



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Volume 69 • Number 1

JWV Foundation Celebrates Medal of Honor Recipients

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV) Foundation honored Congressional Medal of Honor recipients on Saturday, February 14 in Arlington, VA. At this celebration, there was also another emphasis: honoring those who have chosen to serve their country, and those who are our future.

Over fifty seats were donated by generous benefactors so that active duty military personnel and their guest could attend. Also in attendance were members of the Military Coalition, including representatives from the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Air Force Sergeants Association, Marine Corps Reserve Association, National Guard Association of the United States, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

The night included the US Army Band, "Pershing's Own", which played patriotic tunes during the meet-and-greet cocktail hour, and a color guard that performed the patriotic opening of the evening's program. There were also surprise performances by the West Point Glee Club



From left: MOH recipient COL Jack Jacobs, MOH recipient LTG Robert Foley, Julie Foley, and National Commander Maxwell Colón.

(comprised of cadets who currently attend the US Military Academy) and the West Point Alumni Glee Club.

The glee clubs' performances held special significance for many in the audience as the

familiar refrains of military melodies soared through the room. In a particularly meaningful moment, eight World War II veterans stood at attention while the singers performed a tune from their days in service.

More than one hundred members of the Jewish War Veterans and the JWV Ladies Auxiliary were also in attendance for this special evening, with many JWV Departments sponsoring seats. Four generations of veterans were together that night, ranging from WWII to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The proceeds of the event will help the JWV Foundation fulfill its mission of assisting and promoting the causes of all veterans and military personnel. Special thanks to the event chairman, PNC Robert Zweiman and co-chairmen, PNC David Magidson and PNC Dr. Robert Pickard for all their hard work and dedication to ensure the evening was a success.

During dinner, videos of Medal of Honor

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Save the Date!

JWV's 120th Annual National Convention

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Registration and schedule
of events will be available soon.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Chief Judge Sheds Light on Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

The great thing about the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is that "you may file at any time after service," stated Chief Judge Bruce E. Kasold at the Policy Meeting of the 2015 National Executive Committee conference. "If your claim was denied, if you get new evidence, if your condition worsens, you may file for an increase in rating. It's a wonderful thing," he added.

Chief Judge Kasold and the Clerk of the Court, Gregory Block, were invited by PNC Norman Rosenshein to discuss the process of re-opening claims, and to shed some light on how the appellate court system works.

Kasold was appointed as a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims by President Bush on December 13, 2003, and became Chief Judge on August 7, 2010. Before his appointment, Chief Judge Kasold served as Chief

Counsel for the Secretary of the Senate and Senate Sergeant at Arms and Chief Counsel for the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

In his remarks, Kasold began by reminding the audience that until 1988, veterans had very limited access to courts. Once a decision came from the Department of Veterans affairs, you were stuck with it. Veterans were the last group in America to have access to an appeals court. At 26 years old, the Court is the



Chief Judge Bruce E. Kasold.

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Upcoming JWV Teleconferences

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

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

2015 Schedule

Community Outreach Apr. 16, 2015* *Please note date change*

Veterans Homelessness May 14, 2015

Preparing for the National Convention June 4, 2015

National Convention Review Sept. 3, 2015

Outlook for the Coming Year Oct. 13, 2015



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Go to Amazon's website and sign in. Search for "AmazonSmile."

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twitter.com/JewishWarVets



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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YOUR LETTERS

Medal of Honor Celebration

On behalf of my Soldiers and their spouses, I would like to thank you and the Jewish War Veterans organization for an outstanding time last weekend. Meeting and speaking with true heroes was an event that several of my soldiers will not fully appreciate until later in life. I am proud that previous generations consider my current soldiers as worthy of their honor. While today's veterans encounter several different hardships that are historically new to the battlefield, we are very grateful to continue to carry the colors forward that you, our predecessors, set the conditions for and enable us to drive forward. Thank you for the continuous support and efforts on behalf of all veterans, past, present and future.

Thank you again for the lovely time.

*Command Sergeant Major Sutterfield
12th Aviation Battalion*

Siddur

I read Mr. Batalsky's comments regarding the new Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) siddur with dismay. Rather than evaluating the book for what it is - a user friendly prayer book, accessible and usable by both chaplains and everyday service members from all movements, Mr. Batalsky critiques it for not being an encyclopedia guide to living Jewishly in the U.S. military and criticizes the JWB for not doing enough to support Jews who serve. Mr. Batalsky never mentions the remarkable JWB brochures on all the very same subjects he finds lacking in the siddur. Our brochure subjects include Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Hanukkah, Tu b'Shevat, Purim, Pesach, Shavuot, The Rights and Responsibilities of Jewish Service Members, and Jewish Mourning Beliefs and Practices. Mr. Batalsky suggests all this content be included in the siddur. On a practical level, that would have created an enormous volume far too large for a deployed soldier or marine to carry. Also, in the 21st century most service members - even those deployed - first seek content on the internet, which is why all these brochures are available in PDF format. Additionally, JWB partners with others, such as the Harold Grinspoon supported P.J. Library, to provide educational material and programs to service members and their families. Finally, we publish and distribute free to all Jewish service members, a complete Tanakh.

Our support goes beyond being a source for content. We recruit, train and certify chaplains and lay leaders from all movements whose primary mission is to support Jewish life in the U.S. military; advise military leadership on matters of Jewish concern such as religious accommodation and the availability of kosher food; provide ritual items such as Torah scrolls, megillot, shofarot,

tallisim, kippot, Passover supplies, Hanukkah candles and holiday care packages; facilitate work of local communities in meeting the needs of returning veterans through our Project Welcome Home; collaborate with the Jewish War Veterans and others to keep the American Jewish community cognizant of Jewish service; represent the American Jewish community in interfaith settings related to military life such as NCMAF and ECVAC; and send kosher care packages of holiday specific foods to hundreds of deployed Jews and overseas chapel programs. Not bad for an agency with only two professionals and one program assistant.

Even with all that, and even in the 21st century, the Jew needs a siddur to find solace, inspiration and direction. It is the indispensable element in creating a community of Jewish workshop. Demand for this new siddur has been overwhelming, and has included many repeat orders. Jews now in uniform and using the book have responded gratefully and enthusiastically. Indeed we have distributed nearly all the first press run and are preparing a second printing, which we hope that those who wish to attend to the spiritual needs of our Jewish men and women in uniform will find it in their hearts to support.

Rabbi Harold L. Robinson

Rear Admiral CHC USN Ret

Director, JWB-Jewish Chaplains Council

Thank you to Veterans

My father was a Jewish War Veteran from World War I. When I was little he told me stories of what it was like serving in the trenches of Argonne Forest and Chateau Terri. It's hard to imagine the horrible time he had. He was in charge of a cannon called KK Katy and used to sing the song to me. He came home crippled with arthritis and suffered his whole life.

As a daughter and sister of veterans and a husband who fought in two Israeli wars, I so appreciate all you have done for us so we can live free.

God bless you all.

Irene Blazer Pelled

National Service Officer Appreciation

We received the paperwork out of the Phoenix office of the VA regarding the appeal. They increased my service-connected compensation to 90%. This is without us filing for the Parkinson's Disease diagnosis.

Am I to assume they will send you a copy of the paperwork that was sent to me? If they do not, I will make copies and the next time we are out at the hospital/clinics in NLV, we will leave the paperwork in your office. My wife and I cannot thank your organization enough for all you did

for us. You and your representation of the Jewish War Veterans was nothing but professional, friendly, courteous and effective.

Again, thank you and Mort so very much. The work you do to help the veterans of all denominations or no denomination is commendable and very much needed in this day and time!

Be well and have a blessed Thanksgiving!

All our best from....

The BirdHouse

Ted and Pat



From the bottom of our hearts, we thank each and every one of you for your love and support to our family at this difficult time in our lives.

Love,

Elaine, Megan, and Michael Bernstein



2016 JWV Calendar

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

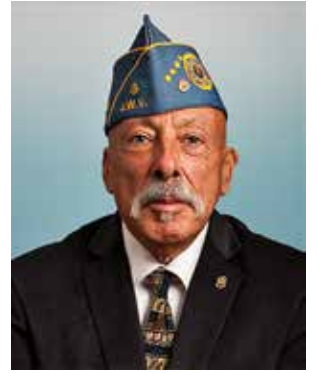
The JWV Calendar is received by members and supporters across the country, and we're looking to feature members like you! Send your photos and a brief write-up of your time in the military to Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org.

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

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



Our mission for this year is ambitious. We are committed to increasing membership, raising funds to invest in our organization and museum, expanding public relations for JWV, and forging closer ties with our military bases and installations. As I have stated previously, the position of National Commander is not a one man job, but a team effort by all those concerned for the future of our organization.

Since my last column, I have stayed busy! I attended the Naval Hospital Corpsman Memorial Dedication Ceremony. A formal presentation/donation was made on behalf of JWV to Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton. Donated items included baby clothing, crutch covers and blankets for wounded warriors, food gift cards for families in need, and DVDs for the hospital library to be utilized by the patients and base personnel. I also had the honor of attending Chanukah services at the Camp Pendleton Club this year.

As stated, one mission objective is to increase membership in our organization. I am happy to report that my post, Post 385 CA, increased

JWV membership by 20 percent in the past four months. Many new members were recruited from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Our post maintains a strong presence there and it is not unusual to see JWV caps throughout the year during different events and services held at the base.

Members of JWV & JWVA were invited to Marine Corps Installations West-Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton headquarters by the Commanding General as acknowledgement of all of the good work we do at the base and for the military community.

My Chief of Staff, the Junior Vice President of JWVA, and I began the new year serving dinner to homeless families and veterans on New Year's Eve at Temple Solel in Cardiff, California. I urge all of you to find opportunities to be of service to your communities.

I attended the 61st Annual Brotherhood Breakfast in the State of Massachusetts. This event is truly a show of shows, and represents what JWV and the community is about. JWV members

of Massachusetts have provided scholarships to thousands of children from relatively impoverished areas of this commonwealth.

This is a true Mitzvah of which the Department of Massachusetts should be very proud.

I was honored to lead JWV's 29th Allied Veterans Mission to Israel. By providing a non-Jewish allied veteran the opportunity to experience Israel first hand, we hope they see that Israel is the United States' ally in the Middle East. We hope our allied veteran participants return to the USA and spread the word that Israel's security is important for America's security.

I have now completed over half of my journey and I look forward to continuing my missions on behalf of JWV.

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

NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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



JWV Storms the Hill!

Under the leadership of JWV National Commander Maxwell Colón, JWV National Executive Committee members from all over the country recently took to the halls of Congress! On February 11th and 12th, our members met with Senators and Representatives on both sides of the aisle to champion veterans' rights and benefits.

JWV's main priority is ensuring that our nation's veterans receive timely, accessible, and quality health care. The nation must provide nothing less. JWV remains troubled by the many serious flaws and debacles in the VA health care delivery system this past year. The patient waiting time fiasco and the lack of integrity of some VA employees top the list of concerns. Also, veteran homelessness, unacceptable wait times for disability claims, PTSD, veteran suicides, TBI (traumatic brain injury), care for those with eye

injuries, women's health issues, and longterm care and other health issues, are not fully addressed as they need to be.

Thank you to each member of JWV, and those of our Ladies Auxiliary, who participated in JWV's Capitol Hill Action Day. The time and effort each of you made to schedule your congressional appointments, to come to Washington, and to walk the halls of Congress to carry out these important visits is most appreciated.

Several JWV Departments and individuals are deserving of special mention. The Department of Connecticut, specifically Past Department Commander Elliott Donn, met with Senator Richard Blumenthal and three other Connecticut offices. JWV National Executive Committee member Earle Sherrod of the Department of TALO (Texas, Arizona, Louisiana, and

Oklahoma) met with three congressional offices.

My thanks to Past National Commander David Hymes of the Department of Illinois, who met personally with Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, Senator Mark Kirk, and staff in the office of Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth. Thank you David!

Our Florida delegation, including Department Commander Morry Goldfarb and Past Department Commander Mike Corbett, met with Representatives Ted Deutch, Alcee Hastings, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

The message brought to Congress during JWV's Capitol Hill Action Day was very clear: Congress must adequately fund the Department of Veterans Affairs and the VA must meet its obligation to provide the necessary care for our veterans. Our veterans deserve nothing less.



This issue of the *Veteran* includes updates about posts throughout our nation, but will also report on the well-attended and popular National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting in Washington, D.C. from February 11-15, 2015.

The weather in Washington was cold and blustery, but the sun did shine. Prior to the JWV's National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting, many of our NEC members visited their legislators to discuss what is necessary to serve the veteran community and aid veterans' needs. Everyone is particularly concerned with the recent past history of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and how these problems are to be dealt with. This prime message, along with the local concerns of members was the main focus of many conversations held with legislators on Capitol Hill. Back at the hotel, many JWV committees met to pursue their individual objectives.

Thursday evening, the National Policy

Committee met and was privileged to hear presentations by Chief Judge Bruce Kasold, of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, as well as comments from the Clerk of the Court, Gregory Block. In prior years, the VA's decision was not permitted to be appealed. Now, any applicant is allowed to appeal to a judicial body outside of the VA. A very helpful question and answer period followed the presentations to help familiarize our members with this process.

The Policy Committee also heard a presentation to join with the Military Order of the Purple Heart to maintain the awarding of this medal only to actual combat veterans. This matter was later approved at the NEC.

Saturday night, the NEC concluded with the Medal of Honor Celebration, which was very well attended and supported by all branches of our organization, as well as many outside sources. You can read about this on the front page.

Because of the weather problems in the Northeast, several of our veterans were not able to appear at the NEC, and they were deeply missed.

An introduction of the Department of Connecticut's Jerry Blum was made, and his candidacy for National Commander was announced. He, and all of JWV, are looking forward to the National Convention in Tampa, Florida in early August.

Lastly, I would like to encourage all of our readers to submit the activities of your local post, councils, and departments to *The Jewish Veteran* at jwv@jwv.org. We wish to report to our readers what all aspects of this great organization are capable of, and the contributions that our members make to the community.

Homeland Security And You

By Carl Singer, Chairman,
JWV Homeland Security Committee

After the recent heinous attacks in France, many of us are a bit worried about terrorism. We worry about Homeland Security and the possibility of attacks. Let's bring this down to the local level and consider practical implications of security within our community.

The safety of Jewish facilities and, more importantly, of the people within those buildings is of prime concern. Jewish schools, synagogues, stores, and the like need to be protected. We need to determine what to do to protect people in these buildings. Responses range from simply remembering to lock your doors to hiring armed security guards to modifying building design.

Because we are veterans, people turn to us for leadership and advice. Frankly, despite our military experience, most of us are not trained or experienced in dealing with terrorism and other, less severe, safety issues. Let's be ready to help. What follows is a tried and true planning approach that you can implement within your community. Look at it, then tailor it to your needs.

Planning

Planning for security will help you identify and explore realistic threat scenarios that will enable you to design and implement response procedures. You will be better prepared and know what you need in terms of training, equipment, etc., in order to successfully implement your response procedures.

There are two complementary approaches to addressing security: securing your buildings and making them safer; and examining threat scenarios – what might happen and how to properly respond.

A. Secure your buildings and make them safer.

This is a key element, something that you can and should address within your community.

- **Building:** Have a security audit done on your building. Your police department may help. Are all potential entrances secure? Doors should be locked. Restrict entrance to a single, monitored location.
- **Behavior:** It may be convenient to prop doors open or leave them unlocked, but this comes at a price. It may seem permissible to let a polite stranger to follow you into the building, etc. Assure that people understand the security implications of their actions.
- **Additional security equipment** may be desirable: Install "panic buttons" which connect to a security service or directly to the local police department. Consider surveillance cameras.

B. Examining threat scenarios.

- First, begin with stories to identify a wide range of threats. Compile these without much filtering or editing. Threat scenarios exercise our creativity and

perhaps our memory of situations that we've previously encountered. Begin with a short sentence or two, and then expand as appropriate.

- Second, pass is to build these into specific, realistic threat scenarios that fit your situation. These will be useful input for the design of your response procedures.

To start you thinking, I've identified seven threat scenarios – some may not seem interesting or relevant to your situation. A good next step might be for you to add / delete from this list and elaborate and tailor them to your experience. I've also added informal commentary to start the narrative flowing.

1. Suspicious Object: *A UPS parcel appeared in the coat room – no one recognized the sender and you believe that nothing had been ordered recently.*

There are myriad benign explanations: Likely, Mrs. Cohen next door left a note for UPS – "please leave with next door neighbor". (She meant the one on the other side.) Or these may be toner cartridges that someone ordered. Or this could be a bomb or anthrax.

Was the box pristine? When was it first noticed? Who brought it in?

2. Surveillance: *An individual unknown to you is in a van taking pictures of your building.*

Maybe it's someone who's dealing with a zon-

Continued on page 13

COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee

The New Order

Beheading [really, it's a very popular Saudi punishment, except when practiced by ISIS on white hostages.] Then there is immolation [ISIS screwed up by using an Arab instead of a white hostage—worry not, they still have a couple of whites left] it really upset Jordan and other non-believing coalition Arabs.

The immolation even caused some Arab members of the coalition to decide to take themselves out from an active military participation in the coalition. After all, you really have to realize that as far as the world is concerned, isn't it an American obligation to protect our Arab "allies" and "friends"?

There is a difference between the Arabs going around killing their own citizens (Sunnis vs Shiites or vice versa) which is only a simple case of acceptable Arab dehumanization. But to expect the Arabs, rather than the US and international community, to be responsible to protect themselves—for shame? Following the international response to the immolation of its pilot, Jordan militarily responded against ISIS. The Coalition, on paper, appears to still exist. So unfortunately, does ISIS.

But just wait until the spring—we've just told everyone that the Coalition will retake Mosul from ISIS with the Iraqi army—yes, the same army which previously turned and ran away. At the time they retreated, we said they were not properly trained to turn away ISIS—I would call them what they really are—cowards. First, if they won't protect themselves, why would we even consider it? The Iraqis have even relied on Iranian militia to protect them and to fight their battles (such as Tikrit)—Iranians who just a few decades ago were their enemies.

It now becomes time for the United States to very seriously rethink its current policy and implement a new strategy in the Middle East to find and build positive allies, or at least become associated with countries that will fight together with us and for themselves. Presently that would only appear to include the Kurds, Egypt, and Israel, among very few others.

Over the last number of years, Iran and Turkey have been competitively seeking control as the Islamic State Rulers of the entire Middle East. Turkey has been turning against the secular police and military to reintroduce Islamic training, culture, experience, blatant anti-Semitism, and other practices back into their once secular society, seeking the return of their new form of the Ottoman Empire.

Iran feels that it has already installed a strict Islamic world and spread the influence of their brand of Islam. Over the years, Iran has funded and physically supported Hamas, Hezbollah, Syria, and other terrorist nations and organizations. Now, it has just shown its ability to attack and destroy American aircraft carriers using a dummy Hollywood model.

In addition, Turkey is now taking Syrian refugees and supporting rebels, and Iran is negotiating a nuclear treaty with America. Both nations are only similar in their hatred of Jews and support for the annihilation of Israel. Of course, Turkey is a little more diplomatic about it since they are moles within NATO. There were many years when there was economic trading between Israel and Turkey on a regular basis—now Turkey considers Israel among its worst enemies.

At one time, going back to Nasser, Egypt was a strong contender contested by the Islamic Brotherhood, which took over in an election. It is now fighting this Brotherhood, ISIS and other cults in North Africa, and militias in the Sinai. Egypt is under economic duress and deserves our funding. To deny them funding and equipment for an internationally political purpose is to invest in defeat. Regional stability requires the full resumption of the military and information sharing relationships between Egypt and the United States.

So what logically should be considered one of the first moves in this situation? We should declare Kurdistan (the Iraqi portion presently autonomous) as a new nation and immediately appoint an ambassador to it. Also, we should supply military equipment and funding to Egypt to fight ISIS and the militias in the Sinai.

To Israel, we should continue funding appropriations since we can't militarily call upon them, at this time, to directly involve themselves while we try to involve her Arab neighbors in the same cause.

Our nation doesn't seem to have the guts to take a positive, practical, and pragmatic approach to resolve our dilemma. If it works, we might even end up extricating ourselves out of the Middle East mess. Turkey has been at war with the Kurds; while the US has been conciliatory with Turkey even though Turkey refused us fly over rights in our war with Saddam—not such a good friend, but a good Mid Easterner! But presently, Turkey has been protecting the Syrian refugees coming over the borders, including those arriving from Syrian Kurdish areas. However, the Turkish border is also porous to the crossing of ISIS recruits.

However, when it comes to a Kurdish nation, Kurdish financing, and giving equipment to the Kurds—it may not be good global politics, but it is good militarily, and it is good for the future relationship of the US in the Middle East, and, by some degree, to have a possible real friend there. By the way, it is also the moral thing to do—every once in a while the ethical approach not only feels right, but is right. It must be done.

As to Israel, there is no need to explain why they are not only important to us but to the region, and we must continue funding appropriations. Their only problem is that their neighbors hate them, and that makes it difficult to employ them in a coalition against ISIS, unless ISIS engages them. The reality of the conditions on the ground will not change the conditions of the relationships between the parties.

It's time for a real change—frankly it's long past the time for change. From this point forward, its time for a new order in the US/Middle East political sphere and military policy and performance. All it takes, is guts.



The Old Order

SPC Daniel J. Agami
SGT Howard P. Allen
1LT David R. Bernstein
CPL Albert Bitton
Sgt Aron C. Blum
PO2 Michael J. Brodsky
PO3 Nathan B. Bruckenthal
TSgt Anthony L. Capra
CPL Ryan J. Clark
Cpl Michael R. Cohen
2LT Seth J. Dvorin

LCpl Mark E. Engel
Cpl Mark A. Evnin
PFC Aaron E. Fairbairn
1LT Daniel Farkas
SGT Zachary M. Fisher
SPC Jacob S. Fletcher
SPC Daniel J. Freeman
SPC Douglas J. Green
Sgt Foster L. Harrington
AIC Elizabeth N. Jacobson
LCpl Jeremy M. Kane

1Lt Nathan M. Krissoff
SSgt James M. Malachowski
PFC Gebrah P. Noonan
SPC Levi E. Nuncio
PFC Michael K. Oremus
SSG Robert J. Paul
MAJ Mark E. Rosenberg
Cpl Dustin H. Schrage
1stLt Roslyn L. Schulte
CPT Joseph W. Schultz
CPT Robert M. Secher
SPC Marc S. Seiden

AIC Matthew R. Seidler
SSG Michael B. Shackelford
PFC Steven Shapiro
Sgt Alan D. Sherman
CW2 Joshua B. Silverman
CPT Benjamin A. Sklaver
CW3 Eric A. Smith
PFC Eric D. Soufrine
1Lt Andrew K. Stern
CPT Michael Y. Tarlavsky
MAJ Paul C. Voelke

PFC Morris L. Walker
SPC Glenn J. Watkins
TSgt Timothy R. Weiner
SGT Robert M. Weinger
SPC Jeffrey M. Wershow
PFC Colin J. Wolfe
MAJ Stuart A. Wolfer
SGT Elijah Tai Wah Wong
SPC Benyahmin ben Yahudah
SrA Jonathan A.V. Yelner
LT Miroslav (Steven) Zilberman

Thank You For Your Service

An Inside View

Iryna Apple has been the Communications Coordinator for the Jewish War Veterans since 2005. Prior to joining JWV, Iryna worked as a hydrogeologist for the Ukrainian government, where she was responsible for assessing underground water reserves. She holds a master's

degree in hydrogeology from National Taras Shevchenko University in Ukraine's capitol city of Kyiv.

After moving to the United States in 2002, she became a US citizen in 2007, and currently resides in Fairfax, VA, with her son. Iryna maintains

strong ties to her native Ukraine, and has closely followed the conflict between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian rebels in the eastern part of the country. The following letter was written to her son during a December trip to Kyiv to visit her mother and other relatives.

My Dear Son,

I have arrived in Ukraine.

My poor country, my home, where I was born, is at war. It is still hard to comprehend that our once "friendly" and even "brotherly" neighbor wants to wipe out my nation from the face of the earth. What will I see? Tired, crushed people trying to survive?

With a heavy heart I arrived at Boryspil Airport. It was a grey day which only added anxiety to my already dark mood. I saw depressed people passing by. I looked at their faces and tried to understand what they were going through. An unknown band on the cab ride to Kyiv was singing "come back alive" and "just live" and my heart ached for my homeland.

Finally, I got to the city and, suddenly, I was mesmerized by how many Ukrainian flags were hanging everywhere. People were dangling them from their balconies and businesses covered the windows of their offices with them. The city's trams, trolleys, and even light poles were painted in yellow and blue. The city literally bloomed in yellow and blue before my eyes.

My mood began to change. I no longer saw people in despair; I saw how much love and passion the Ukrainians have for their country. They believe in the freedom and dignity their country deserved and they were not going to give it up. Maybe they were not all sad and de-

pressed after all.

I met with my family and friends and the main topic of the conversation was the events in conflict areas. I could see that every little victory brought smiles to their faces. The traditional holiday wish, "may the peace be in our land" felt especially close to my heart.

But the dreadful reality is that every morning, while watching the news reports, Ukrainians see destroyed buildings, bridges, roads, murdered civilians, and, hardest of all, maimed kids with fear in their eyes. What future will they have? How long will this war continue? A feeling of uncertainty overwhelms them. They don't know what is going to happen the next day. Will they be forced to leave their homes and leave behind everything they worked so hard for their whole their lives? Will they become refugees without a country? People refuse to believe that a country nearly 2000 years old will cease to exist.

This is why everybody who can carry a gun has signed up for the army. Those who cannot be on the front lines become "volunteers". These are people who donate clothes, food, and money to support the army. Even kids are contributing by hand making small items like socks and mittens with inserted drawings and messages of encouragement to be given to the soldiers to bring their spirits up. In this way they want to show that the whole country appreciates their sacrifice.

Some civilians were forced to flee the area of conflict leaving everything behind. Ordinary citizens,

not in the area of conflict, invite them to their homes and take care of their needs. The whole country is working towards victory. They fight to protect their independence, culture, and language. They hope that one day they will be able to win and return to the peaceful life they once had.

The next day, I paid a visit to the Heavenly Hundred memorial. It is a tribute to the heroes of Euromaidan. These heroes were shot by snipers. Each tree on this street has pictures of people who died there trying to take cover from a barrage of bullets. I could no longer hold my tears back. How is it possible that in the 21-st century we have civilians who get shot like rabbits for their beliefs?

I looked at the smiling faces in the pictures and imagined what their future could have been...the futures which were never going to happen, the dreams that could never come true. There were so many destroyed lives that day, something that should never have happened. Extreme sadness overwhelmed me.

My hope is that all the courageous men who died during this war have not died in vain...I hope that the Ukrainians as a nation will survive. I believe that we all have a right to exist.

*With love,
Mom*



Commemoration of the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred.
Photo by Elena Turchenkova.



The Fallen Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred.
Photo by Elena Turchenkova.

JWV Foundation Celebrates Medal of Honor Recipients

Continued from page 1

recipients Colonel Jack Jacobs, Corporal Tibor Rubin, and Lieutenant General Robert Foley were shown, courtesy of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation. The crowd watched in hushed silence as the recipients described their



From left: PNC Edwin Goldwasser, COL Jack Jacobs, COL Woody Goldberg, PNC Norman Rosenshein, and LTG Robert Foley.

war experiences.

Following the videos, Colonel Jacobs, an NBC News military analyst, and Lieutenant General Foley, the Director of Army Emergency Relief, each offered entertaining remarks during their keynote addresses.

Jacobs humorously poked fun at his height with anecdotes from his time at NBC before



One of the many tables filled with active duty personnel and their guests.

sharing a few thoughts about his friend and fellow Medal of Honor recipient, Tibor Rubin, who was unable to attend the event. COL Jacobs reminisced about how he attended the ceremony when Rubin received his Medal, and spoke to a man from Rubin's unit in Korea. Through his tears, the man told Jacobs that Rubin "saved my life."

COL Jacobs also shared some words of wisdom regarding the impact the army has had on his life. "I thought that everyone who's lucky enough to live in this free country should join the service. I thought the mission was important, but I love the people," he explained. "They know and understand what service and sacrifice is all about," he continued, "and it makes me feel much better to be around people who have worn the uniform."



The room was silent as guests listened to remarks from COL Jack Jacobs.

When General Foley took the podium, he commented on how he and Jacobs have known each other for over 50 years, noting "I have great admiration not just for what he did in Vietnam, but what he has done since."

Foley recounted his experiences on his trips to Israel in December 2012 and October 2013. He prayed at the Western Wall, visited the Golan Heights, heard a special briefing at the Israel Defense Force's Army Corps museum, traveled to Tel Aviv, and climbed the desert fortress of Masada. The fortress has become one of the Jewish people's greatest

symbols as the place where the last Jewish stronghold against Rome stood. "What a noble ending, to choose death over slavery," Foley observed.

Both Foley and Jacobs emphasized the importance of supporting the United States and its military.

Jacobs reminded the audience that it is integral to recognize what we owe to each other, because we also recognize what's important as a whole. "It is our obligation not just to serve, but to inculcate in our

children those things that made us free and that drive us to support freedom for us and for our allies." Foley described the lesson he learned from



The Brass Quintet from the Army Band, "Persings Own," played lively patriotic tunes during the cocktail hour.

Masada, that "the strength of character that a nation needs in time of war must be fostered in a time of peace."

The evening had an impact on all who attended, with many commenting on how much they enjoyed the event. But perhaps the biggest impact was on active duty personnel. In an email to JWV, Command Sergeant Major Michael Sutterfield wrote, "I am proud that previous generations consider my current soldiers as worthy of their honor." He continued, "While today's veterans encounter several different hardships that are historically new to the battlefield, we are very grateful to continue to carry the colors forward that you, our predecessors, set the conditions for and enable us to drive forward."



Cadets from the West Point Glee Club surprised attendees with a special performance.

National Executive Committee/Capitol Hill Action Days, February 10-15, 2015

JWV members from across the country met in Washington, DC for the annual National Executive Committee meeting and Capitol Hill Action Days.



Jerry Berns giving his VAVS report.



PNC David Magidson and PDC Nelson Mellitz.



DC Marty Levitz and PDC Jerry Blum.



PDC Jerry Farris and PC Sheila Berg.



PNC Nathan Goldberg, PNC Larry Schulman, and PNC Jerome Cohen.



DC Earle Sherrod and PDC Jerry Benjamin.

Except for photo on right, all photos by Gerald Alpetstein.



Members of the Department of New Jersey met with Representative Christopher Smith on Capitol Hill. Photo by Office of Congressman Smith.

Chief Judge Sheds Light on Court of Appeals

Continued from page 1

newest appellate court in the country. Currently, the Court is estimated to become the busiest appellate court in the country by the end of the year.

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) handles about 50,000 appeals, a number that is expected to increase by twenty percent or more. The Court itself handles about 4,000 of those appeals, a number that will also likely increase. The majority of the claims that are filed are disability claims, which has five required elements. Status as a veteran must be proven, and medical proof of current disability is also mandatory. Paperwork regarding the service event related to disability, and the nexus between disability and event in service is needed, after which the veteran receives a rating and an effective date, which is tied with disability rating. The rating might be a staged rating, based upon if the disability worsens over time.

Kasold noted that it is best to file a claim early because then you have the facts in order. Most claims the Court sees have service connection issues due to time lapse, and it becomes more difficult to tie the claim to the service. However, those who file within a year of leaving the service are almost always approved, because the facts are there. Regardless, it is important to show how and why an inservice incident is connected to a current disability. The "VA system is a liberal system, the benefit of the doubt in your favor," he said.

Once you get a regional decision, then you

can go to Board, which is not bound by the regional court's decision. Once you get a Board decision, you may appeal to the Court. However, this is when the judicial system becomes adversarial. Previously, the Secretary had a duty to assist, as the regional court is in favor of the veteran as far as getting assistance. In court however, the Secretary is on the opposite side.

The Court has exclusive jurisdiction over decisions of the Board. The Court reviews Board cases appealed by claimants who believe the Board make a mistake in its decision. As long as the decision is explained in the Board decision and the duty to assist was provided, then the decision cannot be overturned. Standard judicial appellate review applies, a clear review of the facts. The determination of finding service connection is considered a factual determination. If in the record, the question becomes if there is factual determination and the Judge would have to have a firm conviction that the Board was wrong.

Usually, a decision is made by a Judge within



Clerk of the Court, Gregory Block.

90 days. Many of the cases are reviewed by a single Judge, which is common and allows more cases to be decided quickly. A claimant also has the ability to ask the judges to go to panel, which has the power to withdraw a single judge's decision.

Gregory Block discussed his role as Clerk of the Court. He is there to help set conditions so the judges can make decisions, and provide access to help. "Something I'm very proud of," he said, "is that you'll get access to people who can get your case moving along and in front of a judge." At the Court of Appeals, you can dial and speak to live person, which makes the Court more accessible than most.

Block reminded attendees of the federally funded Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program, which is designed to link veterans with attorneys to help veterans get their cases through the courts. The Program also provides training and mentoring to people who are new to the program, to help them understand how to best aide veterans.

Sworn in as Clerk of Court on September 1, 2010, Block previously served in the US Army for 30 years. He served in multiple overseas locations including Germany, Korea, and Afghanistan, and completed his service in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he served as the Dean of the Judge Advocate General's School. "People really want to help veterans with their cases," he concluded. "People who have had a chance to practice in the area have the chance to help veterans."

Building a Post

By DC Earle Sherrod

Over the past two years the Department of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma (TALO) has started three new Posts and revitalized several others. At last year's National Convention we won three awards for increased membership. Our membership continues to rise and our Posts are strong and active, although overall membership of J WV nationally continues to fall.

I was asked to share our "secret." Well there is no secret, just persistence and a desire to build our membership. I believe that the ideas for increasing and sustaining membership have been repeatedly discussed and published, so I will not include them in this article. We offer support to all Departments and Posts upon request. Art Kaplan, TALO SVC, has put together a pamphlet on Post building which also covers the topic. We also discuss membership building and sustaining membership at every department meeting. At our January meeting there were two presentations on the subject, including an excellent multi-media presentation by Judge Sol Gothard, Post Commander, Jules Lazard Post 580 New Orleans, "The Fastest Growing and Most Diverse J WV Post in the Country." Both are also available upon request.

So let's talk about creating new Posts. There are several steps which we follow and recommend to anyone interested in developing a new Post.

FIRST, SET A GOAL

In TALO our goal was to increase membership to a level which would allow us to have a second NEC, now we are looking forward to a third NEC for 2016. We needed an additional 100 members to achieve that goal, all of which could not come from existing Posts.

CREATE A TEAM

We created a team of dedicated veteran Post and Department people from our staff. These folks were all volunteers and understood the time and effort which would be necessary to achieve our goal. We started with a small, dedicated group from my staff that had membership in their portfolio. The team consists of Dr. Barry Schneider, PDC and NEC, Art Kaplan, PPC and Department SVC, and me. Between us we had decades of experience in J WV and many contacts in the Jewish communities. Establish a small budget for travel expenses, sponsoring events or a meal or Oneg, etc. Remember "Feed them and They Will Come."

NEXT PICK A LOCATION(S)

In order to narrow down our prospective sites to a manageable number, we looked at areas with a Jewish presence and potential of having at least

10 Jewish veterans and/or active duty personnel. We also used contacts who networked with someone who knew someone. What we found helpful over time, is to have a contact or someone at the site who was in the military or had a family member/friend who was a Jewish veteran with some interest in starting a J WV post. For example the rabbi from Shreveport, LA knows the rabbi in Bryan, Texas, who has a friend who is a Jewish veteran, etc. Universities (Hillel and ROTC) and military (regular and reserves) posts are other areas where, through the chaplain's office, you can get a foot in the door. No area is too small to start with and perhaps you can combine areas; i.e. Temple, Bryan and Killeen, Texas. None of these Jewish communities are big enough to support a post but together they certainly could, and did. Once you have chosen a city or area you need to start making contacts.

MAKE INITIAL CONTACT

Initial contacts can be by phone, mail, or email. We always start with the local synagogues (rabbi, lay leader and executive director). If you Google "synagogues in Nowhere, MT," you will be surprised what information you can find. Chaplain's offices and school administrations can also be helpful. Construct your initial communications to get their attention. Remember they get hundreds of letters and emails weekly. You need to stand out. You need to tell them who we are and why they should care. For example:

(Always have J WV logo on top)

Jewish War Veterans Are Looking For A Few Good Men and Women

The Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America is the oldest veterans organization in the country and is a congressionally chartered veterans service organization comprising Jewish veterans (whether you served in combat or not) whose mission is veterans serving veterans by:

- Support of all Jewish veterans and active duty personnel
- Support of all US military veterans
- Support of Israel and the Jewish community

We support all veterans as well as Jewish veterans by: (fill in what your Post or Department does).

Keep it concise, clear, and limited to one (1) page or it may go directly into the trash. Be per-



Department Commander Earle Sherrod swearing in new members.

sistent. You probably will not get feedback from your initial contact. In my marketing days, many very wise men stated that if you want someone to hear and remember your message, you must repeat it at least three times. Keep your message constant, but vary it a little each time. Always include your name, post or department information and contact information. My mail and emails always include:

Earle Sherrod, Commander
Dept of TALO
cell phone number
home phone number
email or postal address.

The final steps are followups and face time. Once you made the initial contact you must follow up in a timely manner by phone and then in person. Your first follow up may be by phone and/or emails but you have to go to the area and meet with the interested persons. This may require multiple visits. After you get a feel for their level of interest, the next step is to set up a meeting of all potential members. Offer to buy the coffee and bagels, etc.

At this first "informal" meeting talk about who we are and what we do. Wear your J WV shirt and cap. Talk about why they should care about J WV and why it is important to have an active post in my city/area. It is important to stress that just having veterans and patrons joining J WV is not our goal. Our goal is to have a vibrant and active post. Answer their questions honestly, don't over promise and be supportive.

If possible, identify potential leaders of the new post then schedule your next visit and meeting of potential post members. Be prepared to come back 2-3 times before any new Post is able to stand on its own feet. In my experience it helps for you to set the agenda and run the first 1-2 meetings, emphasizing the tradition and structure of our meetings, bring the flags, bible, gavel, etc.

In the second meeting the agenda should cover what things the Post might think about doing such as:

Continued on next page

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

At the National Executive Committee last month, I had the pleasure to sit down with over 40 JWV leaders from across the country and explore our membership needs and current affairs. As our National Commander emphasizes, membership is the lifeblood of our organization and nearly every Department had suggestions for maintaining and enhancing the organization's vitality. I am sharing a summary with you in hopes that you will find clarity, inspiration, and passion to energize your own membership and share your recruitment ideas with the organization.

Current Membership & Patron Statistics

Membership is holding relatively steady with only a slight reduction. The Departments of TALO and VA/NC are the current superstars in mem-

bership growth. Departments of CA, TALO, MA and FL are leading in recruiting Patrons. Overall, we have had a 3% increase in our Patron roll!

Life Membership & Patronage

Did you know that any member or patron can apply for Life Membership or Life Patron status? Last National Convention, we expanded and clarified Life Membership definitions. The following chart provides an overview, with complete details located in Article IV, Sec. 4 – 5, of the JWV Constitution and Part III, p. 36, of The Manual of Ceremonies.

What are Patrons and what can they do for your Post?

Anyone who upholds the values of JWV and sup-

ports our mission is eligible to be a Patron. Patrons contribute their time, voice and donations to whichever echelons they choose. We are pleased to have community supporters and encourage all Posts to recruit local residents to take part in the veteran cause. For more information see "All About Patrons," available on our website: http://www.jwv.org/membership/forms_resources and the chart below.

Recruiting Ideas

- Attend local city council, mayoral events, state representative conferences, etc. to stay informed about local issues. To be an advocate for veterans, the community needs to see that you are involved and educated on the issues. The exposure is a sharp recruitment tool.
- Participate in ALL local or state veteran events. Require each Post member to attend at least one event annually. By expanding your network, you can recruit both members and patrons.
- Collaborate with a non-veteran organization in your area. Complete a service project together. Invest in the community and the community will invest in you.
- Maintain a relationship with the Chaplain of your closest military base. Hold dinners, services, and family events on base with the support of the Chaplain.
- Develop a relationship with the Jewish fraternities and sororities at your local colleges and universities. Set up a recruitment table on campus.

As always, feel free to reach out to me, (richter-robert@aol.com) or our Membership Coordinator, Cindy Chambers, (cchambers@jwv.org) with strategies, concerns, or questions.

Type	Definition
Life Member	Any active, regular member. You must be Jewish, veteran or active duty during a war/conflict (see Bylaws, Article I, Section 2a for complete list), and uphold the values of JWV.
Life Associate Member	Any Associate member. You must be Jewish and either served during peacetime or served on an allied force and have since become a US citizen. You must uphold the values of JWV.
Distinguished Life Member	Any Active or Associate member that is a service-connected paraplegic, double amputee, or is suffering from a service connected total blindness. Must be approved by NEC.
Life Patron	Any Patron. You are not required to be Jewish or a veteran.

Patrons 101	
How to register	Complete the Patron application, make a contribution equal to your Post's annual dues, and mail to National HQ.
Voting rights?	Ineligible for voting.
Reading the Roster	Patrons appear on the roster, but do not count toward voting strength. Patrons are not members. They are supporters.
Be an Officer	Patrons can hold non-voting, appointed positions. Elected positions, such as Commander, are off limits.
Honorary Designation	Posts should consider naming important community members Honorary Patrons. Hold a ceremony. Publicize and increase visibility.

- Fundraising (poppy drives)
 - Veterans parades
 - Visibility
 - Having a booth at local functions
 - Getting a banner
 - Preparing a handout
 - Speaking at events, synagogues, JCC, etc.
 - Veterans month and Memorial Day activities
- Always volunteer yourself to be a mentor to the Post and its leadership.
- These are just the basic ideas and thoughts we have to help you create new posts in your area and help JWV grow. It's a lot of work and determination, but certainly not impossible. It has been done by others in JWV.
- I am happy to discuss these ideas with you – Good Luck!

POST FINANCIAL REPORTS

All Post financial reports must be sent to National Headquarters by certified mail, return receipt requested by May 1, 2015.

To fill out the paperwork, learn the rules and regulations regarding the financial report, or for more information, you can download the Finance Board Report (<http://www.jwv.org/images/uploads/2015FinanceBoardReport.pdf>).

All departments, councils, and posts must file an annual financial report, IRS Form 990-N (or 990 or 990-EZ), and installation form in order to remain in good standing with National Headquarters.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER?

Do you want an opportunity to aid fellow veterans, military widows, and orphans?

Would you like to have the satisfaction that comes from knowing that you have truly assisted a veteran in need?

Veteran Service Officers are needed all around the country. To qualify you will need to take a five day course dealing with veterans issues and pass a certification test. Once you do your part, we will get you registered with the VA.

To volunteer or learn more contact JWV's National Service Director, Michael Winnick at: mwinnick@jwv.org

By Larry McShane, *New York Daily News*

When Army Pvt. Bob Levine awoke on July 11, 1944, much of his right leg was missing.

The Nazi physician responsible was gone, too, and he had taken the soldier's dog tags with him.

But in a stunning twist, the German doctor had just saved the Jewish G.I.'s life - not once, but twice.

The amputation, performed by Dr. Edgar Woll on the kitchen table of a French farmhouse, insured that the severely injured prisoner of war would not die from his wounds.

Woll's removal of the dog tags, marked with an "H" for Hebrew, insured Levine's genocidal German captors would not kill the Bronx teen because of his religion.

"He took the dog tags knowing full well that I would have got in trouble somewhere down the line," recounted Levine, now a sprightly 89, at his Teaneck, N.J., apartment. "And I believe he saved me."

Levine never got a chance to say thank you. The two men never met again.

But their wartime encounter forged a bond that later linked three generations of their families and lingered into the new millennium.

"It's special," said Levine. "How many guys came out of the war with this kind of connection?"

The beginning of Levine's remarkable tale offered no hint of its eventual happy ending.

Levine turned 19 shortly after arriving in England in the runup to the Allies' D-Day invasion of June 6, 1944. Levine and the rest of his 81-mm. mortar crew arrived on Utah Beach on the French coast behind the 90th Infantry.

The fighting continued for weeks, and Levine was injured during a fierce battle to seize a German-controlled hill overlooking the beach.

"Suddenly a grenade came over and caught me in my leg, right here," he recalled, grabbing his right leg above the knee. "And I looked up, and I saw this German paratrooper.

"He looked about 10 feet tall, and pointed his submachine gun at me. The kid next to me got up and took off, and he just wheeled around and shot him."

Levine, already a long way from Walton Ave., the Bronx, was now a Nazi prisoner of war.

While marching with other American prisoners behind enemy lines, a shell fired by their own troops exploded near the POWs.

The soldier alongside Levine died instantly - and absorbed most of the blast's deadly force. Levine survived - and took another hit in the same leg.

"How do you live with this kind of thing?" he asks 70 years later.

In Levine's case, the answer came with the help of the dark-haired, handsome Dr. Woll. The American soldier remembers lying on the table when Woll, in a surgical mask, entered and studied his dog tags.

Levine's blood ran cold despite the summer heat.

"He says, 'Was ist H?' - and that was all I had

"Crushed right foot. Fracture of lower leg. Foreign body in upper right leg's tissue. Opening of the ankle joint. Amputation at place of fracture. Bandage with sulfa. Vaccinated against gas gangrene."

The missing dog tags likely spared Levine from Berga, a notorious camp for Jewish POWs where 350 American soldiers were worked to the bone - or the grave.

Levine's wife of 63 years, Edith, believes her husband's missing limb likely meant the latter.

"I don't think they would have sent a guy with one leg to the camp," she says. "I think he would have been..."

Her voice trails off.

Levine, who became a businessman and owned several fast-food restaurants, spent the next 37 years thinking about the German doctor. When he returned to Normandy in 1981, he met with a local historian who tracked down the Woll family in Saarbrücken, Germany.

"The doctor had died in 1954, unfortunately," Levine recalled. "But the family wanted to meet this American Jewish soldier. It was an amazing connection."

Bob and Edith, who have two daughters of their own, spent the weekend with the doctor's widow and children. They presented the widow with Woll's old handwritten note.

There was a Saturday night party, with a few drinks and a few toasts. One of the German guests raised a glass and turned to Levine.

"Bob," he declared, "without you, we'd all be saying Heil Hitler."

The Levines returned the hospitality. When the Wolls' granddaughter attended nearby Fairleigh Dickinson University, she moved in with the New Jersey couple.

A second granddaughter was a frequent dinner guest when her husband pursued a law degree at NYU.

The Levines received a family portrait last year from the Wolls when the doctor's wife turned 100. And the Woll great-granddaughters went home with souvenir T-shirts after a recent U.S. visit.

"They became our extended family," Levine said with delight. "Isn't that amazing?"

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Private Bob Levine (left) recuperated in hospital after losing leg. He had his life saved when German Army Dr. Edgar Woll tended his injury from a shell blast - and removed the dog tags that identified the Army private as Jewish. The action saved Levine from being sent to a camp, he believes. Photo By Richard Harbus.

to hear," Levine recalled. "I said to myself - and I can still hear myself saying it - 'There goes my 20th birthday.'

"I really did not think I would make it."

At the time, all U.S. soldiers had a religious designation on their ID tags: C for Catholic, P for Protestant or H for Hebrew.

When Levine awoke, he found his leg gone and a note tucked into his shirt pocket. It was written in German on the blank side of a Nazi propaganda card; the other side bore quotes from Adolf Hitler.

The soldier couldn't understand a word, but he clung to the card for months, hanging onto it while still a POW, after he was rescued by Allied troops and on the ship taking him back to the United States.

Once translated, Levine found the note explained exactly why the doctor opted for amputation and detailed his post-surgical treatment:

Outreach to the Next Generation

By Nelson Mellitz, Chairman, OTNG Committee

Over the last four years, I have stressed to JWV members that the geo-political and military situation throughout the world is fluctuating, and these changes are directly impacting military and Jewish communities world-wide. Below are issues and topics that Jewish veterans should be aware of as we go about our daily lives.

United States Military

On December 19, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Fiscal Year 2015 Defense Authorization Act. This Act authorized \$577.1 billion in spending for national defense and included funding for overseas contingency operations. Since September 11, 2001, with an exception, overseas contingency operations were funded by a separate appropriations amendment and line item. The impact of this funding change is that day-to-day military operational needs will be reduced for unplanned deployments and new contingencies operations (for example, Iraq).

- The President's FY 2015 budget, for the

second year in a row, proposed a military members pay cap (1%) which is below private sector wage growth. The 1% yearly pay raise is tied for being the lowest military raise in the last 50 years. Since the president's FY 2014 budget included four additional years of proposed military pay caps that are below inflation, the trend is not an anomaly but a very disturbing trend in how the U.S. treats its military.

- The President's budget continued the three year trend in reduction of active, reserve component, and National Guard members that was started three years ago. If nothing else changes, there will be an additional reduction of over 40,000 of Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines by the end of fiscal year on September 30, 2015.

Veterans Affairs

One of the new Veterans Affairs (VA) programs is the Veterans Choice Card. A temporary card was mailed to all VA registered (not later than August 1, 2014) veterans between November 2014 and January 2015. This card does not mean that veterans can go to any non-VA medical provider

and that the VA will pay the provider for services. A few of the Veterans Choice Card major limitations are as follows:

- The use of your VA Choice Card must be authorized by the VA in advance. Call the phone number on the card to request authorization,
- Not every veteran will be eligible to use the Choice Card. The veteran must be 40 miles or more from a VA hospital or clinic, or
- A veterans appointment at a VA hospital or clinic will be over the 30 day waiting time,
- Funding for the Veterans Choice Card Program is estimated to last three years or until it runs out and then must be reauthorized by Congress.
- The Veterans Choice Card does not replace your VA Health Card.

Please go to www.va.gov/opa/choiceact for additional information.



Homeland Security and You

Continued from page 5

ing issue or someone casing your building for a future operation – maybe (only?) a thief.

3. Missionary: A well dressed individual comes into your synagogue wearing a cross and carrying a bible. He starts preaching "I love the Jewish People, the children of Abraham"

He's certainly out of place – but is he dangerous? (How) Should someone approach him / confront him / ask him to leave? Who makes that call? Do you call the police?

4. Homeless Individual: A disheveled man comes into your school. He doesn't seem to know what he's doing.

Should you provide him with a meal? Should you ignore him? Should you address him – "Hello, I'm Carl, what's your name?" How do you protect your children in this situation?

5. Stranger: An individual who doesn't seem to be dressed the part (leather jacket, tattoos, etc.) walks into your synagogue.

We had such an occurrence at my Young Israel several years ago. A young man with tattoos all over his face (!) came in. Turns out he was Jewish and troubled – one of our members invited him to Shabbos lunch. He appreciated the meal and the hospitality. Totally benign.

6. Intruder: You unlock the building in the morning and there's someone already inside. Likely your best bet is to distance yourself and to call the police.

7. Active Shooter: Armed individuals rush in and threaten and / or attack.

The active shooter scenario overshadows all of the others. There is much discussion, literature and training available. (But, not within this document.)

What's next? Plan your responses to each scenario. You need to work through your scenarios – what should you do in the event that _____?

If your response requires many to act – say a "lock down" – provide for appropriate training. There is no "one size fits all" solution – but you are better off if you build and train (just like in the military) rather than simply react.

Some Additional Thoughts: The Farfel Theory



Farfel was our family dog from 1978-95. He was not a genius, but he had focus. Once a visiting friend was given simple instructions – don't let the dog out. When I got to work there was a call waiting – the dog has escaped. How did this one year old puppy outsmart a visiting college pro-

fessor? Because Farfel was focused on getting out – while the professor was not.

This is a key factor to consider. In each of the above scenarios the outside individuals most likely are focused on what they are doing. They may also have planned, prepared, equipped, and trained. You and your colleagues will be in the midst of doing something else – shopping, learning, schmoozing, etc. Surprise! In the real world very few events are announced and come "gift wrapped." Facts are fuzzy, different people interpret the same stimuli differently, etc.

You are not Rambo! Leave your macho at home. Confrontation should be a last resort. Yes, if you just happen to have a can of hornet spray in your pocket and someone attacks you – a face full of spray might dissuade him but it is unlikely that a situation will unfold like that.

Cooperate with Law Enforcement. Discuss your security concerns with law enforcement. Do it today! Law enforcement may be able to increase their presence at your facilities at appropriate times. They may also host meetings or seminars to discuss security related issues and responses. They may also conduct a security audit of your facilities pointing out possible improvements.

If you see something, say something. It is important to speak up when something doesn't seem right.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



This is the first meeting of the new Pacific Northwest Post 686 on February 15, 2015. The Post already has over sixty members. In attendance were Post Commander Robert Shay, Senior Vice Commander Efrem Krisher, Quartermaster Curt Cooper, Adjutant Shelly DeLeon, Stanley Simon, Jack Bookey, Walter Oppenheimer, Bernard Ashkenaze, Richard "Rocky" Silverman, and Lou Rosen.



Stu Chimkin (l) and Gary Mayer (r) of Private Herman Siegel Post 625 presented over \$2,000 worth of new clothing to Ray Rodgers (center) of the Castle Point V.A. Clothes Closet. The hats, gloves, shirts, pullovers, underwear, socks, diabetic socks, and more were purchased with funds raised by the Post at its annual Memorial Day Poppy Sale, and with a donation from the Harding Club. The clothing is available free of charge to veterans visiting the Clothes Closet or admitted to a VA facility.



The JWV South Jersey County Council hosted a holiday party on December 16, 2014 at the Vineland Veterans' Memorial Home. Some 80 residents attended and 35 sixth grade students from the Lakeside Middle School provided assistance.



Department of New Jersey members presented a \$500 check to the New Jersey VA at the November VAVS meeting. Director Kenneth Mizrach sent a letter of thanks to Mort Millinger, stating that the funds had been used to help create a memorable experience for hospitalized veterans during the holiday season. From left: Kenneth Mizrach, Director of NJ VA Health Care System, PDC Morty Millinger, VAVS Representative, and PDC Bob Cirkus.



Peter Nickitas, Department Commander of Minnesota, presented a memorial in honor of Past Department Commander Tom Shaw to his son, Jeff Shaw, and his grandson, Daniel Shaw, at MN Jewish War Veterans Meeting at St. Paul JCC on January 13, 2015. In the name of the Jewish War Veterans, PNC Robert Zweiman had made this memorial donation in honor of Tom Shaw to the National Museum of Jewish American Military History in Washington, D.C.



A large crowd gathered in December to officially welcome home LT COL Jesse Arnstein, who wrote the War Story featured in the previous issue. From left to right, Rabbi Peltz, LT COL Arnstein, Major Gordon Bocher, State Senator James Beach, PDC Bernie Epworth, and PDC Bob Richter. Photo by Nelson Mellitz.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Ninety-seven year old Morris Goldfield, Post 220-MA, (left) was honored at the Blue Cord Ball in December. When on active duty in WWII, he was a Jewish Chaplain's Assistant in the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 182nd Infantry Regiment, and he and his Jewish Chaplain were the first Jewish Chaplain element in combat in the Pacific. Next to Morris is SSGT Ryan Pitts, who was awarded the Medal of Honor by Pres. Obama on July 21, 2014, for his bravery during the battle of Wanat Vehicle Patrol Base, Afghanistan on July 13th, 2008. Accompanying Goldfield is MA PDC Jacob Romo (right), and his wife.



Bam Rubenstein, a member of JWV Post 757 Austin, along with his roommate and two of her friends, cooked and prepared almost 100 full dinners, gathered about 35 blankets and a bunch of coats and spent the afternoon of December 25, 2014, delivering those meals, coats, and blankets to a women's shelter and a homeless shelter in Austin, TX.



On January 31, Albany Post 105 Commander Todd Rosenfield presented a donation on behalf of the Post to Lee Vartigian of the Albany Housing Coalition during the Veteran of Foreign Wars Sheehy-Palmer Post 6776 sponsored "Veterans Freeze Out." Area veterans remained outdoors through the evening of January 31 to raise awareness of veteran homelessness and accept donations of winter clothing and other items to assist veteran support programs in the Albany area. The Coalition helps operate the Albany Vet House, a transitional residence that provides a safe home for up to 28 veterans.



Kelly Schuster, a Sharon High School senior, was recognized at the JWV Department of Massachusetts 61st Brotherhood Breakfast. From left, Commander of Sharon Post 735 Jeffrey R. Weitzenkorn, Kelly and her parents, and Principal Jose Libano. Photo by Jose Libano.

Abraham Kraditor Brooklyn Post 2 and Auxiliary and Kings County Council New York presented a check for \$300,000 to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Not pictured is Morris Sier, PCC, who worked very hard to make this a reality. Post 2 has a private room in the Museum that depicts the history of the second oldest Post in JWV. From left: PNC Ed Goldwasser, Kings County Commander Dave Goldberg, President Kings County Ladies Auxiliary Sylvia Elgart, PCC Jack Holzman, President Auxiliary 2 Gail J. Holzman, PNC Jerome D. Cohen, Post Commander Joel Garson.



On February 1, 2015, Scottsdale Post 210 held a Super Bowl party for the residents of the Arizona State Veterans Home in Phoenix, Arizona. Participants played Bingo and watched the game on the big screen. Post Commander Michael Chambers, Bernie Kaplan, Juli Altman, Mel Brody and his daughter Paula, Barbara Kaplan, Claire Altman, Fred Lipovich, and Adjutant Steven Troy all participated. American Legion members also joined the JWV group as they led 10 games of Bingo during halftime.



Participants of JWV's 29th Annual Allied Veterans/Leadership Mission to Israel posed for a group photo. National Commander Maxwell Colón (front right) led this year's mission.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Action Committee

By PNC Michael B. Berman, Chairman

Let's define the term, "action committee." It is NOT one of the committees established by the National Constitution and By-Laws. However, it has existed on the National scene for many years.

The purpose of the action committees on the Department and local levels is to respond to all incidences of bias crimes and respond on behalf of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA so as to encourage the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators. Many echelons have dedicated funds for rewards so as to encourage those with knowledge of the criminal activity to step forward and co-operate with the investigating police officers. The Jewish War Veterans of the USA realizes that any bias activity, regardless of target, is an activity that can very readily become an activity against us in due time. Therefore, we stand together with all minorities in the fight against bigotry and prejudice.

In order for me to perform my duties as the Chairman of the National Action Committee and to be able to keep our National Commander informed of what is occurring around the Nation, we now have a monthly reporting form that the Commander has requested all departments forward to the National Headquarters. It is a rather simple form to complete but it relies completely on the candor and co-operation of the department commanders and their action chairmen.

We look forward to receiving the reports from the Departments.

Civil Rights Committee

By PDC Jerry Berns, Chairman

The first Jews arrived in Australia in 1788. Believe it or not, they were convicts incarcerated in what is now present-day Sydney. After serving their time they remained in Australia, where they married and raised their families.

Tasmania, the second oldest settlement in Australia, is likely to be the second Jewish settlement there. The oldest surviving synagogue is the Egyptian Revival Hobart Synagogue in Hobart. It was consecrated on July 4th, 1845. Jews also began to assemble in Victoria in the 1840s and congregations sprang up in Melbourne when the first synagogue opened in 1847.

According to the 2006 census, the largest Australian Jewish community is located in Melbourne with a population of about 60,000. Sydney ranks second with a population of 45,000. There are lesser amounts of Jews spread throughout smaller cities. In total, the Jewish population is approximately 115,000 to 120,000. There are Jewish museums in both Melbourne and Sydney.

It was after World War II that these figures grew as survivors of the Holocaust escaped to parts of Australia. Most of them were Ashkenazi

Jews (Jews of Eastern European descent).

In recent years, Jewish emigration to Australia has been from South Africa and South America, Indian Jews mostly from Bombay and Karachi, and Jews from Israel. During the next five to ten years, the Jewish population is expected to rise five to seven percent, even with mixed marriages.

Anti-Semitism in Australia is not as dominant as in many other parts of the world, but it still exists. In 1975, documents revealed that Palestinian Terrorists planned to kill high profile Jewish figures including the Australian Ambassador, the Prime Minister, and prominent Jewish supporters. Since 9/11, Jews have seen a rise in attacks on synagogues and Jews, but at a lower rate than Western Europe and North America.

The Jewish population will always be the target of anti-Semitism—there is probably no way to get around it. Some countries experience it differently than others. In Australia, they have their own struggle for civil rights. They are not fighting against anti-Semitism—they are fighting racism, because many people do not accept their indigenous population, the Aboriginal people, as their equal.

The Aboriginal people are seen as lesser than the rest of the population. They are not allowed the same rights as the rest of Australians and are denied the right to vote in many territories and not entitled to social welfare. People move away from them, as they are looked down upon in their society. In our country African Americans faced these same struggles. We all have our challenges. We should never stop fighting for our civil rights or the civil right of others.

Development

By PNC Monte Mayer, Chairman

The purpose of Development this year, and in any year, is to raise funds for our organization. The method is by direct mail, which in and of itself is a huge industry. You are all aware that a single donation to any charitable or nonprofit which contacts you by mail will ensure that for the rest of your life you will receive this type of mail, and in many instances long after one passes, as many others can attest.

While direct mail is immensely successful and will probably remain that way for quite some time, online fundraising is the future. To that end, we hope to soon conduct development initiatives online in addition to direct mail.

Currently, our direct mail initiatives include our successful calendar, a spring mailing, a mid-summer mailing to our nonmember list, the High Holiday cards, and the Year End mailing. Just a reminder—these are premium mailings, which are received based on donation amount, as both an incentive and a thank you for supporting this

organization.

Our calendar is very successful because the contents are solely pictures and stories of Jewish veterans who have served their nation throughout its history. We depend upon members to supply us with these stories. Every one of us who served has a story to tell, whether something occurred during basic training, assignments to various bases, here in the states or overseas, on oceans or in the air. The story may be sad, it may be funny, and if there is a photograph to include, we want to display it for others to see.

For this, we depend on you. Unfortunately, we cannot use newspaper photographs or photocopies, as they do not reproduce well. We need high-resolution digital or printed photographs. Please do not send original prints, as we will not be able to return them. If you enjoy our calendars, help us into the future. If we don't tell our story, who will?

If you are interested in being considered for the 2016 calendar, please send a photo and short description or biography (no more than 250 words) to Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org.

NMAJMH Certificate Report

By Hannah Deutch, Chairman

I am very proud to report that for the first time, under my chairmanship, we have reached the \$5,000 mark for certificate sales. I want to thank all the comrades and sisters for this yeomen effort and pray that we can match this amount in the following year—if not get past it.

Women in the Military

By PDC Jerry Farris, Vice-Chairman

It has been a long time coming, but it seems justice may finally have been served when it comes to verdicts of rape in-service. According to the Associated Press a few weeks ago, a man who had been serving as the Army's prosecutor in sexual assault cases was himself found guilty of the same crimes he was supposed to be prosecuting! Not only was he tried and convicted, but was also kicked out of the service and given a sentence of 20 years in prison. He will also forfeit his pay.

Except to report that the man had been tried, convicted, and sentenced, no other details about the trial were released. No one knows how many victims there were, nor the number who testified against him. But in reality, that doesn't matter. What does matter, is that this time, there was no forgiving of the crime; no commuting of the sentence by a higher-up; no cover up; no return to "business as usual"—nothing! This time the criminal WILL go to prison; WILL serve his time—WILL understand that in reality, HE has become the scapegoat for the many others that preceded him. For all intents and purposes, his life is finished. He will forever be labeled a sex-

ual predator.

Is this the end of sexual assault/trauma in the services? Sadly, probably not. As long as there are men and women in service and there are others who have the idea that sex is their right, sexual assault will continue. We can only hope and pray that the victims of these heinous crimes will have the intestinal fortitude to step forward and point the finger at their abusers; even knowing that their own integrity will be questioned; their sexual history (not the accused's) will be laid out for all to see; and that prosecution will take its toll on their very lives.

To see it all end may only be a dream; but it will be a dream worth the time and effort to see it through.

VAVS

By PDC Jerome Berns, Chairman

Once again I must tell you how proud I am to be able to represent our volunteers throughout the country at the VA Hospitals and Clinics. Our Jewish population of volunteers is small, that's why we are only able to be in 83 VA hospitals and clinics out of 153 in total. In those hospitals and clinics we serve, we are well known for our time volunteered and the monetary contributions we make.

Remember, by your service to VA hospitals and clinics, this gives us the biggest publicity for

our organization by showing others that we are there for veteran men and women.

I was asked by a number of people what volunteers do. Well my friends, we visit patients, answer phones, deliver their mail, push wheel chairs, transport "out" patients to appointments, help run organized events, teach others your special talents and skills, sponsor monthly birthdays and pizza parties, and of course, play BINGO. So you see, there are always things you can do.

The patients, their families, the VA staff, doctors, and nurses are very grateful for your support and dedication. It is never too late to be involved.

Vietnam Veterans Committee

By PDC Bob Jacobs, Vice Chairman

The committee meeting was called to order by newly-appointed chairman Dr. Barry Schneider (TALO). After introductions, review of previous minutes and a financial summary, we discussed several ongoing projects and issues.

Vice-Chairman Bob Jacobs (NJ) led a discussion of our literary project. We are gathering the military stories of Jewish military personnel who served during the Vietnam Era (1961-1975), whether in-country or elsewhere. We are hoping to publish the stories, perhaps in disc format. We are hopeful that we'll have gathered enough material to reach

our goal by the time of the National Convention this summer. The purpose of selling the discs would be to raise funds for the Museum. Anyone wishing to participate in this project can contact Bob Jacobs at conrailbob2003@yahoo.com.

We are planning a Vietnam Veterans Night Out for Tuesday night of the National Convention. Mike London (TALO) is chairing what will be a great event. There are plans to invite the leader of the local Vietnam Veterans of America chapter as our guest.

Various members reported on what their local echelons are doing/planning in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

A discussion of the Museum's new permanent exhibit led to the possibility of a separate Vietnam War exhibit in another room at national headquarters. We will continue to explore the possibility of making this happen.

In our discussion of the current status of the VA, the possibility was raised of inviting VA Secretary Robert McDonald to speak at our National Convention. Herb Rosenbleeth will be approached on this issue. PDC Nelson Mellitz volunteered to act as liaison between our committee and the VA.

We had over 25 members present, including four Past National Commanders. It was a productive meeting and we will continue our efforts this summer.

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more life insurance
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NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Seymour Banks-100 • Sidney Berman-100 • Beth Crothers-100 • Alan Geltman-100 • Walter Levitt, III-100 • Alvin Pollack-100 • Austin Raske-100 • Joseph Rickun-100 • Michael Sonneberg-100 • Evan Wallach-100 • Gene Levy-344

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Menko Rose-60 • Arthur Cravets-385 • Sandra Fichter-385 • Jeffrey E. Malone-385 • Jack W. Valensky-385 • Mark Broydo-688 • Joel D. Beder-760 • Glenn D. Mundt-760

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Barbara Fischler-45 • Michael Fox-45

DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Henry Brooks-589 • Joseph Burger-589

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Philip Stark-172 • James Ellison-243 • Marshall Waldman-243 • Harvey Greenberg-352 • Malynda Lee-400 • Alfred Rosenstrauch-400 • Verna Siegel-400 • Howard Libin-502 • Harold Levy-506 • Jay Sonnenberg-506 • Warren Cutler-631 • Seymour Wilensky-639 • Allan Lipp-778 • Charles Greenberg-819 • Dennis Lerner-819 • Harold Mirrer-819

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

David Freedman-29 • Fred Miller-407

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Stewart Koesten-605 • Chuck Udell-605 • David Wasserstein-605 • Abbott Zolotor-605

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Charles Karp-167 • Gary Raffel-692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

William Caplin-26 • Joel Kaplan-154

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Robert Franklin-135 • Michael Hermanoff-135 • Mark Weiss-333 • Daniel Hirsch-474 • Henry Heiser-510 • Leo Hollander-510

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Sari Perlow-65 • Neil E. Rich-65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

George Goodman-498 • Marvin Stern-651

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Jonathan Frieman-1 • Marc Wolf-1 • Howard Krawatsky-50 • Herbert Edelstein-129 • Milton Fishelberg-129 • Jordan Levy-129 • Jerome Kessler-336 • Irving Schucker-425 • Martin Weissman-425

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Lawrence Eisenman-122 • Stanley Schulman-587

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Beth Grossman-239 • Micheal Singer-239 •

Michael Nemeroff-575 • Corey Goldstein-697 • Richard Goldstein-697 • Sheldon Liss-697

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Michael Schlesinger-23

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Fred Glusman-112 • Wayne Markman-112 • Alan Miller-112 • Marvin Cohen-455 • Joe Goldstein-544

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Edward Heisler-194 • Fred Lipovitch-210 • Norman Faude-619 • David Silverman-619 • Glenda Warshaw-619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Eugene Fox-256 • Robert Goldberg-256 • Roy Marokus-256 • Perry Israel Lew-580 • Alvin Samuels-580 • Ralph Ganick-618 • James Higgins-618 • Fred Poplin-618 • Jennifer Sobel-618 • Jonathan Sparks-618 • Timothy Corey-749 • William Levy-749 • James Papa-749 • Susan Stine-749 • Lubec Beshansky-757 • Helene Harris-795 • Phil Sutherland-795 • Howard Grossbard-795 • Naomi Horowitz-795 • Samantha Belles-795 • George Wankmueller-795 • Daniel Demelli-795 • Rabbi Michael Gisser-795 • Annissa Selman-795

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

James Sturim-95 • Mark Solberg-158 • Robert Cooper-765

PEOPLE & PLACES

► **Post 65 NV** got to meet G.Q., a German Shepherd Service Dog that the members of Post 65 presented to a veteran who served in Iraq. A therapy dog provides help, affection and comfort and Post 65 was honored to be able to participate in offering this service. "Veterans helping veterans" is their motto.

► **Post 305 PA** Commander **Jeff Hill** spoke of his experiences in Iraq and Kuwait at the Post's December meeting. In the absence of a Jewish Chaplain, he became the Jewish "Lay Leader." He made sure that there was a Shabbat service every Friday evening, and for all eight days of Hanukkah.

► **Post 112 GA** donated over 300 gift bags and 500 books during the December holiday season to the Milledgeville Georgia War Veterans home. Mazel tov on a job well done!

REUNIONS

► The USS *Warrington* (DD843) Alumni Organization will be holding its reunion in Jacksonville, FL, at the Doubletree Hotel from September 27-October 1, 2015. If you are interested in attending or would like to find out

more information, please contact Stan Prager at 916-791-6700 or stashuman843@msn.com.

► The 25th reunion of the USS *John R. Craig* DD885 Reunion Association will be from September 16-20, 2015, in Atlanta, GA. For more information go to www.ussjohnrcraig.com or contact Jerry Chwalek at 734-525-1469 or jemail@ameritch.net.

► The OV-1 Mohawk Association will be holding its 2015 reunion October 1-3 at the Crowne Plana Hotel and Resort in San Diego, CA. The cost is \$118.29 per night. The reunion director is also asking for pictures of Mohawkers in service. For more information contact John Bosch at 949-859-3560 or jbcrete2@cox.net.

► The USS *Hornet* (CV-8, CV, CVA, CVS-12) 67th Reunion All Ship's Company, Officers, Air Groups, Crew, Marines and their families are welcome. The reunion will be held in Lexington, KY from September 9-13, 2015. If interested or to learn more, contact Carl & Sandy Burket at PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 6673-9817, (814) 224-5063, or hornetcva@aol.com. Web Site: <http://www.usshornetassn.com/>.



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE ON ACTIVE DUTY?

Membership in JWV is free for men and women currently serving on active duty.

Call the JWV Membership Department at 202-265-6280 or send us an e-mail at membership@jwv.org and give us their name and address.

JWV is always looking for interesting stories and photos to feature in *The Jewish Veteran*.

Please send news of Post activities, veteran's stories, and articles on relevant issues to Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org.



The JWV Department of New York is offering the following educational award, named after Past Department Commander Hyman Miller, from Syracuse, NY. He was a State Assemblyman and a well-respected member of the Jewish War Veterans on a local, state and national level

The award is for \$1000 and is open to high school seniors and returning service personnel.

Please submit an essay of 350 to 500 words on the following topic: What can Veteran Affairs do to improve veteran benefits for returning service personnel?

Application must include:

- A cover letter with name, address, phone (home or cell), e-mail, and name of high school
- Official high school transcript
- Proof of acceptance to college for the coming year
- Three letters of recommendation
- Relationship to a member of JWV if applicable

Please mail completed information along with your essay to:

PNC Lawrence Schulman
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
105 Rockhill Road
Rochester, New York 14618

Good luck to all applicants!

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAMS

By Mort Millinger, Chairman



YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Attention all you parents, grandparents, and great grandparents who are always boasting with pride about the smart, brilliant, and wonderful members of your family who are about to graduate high school and move on to higher education. Are you aware that your National Organization has a program that offers monetary awards to graduating high school seniors who are direct descendants of a member in good standing?

If an applicant's relative is deceased the member must have been in good standing at the time of his/her death. A Patron must be in good standing for three (3) consecutive years.

Each year at the National Convention, four grants are awarded:

Seymour and Phyllis Shore Memorial Grant
\$1500

Robert and Rebecca Rubin Memorial Grant
\$1250

Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant
\$1000

Edith, Louis and Max Millen
Memorial Athletic Grant
\$1000

The applicant must be accepted into an Associates, Bachelor's, or Nursing degree program from an accredited institution.

For further information or to get an application that contains complete information about how to apply for these grants, go to www.jwv.org and on the JWV homepage, click the link that says: National Youth Achievement Program Application 2014-2015, and print the application. If you need more information, contact Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org or 202-265-6280.

Applications are due May 1, 2015.

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Our National Organization is sponsoring an essay contest open to all current service members as well as Veterans who plan to attend or are currently attending an accredited Associate, Bachelor's, or Nursing Degree, or graduate program.

Essay Topic: ***How will your military experience help you pursue your academic goals?***

The grants that will be awarded are:

Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grants
\$2500
\$1000

Max R. and Irene Rubenstein
Memorial Grant
\$1500

Leon Brooks Memorial Grant
\$1000

If you know of a current service member or a veteran who may be interested in entering the essay contest, go to www.jwv.org and on the JWV homepage, click the link "National Achievement Program Application 2014-2015," and print the application. If you need more information, contact Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org or 202-265-6280. ***Applications are due May 30, 2015.***

Our National Headquarters is planning to make the application available to Veteran Service Offices and Veteran Associations on college campuses throughout the country.

This program is one of the many that JWV has instituted to assist our service members and veterans.

We wish good fortune to all who apply and success in their academic endeavors.

Post 9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill allows service members (officer or enlisted, active duty or Selected Reserve), to transfer unused education benefits to immediate family members (spouse and children). The service member must have at least six years of service, and commit to an additional four years of service in order to transfer benefits to a spouse or child. Because of the potential impact of this benefit on recruiting and retention, transferability policy is determined by the Department of Defense.

For more information go to <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.

Applications for JWV Department of New Jersey's Seigel-Shapiro Education Grant are now available. There are three awards in the amounts of \$2,000, \$1500, and \$1000.



The Department of New Jersey grant committee shall select the three state winners, whose applications will then be forwarded to the National Grant Committee for consideration for the four national awards.

For more information, eligibility requirements, and for a copy of the application, please contact Mort Millinger at mort.millinger@gmail.com or go to <http://jwv-nj.org/jwv/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Seigel-Shapiro-Ed-Grant-Form-2015.pdf>.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History is the only museum in the United States that is dedicated to documenting and preserving the patriotic contributions of American men and women of the Jewish faith who served in the armed forces of the United States. We work to educate the public about the courage, heroism, and sacrifices made by these heroes, to combat anti-Semitism, and to preserve our history for future generations. If we don't do this, who will?

NMAJMH would not exist without your support. Every bit helps. If you are not already a member of NMAJMH, I encourage you to join and to give the gift of membership to a loved one. Membership options start at only \$25. Please go to the museum website at NMAJMH.org or contact Elana Megerian at 202-265-6280, ext. 508, or emegerian@jwv.org for more information about membership options or to make a donation.

The FAQ section on the next page was designed to help you plan your trip to visit the

Museum the next time you're in Washington, D.C. You can pass on the legacy of Jews who served by hearing their stories and ensuring they are never forgotten.



PNC Joseph Zoldan
President, NMAJMH

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

Highlights from the Permanent Collection

Over the last few months, we have had many visitors—both new and repeat—to the Museum to view our new permanent exhibit. The reception has been wonderful, as visitors praise the exhibit and many ask what they can do to be included. I sincerely hope that all members of JWV are able to visit the Museum and see this exhibit because it tells your story, and story of your families and predecessors. I encourage you to plan a visit to the Museum, be it a family vacation or a bus trip for your whole post. For those who have not yet toured the exhibit, here are a few highlighted individuals included in the exhibition.

The Mordecai Family

The American Civil War not only divided a nation, it divided its people, and the Jewish population was no exception. Alfred Mordecai was one American Jew profoundly affected by this rift. Raised by Orthodox parents in North Carolina, Mordecai attended West Point and became commander of the Washington Arsenal during the Mexican-American War. Mordecai became an assistant to the Secretary of War and to the Chief of Ordnance, wrote a digest of military laws, and served on the Board of Visitors to West Point. His most significant contributions came from his work in the Ordnance Department, where he was a respected innovator in military science.

The start of the Civil War presented Mordecai with a moral dilemma. Though he had spent his entire adult life serving in the US Army, all of Mordecai's siblings lived in the South and sided with the Confederacy. In 1861, Mordecai sought an army post in California to avoid fighting in the Civil War. When the request was denied, he resigned his commission rather than serve against his Southern family. After refusing an offer to serve in the Confederacy, Mordecai ended his

military career.

At the same time that Mordecai's career was ending, his son Alfred, Jr. embarked upon his own successful career in the US Army. Alfred, Jr. graduated from West Point in 1861 and accepted a commission in the Union Army. Having been born in Pennsylvania, he was less sensitive to his family's Southern heritage than his father. He served with distinction during the war, receiving a commendation for his conduct at the Battle of Bull Run. He ultimately retired as a brigadier general.

Merchant Seaman Murray Blum

As Nazi Germany emerged as a hostile power in Europe, American Jews with strong convictions about liberty and democracy found ways to serve, even though the United States government was not an official participant. American Jews served in the Merchant Marine to ferry much-needed supplies across the Atlantic to Europe. Although the United States was not yet formally involved in the war, German U-Boats targeted merchant mariners, and they suffered very high casualties. Sadly, many of these heroic volunteers did not receive veteran status until 1988.

One such merchant seaman was Lt. Murray Blum. Lt. Blum served with the United States Merchant Marine and was the chief radio operator aboard the SS *Leonidas Polk*. On 3 December 1944, sailing in the North Atlantic, the *Leonidas Polk* collided with another ship in its blacked-out convoy, which sank immediately. Blum dove overboard and swam towards the voice of a survivor calling out for help. Blum's body washed up on the shores of Scotland three weeks later. For his courage and sacrifice, he was posthumously awarded the Merchant Marine Distinguished



Lt. Blum (left) and unidentified merchant seaman.

Service Medal (that service's equivalent to the Medal of Honor).

Colonel Melvin Garten

By the time he retired from the U.S. Army in 1970, Melvin Garten had served in three wars and received the Distinguished Service Cross, four Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars, and five Purple Hearts. He rose from the rank of private during World War II to colonel when he retired after serving in the Vietnam War. Wounded numerous times in combat, he was rated 100 percent disabled by the army towards the end of his career. He remained on active duty following a ten-month stay at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. His final assignment was command of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, which he did on one leg.

Where is NMAJMH located?

We are located at 1811 R Street, NW, in Washington, DC.

The Museum is metro accessible: Take the red line to Dupont Circle and go to the Q Street exit. Walk two blocks north on Connecticut Avenue to R Street, then turn right and walk east two blocks to 18th Street.

For those travelling by car, limited metered parking is available in the Museum's immediate vicinity.

When can I visit NMAJMH?

The Museum is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm. Admission is always free.

For interested groups of 6 or more people, arrangements can be made for Sunday visitation between the hours of 1-5pm.

Is the Museum accessible for visitors with mobility issues?

Yes, NMAJMH is fully wheelchair accessible.

Can I take a tour?

Walk-in visitors can take self-guided tours of the exhibits on display. Docent led tours last approximately 1-2 hours and are available by advance scheduling. To schedule a docent-led tour, please call (202) 265-6280. We can accommodate groups of up to 125.

Does NMAJMH have special events?

Yes, the Museum hosts a variety of special events throughout the year, including our annual

Chanukah Party and many guest-speaker presentations.

Individuals or groups can also hold private events at NMAJMH, and should contact Mike Rugel (mrugel@nmajmh.org) to schedule.

Does the Museum have a gift shop?

Yes, we have a growing selection of items available at our Museum Shop. Our selection can be viewed online at www.nmajmh.org/museumStore.

Are there places to eat nearby?

Yes, Dupont Circle is a vibrant neighborhood with many dining options in various price ranges that are within walking distance of the Museum. There is no cafeteria in the Museum.

Can I do research at the Museum?

Yes, to make arrangements to conduct research here contact Pam Elbe (pelbe@nmajmh.org).

What is the relationship between JWV and NMAJMH?

The Museum is run under the auspices of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, but is under separate leadership and funding. Being a member of the JWV does not give you membership status in the Museum, so JWV members are encouraged to purchase a museum membership. Individual JWV posts and members provide vital support to the Museum and are always encouraged to visit.

The JWV headquarters is located in the same building as the Museum. NMAJMH



documents and preserves the contributions of Jewish Americans to the peace and freedom of the United States, which necessarily includes the history of the JWV.

How can I contribute to the Museum?

There are many ways to contribute to NMAJMH: become a member, make a donation, purchase items from our gift shop selection (which can be found online at nmajmh.org), donate materials to our collections, order a personalized certificate in honor or in memory of a special person or occasion, enroll a loved-one in our online Yahrzeit program, purchase a personalized inscribed paver for our Remembrance Walk program, or make a donation to have your name placed on our Honorial Wall.

For more information on any of these opportunities, please call Elana Megerian, at (202) 265-6280, ext. 508 or email at emegerian@jwv.org.

Program Updates By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator NMAJMH

Since our new permanent exhibit opened on Veteran's Day, NMAJMH has been busier than ever. We have held large group programs, guest speakers, and special tours, including the Anti-Defamation League's Young Professional Division, Moishe House, student groups from Georgetown University and the City College of New York, the Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Center, and local synagogue groups.

In December, our Chanukah party brought a



Menorah lighting at our annual Chanukah party.

large crowd to enjoy latkes and sufganiyot (jelly donuts) after touring the exhibits. Attendees heard a brief presentation about how American Jewish service members from World War II echoed the feats of the Maccabees in that after victory in WWII, American Jewish service members rededicated synagogues in Europe and around the world, just as the Maccabees rededicated the Temple after it was defiled by the Greeks. Museum Chaplain Michael Bloom discussed many of the questions surrounding the Hanukkah story and the holiday's many traditions.

The Museum has also hosted several speakers on a variety of topics. On February 16th, Dr. Robert Fried presented on the 70th anniversary of Mission 139 of the 485th Bomb Group. The mission was to be the last for Staff Sergeant Milton Wolfson who was killed when flak forced him out of the waist gunner position on his B-24. On March 8th, author Lee Mandel spoke about *Unlikely Warrior*, his new biography about Chaplain Roland Gittelsohn, whose call for toler-

ance and unity at the dedication of the 5th Marine Division Cemetery was heard round the world.

We have also been working hard to add more content online. Only a small portion of NMAJMH's stories and artifacts can be on exhibit at any time and we have so much more to tell. We're sharing more stories and content on our website (www.nmajmh.org), Facebook page (facebook.com/NMAJMH), and Twitter account (twitter.com/NMAJMH). NMAJMH has also been using the Jews in Green (www.jewsingreen.com) website, which was originally created for Jewish in-service members, as another avenue to post additional content. We've also launched a YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/NmajmhOrg>), a new way to tell the important stories of American Jewish soldiers who liberated the concentration camps. We hope that by expanding our online presence, people around the world will also be able access these amazing stories if they can't come visit the Museum in person.

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DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Abraham S. Homar-45 • Edward L. Molans-45 • Stanley Israelite-51

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

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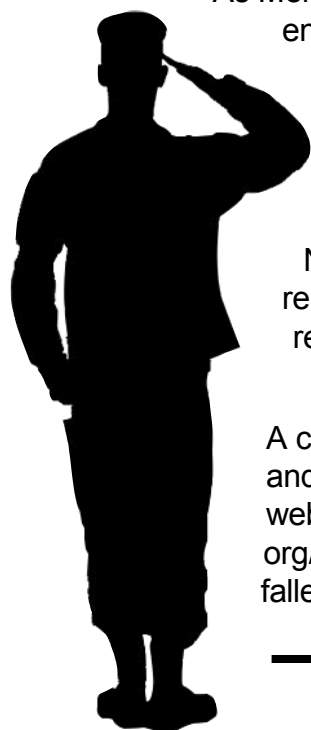
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DEPARTMENT OF VA/NC

Frank Rubinstein-95 • Sam Blum-453 • Howard Ruben-453



As Memorial Day approaches, we encourage you to reach out to your rabbis and lay leaders about reading the names of American Jewish casualties of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn, so that they may be remembered when the Kaddish is recited.

A complete list of names is available and can be found on the NMAJMH website at: <http://www.nmajmh.org/collectionsAndResearch/fallenheroes.php>.



Peter Gleichenhau represented JWV at the annual American Legion sponsored event honoring the Four Chaplains lost on the USS *Dorchester* in 1943 at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. He spoke about Chaplain (Rabbi, 1LT) Alexander Goode, while holding a life jacket symbolizing the jacket given by Rabbi Goode to a soldier on the sinking ship. Behind him is a JROTC cadet who participated in the ceremony.



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Eugene Baraw • Post 336

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Chag Sameach

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Preparing for Passover at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, April, 9 1954. From the Bernard Becker collection.

In Loving Memory of Harry & Yetta Israel

In Memory of Sid & Florence Israel, USMC

Jewish War Veterans USA Post 1
Our Original Post

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
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NC Sheldon & Judy Ohren
To Life!

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Good Health & Happiness to All

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Toda Shalom & Good Health to all JWV

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