



Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

M.K. Tzipi Hotovely

12 Shvat 5778
January 28, 2018

To the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America,

I would like to take the opportunity to right a wrong that was made during an interview I gave to channel I24 last November, where I misspoke by insinuating American Jews do not serve in the military.

My words were shortsighted and not reflective of my beliefs, and I deeply apologize. I in no way meant to imply that Jewish Americans do not serve their country, especially when I am aware of the thousands who do so proudly. There is no room to question the loyalty of American Jews towards their country, nor the bravery they display in defending America's values. I regret that my words were unsettling and caused any upset.

I hold Jewish members of the US Armed Forces in the highest regard. They have continuously put their country first when making the noble decision to enlist, and have served proudly as Jews alongside other Americans in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, The Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other Wars and Operations dating back to the very founding of America itself. These brave Americans know what it is to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

I would like to issue an additional word of apology to injured Veterans, and to those Jewish Gold Star Families who have regrettably learned the pain of losing a fallen hero. To those Jewish American Veterans who have fought bravely for our shared democratic values of peace, freedom, and justice, and to the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice— I express my deepest regret if my words caused you further pain.

I appreciate the work and significance of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, and the organizations role throughout America's history. The impact the organization has made, alongside the irreplaceable contributions of Jewish American Veterans and active Service members is profound and dignified. As both the organization and its members have been an intrinsic part of America's history, they will continue to be a vital part of America's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tzipi Hotovely'.

Tzipi Hotovely

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs