



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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Why Is The VA Appeals Process Broken?

By DEREK COY

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There's good news and bad news for veterans, according to a new report analyzing the VA's appeals system.

This past January, the Department of Veteran Affairs released a 44-page report, titled "Veteran Appeals Experience: Listening to the Voices of Veterans and Their Journey in the Appeals System," which sought out to do just that: Listen to the veterans who are currently in or have gone through the appeals process with the hopes of discovering the best way to overhaul the system. The report drew from the accounts of 92 veterans in 21 states, from World War II to today's ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, with the hopes of addressing the current problems with the process and creating solutions to fix them. I had the opportunity to be one of those 92 veterans.

Last November, I received an email from the VA asking if I'd be interested in discussing my experience with the appeals process for an upcoming report being conducted by the VA's



Center for Innovation.

Since I had previously lobbied with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America to reduce the claims backlog in 2013 and been through the claims process myself, I had some familiarity with that part of the process. However, now that I was over two years into my own appeal — a process I knew nothing about — I thought this would be a good way to learn more about this ever-increasing challenge from the VA itself, while also being able to vent about my frustrations with the process.

The VA staff conducting the interview in-

sisted that I be blunt, so I pulled no punches during the interview. When the report was released, though, I was shocked to see that the VA was just as candid in their report as I was in the interview. Regarding the appeals process, they boldly admit, "the system is broken."

Here's what the report found:

Let's start with the good news.

The purpose of hearing what actual veterans in the appeals process are going through is the first phase of a user-driven design process called human-centered design. If, like myself, this is the first you've heard of human-centered design, it is a "holistic approach to design [that] takes inspiration from real people, works within market and technological constraints, and considers every product touch-point as an opportunity to surprise, delight and deliver benefits to users." This sounds like the antithesis of what the VA has historically offered its clients, but considering this approach has been embraced by high-performing companies such as Warby Parker, Pinterest, AirBnB, Google and others, it seems like a step in the right direction.

Also, VACI, the five-year-old team within the VA that conducted this report, is tasked with driving innovation with a strong commitment to

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JWV Donates \$5,000 for New Siddurs

When new military recruits walk into the Military Entrance Processing Command (MEPS) for their final examination before heading off to boot camp, a large box by the door is usually filled with Bibles, in every camouflage pattern, that the Department of Defense issues to soldiers. Jewish recruits can instead receive siddurs and Jewish Bibles, but the funding to supply them is limited. A few years ago, the Jewish Welfare Board Jewish Chaplains Council provided 10,000 siddurs to Jewish soldiers, seamen, and those staying in VA hospitals, but the quantity ran out in less than two years.

This spring, JWV pledged \$5,000 for the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council to provide 10,000 additional prayer books and other religious materials to the Jewish men and women that are serv-

ing our country.

The Jewish Welfare Board started as an organization to support drafted soldiers entering the service during World War II, but still exists today to continue serving Jewish members of the armed forces, and is the only group that endorses the Jewish Chaplains in the military. If these siddurs are used as fast as the previous 10,000 were, the supply will not last long, but it will however allow many more Jewish soldiers to have prayer books while on duty and participate in more meaningful religious services by connecting to their religion while serving their country.

On May 17, JWV gave a short presentation to over fifty chaplains and lay leaders at the JCC Biennial conference in Baltimore. Members Col. Nelson Mellitz and Chaplain Yaakov Bindell,

as well as JWV National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth, spoke of JWV's desire to work with the chaplains and lay leaders to build not only a stronger JWV community, but also to help younger members develop a network of people and partners. Programs



Continued on page 17

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Enter the full number, including the # sign.

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September 8.....Convention Review

October 27Outlook for the Coming Year — New National Commander

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YOUR LETTERS

Privatizing the VA

In regards to the National Executive Director Col. Rosenbleeth's Vol. 70 opinion article which I agree with 90%. I do, with all due respect, disagree that we veterans are "best" served by the VA. Pouring endless money (our tax money - the government has no money of it's own) into the VA has not significantly improved nor fixed it. The VA system is irreparably broken.

The optimum solution is for most of the VA to be privatized. This would "best" serve we veterans of the USA.

Angelo Gino Di Giovanni, III, ThD, PhD

JWV Post 77

USAF Vietnam Veteran

Mount Soledad Cross Case

Sam Simon's kind letter in the prior edition of The Jewish Veteran asks about the role of the Americans United for Separation of Church and State ("AU") in the Mount Soledad Cross case. The AU, as well as a few other organizations, showed support for the JWV by submitting amicus briefs. However, the JWV was the actual plaintiff and its counsel, Wilmer Cutler, and the ACLU did almost all the work, as they should have. The JWV is grateful for the support of AU.

NJA Harvey Weiner

JWV Post 211

Women in the Military

Dear Jerry,

I am definitely a female veteran, after being in the Army over 20 years.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the Convention, but I did want to be counted.

I am a supporter of the JWV, (Post 220), in Peabody, MA, where my brother-in-law and sister, Milton and Rhoda Kellerman have been Commander and Auxiliary President, respectively.

At age 92, I had become a Bat Mitzvah and participated in Jewish activities to the best of my ability. I will become 99 years of age in July.

Best wishes to you all,

Jillian Aronson

[Editor's note: Happy Birthday, Jillian! May you continue to be happy and healthy.]

Corrections

In the previous issue, Post 305 PA Commander Jeff Hill was not identified as the person on the right, on the picture on page 14. We apologize for the error.

On page six of the previous issue, Ed Hornichter should have been credited as the photographer of the NJ delegation visiting their representative during Capitol Hill Action Day.

JROTC

Last issue, we highlighted the work of Stan Levinson and the JRTOC program. Now, see it in action! Below are only a few of the many thank you letters we received from grateful cadets, as well as pictures of them with their JWV Americanism medals and certificates. Over 50 medals have been sent out so far this year, not including the many awarded by the JWV Department of California and other Posts. Want to get involved? Let us know! We are always looking for ways to increase our involvement in the community. Contact Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org.



Dear Jewish War Veterans,
My name is Maritza Delgado and I am a junior at James Monroe High School JROTC program. It was an honor to receive this award from you guys. I will wear your medal and honor it through out my life and wear it proudly. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Maritza Delgado



Dear Seymour Bloom,
My name is Cadet MSG Samuel Ramirez Jr. at James Monroe High School. I am really grateful for being the recipient for your award, and I am glad for the honor. I am willing to look up to this award in my later future as I am now. I thank you again and appreciate that you awarded me with it.

From a grateful cadet,

Samuel Ramirez, Jr.

Dear Jewish War Veterans,

My name is cadet Logan Dean, and I am a fourth year cadet in the West Lincoln High School "Rebel Navy" JROTC. I would like to thank you for presenting me the JROTC award at our annual Blue/Gold Award Ceremony. I was very surprised when I heard my name called, and it means a lot to me to be recognized for my hard work.

Your continued support of the "Rebel Navy" JRTOC is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Cadet Logan Dean



I would like to thank the Jewish War Veterans for the award I received. I was happy to accept the award and thankful for the time your organization took in sending my award.

Annavita Pantgo

MacArthur HS JROTC



Thank you, for your support of the JROTC Cadets during the Warrior Battalion Nation Award Ceremony. We appreciate your participation.

We hope to see you next year!

Sincerely,

Taylorville Warrior Cadets



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Jerome Blum

I am now well into the last third of my term, and I see an exciting future for the Jewish War Veterans. I see a future where there are no barriers to being in leadership. A future where we will be led by younger energetic men and women. We already have a group of very capable folks in the office starting to bring some wonderful ideas to our organization. In less than one year's time, I have seen many changes. I have seen the beginnings of programs, which are bringing younger veterans into the fold.

On a more personal level, I was extremely honored to receive a letter from the White House signed by President Barack Obama in response for the JWV necktie which I presented to him when I visited the White House this past November on Veterans Day.

Along with my wife, PNP Joanne, I have been very busy, traveling around and doing my best to well represent JWV. I paid an official visit to Drizin-Weiss Post 215 PA in honor of their 70th anniversary, where Post Commander Bruce Kanis and the members of Post 215 held a special celebration. Bruce was also able to arrange fantastic media coverage.

After returning home and resting for a few

days we were back on the road. This time to New Jersey. We were able to see some New Jersey sights that I did not know existed, including "Old Barracks" in Trenton, built by the colony of New Jersey in 1758. Another wonderful place we went to was the Chapel of the Four Chaplains which is actually located close by at the Philadelphia Shipyard. This holds a special meaning for me, as it does for many of us, because of our involvement with the monument which was added to 'Chaplains Hill' at Arlington National Cemetery. NJ Department Commander Larry Rosenthal conducted an outstanding Department meeting, and it was a pleasure to be a small part of this event.

Locally, we've remained active with the US Coast Guard Academy, where we attended a very special Seder and I presented Kiddush Cups, on behalf of JWV, to the graduating Jewish cadets. I also participated in two Connecticut ROTC award ceremonies, and several Yom Hashoah events, including an Annual Holocaust Memorial at our State Capitol with a proclamation read by our Governor. Along the way I also took the time to give my story to the Veterans History Project. This project, spon-

sored by a state college, seeks to record as many stories as possible from veterans, all veterans. There is no cost to you and they are just looking for everybody's story- and don't forget, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History also collects stories as well.

I am looking forward to my final months as National Commander. I see the improvements that our National Museum of American Jewish Military History has made, remembering and honoring our past as we surge ahead into the future. We have reached out to leadership at local levels, looking to see what they do to increase family involvement, and to join our younger male and female veterans online.

This is just the beginning. I have grown with my responsibilities, and hopefully, I will continue on this path, as JWV and I continue into our bright future. Thanks to all who helped me along the way.



NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

The Military Coalition - Strength in Numbers

Numbering 31 military associations and veterans service organizations, The Military Coalition (TMC) represents some 5.5 million members and their families, making it a strong advocate for service members, veterans, families and survivors.

TMC has contributed to significant victories for the military community. These include the Post 9/11 GI Bill for active duty personnel, Tricare for Life for military retirees, and the two year advance VA appropriations for veterans. The Post 9/11 GI Bill has some very attractive benefits that were previously lacking, such as covering all in-state college tuition and a book stipend, a living allowance, and transferability options.

Membership in TMC enables JWV to be included in the frequent congressional testimony that TMC is invited to present to Senate and House Armed Services Committees. These hearings usually cover personnel or health care issues and our name is included at each testimony.

The Board of Directors of TMC consists of the CEO of each of the 31 member organizations. JWV Coordinating Committee Chairman, PNC Norman Rosenshein, is our representative on the

TMC Board of Directors.

The goals of TMC include:

- Maintaining a strong national defense provided by recruiting and retaining skilled and highly capable personnel in the seven uniformed services;
- Maintaining uniformed services compensation and benefits at levels sufficient to attract and retain professional uniformed service members for careers of service to the Nation.
- Representing the interests of the entire uniformed services community, including members' families and survivors, and responding to assaults upon the compensation and benefits earned by members of that community through years of dedicated service; and
- Educating the public on the extraordinary demands and sacrifices associated with a career in uniformed service, and the need to maintain a similarly unique system of compensation and benefits to attract and retain the kinds and numbers of high-

quality personnel needed to meet the Nation's short- and long-term defense requirements.

TMC accomplishes its objectives primarily through eight legislative standing committees.

Each of these committees reviews, debates and recommends issues to the "body of the whole" to champion. Goals are proposed each fall and then ratified in December before the beginning of the next session or next Congress. Each individual member organizations own goals are not obviated, and any member group can choose to have its name removed from specific correspondence or testimony. Generally, the majority vote rules, however, when five or more members oppose a coalition action or position, it is tabled.

By participating with TMC, we at JWV gain significant visibility in the Washington area. Even more important, we are much better able to preserve and enhance the benefits you deserve. Kudos to JWV and TMC!



DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

PNC Monroe Mayer, National Editor

As we leave winter behind in various parts of the country (though during this year many would argue with that statement) we are approaching convention time. Our County and District Councils, Departments, and our National Organization will recognize that at convention time, a good deal must be accomplished.

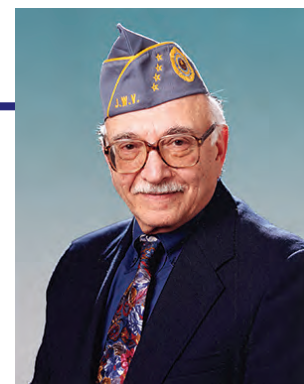
It is an important time for our local organization to feature our conventions for several good reasons. One of the most important, is the fact that we get together to renew old friendships, and once again to celebrate our organization. We also look forward to committee reports, what we have accomplished in the past year, and most important of all to elect our new officers for the oncoming year.

We try to learn from one another, especially in the area of membership. We are all aware of the fact that the future of JWV depends on our ability to attract new members and make them an integral part of our organization. Since we will be going into our 121st year of existence, with the world in its current condition and the threats that are around us continuously, we need to stand together at this particular time. As we all know, individually, it is most difficult to combat anti-democracy and anti-Semitism. Our group together with others must stand up to the threats that face all of us today, both here and in Israel.

We all may have hoped that in the 21st century, things worldwide would have improved, but sadly that is not the case. Our need to

stand together as an organization is more important than ever, though our means of communication have certainly improved with computers, cell phones, tablets, and the rest; but, we do know that in times of need we must stand together.

So please attend our conventions both locally and nationally to help us demonstrate to other organizations, Jewish and veteran alike, that JWV is looking forward to the future- and we're here to stay!



PNC Norman Rosenshein: New Chairman of JWV

I have been a member of JWV for 46 years, and I am proud to serve you as the organization's new Chairman.

I served in the U.S. Army from 1964-1970, and joined JWV during my last year of service. Since then, I have been actively involved on every level, from a member of Post 63 NJ all the way to National Commander in 2006. I also was the President of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History for three years, and still serve as the National Budget Chairman for both JWV and NMAJMH.

JWV flourished in the decades after World War II and Korea. Since then, our membership has been slowly shrinking due to an aging demographic and no draft. My comrades have written tirelessly about the need for new members, ways to engage the younger generation, and opportunities for involvement. I am here not to repeat their words, but to emphasize their importance.

In this modern age, where communication is based via text message and Facebook posts, we find ourselves struggling to catch up. In order to move forward and keep up with our fellow VSOs, we must embrace change. It is the only way we will survive. We help **all** veterans in any way we can, but also give back to our communities. In order for this to continue, we need your help.

There will be new expectations. Members will be asked to volunteer and take on more responsibilities than ever before. More importantly, you will be expected to follow through **and** provide updates of your work to the National office. We must embrace the younger generations of veterans now more than ever. We must figure out how to meet their needs and help them with



PNC Norman Rosenshein

transitioning out of the military, networking, and anything else that is asked of us.

Flexibility is key, as is embracing new ideas and new leaders, both locally and nationally. Give your members the opportunity to lead, but also train them; offer advice, feedback, and constructive criticism.

I invite you to join me at our first business session at our Annual National Convention in Savannah, GA, to continue this conversation. Every member's voice should be heard. To learn more about the Convention, you can read about it on page 12. I hope to see you there.

JWV has been a part of my life for so many decades that it has become my family. My wife, Freda Rosenshein, is nearing the end of her term as National President of the Jewish War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary. We are both lucky to have JWV and JWVA in our lives and look forward to this new era.

Veterans History Project and the Boy Scouts

In his column, our National Commander mentioned giving his story to the Veterans History Project (VHP). Started in 2000, the VHP "collects and preserves the firsthand interviews of America's wartime veterans." VHP has already collected over 89,000+ interviews, memories, and artifacts (photographs, letters, maps, etc.) Scouts looking to help VHP and earn their Eagle Scout Service Project (Boys) or Gold Award Project (Girls) can conduct and submit eight to 15 interview following VHP guidelines. This is a great opportunity for Posts to reach out to Scouts in their communities and for Scouts to learn more about veterans, and the causes they fought for, and the battles they fought in.

For more information on how your Scouts can get involved and to receive the guidelines please email vohp@loc.gov.

For more information about VHP please visit <https://www.loc.gov/vets/about.html>. (Don't forget to give your story to our museum, too!)

See page nine to learn more about how your Post can get involved in Scouting!

I would like to thank everyone who reached out to me with their many acts of kindness during this most difficult and tragic time in my life.

I am so grateful for the hugs, kind words, food, flowers, phone calls and donations that I received since my husband's passing.

May G*d bless you for for being so kind.

Jeri Zweiman

News from Capitol Hill

House of Representatives Proposes Cuts in Post-9/11 GI Bill

A House of Representatives omnibus veterans bill introduced in February (H.R. 3016), proposes cuts to the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. A similar bill may be making its way to the Senate floor.

The proposed legislation includes a 50 percent cut in the monthly housing allowance provided to children who will have the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefit transferred to them by a veteran parent. Beneficiaries would lose up \$1,000 a month, although the law would not affect anyone already receiving the stipend.

Veteran advocates, including Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, have vehemently opposed the cuts and rallied alongside several House lawmakers on Capitol Hill in May

to oppose cuts to the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill that they say would break a "sacred" trust.

More than one million veterans who served on active duty since the 9/11 attacks and their family members have used G.I. Bill benefits to get an education since it was created in 2009. Despite the popularity, the House proposed to cut a section of the benefits in February to pay for a massive veteran reform package and the Senate is now weighing whether to take up the measure.

The reduction in housing money is one measure in a much larger omnibus bill aimed at improving veterans' services. The larger bill was written by various lawmakers and sponsored by Rep. Brad Wenstrup, R-Ohio.

White House Budget Proposal Increases TRICARE Costs for Military Retirees

All retired service members would pay an annual TRICARE enrollment fee under a new, simplified version of the military's main health care program outlined in the President Obama's proposed fiscal 2017 budget.

TRICARE beneficiaries would have two options under the proposal, instead of the several different choices that are currently available. Enrollees could choose a lower-cost plan called TRICARE Select, similar to a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), and centered on military treatment facilities. The other option, named TRICARE Choice, is a more expensive plan that would operate similar to a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO).

Both plans require participation fees, which is

not the case now for beneficiaries with TRICARE Standard coverage, or those military retirees age 65 or older who have TRICARE-for-Life.

Enrollees who choose not to pay the annual participation fee would lose TRICARE coverage for that year.

Based on Department of Defense estimates, the proposed participation fees for TRICARE Select beneficiaries in 2018 would be \$350 for individuals and \$700 for families. Under the Choice option, the Pentagon budget estimated \$450 for the individual fee, and \$900 for families. Currently TRICARE Prime retirees pay \$282.60 annually for individual coverage, and \$565.20 per year for family coverage through Sept. 30, 2016.

Modernized Retirement System

Completing twenty years of service in the military will no longer be the requirement to receive retirement pay. This past December, President Obama signed into law a new format for retirement pay so that it would line up more with what is available in the civilian sector. According to the Military Times, within the current retirement plan approximately only 17 percent receive any retirement pay, due to the 20 year service requirement; the rest are only receive separation pay when they leave the military even if they were just a few years short of the 20 year mark. However, starting in 2018 every service member will see some form of retirement pay at the beginning of their third year of service.

The new plan, called the "Modernized Retirement System," will ensure that all soldiers will receive some form of retirement pay in addition to G.I. Bill benefits. This plan requires the military to automatically contribute one percent of a soldier's pay to their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), which is the military's version of the 401(k), and match the soldier's contribution to TSP. The plan also allows for mid-career compensation incentives to retain talented soldiers. While more soldiers will be able to

leave the military with some form of retirement pay, those who have served twenty or more years benefit less than they would have with the traditional plan. Now a soldier who retires at the twenty year mark will only receive 40% of what they would have received under the old plan.

Current service members who joined after 2006 will have the option of taking on the current retirement plan or switching to the new form, but starting in 2018 all service members will automatically be using the Modernized Retirement System and those members who joined before 2006 will remain in the current retirement system. For those service members that can choose, they will now be taking on more responsibility by deciding how much they want to receive when they retire from the military. By the time the new retirement plan launches, there will be four training modules to educate current and new service members, financial counselors, and leaders about the new plan versus the old plan so that service members can make informed decisions. These trainings will be available online at Military OneSource and Joint Knowledge Online.



Make your voice heard!

It is up to us to convince, to educate, and to persuade our Members of Congress concerning issues important to veterans, the Department of Defense and Israel.

How to contact your Representatives

Congressman

The Honorable (name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Look up your House Rep. by using your zip code here:
<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

Senator

The Honorable (name)
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Look up your state Senator's contact information here:
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All Federal legislators' email addresses are available at:
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<https://www.govtrack.us/>

By Lance Allen Wang

"Har HaBayit BeYadeinu! Har HaBayit BeYadeinu!" (Translation: "The Temple Mount is in our hands! The Temple Mount is in our hands!")

So said Colonel Mordecai Gur on the command radio frequency, bursting out of the static as the early morning sun rose just over the horizon in Northern Jerusalem on the morning of June 7, 1967, twenty-three years after D-Day.

"All forces, stop firing! This is the David Operations Room. All forces, stop firing! I repeat, all forces, stop firing! Over."

The smell of cordite and gunpowder no doubt filled the air, as did the sound of stray shots, boots on stone, and the shouts and curses of non-commissioned officers attempting to establish security around the objective.

"Comb the area, discover the source of the firing! Protect every building, in every way. Do not touch anything, especially in the holy places."

The significance of the Battle of Ammunition Hill cannot be overstated. This battle secured the Jerusalem front during the Six-Day-War. The site of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem is one of such holiness and significance to the Jewish people that I'm not sure that America has an equivalent.

Why this war story? Why a war story featuring no American forces? Because we have a unique identity as Jews. Because those of us descended from European Jewry, those who escaped the Holocaust, likely have relatives in Israel whether we know it or not. Because as Jewish War Veterans, if our own military service as American Jews doesn't put the lie to the claim that Jews won't fight, the service of our fellow Jews in Israel adds an emphatic, bold, exclamation point to our service.

The battle was a near-fiasco. Traditional military wisdom calls for the attacker to have a three-to-one advantage to have a good probability of success. Israeli intelligence indicated that the Hill was defended by a platoon of Jordanian troops. Israeli intelligence was wrong – dead wrong. It was defended by a full company. As

the Israelis were assaulting the hill with a reinforced company of paratroopers, the ratio of forces was one-to-one, with the additional disadvantage that the defending Arabs were entrenched within a well-developed trench system.

The fighting was up close, personal, and brutal, raging for four hours from the middle of the night on June 6 to the break of dawn on June 7. Israel lost 182 soldiers in their lightning victory during the Six-Day War in 1967; twenty percent of them fell on Ammunition Hill.

Colonel Gur would go on to serve as the Chief of Staff for the Israel Defense Forces, including planning the legendary 1976 hostage rescue at Entebbe, Uganda, when Israeli transports carried 100 commandos over 2,500 miles to Uganda to rescue 102 hostages.

American Jews should know the sacrifices of our brethren in uniform in the Jewish homeland. They are family. They are blood kin. They suffer the same problems as returning veterans. They fall victim to the same political arm wrestling and bureaucratic snafus where funding dries up and disappears. They fall victim to the same hand wringing that allows veterans to serve as convenient scapegoats for unpopular wars, as Lebanon and the Intifada proved.

Many Americans are ignorant of American military history. Sadly, this includes American Jews. Part of our charter as Jewish War Veterans of the United States is to help correct this. As Jews, Israel is central to our identity. Our peoples' history doesn't stop at the end of Deuteronomy, nor should a Jewish veteran believe that our service in defense of freedom began with Haim Solomon and the American Revolution. We've been fighting for freedom since Biblical times



Ammunition Hill

and on through the Maccabean and Bar Kochba rebellions.

At our post in Albany, New York, last year we sponsored a presentation by Friends of the Israel Defense Forces. The speaker was a non-commissioned officer who had served for a number of years in the IDF, including during Operation Protective Edge. Following the presentation, the rapport between this sergeant and our veterans was both warm and immediate. This is an outreach that I hope we can continue. Why?

The service of our fellow Jews, in Israel and America, can be a source of pride and help us find our sense of place in the long history of our people. While the label "veteran" sets us apart from other citizens, the fact that we are Jews sets us apart from other veterans. That is what differentiates our organization from other veterans' organizations. May we continue to grow in our identity as Jews in addition to growing our bond as veterans.

Lt. Col. Lance Allen Wang (US Army, Retired) is an Iraq veteran and Past Commander of JWV Post 105, Albany, NY.



Korean War Memorial Opening Ceremony Set for August 1 in San Francisco

After more than six years of effort, and thanks to the generosity of hundreds of individuals and organizations, the Korean War Memorial will soon be a reality. The Opening Ceremony will take place from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on Monday, August 1, 2016, at the San Francisco National Cemetery, immediately adjacent to the Korean War Memorial site in the Presidio of San Francisco.

All Korean War veterans, their families and descendants, donors, members of the media, and other supporters and friends are encouraged to attend what promises to be a memorable landmark event. Full details on the program will be announced in the coming weeks.

For additional information, please contact: Gerard Parker, Executive Director, 415-750 3862, gvparker@kwmf.org or visit www.kwmf.org.



JWV's 30th Annual Mission to Israel

Monday, April 24 - Thursday, May 4, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

Trip overview:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Temple time and the time of Jesus.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, May 4 - Leave Israel.



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

Not included:

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

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

* Personal expenses.

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

For more information or to register, contact Christy Turner at cturner@jwv.org, or by phone at 202.265-6280.



Spotlight on JWV Programs: Scouting

Learn how the program works, ways to get involved, and methods to take it to the next level with your Post!

By Barry J. Schneider
JWV National Scouting Chairman

Scouting has been an important and influential part of the American Jewish community for more than 100 years. No doubt many of you were boy scouts and girl scouts, as were your children. Today, Scouting has changed to become more up to date in order to meet the needs of today's modern youth it has also become egalitarian and gender friendly.

The chairman of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) National Jewish Committee on Scouting has asked that we join as partners in order to bring the benefits of scouting to more Jewish youth! Many JWV Posts already work with scouting units, but we can do more. We can engage the local BSA council chairperson and find ways to assist. We can also work with our local synagogues, temples, and other local Jewish organizations to develop more scouting units- with both the BSA and the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Did you know that the values of Scouting parallel our own?

1. Scouting inoculates the love of country and patriotism as we do, and encourages involvement in one's community
2. Scouting upholds the sanctity of our faith.
3. Scouting has new and exciting activities for Jewish youth from age 7-18
4. Scouting offers religious emblems for each age group to help insure our children have exposure to Jewish values.
5. All branches of Judaism now endorse and support scouting's objectives
6. JWV provides Eagle Scout certificates to ALL scouts who achieve this rank.

In order to kick start our increased involvement with Jewish Scouting, you can get involved by doing the following:

1. Elect or appoint a scouting liaison officer to work with me in assisting your post to become more actively involved in the scouting program. Please forward their contact information to me by June 25, 2016.
2. Find out if your local BSA council has a

Jewish committee and explain the benefits of JWV partnering with them. I am sure they will have plenty of ideas of how we can assist.

3. If you have scouting units already sponsored by a Jewish organization, see if there is a place on their committee where you can assist.
4. If there are no Jewish sponsored units talk to the leaders of your community to explore the possibility of starting one.

Our goals should always include promoting Scouting in the Jewish community, increasing the number of units sponsored by JWV, and encouraging Jewish youth and adults to become involved in supporting Scouting. There are many ways each of us can become involved. If you have any questions or want to know how you can help please contact me at dr_barrys@yahoo.com.

To request a JWV Scouting certificate for a local Scout in your area, please contact the Membership Department at membership@jwv.org.

Meet an Eagle!



Eagle Scout Jacob Scissors was awarded a JWV Certificate for Significant Achievement and a letter of congratulations from National Commander Jerry Blum by Post Commander Dennis Cohen of Post 644. Part of Scout Troop 803 in St. Louis, MO, Jacob completed all of the requirements to earn his Eagle Scout award in January 2016.

Jacob has been in scouting since 2009 and also earned his Ner Tamid religious award. He served his troop in all leadership positions including Senior Patrol Leader, the highest position a scout can hold.

All candidates for Eagle must complete a community service project which shows organizational and leadership skills. Jacob's project was the construction and installation of five blue bird houses, five bird feeders, and four large planter boxes benefiting the Erin Eickmeier Foundation, at the Circle Star Ranch, a summer camp for kids with special needs. Jacob chose this organization because he wanted to see special needs kids have the same opportunity to get out and experience nature as much as he does.

Jacob wanted to continue the legacy began by his father Michael, who became an Eagle Scout in the early 1960s.

Jacob's service extends to the military as well. Every year he participates in a flag replacement service project in his local community. Jacob's grandfather served in the Army and he always

makes sure that all the deceased are honored just as he honors his grandfather's grave every year. Jacob plans on attending Southeast Missouri State University in the fall. While attending Southeast, he will also be participating in the Air Force ROTC program, using his leadership abilities that he learned in scouting to help serve his country as an officer.



St. Louis Heritage Post 644 Commander Dennis Cohen presenting Certificate to Jacob Scissors.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

Meet JAW: The Future of JWV

“Active duty got lonely. I wanted to connect with my fellow Jews, but didn’t know how. I found JWV later in my career, so I never established a deep bond. This opportunity [to build a network of Jewish active duty]? This is my chance to deepen that bond and build the community I didn’t have.”

Post 112 GA member CPT Gavin Ellman (USA) often speaks about “the community” or “young Jewish network” with the conviction only a recently discharged Jewish officer could. He is one of five JWV members who have thoughtfully debated, planned, and founded the Jewish American Warrior (JAW) Committee, a new initiative for JWV members aged 50 and below.

Reservist Chaplain Yaakov Bindell, of Post 126 NJ, is the optimistic and approachable Chair of JAW.

“Between the relationship-building skills of Marc [Wolf, Post 1, NY], business savvy of Gavin, and my position as a Chaplain, I see this group taking off quickly. We know we want to be the organizing piece – the friend, the mentor, the helping hand – that connects the active duty and recently transitioned to each other and to opportunities within the broader Jewish community. We just need to build our communications platform.”

Indeed, the Committee has already built mo-

mentum. They have hosted several dinners in the New York-New Jersey region for Jewish servicemembers to commune and do some career networking. NJ PDC Nelson Mellitz, who is serving as senior mentor of JAW, attended a dinner this past spring.

“The energy in the room was what I first noticed. Thirty young veterans and active duty, all motivated and engaged. They’re building their new careers after the military AND seeking opportunities to lead and volunteer. Even if they don’t know it yet, JWV, and JAW in particular, is what they’re seeking,” Mellitz notes.

As the Committee builds its communication strategy, it is expanding its networking with the introduction of The Chaplains Ambassador Program. Chaplain Bindell, along with PDC Mellitz and NED Herb Rosenbleeth, recently presented at the Jewish Welfare Board’s Chaplains Council Convention in Baltimore, MD.

Thirty Chaplains enrolled as Ambassadors for JAW. The Committee plans to support the Chaplains’ current programming and serve as the primary tool for linking the Chaplains’ Jewish active duty to the myriad grants, services, and programming offered in the Jewish and military communities.

To meet the needs of young Jewish warriors,

JAW is focusing its efforts on:

- Active Duty Support, including grants for childcare assistance and family readiness retreats, services for injured/ill servicemembers and their families, and educational grants
- Transitioning Servicemembers Support, beginning with building a Jewish veteran network and partnering with career counseling organizations
- Strengthening Jewish identity through such grants as travel grants for Cadets to attend Jewish Warrior Weekends, Jewish summer camp grants for children of service members, and education grants for rabbinical students who commit to at least four years of military chaplaincy
- Legacy Preservation by collaborating with the Museum to expand its Post-9/11 exhibit and honors

If you, or someone you know, is an American Jewish servicemember aged 50 or below, contact National HQ (membership@jwv.org) to get involved with the JAW Committee. Help JWV build for the next 120 years!



Frequently Asked Financial Questions – ANSWERED!

For all of the number-crunchers volunteering their skills for JWV, and for all of the members who want to improve their JWV administrative skills, a layman’s guide to finances:

1. What’s all this 990 tax business about? JWV is recognized by the federal government as a 501C4, Veteran Service Organization. To maintain that status, we must show that our income is earned, and expenses spent, on behalf of veterans. That is proven in our tax filings. From Post to Department to National HQ, every echelon must file the 990. Learn all about the filing process by downloading our how-to guide at www.jwv.org.
2. When does my Post/Council/Department need to file the 990? That depends on your fiscal year (e.g. January – December, or July – June). The IRS requires that you file by the 15th day of the fifth month after your fiscal year ends. Learn more at irs.gov.
3. So, I need to file the taxes and do this Finance Board Report, too? Yes. The Finance Board Report is our internal audit tool. JWV has a national Finance Board Committee that reviews the report submissions annually. Again, this is used

to ensure our organization is living its VSO mission of helping veterans.

4. What is the Finance Board (FB) Report? More or less a financial checklist, the FB Report outlines an echelon’s income, expenses, donations, and taxes. It is the primary tool the Finance Board uses to fulfill its purpose (to supervise the annual accounting, fundraising, depositing and spending of funds).
5. When was the FB Report due? May 6, 2016. Send certified mail to National HQ. Late submissions are accepted through August 5, 2016.
 - a. What if I never send it? The Finance Board Committee may choose to investigate your echelon and National can revoke your Charter.
6. What is my echelon’s fiscal year? While National HQ’s fiscal year is July 1 – June 30, echelons have varying fiscal years based upon when an application for tax-exempt status was submitted to the IRS. If you filed the 990 in previous years, then the IRS can provide record of your fiscal year.
7. My Post wants to donate to a VA homeless



program. How do donations work in JWV? If a Post/Council/Department chooses to donate funds, the funds must be given to a JWV program, or affiliated organization, or to a cause that directly benefits veterans, which includes:

- VA Medical Centers;
- Our Museum, The National Museum of American Jewish Military History;
- JWV National Building Fund;

Continued on next page

COL Carl A. Singer Announces His Candidacy for JWV National Commander

COL Carl A. Singer's candidacy for JWV National Commander has been unanimously endorsed by New Brunswick Post 133 and the Department of New Jersey.

Carl was born on a westbound freight train along the Polish / Ukrainian border. After spending time in Displaced Persons Camps he came to this golden land of opportunity at age three and grew up in Cleveland, Ohio.

Drafted in 1970, he served with an elite "mini-staff" in the Army Chief of Staff's Office, attaining the rank of Specialist 5 (SP5). He was then awarded a direct commission to First Lieutenant. He also served with the Secretary of the Army for Research, Development and at TRADOC, the Training and Doctrine Command. Carl's last assignment was at the U.S. Army War College Center for Strategic Leadership where, for 10 years, he led a team of colonels supporting the annual Strategic Crisis Exercise. He is a graduate of both the U.S. Army War College, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal. He retired as an Army Colonel with 31 years of service.

Carl is actively involved with the Jewish War Veterans. A former Department Commander, he is a life member and currently serves as National Quartermaster. He also chairs the Homeland Security Committee. Upon moving to New Jersey, he received mail intended for the previous occupant of his home regarding a JWV Post meeting. Inspired, Carl joined Post 133 and under the guidance of many members, including the late Arnold Sweet, he became Post Commander and later County and then District Commander, before going up the chairs to become Department Commander. Carl also serves on the Legislative



Breakfast Committee – leading the team that produces the annual "Agenda of Concerns" booklet. He currently is co-chair of the New Jersey Department Convention Committee. Annually, Carl also coordinates the New Jersey delegation's "March on the Hill" and schedules meetings with both of New Jersey's Senators and all twelve Representatives in Washington, D.C. He maintains contact throughout the year as necessary to assure awareness of key issues impacting the military, veterans, and the State of Israel. Carl is a life member of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History and serves on its Board of Directors.

Carl has enjoyed a varied and interesting professional career. He was a Vice President with the Enterprise Program Management Office at the Bank of New York Mellon, where he provided oversight and guidance to critical Information

Technology projects. Carl also served as a consultant for the Institute for Defense Analyses, a Washington think tank. He previously served as a senior consulting faculty member at IBM's Advanced Business Institute (ABI) where he focused on issues related to effective management. Carl was a Member of the Technical Staff at Bell Communications Research. He also served as a Foreign Exchange forecaster at Chase Econometrics and was a consultant for the Chase Manhattan Bank.

Carl and his wife, Miriam, a Professor in the Department of Education at Fairleigh Dickinson University, have been married for 39 years and have three sons: Moishe Berl, Shlomo Yitzchak, and Chaim Yaakov. They are blessed with five grandchildren, ranging from ages 11 to two.

A lifelong learner, Carl recently completed an M.S. degree in Homeland Security at Fairleigh Dickinson University with a focus on Terrorism and Cyber Security. Additionally, he has a B.S. in Organizational Science from Case Institute of Technology and did graduate work there in Operations Research. He has an M.S. in Industrial and Operations Engineering from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. from Purdue University's Krannert School of Management.

Carl volunteers for many organizations, including Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve where he is County Chairperson. He is President of the Passaic-Clifton Jewish Memorial Chapel – a community run, not-for-profit funeral home, is on the board of his synagogue, the Young Israel of Passaic-Clifton, and of the Talmudic Yeshiva of Philadelphia.

Frequently Asked Financial Questions

- JWV Foundation, Inc.;
- Any JWV higher echelon;
- All nationally recognized JWV programs;
- Any other special project approved by the NEC from time to time;
- Any other exemption, on a case by case basis, that is expressly authorized by the National Finance Board and approved by the National Commander. (The National Bylaws, Art. II, Sec. 5)

The best approach to deciding if a donation would require matching funds is to ask "Does the cause

directly benefit veterans?" If an organization assists a broad range of people and programs then it is not solely benefiting veterans and thus, matching funds are required. If the organization fulfills a "nice to have/do" wish over "needs to have/do" wish (e.g. it would be nice to throw a party for veterans. But veterans really need legal counsel, food, shelter, etc.), then matching funds are required.

To know for sure, write the Finance Board Committee prior to donating (mail your letter to National HQ or email to membership@jwv.org).

Convention Workshop Understanding Your Post's Finances

Do you help your Post with its financial records? Thinking about becoming the Quartermaster? Questions about filing a 990? Then join this meeting and get your questions answered.

8/16 @ 10:00am.

Be Alert for Scammers

It is **FREE** to file online with the IRS. If you are on a website that requires payment to file, leave that site immediately.

If you don't see this <https://www.irs.gov/> in your web browser address box, then you are not on the IRS site.

Welcome to Savannah!

Known for its Southern hospitality and charm, Savannah charms visitors with its architecture, history, and culture- after all, it used to be called “Hostess City of the South!”

Established in 1733, Savannah is the oldest city in the state of Georgia and its first state capital. Originally founded as British colonial port, it became the southernmost commercial port during the American Revolution- and is currently the largest port in Georgia.

Agriculture and trade were essential to Savannah's early survival. Cotton was already a commodity in Georgia due to the area's mild climate; indigo and silk also became popular exports due to European demand. The busy economy helped the city's inhabitants turn the Port



of Savannah into one of the busiest ports in the country. In the early 1900s, shipbuilding also became an important industry.

In the decades following the creation of the United States, Savannah became a prosperous seaport and the Confederacy's sixth most populous city. Originally a target of Sherman's infamous March to the Sea, a peaceful surrender was negotiated by the city to avoid the same fate as Atlanta. The city was saved, and Union troops entered the city on December 21, 1864.

Today, Savannah's downtown historic district attracts over 13 million visitors a year, many



of whom flock to the district's 22 squares, known for their unique architecture and character. The DOT system provides fare free transportation in the Historic District, including buses, a streetcar, and a ferry to Hutchinson Island.

Savannah is home to numerous museums and historical houses. Among them are the Sorrel-Weed House, Juliette Gordon Low's birthplace (founder of the Girl Scouts), the Davenport House Museum, the William Scarbrough House, and the Wormsloe plantation of Noble Jones. There is also a maritime museum, historic cemeteries dating back to Georgia's colonial period, and Fort Jackson. Completed in 1812 to protect the city from attack by sea, Fort Jackson later became one of three Confederate forts defending Savannah from Union forces.

Congregation Mickve Israel, only a short distance away from our Convention hotel, is the third oldest synagogue in the country. Five months after General James Edward Oglethorpe established the colony of Georgia, 34 Sephardic Jews

and eight Ashkenazi Jews, arrived in Savannah. Two years later, they founded Mikve Israel. During the Revolutionary War, Mordecai Sheftall, a member of one of the founding Jewish families, became the highest ranking Jewish officer of the American Revolutionary forces.

Due to the growth of the Savannah Jewish population the congregation erected its first building in 1820, also the first synagogue in the state. The synagogue building was listed on the



National Register of Historic Places in 1980, and is still an active Reform congregation today.

We hope you will join us for JWV's 121st Annual National Convention in this beautiful historic city, and explore all it has to offer!



Convention Meeting Highlights

Social Media Workshop

8/18 and 8/19 from 2:30-4:30 pm



Want to know how to set up a Department Facebook page? Unsure of how to create a Post e-mail account? Jordana and Cindy will be available to work with you one-

on-one to help answer these questions and more- so bring your tablet or laptop!

Women in the Military Committee Meeting - 8/19 from 10-11 am

This year is the first time all combat roles in each branch of the military is open to women.

Participate in a discussion about ways to bring women into JWV, and how to support them during their service.



1st Business Session: Planning for the Future - 8/17 from 2-3:30 pm

Join new Chairman PNC Norman Rosenshein as he leads a discussion about ways to bring JWV into the future and increase involvement, both among members and within the community!



JWV's 121st ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

AUGUST 14-21, 2016 • SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Hilton Savannah DeSoto • 15 E Liberty, Savannah, GA 31401

Phone (912) 232-9000 • Fax (912) 232-6018 • www.desotohilton.com

Hotel Registration deadline is **Monday, June 20th**. A one night (\$145/single or double) deposit is required for all hotel registrations. A 3-night minimum stay is required.

Hotel reservations must be made through JWV or the surcharge will be assessed and attendance at meetings will not be allowed. **There is a \$150 Convention surcharge for those not staying at the hotel.**

Local members living within a 50 mile radius are exempt.

Free city shuttle • 10% meal discount • 25% valet parking discount • Free wireless in guest rooms

Schedule of Events

(Subject to Change)

Daily Morning Minyan
Aug 14-20

Sunday • Aug 14

Welcome to Savannah!

Monday • Aug 15

Explore Savannah!

NMAJMH Event

Tuesday • Aug 16

Wreath Laying

NEC Meeting

Committee Meetings

Wednesday • Aug 17

Resolutions

Joint Opening Session

1st Business Session:

"Planning for the Future"

Thursday • Aug 18

Resolutions

2nd Business Session

Committee Meetings

Social Media Training

National President's Banquet

Friday • Aug 19

3rd Business Session: Election of

National Commander

Committee Meetings

Kosher Shabbat Dinner

Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday • Aug 20

Shabbat Services

NMAJMH Board Meeting

Century Club Cocktail Hour

National Commander's Banquet

Name: _____ Post No: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Room will be shared with: _____

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

JWV 121 th Annual National Convention	Cost	How Many?	Amount
Convention Registration Fee	\$50.00 per member		
I prefer: <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds	\$145.00 per night		
3rd Person in a room	\$74.00 per night		
Minimum Deposit Only	\$145.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel	\$150.00		
Kosher Shabbat Dinner - Everyone is welcome! !	30.00		
Century Club Cocktail Hour Saturday, Aug. 20	\$100.00 member \$45.00 guest		
Commander's Banquet • Saturday, Aug. 20 No. of: Filet of Steak_____ Salmon_____ Kosher_____ Sugar Free Dessert_____	\$42.50 per person		
Raffle Tickets	\$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00		
You must include full payment for all event(s) that you plan on attending. Reservations for trips or activities will only be made if paid in full.	Total: Amount paying now:		
I am paying by <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No. _____	Exp. _____	/	
Signature _____			

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



Post 125 NJ placing Memorial Day flags at Veterans' graves at the Congregation Brothers of Israel Cemetery, NJ, on May 17. From left: Buddy Rassas, Gerald Levine, Monty Fisher, Henry Lewis, Burt Resnic, Brian Winters; Boy Scouts Troop 124: Peter Schwarz Sr., Christian Schwartz, and Peter Schwartz Jr., Justin Medina, Evan Kuo, and Scoutmaster Kevin Javoves.



On Tuesday, March 15, Post 320 GA celebrated JWV's 120th birthday with the Savannah Jewish Federation! From left to right: 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade Command Sergeant Major Mike Dove, JWV member and 1986 Chatham County Veteran of the Year Morris Lamhut, Post 320 Commander Frank Katz, and guest speaker, COL Jeffrey Becker, Commander, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade. Photo credit: Frank Katz, Post 320.



Post 1 NY Commander Edward Hochman leads Marines and a sailor up to a locked wing of the Manhattan VA Medical Center with the leftover ice cream cakes from the Post 1 Fleet Week Reception on May 29. Photo credit: Jerry Alperstein.



Members of the West Suburban Post 54 IL, hosted and served a lunch to veterans receiving rehabilitative care and living at the Hines VA Hospital's Rehabilitation Care Facility, Maywood, Illinois. On Wednesday, April 13, 2016, members of the Post brought hot dogs, sandwiches, French fries, and chocolate cake from local favorite restaurant Portillo's, along with potato chips, sodas, and water which they served to veterans during their regular lunch hour. Veterans who could not be served in the lunch room had meals brought to them in their rooms.



"In 1987 I noticed a long forgotten WWI Memorial Monument. I noticed it had been placed by an equally long forgotten patriotic women's group. In 2009, facing retirement, I decided that if this Memorial was to be restored I would have to assume a commitment made by local government to these women in 1926 when they accepted their donation of the Monument.

It took six years to convince the historical council, Parks Board, and City Council that my sculpture and landscape design were right. Then I spent many hours raising \$30,000 in donations. In the final week of the process, I found that one of the three names on the Memorial was Jewish and from my synagogue."

- Bob Shay, Commander of Post 686



JWV Austin Post 757 TX Honor Guard just prior to posting the Colors for the Yom Hazikaron ceremony at the Dell Jewish Community Center in Austin, Texas. From left to right: Barry Mann, Mike London, Bam Rubenstein, Bob Kaplan, and Mike Miller.

JWV IN ACTION



On April 22, 2016, Post 749 TX member Allen Goodman went to the UTEP ROTC award ceremony to award a Cadet with the JWV Americanism Certificate and Medal. This year's cadet was MS IV Lenea Rios, a graduating Senior. Cadet Rios has prior service and went Green to Gold, she was a Staff Sergeant Medic with 10 years already and will now be commissioned and is now going to a Transportation Unit. Photo credit: Allen Goodman.



Post 795 TX put together Passover bags for the Jewish troops at Ft. Hood! The items for the bags were donated by Kosher Troops.



Nate Shapiro, Post 105 NY, offers poppies to the public in downtown Albany May 25 in support of the JWV Poppy Drive. Norm has been a driving force in organizing and supporting the post's efforts to raise funds for veterans' causes for more than two decades. Post volunteers collected more than \$1,300 in donations that will be utilized in support of local, state and national veteran causes.



Marianne Rack, JWVA Linda Colon, and PNC Maxwell Colon, with donated items for Navy and Marine Corps personnel, families, and children in need via the Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital. Over 200 DVDs, 670 baby hats, socks, onesies, sweaters, crib blankets, baby toys, and numerous food gift certificates/cards were donated. All the hats, sweaters, blankets, lap robes, and crutch covers were hand knitted.



Post 210 AZ held a Passover Seder for the Jewish residents of the Arizona State Veterans Home and their families on April 25, 2016. Commander Michael Chambers and his wife Ahuva conducted the seder, which was attended by 21 people.



Jewish Veterans Cleveland Post 14 OH members just completed posting US flags on the graves of fallen comrades at Zion Memorial Park, Bedford Heights, for the 2016 Memorial Day. From left: Steve Ganz, Tomas Muencz, Ted Hersh, Henrik Sperling, Avi Goldman, Al Hersh. Photo by Judy Hersch.



JWV and JWVA Posts 45 CT and their Color Guard remembered Yom Hashoah at the Connecticut State Capitol. Photo credit: PNP Joanne Blum.

"Everyone Has a Story"

By Lois Goldrich

Reprinted with permission from The Jewish Standard

The Lt. James I. Platt JWV Post 651 of Fair Lawn installed officers earlier this month. From left, appointee Jack Wall, Commander Melvin Kaplan, New Jersey Department Commander Larry Rosenthal, Vice Commander George Pollack, and Vice Commander Jules Corn.

Edward Rosenblatt of Fair Lawn, soon to be installed as assistant commander of Jewish War Veterans Post 651, is justifiably proud of his organization, founded in 1946. With some 40 members, ranging in age from 85 to 96, the group includes former soldiers, sailors, and air force personnel who fought in World War II, Korea, and now, with the addition of its most recent member, Vietnam.

The majority of the post's members live in Fair Lawn, Mr. Rosenblatt said, although its commander, 89-year-old Melvin Kaplan, lives in Elmwood Park. The post originally was housed in a building on Fair Lawn's Plaza Road that now is home to a nursery school.

Founded by some 35 veterans of World War II, the post originally was led by Commander Lou Greenberg. When he died, the leadership role went to Mr. Kaplan, then senior vice commander, who has held it for many years. His goal, Mr. Kaplan said, was "to make 651 a viable post and to service veterans and the veterans' cause." And, he added, "to try to do good," citing the post's many philanthropic endeavors.

"You have to give great credit to Melvin Kaplan," Mr. Rosenblatt said. "He runs this organization and tries to help everyone and do the right thing." Now he is stepping down. At the upcoming installation, on June 26, George Pollack of Fair Lawn will become the post's new commander.

Mr. Rosenblatt, at 85 one of the post's younger members, says he is most proud of the fact that JWV reminds everyone that "we've served our country. Jews are a minority in the world and have served as well as people of all other faiths. We served with distinction," he added. He has two medals. "They all mean something," he said emotionally. "We are Americans."

Acknowledging that the membership, given its age, is likely to decrease in the next decade, he hopes that younger people, veterans of more recent wars, will join the post.

"I hope we can get more members," he said. "We've done a great deal for our country. Young people give up years of their life." And while he understands that younger veterans, maybe now in their 40s, will look at his group and see only people appreciably older, he also hopes that they



The Lt. James I. Platt JWV Post 651 of Fair Lawn installed officers earlier this month. From left, appointee Jack Wall, Commander Melvin Kaplan, New Jersey Department Commander Larry Rosenthal, Vice Commander George Pollack, and Vice Commander Jules Corn.

will see that "we have something in common. We're all veterans."

Mr. Kaplan said that new young people are not joining — "they've got two jobs, they're busy, they've got children," he said. That's why "all veterans organizations are falling by the wayside. We sold our building and the Veterans of Foreign Wars sold theirs. It's a difficult thing to maintain." Still, he joked, "if you feed them, they will come," noting that some nonmembers have attended when a free breakfast or free show is offered.

Both Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Rosenblatt are proud of the post's philanthropic efforts. Through fundraising efforts such as the "Shake the Can" collection in front of ShopRite in Fair Lawn, the group awards a cash scholarship each year to two top students chosen by Fair Lawn High School. It also donates to a wide variety of Jewish organizations, including synagogues in the West Point area and in Annapolis.

"We donate to all Jewish organizations," Mr. Rosenblatt said. "While our donations are not in the millions, they still help." The group has contributed to the Jewish National Fund, Israel Bonds, Hatzalah, and various causes in Israel.

"Most people don't know how philanthropic we are," Mr. Rosenblatt said. He pointed to a recent group outing requiring a \$25 bus fee, paid in advance. "Some took their checks back if they didn't go, but some left them as charitable donations."

In addition to monetary donations, on Memorial Day the group brings American flags to the gravesides of veterans at several local cemeteries. "We have a contingent of men at the cemeteries who put up American flags at the graves of veterans," Mr. Rosenblatt said. Because some of the cemeteries are overgrown, "they go out and spend hours looking for names and putting up flags." Among these volunteers, he said, is former U.S. Navy seaman and Stanley Sanders of Fair Lawn.

Every post member has a story, Mr. Rosenblatt said. His own military service, in the U.S. Army, was spent in Austria in the early 1950s, when the country was under the control of the United States, England, France, and Russia, under an agreement reached during World War II. Working in the ordnance division, housed in a bus factory taken over by the Americans, he helped oversee the maintenance of 655 vehicles.

He also participated in some military exercises. "We had some maneuvers, dressed up in white uniforms because of the snow," he said. "We had to lie down in the snow. It meant something to the officers," showing that "we were prepared."

Mr. Kaplan, a naval veteran, was an electrician aboard the U.S.S. Mississippi, built in 1917. "I went from boot camp to a Grade A electricians school, a civilian college in Tuxedo Park, Maryland," he said. "I lived on campus. When I graduated, I went to the ship."

Another 651 troop member "was in the famous Harmonicats, who became popular in the 1930s," Mr. Rosenblatt said. "He's about 96 years old. He enlisted in 1940 and came out in '44 or '45. Another one, in Paramus, was in the U.S. Army band. He played trumpet." The post just got its first veteran from the Vietnam War, "a full-bird colonel in the Air Force. He had to leave because of his age."

Irving Beer of Fair Lawn, a U.S. Navy veteran who served in the South Pacific, was a mailman in an area beset by typhoons, Mr. Rosenblatt said. "He was in a flat-bottomed boat and he didn't know if he would live or die." Mr. Beer worked in that area for two or three years and came out of the service in his early 20s, Mr. Rosenblatt added.

Former soldier Murray Richman, 93, also of Fair Lawn, had hoped to be an aviator in the service, but a medical condition kept him from going overseas. Instead, Mr. Richman remained in Maryland, where he had received his training, for several years, performing various jobs for the U.S. Army.

"Many members entered the service after I left," Mr. Rosenblatt said. "Some served on the front lines in Korea. It wasn't a great place to be."

Nor was it always easy being Jewish in the military.

"One of our members," — Murray Richman — "said there was a fellow in his group who called him a Jew bastard," Mr. Rosenblatt said. At the time, Mr. Richman was about 21. "He said, 'I'd like to talk to you outside.' He lifted his hand and knocked the fellow out. Everyone has a story."

Another troop member, 85-year-old Julius

Continued on page 19

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Development

By PNC Monroe Mayer, Chairman

We hope that you enjoyed the 2016 JWV Calendar and the stories within. Again, we trust that all who received it must have a memory of what occurred when they were on active duty. We constantly ask that those memories be shared- as we all know, we have a story to tell, both as individuals and as Jews who served. A short 150 word biography along with a photograph will enable us to continue with our calendars into the future (please send submissions to Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org).

We all receive requests for donations by mail, but we do hope that rather than toss our JWV USA mailing into your round file, that at least you look within to see the premiums we generally enclose. Our mailing labels usually follow the calendar and it is our hope that everyone utilizes them.

This year, we particularly asked that you write your representatives and senators about what's important to you as ex-service men and women. It is so important that contact be made with our Congressional representatives because so few of them today have served as you did. We must apply the pressure to Congress to the

Department of Veterans Affairs since the VA hospitals are fraught with problems and delays in making medical appointments.

Later on this year, prior to the High Holiday season we will be sending cards for this special occasion. We certainly hope that a good response for all our programs will enable our organization to continue to function along with the finances that are required. As ever, we need your help which is sincerely appreciated.

Want to get involved with the Development committee? We are always looking for volunteers. Contact Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org to learn how you can help.

Homeland Security Committee

By Carl Singer, Chairman

The Committee continues to monitor and digest security advice from various government and private agencies, dispensing suggestions for enhanced building security measures for Jewish institutions. Previous articles in The Veteran have provided useful advice for securing facilities. We continue to stress the need to maintain awareness and to educate every one of the importance of such simple measures such as locking doors and being conscious of our surroundings.

New Siddurs

Continued from page 1

Coordinator Jordana Green and Membership Coordinator Cindy Chambers were also present to offer support and answer questions.

Three chaplains with almost a combined 100 years of service were honored as they head into retirement this year. They each spoke of what the chaplaincy means to them, but there was a common thread. Specifically, how vital the chaplain is to the family that is the military, and to the Jewish military family as well. Being a Chaplain allows them to touch so many lives, which is both a humbling experience and an experience that deepens their spirituality.

These are ideals that drove the Civil War vets to found the Hebrew Union Veterans Association, the antecedent to JWV, and they remain just as true today. We are honored to strengthen this partnership and to provide the much needed bibles to our Jewish active duty.

Convention Workshop

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS)

Last year JWV members volunteered over 38,000 hours in 80 VA facilities. If you are interested in learning how you can become involved as a VAVS volunteer, Come to the Veterans Affairs Volunteers (VAVS) workshop. 8/18 @ 9:00am.

Who pays for recovery care?



For JWV members and spouses age 65 and older



Know Your Options! Please call:

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

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

GET THE FACTS — NOW.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Boris Kushnir-819 • Gordon Grossman-202 • Herb Wasserman-639 • Howard Leeser-352

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Lester Berger-153

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Gerald Canter-26 • Joel Bloom-157 • Milton Kline-638 • William Ostrow-735

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Michael Keyser-644

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Melvin Goldfein-331 • Raymond Sevett-162

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DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Aaron Salter-256 • Daniel Hoage-256 • Dr. Pedro Lecca-256 • George (Sagi) Bringhurst-795 • James Stanton-755 • Daniel Kaplan-749

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Jennifer Bernstein-Hanlon-145

Meet Post 157 MA

By Post Commander Larry Herson
Metrowest Post 157 MA

What makes us different from other organizations? It is the support system we offer, both to each other and to others. We as a group of Jewish Veterans follow the rules of tzedakah. Our whole being is helping others as best we can. For example, we award three \$500 scholarships for seniors, one to each of the following schools: Natick High School, Framingham High School, and Keefe Technical High School.

We also work with the homeless veterans shelter in Framingham, called Safe Haven. Working with the Brotherhood of Temple Beth Am, we serve two meals a month to these needy souls. When the temple goes on hiatus for the summer, we sponsored three cookouts to fill the gap. This undertaking is our "Veterans Helping Veterans Program." We also have been instrumental in filling the needs and wants of these men. They requested picnic benches, and we obtained two. One from the Elks in Framingham and one donated by Neal and Perry Bent. There was an incident whereas the shelter lost its freezer, and we received a donation from Mrs. Leslie Fleisher to provide one for them. The shelter required a vacuum cleaner, and we received a new Dyson Vacuum cleaner from a Mrs. Walls. We operate totally on donations, the foundation of which is our annual poppy drive. If you ever wondered where your money goes, these are some good examples!

Our oldest program is visiting the Bedford Hospital veterans facility the third Friday of each month, where we have a cake and ice cream social for the patients of the Alzheimer Ward. We have purchased TV's, music, picture books, craft goods, and snacks for them.

I hope I have inspired some out there to join us for breakfast and take the time to visit my Post, or a local Post near you.

Ed note: The Post meets the third Tuesday of every month at Temple Beth Shalom on Pamela Rd. in Framingham, MA.

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PEOPLE & PLACES

► Mazel Tov to life member **Allen Rosenberg** of **Post 131 NY** on being inducted into the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame. Recommended by Senator Patty Ritchie, he was the only Jewish veteran honored at the ceremony on Thursday, May 12th.

► Congratulations to **JWV Post 222 OH** member **Steve Smith** on being honored as the Lorain County Veteran of the Year!

► **Post 580 LA** had a joint meeting this spring with American Legion Post 175 at the Legion HQ in Metairie, Louisiana. JWV Post Commander **Judge Sol Gothard** is also a member of the AL Post, and American Legion Post Commander **Jay Walsh** is a member of the JWV Post. This is the first time in the history of both Posts that such a joint meeting has happened.

► **Post 51 CT** elected new Co-Commanders at their meeting on May 15- **Holly Simon** and **Karen Uberti**. This is the first time that both co-commanders are women! Congratulations to Holly and Karen, we wish you the best of luck.

► Mazel Tov to **George Wankmueller**, of **Post 795 TX**, on being honored during Jewish American Heritage Month at the Central Texas VA Hospital in Temple, TX.

► **Jeff Sacks**, Past Department Commander of Illinois, realized that World War Two Army Air Corps veteran, Skokie resident Cantor David Brandhandler, age 102, did not have the medals he earned during the war, which ended 71 years ago. Jeff arranged with Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, (D-Evanston) to have them delivered. What a mensch!

► **Post 105 NY** was recently recognized by Temple Israel of Albany, NY, as a 2016 organizational recipient of the Circle of Humanity Award at an awards banquet for more than 100 attendees on May 19. The award recognizes courage and initiative to reach out and create a positive atmosphere. Post 105 was recognized for its efforts of Tikkun Olam in New York's Capital Region for more than 80 years.

REUNIONS

► Marine Air Groups is holding its 2016 reunion in Branson, Missouri, from October 5-8. For more information, please contact Jerry Gipe at jgipe@hotmail.com or 660-909-4144, or Joseph Mowry at josephmowry@att.net or 816-229-2437. The Marines in this organization served from WWII to the present.

"Everyone Has a Story"

Continued from page 16

Corn, not only is the post's treasurer but visits the Paramus Veterans Home every week with a few others from the organization to lead games of bingo. "We entertain them by having bingo," Mr. Rosenblatt said. "They enjoy the few dollars they make. Everybody loves to be a winner."

Mr. Corn, who served in Korea during the war there, is the post's senior vice commander and a member of the Fair Lawn Veterans Council and the Bergen County Veterans Council. He noted that Mel Kaplan also sits on the Bergen County Council, while George Pollack is on both bodies.

Mr. Rosenblatt said that after the post sold its Plaza Road building more than five years ago, it used the money to do "nice things for the people in our organization" — for example, funding trips to restaurants, plays, and dances. The wives of former members always are welcome to these excursions, he added. A recent trip took members to the Eldridge Street Synagogue on the Lower East Side and later to Katz's delicatessen. "We couldn't afford to run it," Mr. Kaplan said of the post's building. "We got a good price from it. We spend this money on veterans and on philanthropy."

Troop leaders will take an active role at Fair Lawn's Memorial Day Parade on May 30, riding or walking the route. "We are important," Mr. Rosenblatt said. "We were, we are, and we will still be important" in the years to come. "We have done a great deal for our country."



During the annual Rolling Thunder ride through DC, we had members representing us from Maryland, Virginia, Connecticut, DC, and New Jersey on the National Mall for our very first time exhibiting during the event! Numerous people stopped by JWV's table at the National Mall (near the Vietnam Memorial) on Sunday, May 29, to say "Hi," grab a pin, and spread the JWV love. Those who manned the JWV table include, from left: DC Dave Meyers, Israel Gotay, Stu Freeman, NC Jerry Blum, PNC Mike Berman, Chairman Norman Rosenshein, NED Herb Rosenbleeth, and PNP Joanne Blum.



While JWV members have been working hard across the country in their own communities, the National Office has been busy too! JWV Chairman Norman Rosenshein, JWVA National President Freda Rosenshein, and JWV National Staff at DC United's Jewish Heritage Night on May 8th. The professional soccer team may have lost to New York Football Club, but JWV had a blast! There were giveaways, food, and lots of cornhole.

Why Is The VA Appeals Process Broken?

Continued from page 1

a veteran-centered approach to service delivery. This is encouraging because it sounds precisely like what the administration needs since it has repeatedly struggled to keep up with modern technology — much to the chagrin of the veterans that seek its assistance. The VA's work will be cut out for them, however, since this approach will be taken up to solve the problems they admit were not easy to hear from the veterans themselves.

Now the bad news.

Of the more than 1 million veterans who file disability claims each year, approximately 10% of them will appeal the decision made on their claim, either because they disagree with the decision, don't understand it, or are simply exercising their right to do so. However, according to the report, "whether they know it or not—they will enter into a process that takes years, sometimes decades, to complete."

There are currently over 440,000 veterans who have appeals pending, 80,000 of whom have claims over five years and 5,000 with claims over a decade.

This is due to a myriad of reasons; the most notable being that the current appeals process, which was created in 1933, has "permutations in the millions" making "the process ... barely comprehensible to experts and completely opaque to the Veterans who depend on its outcomes." For those experts, there is over 921 linear feet of reference material they may have to consult for every single claim; that is taller than the White House, Statue of Liberty, and Washington Memorial stacked on top of each other. For the veteran, that means, "everyone will have to jump through hoops, absorb dozens of letters, fill out confusing paperwork, and learn to live with waiting. They'll have 'to fight.'" And, despite veterans service organizations, the VA, and veterans "working harder than ever," the VA admits they "are still losing ground." The appellate processing time has tripled to over 1407 days since 1991. That is 42 days longer than the entire U.S. involvement in World War II.

In theory, the appeals process "should create one of the most applicant-friendly systems" in the VA. However, "in reality, VA employees know they wrestle with a jumbled process, lim-

itless in its complexity and repetition" and "see a complex, multi-stage, and non-linear monster" that "fails to provide the results Veterans need in the time they need them."

For instance, things like the Open Record, which allows veterans to add evidence at any time in the process to provide extra clarity or strength to their case, seems like a great idea, but what they don't say is that if the veteran does submit new evidence, the claims review process starts all over again.

The VA was brutally honest in its assessment of its own shortfalls, and gave veterans a chance to share their experiences throughout the appeals process in this report. What will be most telling, however, will be whether or not it follows the next two steps of the human-centered design: The development of a product that alleviates stress for veterans and addresses their needs in a timely manner, as well as the delivery of the product to the veterans it seeks to help. Without those, a system that expects our veterans to continue fighting throughout their appeals process for years will remain in place and that is simply unacceptable.

President's Message

Want to place a photo on the Our Heroes photo kiosk at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History? We want to make it as easy as possible for people to simultaneously support the Museum and honor their loved ones. The photo kiosk is the newest way to do that! The easiest method to order is through our website at <https://nmajmh.org/product/our-heroes-photo-kiosk/>. You can enter the name, branch of service, and other information directly into the form and upload a photo. We'll get everything printed and installed on the kiosk in the Museum's exhibit space.

The same goes for bricks on our Remembrance Paver Walkway, museum memberships, and our other development programs. Everything can be

done directly through the website. Prefer to use paper and the post office? No problem, just fill out the form and send in the check to 1811 R ST NW, Washington, D.C. 20009 and we'll process your donation that way.

Once again, I'd like to call on each and every member of the Jewish War Veterans to also join the Museum. Memberships are as inexpensive as \$25 dollars a year and go a long way towards presenting the history that's so important to all of us. Let's ensure our legacy.

We're making an effort to fulfill the "National" part of the museum's name by adding content to our website and other online content on YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter. This way, the museum can



PNC Joseph Zoldan
President, NMAJMH

provide something to the many people who can't make it to Washington, D.C. Your museum membership dues help us achieve that goal and to become an institution with a true nation-wide reach.

Program Updates

By Mike Rugel • Program and Content Coordinator

On March 6th, we welcomed Dr. Martin Victor to the Museum to speak about his work and new book. *Dr. In Blue* is an account of his 30-year Air Force career that brought him around the world, including Vietnam. He discussed his attempts to practice tikkun olam, making the world a better place, wherever he was stationed. Victor served as a lay leader on eight different Air Force bases and worked to forge relationships with local Jewish communities in many countries. You can watch Dr. Victor's talk on our YouTube channel (need link address) and his book is available to purchase from the museum store.

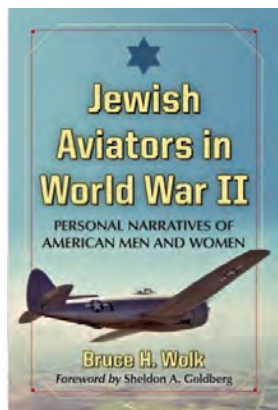
On Sunday, May 1st, we hosted a Mimouna celebration. Our partner, SHIN-DC (Sephardic Heritage in D.C.) partnered with us for this Moroccan and North African tradition. The celebration is to acknowledge the end of Passover

and the return to eating chametz, leavened foods. In North Africa, Muslim neighbors would often bring bread and pastries to their Jewish neighbors who had kashered their home for Passover. Mimouna represents a "coming together," so it was great to have not only Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews in the building, but Muslims and Christians as well. Along with plenty of food, there was singing and dancing. It was a party unlike anything we've seen here before!

We prepared a special display for Mimouna which connected the experiences of American Jews in North Africa during World War II. There are fascinating stories of the local Jewish populations of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia embracing these American Jews. In one example, A.J. Callner wrote in his memoirs about eating three separate dinners on Purim in Tunis, Tunisia,

when one Jewish family after another insisted they join them. For these young men fighting a war in a strange land, these local Jews surely provided a needed morale boost. We've also shared Callner's story on our website, so be sure to check nmajmh.org regularly for new content.

Amongst the interesting visitors we've had lately include a group from the Shalom Education Center. The school is for Russian-speaking Jewish children. Many of them were children of one-time refuseniks who finally made it to the United States in the 1980s. It was fascinating to hear Ella Kagan, the school's director, compare the experiences of the Jews in the American military on display at the museum with the vastly different experience of Jews who served in the Russian and Soviet militaries.



Jewish Aviators in World War II: Personal Narratives of American Men and Women
By Bruce H. Wolk

Wolk's book is a fascinating and unique look into the rarely covered experiences of Jewish American service personnel serving in the

U.S. Armed Forces as aviators during World War II. Wolk interviewed over 100 veterans, and retells their funny, sad, exhilarating, scary, and awe inspiring stories in hundreds of snippets and short stories. The book is easy to read and one can pick it up, read a story about Jews and the Enola Gay in the back, and then flip to the front to learn more about Jewish participation in

bombing sorties over Germany.

Though Wolk tends to highlight many anti-Semitic incidents throughout the book (the first 23 pages deal exclusively with anti-Semitism), he then manages to incorporate truly extraordinary positive "Jewish" themes that keep the reader fascinated. Examples include how "... Jews felt a greater urgency to destroy the Nazi war machine and inflict revenge," the "feelings" Jews had bombing German cities and killing German civilians, the fate of Jewish aviators in Nazi POW camps, celebrating Jewish holidays and maintaining or discovering one's Jewish identity during the war. Noteworthy stories include the USAAF bomber named the "Mammala and the Ten Little Kitsels," meeting attractive young blond Jewish ladies at a cocktail lounge in Piccadilly Circus, being personally chewed out by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton and many other such rare "war stories."

The book is truly a treasure of remarkable

World War II stories from a perspective seldom heard. Every military historian and Jewish War Veteran should have a copy in his/her library! Most of the veterans that Wolk interviewed have sadly passed on since the publication of the book in March of 2016.

The book is available in softcover for \$29.95 or as an eBook from all major bookstores and eBook providers. The book can also be ordered directly from the publisher: McFarland & Company, Inc. at www.mcfarlandpub.com or their order line at 1-800-253-2187. It will also be sold at J WV's Annual National Convention in Savannah, GA- learn more on page 12.

All proceeds of the book are donated to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington, D.C.

Book reviewed by LTC George Heart, Ret., Military Historian and member of Post 112 in Atlanta, GA.

From Our Archives

By Pamela Elbe • Collections, Archives & Exhibitions Coordinator

While many JWV posts have auxiliaries composed of veterans' wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters, there have also been several all-female veterans posts organized within the Jewish War Veterans. The first all-female JWV post was founded immediately after World War II. Chartered in Boston in 1946, Slinger Post 313 was named for Lt. Frances Y. Slinger of Roxbury, Massachusetts. Lt. Slinger landed in Normandy on June 10, 1944 (D-Day plus four), and was assigned to a field hospital. Four months later the field hospital came under attack by German artillery and Slinger was killed by shrapnel. She was the only nurse to die as the result of enemy action in the European Theater.

Post 313 was organized by Sylvia Andelman Sokol. Mrs. Sokol served in the WAVES during World War II and, following her discharge in 1944, was elected adjutant of Mattapan Post 302. On February 10, 1946, she was installed as the first commander of Post 313 – the “first all-girl post in the country.” The post was composed of honorably discharged members of the WAVES, WAC, SPARS, marines, army and navy nurses, and other women's service units.



Charter signing for Post #553

A year after Post 313 was founded, a charter was granted for another all-female post. JWV FemVets Post 553 in Washington, DC was chartered in 1947 and Darline Volk Dreyer served as their first commander. Mrs. Dreyer served in the WAVES during World War II.

The chartering of all-female wasn't limited to just the years immediately following World War II. Fem-Vets Post 192 was organized in Chicago in



Members of all-female Post 192

November, 1976. WAVES veteran Ruth Resnick Steinberg Krawetz was the first commander. She remained a proud member of the post she helped found even after she retired to Florida.

One woman served as commander to two all-female posts. Miriam Gobstoober Canter served as a nurse in the Army during World War II, and joined Post 313 in her hometown of Boston shortly after her discharge in 1946. She was elected commander of that post in 1950. When Miriam

and her husband moved to Chicago from Boston, she joined Post 192 and was elected post com-



The Liberman sisters - Eva, Charlotte, and Miryon. All three served in the WAVES and were members of Post #313.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF U. S.
"Founded in 1896"

National Headquarters
276 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Me the undersigned, being honorably Discharged soldiers, sailors or marines, who have served in the armed forces of the United States, during one of its tours, and being of the Jewish faith, and in sympathy with the aims and objects of The Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Hereby Apply for a Charter to establish a subordinate post of this organization in the City of City of Boston, Mass. to be known as Lt. Frances Y. Slinger Post No. 313 Dated at City of Boston, Boston, Mass. this 8th day of April, 1945

Name Address
Sylvia Andelman 516 Edith Hill St. Mattapan
Sophia Goldschlager 635 Mattapan St. Mattapan
Frances Y. Slinger 1427 Brookline Ave. Brookline
Miriam Gobstoober 1427 Brookline Ave. Brookline
Darline Volk Dreyer 1427 Brookline Ave. Brookline
Eva Liberman 1427 Brookline Ave. Brookline
Charlotte Liberman 1427 Brookline Ave. Brookline
Miryon Liberman 1427 Brookline Ave. Brookline
Eunice Silverstein 1425 Cannon Heath Ave. Boston

Letter sent 4/10/45
Free Paid
April 10 1945
Miriam

AKA First to
Send Post
No. 100

Post 313 Charter Application

mander in 1998.

As communities changed and veterans relocated to warmer climes, membership in the all-female posts dwindled. Post 192 merged with Post 153 in 2007 to form Chicago Post 153 and Post 313 merged with Post 22 in 2015 to form Lt. Francis Y. Slinger Post 22. Though the all-female posts are gone, the women of JWV are still present and very active.

TAPS IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Leon T. Chaskes-100 • Carl E. Gerlach-100 • Burton Kaplan-100 • Harry Marcus-100 • William Rothchild-100

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Soldan Tolpen-64 • Stanley Barbanell-711 • Frank Woodridge-711

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Bram Goldsmith-118 • Bernard Rosenzweig-118 • Jack I. Coleman-185 • Theodore Feinberg-385 • David Recht-603 • Julius A. Rubin-603 • Morton R. Schecter-603 • Sheldon R. Ronkin-680 • Richard Shapiro-680 • Bernard Schecter-760

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Walter J. Eichelman-45 • Benjamin Goldstein-45 • A. Melvin Laschever-45 • Jack Rubin-45 • Paul Weinstein-45 • Jerome G. Kabel-51

DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA-

Harry Moskowitz-58

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Donald Marshall-172 • Benjamin B. Hampton-243 • Beatrice T. Silverman-300 • Hilda Liblit-321 • Milton S. Newman-321 • Todd Solomon-373 • Jack I. Gold-440 • Philip Shapkin-440 • Leonard Bell-631 • Leon D. Magdule-639

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

James L. Cowen-29 • Monroe Glazer-29 • Robert B. Simon-29 • Seymour Feldman-153 • Marvin

Lebovitz-153 • Gertrude Lowenstein-153 • Sidney OLefsky-153 • Martin Prager-153 • Burt Rose-153 • Bernard Stone-153 • Michael R. Lowenstein-407 • Bernard B. Wolfe,-800

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Marvin Kahn-605

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Murray K. Lilley-167 • Theodore Snyder-567

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Alfred Shapiro-22 • Shirley D. Hersh-26 • Jerome Nathan-26 • Douglas Winniman-26 • Bernard M. Delin-157 • Maurice Liverman-157 • Harvey N. Mendelsohn-157 • Sidney Adelson-161 • Frank Charak-161 • Jack Dunkless-211 • Esther Hartstone-211 • Solomon S. Fineblum-735 • Albert Kerstein-735

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Fred Averbuch-474 • Robert A. Benyas-474 • Harvey G. Gavorin-510

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Mortimer Nappen-39 • Julian J. Goldenberg-47 • Edward Brauer-76 • Robert Zweiman-76 • Leon H. Asch-125 • James Sheahan-125 • Bernard Bellitz-126 • Peter M. Chodoff-126 • Irving Jofee-126 • Gerald A. Rosenfield-126 • William Siegel-126 • Milton Frant-133 • Harvey Hochhauser-178 • Melvin Londner-178 • Morris Smith-178 • Richard David Turteltaub-178 • Sol Mix-609 • Perry Bolkin-651 • Jack Braun-695 •

Leonard Speizer-740 • Arthur J. Lessack-741

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Theodore Fogel-1 • Marjorie D. Wiener-1 • Sheldon M. Altman-25 • George Ritz-41 • Morris J. Shapiro-41 • Alex Davis-46 • Robert J. Schlesinger-46 • Martin D. Poller-80 • Donald P. Hirshorn-105 • William L. Serog-131 • Mayer Duden-191 • Robert C. Radcliffe-191 • Bernard Fromm-258 • Jack Warstadt-258 • Burton Saunders-425 • Robert Braverman-652 • George J. Jacobson-652 • Sidney Rosenblum-652 • Richard C. Weissman-652 • Murray Glazer-724

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Paul Mozlin-98 • Martin Morris Seidman-98 • Bernard Tengood-98 • Joseph S. Mendlowitz-181 • Jerome H. Smooke-499 • Harold Yaffe-575 • Martin Berger-697 • Morris Epstein-706

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Aaron Mittleman-406 • Jerome Corwin-533

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Joseph H. Sacks-111

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Philip Epstein-194 • Arthur Dorfman-201 • Philip Epstein-210 • Robert Cantor-619 • John J. Dante-619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Kenneth Klein-755



The Department of Veteran's Affairs launched its Veterans Legacy Program on Memorial Day. The program brings to life the stories of veterans buried in national cemeteries through interactive online features and videos. One such story is that of Jewish Technical Sergeant George Baker, who is buried at Riverside National Cemetery. After serving in World War II, Baker worked on animated feature films at Disney such as Pinocchio and Bambi.

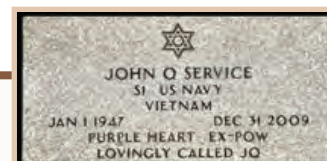
Currently, the program is operational in Beaufort National Cemetery, South Carolina, and Riverside National Cemetery, California, but over the next several years it will expand to all VA National Cemeteries. The program is sure to enhance how the general public,

students, and educators learn and talk about veterans and past conflicts.

For more information about the Veterans Legacy Program or to view Beaufort National Cemetery and Riverside National Cemetery interactive pages, please visit the National Cemetery Administration's Legacy Program page: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/legacy/>.

Other Useful Links for the National Cemetery Administration:

- Locate a gravesite: <http://gravelo-cator.cem.va.gov/index.html>
- Find out more information about burial benefits: http://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/
- For information about how to order headstones, markers or medallions: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hmm/index.asp>
- Find out how to volunteer at a National Cemetery: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/VolunteerNCA.asp>



Veterans who served more than 24 months on Active duty and their spouses qualify to be buried in a National Cemetery. The Department of Veterans Affairs covers all aspects of burial at the gravesite, including a headstone at no cost to the family if the soldier was killed while on duty.

If a veteran is separated from the military, the cost is covered if buried in a VA cemetery or if the deceased member chose to be buried in a civilian cemetery, monetary assistance is available. The family is however required to contact a funeral home who will then coordinate with the National Cemetery, and produce discharge papers of the deceased family member (DD-214).

For more information contact the National Cemetery Administration at: http://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/.



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This July 4th we celebrate 240 years of
Independence and Freedom!



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PNC Lou & Gloria Abramson
Good Health & Happiness to All
Jerry & Sara Alperstein
Paul & Marion (Gitelson) Ash
IMO Aaron Gitelson • Post 258 NY
PDC Ed & PDP Louise Baraw
Eugene Baraw • Post 336
Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ
Chag Sameach
Howard A. & Dorothy G. Berger
Naples/Denver • USFA/USASETAF
Jerry Berns - Chicago Post 153
In Memory of my Ethyle and Evelyn
PNP Joanne & NC Jerry Blum
L'Chaim
Jerry Berns • Chicago Post 153
In memory of my Ethyle and Evelyn
In Memory of Harold Cohen • Post 212
PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749
Marshall & Diane Duberstein
Gerald H. Elkan • North Carolina
Harold Engleman, K.C.C. / NEC
In loving memory of Lorraine Engelmann
God Bless America!
In Memory of Norman Goldberg
Sidney B. Goldberg, PDC NY
Abe Cohen-Lehman Memorial Post 50

PNC Nate & Selma Goldberg • Albany 105
PDC Herb & Beth Gopman • Dept. of FL
Alan J. Gould Post 105
In Memory of Sam Gould, Post Cmdr.
PNC Sam & PNP Barb Greenberg
NEC Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321
In Memory of Those Who Have Served
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
Happy Holiday!
PNP Petra C. & Jason A. Kaatz
Jack Kent (Kantrovitz) • Post 62 OH
In appreciation of Rabbi & Myra Feinberg
Cmdr. Larry Kaufman & the Veterans
JWV Post 46 • Somers, NY
In Memory of Marty Kessler
Bell Oak Post 648-Queens NY
Mark I. Koppelman, CMDR
Bell Oak Post 648 • Queens, NY
In Memory of PCC Harry Kreiger, DEC
Gieir-Levitt Post 655
L'chaim - To Life
PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays
PCC Hon Harold & Maggie Rosenbaum
Good Health for All & Peace in Israel
Jerry & Lea Rosenberg • Post 740 NJ
Good Health & Happiness to All

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!
NP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein
Good Health & Happy Holidays
IMO Post 42's Four Legs of the Table
Marty, Morris, Murray & Warren
Stephen & Helen Sax
Irv Schildkraut PPC Post 440
USMC-USNR-USA
Harriet & Norman Schnitzer PDC
PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All
PDP Linda & Stuart Singer
In memory of PDC Bill Singer
PPC Norman & Toby Smith • Post 129 NY
Toda Shalom & Good Health to all JWV
Chaplain Murray & Clare Stadtmauer
Bell Park Post 648 • Queens, NY
To All Surviving Jewish WWII prisoners
L'Chaim!
Veterans-Thank you for your service!
David Weiner • Post 239 Allentown, PA
NJA Harvey & Linda Weiner
Be Well!
NNJAMajor Stuart A. Wolfer Institute
www.msawi.org
Jeri Zweiman
In loving memory of Bob Zweiman
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