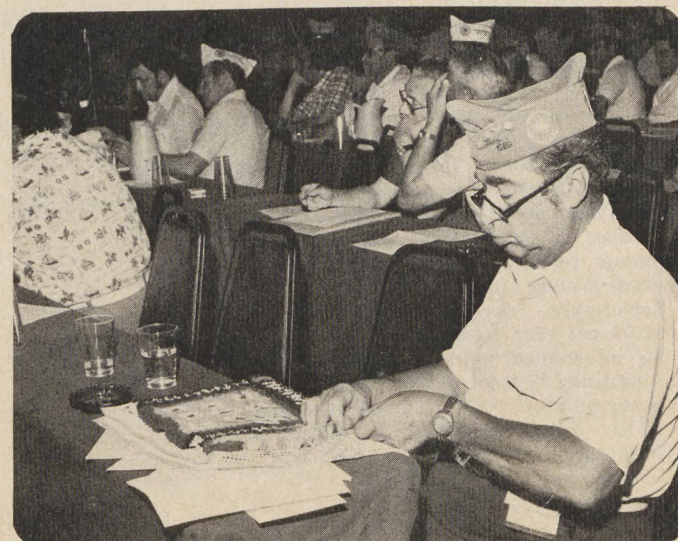


# The Jewish Veteran



On the Cover: (Clockwise from top left) Convention registration; NC Ribner with guest speaker Hank Greenspun; George Geller, member of NEC from Department of New Jersey, rug-hooking during session; NC Ribner at press conference; (center) Color Guard at opening session.

**CORRECTIONS:** In the May-June issue, the date of the founding of B'nai B'rith is incorrectly listed as 1841 (page 13). The correct date is 1843. The correct title for Rabbi Joshua L. Goldberg is Captain (Retired), United States Navy (page 25).

# The Jewish Veteran

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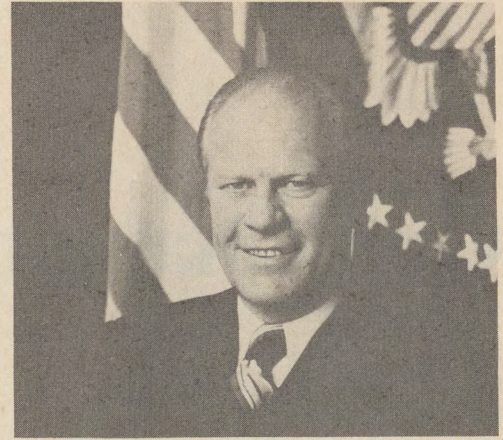
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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



Mrs. Ford and I send warmest greetings to our fellow Americans of the Jewish Faith as you observe the High Holy Days.

This year adds a special dimension to the meaning of your observance. These solemn days are marked by a traditional exhortation to prayer and self-examination. They mirror in a unique way the general mood in our country as we approach the celebration of our National Bicentennial.

On the eve of the two hundredth year of our independence as a nation, we are joined as Americans in a spirit of reflection, renewal and reaffirmation. This same spirit has united the Jewish people for centuries in the observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Each of you can take deep pride in the profound and positive influence of the Judaic heritage on our national life. The principles that guide you in your religious worship have also inspired countless and enduring contributions of the Jewish people to humanity and social justice. Your values are a great component of our quest for the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God. The inspired leadership and special sensitivity of Judaism in areas of humanitarian concern fill many brilliant chapters of America's history.

Mrs. Ford and I extend our sincere best wishes for the Jewish New Year. May it witness world progress toward fulfillment of the prophets' vision of peace and prosperity for all mankind.

*Gerald R. Ford*

# Our Changing World

by Hon. William P. Clements, Jr.  
Deputy Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense

I'm pleased to be here this afternoon as the keynote speaker at your 80th national convention. During that span of 80 years of Jewish War Veteran service there have been many changes in our nation, our world and certainly in the Defense Establishment which I represent before you here today. I hope to bring you up-to-date on some of these changes, their impact on the Department of Defense and upon the international scene which affects all of us.

I have seen and heard a great deal of talk about change as I have travelled the country and the world in the past years. I have heard many comments that military force is outmoded in the modern world. It is argued that modern weaponry, especially nuclear armaments, are too destructive to use, and that therefore they won't be used. Further, it is argued that the military power that we applied did not produce the results that we wanted in Southeast Asia, nor did it shield us from an oil price rise that has caused considerable economic problems for us in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War of 1973. Finally, the advocates of the idea that military forces are outmoded frequently also assert that the Soviet Union is unlikely to attack in any event. Detente, they maintain, means that future conflicts will be non-violent ones and will probably be settled by negotiation.

It is worth noting that this is not the first time in history that such arguments have been made. At one time or another, it has been asserted that the advent of the machine gun, lighter-than-air craft, the submarine, the bomber, had made warfare so destructive that it could never occur again. Yet we know that nothing of this sort happened; the world has adopted these once-unthinkable weapons and gone on to new ones. Indeed, arguments that military forces have been outmoded ignore a basic fact of international politics—one that has been proved repeatedly throughout history: national interests must be guarded and promoted by strength, and in our world today, strength primarily means military strength.

Those who complain that our military power did not always get us our way in the past are being unrealistic in their expectations. Strength does not guarantee that everything will go the way that we want; but weakness will certainly guarantee that very little goes the way we want. If we maintain our influence in the world, and the high degree of independence we enjoy in our policies, we must choose to be strong.

It is our military strength that underpins many of our most important national policies and our ability to support

our allies in the world. It is too often forgotten that detente itself was the product of our strength. Only after a prolonged period of testing and confrontation, during which the United States and the rest of the Western world stood fast against Soviet pressures, only then did the Soviet Union decide that a shift in approach to the more flexible, less hostile one of detente might be less risky to themselves and a more profitable means of pursuing Soviet goals. Our diplomatic goals around the world depend heavily upon our position of strength. Our word carries great weight in critical Middle Eastern negotiations in large part because we are perceived to be a power equal to the Soviet Union and therefore to be heeded. Our rapprochement with the People's Republic of China was made possible because the PRC assessed us as the only available counterweight to Soviet strength.

What this all means is that we get a lot of advantages out of being a first-rate military power, and some of these advantages none of us want to do without. Sometimes I think that we haven't really made the connection in our own minds between our military power and the benefits we enjoy as a result. Until World War II, we were able to convince ourselves that events in the outside world need not affect us unless we chose to pay attention to them. Indeed, we managed to believe during the late 1930's that the war raging in Europe would not threaten us.

Since World War II, our super-power status has been so incontrovertible and so axiomatic that we take it for granted. And that is a dangerous thing to do. Because a world in which we were *not* a military power of the first rank would inevitably turn out to be a very uncomfortable and unacceptable world for us and our friends in the Western world. In our strength, we enjoy the fortunate position of being able to set our own course. Others may oppose us, but no one can truly dictate our direction. This is not something we would care to give up. It is a blessing that only the strong can enjoy.

Of course, military power need not be used to be effective. It is probably most effective when it remains unused and remains a deterrent, perceived by all observers as real enough to discourage others from putting it to the test.

Some nations, on the other hand, have deliberately chosen a posture of military weakness and hope that others will maintain a stable world balance in their behalf. Should that balance fail, the fate of the neutral can be harsh. The