

The Jewish Veteran

January/February/March 1986



Letters to the Editor

Dear Dr. Laufer:

As most readers of this magazine are aware, Leon Klinghoffer, an American veteran, was killed in the Mediterranean by the hijackers of the cruise ship *Achille Lauro* last October 7. In recognition of his heroism and his life of accomplishment, Senator D'Amato and I nominated Mr. Klinghoffer for the Congressional Gold Medal, a high civilian award. Many veterans have subsequently contacted my office with questions about this nomination. I would like to set the record straight.

Leon Klinghoffer represented what is best in America. He was a courageous and determined man who fought injustice all his life. During the Second World War, he served his country in the Army Air Corps. After the war, he realized a dream of millions of Americans—starting with little more than their own ingenuity and determination, he and his brother built a successful company to manufacture a product which they themselves had invented. As a philanthropist, he then shared his good fortune generously with others. He was instrumental in establishing a dialysis unit at New York University Hospital, and his contributions and those of his family made possible the construction of the cardiac-pulmonary wing at Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan.

In recent years, partly paralyzed by a stroke, he refused to accept the limitations of his disability. When he was attacked by the *Achille Lauro* terrorists, Leon Klinghoffer, disabled as he was, resisted courageously.

This brave and generous American should be appropriately honored—for the values he exemplified all his life, and not merely for the tragic circumstances of his death. Therefore, I introduced legislation with Senator Alfonse D'Amato to confer a Congressional Gold Medal on Leon Klinghoffer posthumously. Forty-eight Members of Congress in both the House and Senate have joined us as co-sponsors.

The Congressional Gold Medal has been conferred on a wide range of civilians for their contributions in different fields. Among the recipients have been Danny Thomas, Roberto Clemente, Roy Wilkins, John Wayne, Walt Disney, Maxie Anderson, and Louis L'Amour. The Congressional Gold Medal should not be confused with the Congressional Medal of Honor, an exclusively military decora-

tion for extraordinary valor on the field battle. A civilian, whatever the circumstances of his life or death, would of course not be eligible for the Medal of Honor, and Mr. Klinghoffer was not nominated for that award.

Sincerely,
TED WEISS
Member of Congress

Dear Editor:

My husband, Norman, a member of the Lipsky post of JWV (in Flushing), & I have just returned from Paris and the tumult of the terror & violence at the airports of Vienna & Rome were strongly felt by the Parisian Jewish community. We experienced much excitement when mingling with the Jewish community in Paris, at Shabbat services of the Rue de la Victoire, Rothschild Synagogue. We were fortunate to be in the Montmartre & Montparnasse districts of Paris and, therefore, close to all of the Jewish events & community organizations & businesses there, as well as the cultural ones.

We very much want to emphasize the importance of continued support of tourism to Israel, & encouragement of the ties which we have with our Jewish brethren, all over the world. In addition, it would be very good for JWV to continue to be a leader in combatting violence and organizing for prevention & education pertaining to terrorism in the world. We have always been most concerned for the Jew & the non-Jew, in times of war and/or peace, shalom. Now we are faced with strange new phenomena & unknowns . . . sea-jacking, hijacking and airport-jacking. Let everyone in JWV join in a mighty voice to stem this 'mishigas'. Tactical police with rifles were apparent all over the airport as we were returning to New York. That is important & we support that. However, JWV should charter new avenues of concern as we continue our loyalty to justice & our fellow Jews & friends the world over.

Thank you,
Dr. Eva Pallay

Dear Editor:

The article in the November/December 1985 issue of *The Jewish Veteran*, "They Gave Me A Parade" by Phillip Sieradski brought a lump to my throat and a lot of memories to the forefront. I too served in Vietnam, 1956-57, and for short temporary duty tours from the 5th Air Force Headquarters in Tokyo in 1962 and 1963. And I too marched down Broadway on 7 May 1985.

I too looked for friends. Two I know of are listed as POW/MIA's. I guess this "Jew Boy" was the oldest in period of Vietnam Service in the parade. Enjoyed your story Phil.

God Bless,
Irving E. Tulin
Storrs, CT

Dear Editor:

It was with a great deal of interest that I read the article "Jewish Women of Valor"; particularly the portion concerning Lt. Frances Slinger. I served aboard the Army's largest hospital ship. It was named the Frances Y. Slinger after the very Lt. Slinger in your article. Furthermore, because the Lt. was Jewish, our ship was fortunate to have the only sea-going Rabbi in the U.S. Army, Capt. Max Zucker of Passaic, New Jersey. The outfit was known as the 235th Hospital Ship Compliment.

If you would care to do a follow up article, I still have some memorabilia, including a brochure, photos and some newspaper clippings. I am a member of the Corporal David Allen Post 667 of Culver City, CA.

Yours truly,
Robert S. Frederick

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your article on "Women of Valor." I would like you to print the following about the men of Illinois.

We have three very active posts who have never missed a month in the last 25-30 years of going to a particular VA hospital. They play Bingo, help out during the holiday season, and serve refreshments. The patients look forward to their visits, which are constant. The weather can be warm or ice cold: they are there.

Goldie Lewis
Fem-Vets Post #192

Dear Editor:

I feel an injustice has been done to Post #1 Commander, Florence Greenwald. The article in the current *Veteran* discussing "Women of Valor" fails to mention Florence. She organized the first Women's Post in New York State in 1942 and, to the best of my knowledge, she became the first County Commander in 1954. She happens to be one of the finest assets to JWV in New York County. Because of her efforts, her Post has not gone down the drain as so many others.

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