

*THE JEWISH*  
**Veteran**





The flag of the United States of America waves sadly at half mast, mourning the first tragic example of terrorist activity to darken the shores of this traditional bastion of freedom as the shadowy tombstone of the murdered Yosef Alon eerily reminds us that there are those who will stop at nothing in their fanatical zeal to draw blood from Jewish sources.

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By Senator Henry M. Jackson

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By Isaac Murov

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# commander-at-large



By Norman D. Tilles, *National Commander*

A "swan song" column is always the most difficult to write. By all rights, it should be a wrap-up, a summation of events that are perceived as the "highlights" of my year as your National Commander.

But a summary of events could not begin to tell the whole story, for my year must be viewed against the crowded tapestry of the fantastic events that have occurred in this country and internationally over the past year. After all, this was the year in which a President of the United States won an election by the most massive vote in history. This was the year when the impossibly ugly Vietnam episode was finally ended. This was the year that the POW's came home, the year of the detente with the Russians, and most important, it was the year of the Watergate.

Everything pales beside these monumental events. But for one like myself, who has a chance to be reflective, I can only say that whatever the massive blues that are afflicting our country at this moment, whatever the sad sayers might be mouthing about the gloom and doom pertaining to the future of this country, I can only comment that what I have seen in the last year makes me doubly sure that

the founding fathers had the vision to create a framework under which people can govern themselves.

As Jews, we have always considered ourselves the keepers of the moral flame. What we have learned in the last year is that morality is alive and well and still living in such places as the Congress of the United States.

Take one single issue of vital interest to the American-Jewish community, the Jackson Amendment. Despite the heaviest kind of pressure from a variety of highpowered sources, the Jackson Amendment still has the support of the overwhelming majority of the Senate.

Morality above trade . . . decency above dollars . . . humanity above compromise . . . these seem to be the watchwords of a new era in America.

The question is, can we hold the line?

Can we, for example, resist the temptation of Arab blackmail on the question of oil? I believe this will be one of the crucial questions of the next few months.

It is this new environment, this feeling of fresh air blowing through our system, that makes me optimistic that, despite Presidential pronoun-

ments, amnesty is just around the corner. The American people have a great capacity to forgive and as the Vietnam horrors recede into the background, the chances for amnesty appear greater.

As you know, I personally advocate amnesty, although the organization has not committed itself conclusively on the subject. The suggestion by the organization that a Committee of Reconciliation be formed to determine the future of those Americans who chose not to serve in an immoral war can be a fine first step in ending this last vestige of acrimony concerning American involvement in that conflict.

And so, as I leave office and pass the Commander's cap to my successor, I leave on this note of great optimism. I am grateful that I have been allowed to serve as the leader of this proud organization. Thanks are in order for each and every member. A special thanks must go to my dear wife, Flo, who provided powerful support this great year in our lives.

Wherever I have appeared, I have derived inspiration from the individual members who are both a credit to our country and our faith.

Shalom.