxiliaries and I hope, as I travel around, to learn more of what you do so as to inspire other units with your innovations. I am always encouraged by your positive attitudes and your confidence in our goals.

I expect to bring some of my own innovative ideas before the Advisory Board and, with their approval, include them in our programs. Hopefully they will

energize and expand our existing projects.

At this time I would like to congratulate Paul Warner, the incoming National Commander and fellow New Yorker, and look forward to working along side of him this coming year.

I would like to thank my new staff and chairmen who have stepped up and accepted new responsibilities on behalf of JWVA. I congratulate all of you and look forward to working with you all as we promote JWVA and our various programs.

JWVA is a family; JWF is a vital part of this family. As such we must seek ways to stand together and work to promote each other, and our goals. With this in mind, I remind you that the one program in which we can immediately work together is the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. We must always remember that our Museum is our legacy - let no one forget our history of service to our country. Urge your members to become NMAJMH members; urge them and their family members to also join and participate in our Remembrance Walk and Our Heroes Kiosk. Support is the name of the game.

Working together as a family, let us not forget our current servicemen and women, nor our aging veterans who need our support more than ever.

My theme this year is "Helping Hands Bring Smiles." Much work awaits us; we have lots to do! As you service our veterans, hospital patients and/or children, please remember that your participation, and your very presence as well as your "Helping Hands Brings Smiles" to their faces.



## How to Retire an American Flag

By Roz Kaplan, Americanism Chairwoman

On a daily basis, all across America, citizens proudly raise their flags to show their respect and admiration for the country we love, but what do we do when Old Glory becomes tattered and torn? When it cannot fly anymore? The United States Flag Code states, "The flag, when it is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." A flag retirement ceremony is a meaningful way to show your patriotic commitment to America, and it is an excellent joint activity for you Auxiliary and Post to participate in.

### How to prepare a flag retirement:

1. Contact schools, office building managers, local school districts, cemeteries, etc. Inform them who you are and that you are having a flag retirement ceremony for damaged flags.
2. Arrange to pick up the flags a few days prior to the retirement ceremony.
3. Secure a place for the retirement ceremony.
4. Arrange for 55G steel barrels and a working fire extinguisher.
5. Be sure that the barrels are placed on a concrete parking lot or on cinder blocks.
6. Drill holes in the side and close the bottom of the barrel for draft.
7. Arrange for a burn permit from your local fire department.
8. Arrange for a bugle for TAPS.
9. Secure a leader for the ceremony and a Chaplain if desired.
10. Flag day, June 14th, is a popular day for this ceremony.

## Veterans Service Release

By Carol Adler

As I am sitting here today putting this release together on this very somber day, today is 9/11/2017, a day none of us will forget. Sixteen years ago our nation was struck by terrorism when hijacked planes struck the Twin Towers in New York City and the Pentagon in our Nations Capitol, resulting in loss of lives of thousands of people, citizens and first responders. As a result of this, a War On Terror was declared by President George W. Bush. Many of our soldiers were deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan putting our military once again in harms way.

The only thing positive was that from the shock of this horrible disaster, our nation came together as one.

Let us hope and pray that such a catastrophe never occurs again.



National President Iris Goldwasser and her staff. From left: Stephanie Naftelowitz, Conductress; Roz Kaplan, Patriotic Instructor; Joanne Blum, Treasurer; Jennifer Naftelowitz, Guard; Sandra Kantor, Jr. VP; Linda Singer, Sr. VP; Iris Goldwasser, National President; Natalie Blank, Chaplain, and Shirley Zak, Secretary.

## HELPING HANDS BRING SMILES

## — Something New — Emergency Kits for Parents

By Natalie Blank, DP, Child Welfare

JWVA has given birth to a new program under the auspices of our Child Welfare chairmanship. We have named it the “NICU/PICU” Emergency Kits for Parents”. NICU represents the neonatal intensive care unit (ICU), and PICU represents the pediatric ICU.

These kits will contain various basic hygiene supplies (sample sizes) like shampoo, conditioner, powder, deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste, comb and sterile hand soap, also perhaps a magazine for parents and a small toy for a child, etc., to while away the hours under difficult circumstances. Also included might be a list of local restaurants and hotels.

The purpose of these kits is to provide parents who have a child in an ICU ward of a hospital but do not live near the facility and must remain with their child for days or weeks but require the necessities of life. These are emergency situations and we hope to relieve their stress and anxieties while they wait for their children to get medical care. These kits will be held by the hospital social worker for distribution to needy families.

A tote bag with the JWVA log, including a complete kit with sample sized items in a zippered plastic cosmetic type bag cost \$10.00, plus shipping. The tote bag alone is \$2.50, plus shipping, which your Auxiliary can fill with sample size items of your choice.

This NICU/PICU kit program will be distributed annually at our National Convention to the nearest children’s hospital facility in our convention city. However, your local Auxiliary can participate during the year with your own children’s hospital in a similar manner.

“Helping Hands Bring Smiles” so bring a smile to a devastated and anxious parent. For more information/and or ordering totes and kits, contact our JWVA office staff person, Sharon Williams, at 202-667-9061.

## Insurance Release

By Marcia Jacobs, Insurance Chairman

It has been gratifying to see the interest in JWVA insurance program. I have handed out many applications and provided information regarding the insurance programs at National Convention and the NEC.

A few weeks ago I spoke to Lois at J. J. Weisser, and asked if there any new members. Her reply was that there were only one or two new applicants.

If anyone has read the pamphlets, they would know what this program covers. The initial policy covers blood replacement, oxygen and ambulance service at a cost of \$11.00 a year. There are additional plans for prescription, dental and vision which cost \$129.00 for each. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like more information.

Phone: 732-691-6138

Email: mfsfroogg99@yahoo.com

You can also send mail to me at:

Marcia Jacobs

929A Liverpool Circle  
Manchester, N. J. 08759

## National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH)

By Louise A. Baraw, PDP, Chairman



The definition of a museum is a building used for storing and exhibiting objects of historical, scientific or cultural interest. The National Museum of American Jewish Military History fits this description perfectly.

The historical data in the museum documents and preserves the contributions of Jewish Americans to the peace and freedom of the United States, and serves to combat the belief that Jews did not fight in wars. It educates the public concerning the heroism and sacrifices made by Jewish Americans who served in the Armed Forces.

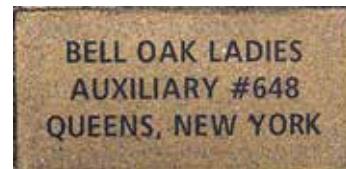
The museum is a member of the Kalorama Museums Consortium, established in 1989, to promote off the mall museums and the neighborhoods they are in, within the greater Dupont-Kalorama area of Washington, D.C.

I ask that you preserve this legacy by becoming a member of the Museum for \$25.00 a year for an individual.

The purchase of pavers, called our Remembrance Walk, can honor or memorialize a loved one. The cost of a 4"x 8" paver with two lines is \$200.00, three lines for \$250.00, and 8"x 8" pavers with four lines are \$500.00.

The Heroes Kiosk holds a 4"x 6" picture of your hero in uniform, if possible. A plaque is placed underneath with the name, rank, conflict in which they served, branch of service, years in service, and the JWV Post and Department they belonged to, if applicable.

Add a photo of your soldier for ten times Chai, \$180.00. I urge every member of the National Organization to support our museum in this way.



Support your museum  
and honor a loved one by  
purchasing a space on our  
Heroes Kiosk.

Become a member of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History by contacting Mike Rugel at 202-265-6280 or by email at mrugel@nmajmh.org. You can also join online, and/or purchase a paver or spot on the Heroes Kiosk by going to the museum website at nmajmh.org.

## Our Children — Our Winners

By JoAnne Lifshitz, PNP, Student Awards Chairman

Every year there are children who amaze and stun our Sisters. Through the generous donations of our membership, we are able to give six of our amazing, hard-working children a student award.

This year's recipients were:

**William Achtman** – has held a 98% average in high school. He was 198 out of 997 students in the graduating class. William is attending Georgia's College and State University doing a double Major in Psychology and Pre-Law. His proud grandmother is Shirley Achtman, President of Aux 223 in Florida.

**Sarah Demsky** – volunteers at Special Olympic events, teaches piano, and has become very involved in Judaism and the culture. With all this she was the valedictorian for her graduating class. She has carried a 4.0 GPA all through high school. Her mom is Jamie Demsky of Aux. 321 in Florida. She is attending Georgia Institute of Technology.

**Michelle Levy** – is committed to whatever she puts her mind to and a personality that makes her a person who will go far in whatever she puts her mind to. She loves her community. She maintains a 2.7 GPA. Johnson and Wales in Providence, RI is where she will be majoring in Baking. Jeanette Levy, her Grandmother from Auxiliary 129 in Brooklyn, NY is a very proud grandma.

**Erin Markham** -- is a talented young lady. She acted, sang and learned the ropes of being backstage for the plays in her school. Erin has worked with children at camps volunteering and showing them how to act and dance and sing. Erin was part of a group call America Music Abroad. They sang in France after touring a Concentration Camp. She realized even more that music conveys a message of respect in any language. Her grades were never below a B. She will be going to Susquehanna University and will be majoring in Arts in Music. Her Grandmother is Gladys Mayer from Aux. 98 in PA.

**Philip Melnick** – is an extraordinary young man. Using his life experiences to maintain his interests he knew firsthand what life could bring to him and others. Philip held a 4.55 GPA. Never received less than an A in any course. He is attending Rutgers University where he is majoring in Biomedical Engineering. His Proud Grandmother is Gloria Kaplan from Aux. 41 from Rochester, NY.

**Nicole Scher** – spent a large part of her Junior year in the hospital where she was taught. When she returned to main stream high school, she had to work diligently and extra hard to retain to succeed to keep her marks in accelerated and advanced classes. Through this, Nicole could keep a 3.5 GPA. Nicole is attending Long Island University majoring in Art Therapy. With her talent, she wants to help the veterans, seniors and children who need therapy through art. Gail Holtzman, president of Aux. 2, from Brooklyn, NY is her very proud Grandmother.

We are all proud of our children. We are very happy that we could help in our own small way. Thank you, Sisters. Remember, there is always next year.

# MUSEUM NEWS

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

On May 26th, we continued our tradition of hosting the Annual Memorial Day Shabbat Service at Sixth and I Historic Synagogue. PNC Norman Rosenshein spoke for the museum and Jacob Oberstein represented JWV by reading the names of the fallen from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It was another meaningful service that brought the significance of Memorial Day to the fore for those who attended.

The summer season brought visitors to the museum. When June comes in our neighborhood, it means it's time for the Dupont-Kalorama Walk Weekend. NMAMH along with neighborhood museums offer free admission and special programs. Our friends from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington joined us in the museum to answer genealogy questions from our visitors. It was a beautiful day and visitors enjoyed walking our neighborhood. We've been participating in this event for 20 years and this was our highest attendance yet.



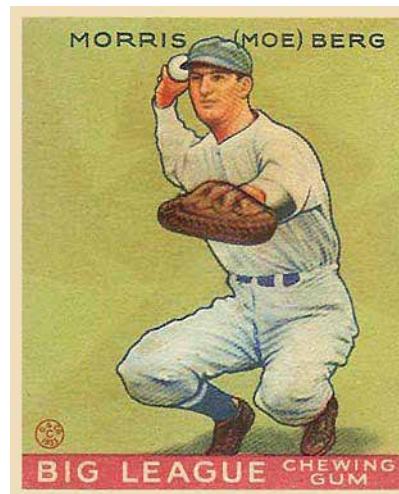
Visitor viewing *Jews in the American Military* exhibit during the DKMC walk weekend.

We had another large crowd on July 10th when we welcomed radio personality Phil Wood to the museum to discuss Jews and baseball. Wood hosts the Washington Nationals post-game show and is an expert on the history of baseball. Wood went back to the nineteenth century to discuss Lip Pike, a Jewish player who was one of the best players of his day. Wood's encyclopedic knowledge of the game had him sharing stories about many players unknown to the casual

fan. He also discussed more familiar names like Hank Greenberg, Sandy Koufax, and Ryan Braun.

In attendance for Wood's talk was documentary filmmaker Aviva Kempner. Kempner is the daughter of a U.S. Army officer. She produced and directed *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*, the 1998 documentary film about one of the all-time Jewish greats who enlisted in the Army Air Forces after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Kempner's current project is a new documentary film about Moe Berg. Berg played catcher in the major leagues for 15 seasons. But more importantly, he worked as an OSS spy during World War II working to undermine the German atomic bomb program. Wood described Berg as a mediocre catcher, but a great spy. It should be fascinating to see his life on the screen when Kempner's film is completed. Hopefully, we'll have her back to the museum for a Moe Berg program soon.

It's great to see services in our Captain Joshua L. Goldberg Memorial Chapel in the museum. In July, our supporter Dan Levine had friends and family at the museum for a second Bar Mitzvah ceremony on the fiftieth anniversary of the first. Let us know if you're interested in using the chapel or other museum facilities.



Moe Berg was a major league catcher and OSS spy during WWII.

## The Shomer Shabbat Contingent Comes to the Museum

During their 2017 National Jamboree, the Shomer Shabbat Contingent of the Boy Scouts came to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. The scouts ranged from Boy Scouts to Eagle Scouts. They were able to tour the entire museum, and they were able to ask the museum staff about any questions that they had.

Since the Jamboree participated over Shabbat, the scouts that were Shomer Shabbat could not participate. So, the Shomer Shabbat Contingent was started in 1960 when Scout Councils organized Shomer Shabbat troops for the 1960 National Jamboree. Over the past years, the Shomer Shabbat Contingent has served over 500 Boy Scouts, from 56 different chapters all over the United States, Canada and Israel.

I had the ability to talk to two of the scouts about their trip. They said they were having a great time. I told them about the JWV Scouting Program, which they had not heard of before. They were so excited that they told all their friends at the Jamboree. We had Eagle Scouts that wanted to apply. We told them and their troop leader how to apply and gave them all the forms. If you are interested in bringing your Boy Scout Troop to the museum, please email nmajmh@nmajmh.org.



Boy Scouts exploring the *Service Around the World* interactive table.

### Coming Up

October 25, 2017

#### Jerry Yellin: The Last Fighter Pilot



Jerry Yellin will join us to tell the incredible true story of the final combat mission of World War II. Nine days after Hiroshima, on the morning of August 15th, two Jewish pilots, Yellin and his wingman 1st Lieutenant Phillip Schlamberg took off from Iwo Jima to bomb Tokyo. By the time Yellin

returned to Iwo Jima, the war was officially over—but his young friend Schlamberg would never get to hear the news.

### Coming Up

November 11, 2017

#### Veterans Day Shabbat at the Museum



We'll start Veterans Day with a Shabbat service led by museum chaplain Michael Bloom. Afterwards we'll put together care packages to help hospitalized veterans. Children's activities in the afternoon.

### Coming Up

December 14, 2017

#### Annual Chanukah Party



We continue our annual Chanukah tradition with food, music and song as we look at the ways Jews in the American military have continued the tradition of the Maccabees.

By Pamela Elbe • Collections, Archives & Exhibitions Coordinator

## SHE WHO BORNE THE BATTLE

Women have served as volunteers with the US armed forces throughout American history on an unofficial, temporary or as-needed basis, as support personnel who fed and cared for the troops and as nurses. One of the first women to serve was Deborah Sampson, who bound her chest and fought the British under the name Robert Shurtleff during the Revolutionary War. Four hundred women fought in the Civil War. Twenty-five thousand joined up as overseas nurses and support staff during the First World War. By the Second World War, that number had increased over fivefold.

The great majority of the military women who served through the Vietnam War were nurses. Members of the Army Nurse Corps arrived in Vietnam as early as 1956, when they were tasked with training the South Vietnamese in nursing skills. As the American military presence in South Vietnam increased beginning in the early 1960s, so did that of the Army Nurse Corps. The last of more than 5,000 nurses departed from the Republic of Vietnam two months after the cease-fire, March 29, 1973.

One of these nurses was a young Jewish woman from Washington, DC, named Marita Silverman Bowden. Marita graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in nursing. Wanting to further her education, she joined the military in 1969. This was the peak of the war in Vietnam, and Marita felt that she wanted to “do her part to take care of the fighting forces” while also challenging herself. She served in the Army Nurse Corps from 1969 to 1973, including a year in Vietnam from August 1970 to July 1971. Marita was stationed at the 8th Field Hospital in An Khe for four months, then the 95th Evacuation Hospital in Da Nang for eight months. While at the 95th Evac, they received many casualties from the invasion of Laos. She describes her strongest memories from this time as “frustration [with] the never-ending wounded; tired all the time.” She worked the twelve-hour night shift in a combined ICU and post anesthesia recovery unit.

While most women serving the military at this time were nurses, some women had other roles. E.G. “Jerry” Ferris enlisted in the U.S. Air Force on 9 October 1963, in Philadelphia. She initially thought she was going to be a medic at one of two bases in California or one in Texas. Instead, she was assigned as an administrative specialist (typist) assigned to the 26th Air Defense Command (ADC), a part of 25th North American ADC – NORAD at Stewart AFB in Newburgh, New York. At first, she did ordinary office work – things like typing, copying, and filing – in a strange looking building which was known as the “Block House.” However, within three months, she was placed in a secure vault where she received, labeled, and shipped documents marked “Confidential,” “Secret,” or “Top Secret” to other facilities in and out of the United States. After six months at Stewart, she was summoned into her CO’s office where she was blindfolded and led to another area of the Block House. Jerry recalls that when the blindfold was re-

moved, she “was in a darkened room on the second tier.... Below was a terrain map of Southeast Asia, the area where our troops were being deployed for battle with the North Vietnamese. Around me were radar screens, scramble boards where information was constantly being updated, and officers and enlisted people from a number of countries including Great Britain and Canada. This was the “War Room” – a place where battles were planned, followed, scrutinized and learned from through the mistakes that occurred.” Her duties included scrutinizing aerial photographs from Vietnam for patterns of activity. Once it was determined that an activity could be predicted by its repeatable pattern, orders were sent for Search and Destroy missions.

The advent of the all-volunteer force in 1973 made a large difference in the numbers of women coming into the US armed forces. As a result of recruitment, training, and greater opportunities, the total number of women in the military grew exponentially. Bonnie Koppell joined the army reserves in 1978 while a rabbinical student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia. Upon her ordination in 1981, Rabbi Koppell became the first female rabbi to serve in the US military. During Operation Desert Storm, she was placed on active duty and ordered to report to Fort Sam Houston to provide for the spiritual needs of the sick and wounded. She was awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medall for her service in Iraq in 2005. She served in the US Army Reserve for 38 years and retired in 2016 with the rank of Colonel.

As the role of women has expanded, the threat of danger to them has also increased. More women have been killed in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq than in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War combined. Roslyn “Roz” Schulte was a US Air Force officer killed in action in Afghanistan, making her the first female Air Force Academy graduate to be killed by enemy action and the second female graduate killed in action. Roz was assigned to the Pacific Air Force 613th Air and Space Operations Center at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii, and was sent on deployment as an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations officer. Three months after she arrived in Afghanistan, she was killed by a roadside bomb near Kabul en route to Bagram Airfield. She was posthumously awarded the National Intelligence Medal for Valor on January 25, 2010, the first named female recipient. Her citation noted “her courageous efforts to teach Afghan military officials how to gather and interpret military intelligence.”

From the Revolutionary War through present-day service, Jewish American women have contributed their talents, commitment, and patriotism in securing the peace and freedom of the United States through military service. If you are a female veteran, the Museum would love to add your story to our archives. For more information, please contact Pamela Elbe at [pelbe@nmajmh.org](mailto:pelbe@nmajmh.org).



Rabbi Bonnie Koppell leads a field service at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona (ca. 1992).



Capt. Marita Silverman, Army Nurse Corps, lighting Shabbat candles at services in Da Nang, Vietnam. (1971).



1st Lt. Roslyn L. Schulte

# Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.

## 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Mission to Israel • April 30-May 9, 2018

Join us on JWV's 31<sup>st</sup> Mission to beautiful and historic Israel! Witness the wonderful achievements of this small Jewish country, celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> Independence year. We visit places other groups do not visit. Get updated briefings. Meet Israelis and their leaders. Enjoy fun and comradeship with fellow veterans. You do not have to be Jewish or a veteran to travel with us, so bring your family and friends!

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- All taxes and service fees as imposed by hotels.
- Earphones so you can easily hear the guide.
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For more information about this trip,  
please visit the JWV website or contact Christy  
Turner at JWV Headquarters: 202-265-6280 x417  
or email at: cturner@jwv.org.



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# Thank You for Your Service!

**Allan & Sheila Abramson**  
Good Health & Happiness to All

**PNC Lou & Gloria Abramson**  
Good Health & Happiness to All

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

**PDC Ed & PDP Louise Baraw**  
Eugene Baraw • Post 336

**Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ**  
Chag Sameach

**In Memory of Bert Stolier**  
Allan & Nikki Berger

**Howard A. & Dorothy G. Berger**  
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Good Health & Happiness to All

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Happy Holidays

**Dr. Jack N. Porter • Post 211-MI**  
In memory of my dad, Irving Porter

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Good Health & Happiness to All

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Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

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To the 2%

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L'Chaim!

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Be Well!

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