

The Jewish Veteran

September/October 1986

JWWV

Jewish War Veterans of The United States of America

Entering Our 10th Decade of Service

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Why Should I Bother To Join?

If I Join What's In It for Me?

What About Israel?

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Does Your Organization Project A Contemporary Image?

How Do You Fight Anti-Semitism?

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How Do You Fight Anti-Semitism?



The Man Today: The Challenge Ahead

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am offering a reward of \$500.00 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the un-American Anti-semites who destroyed the monument to the Jewish War Dead in Knoxville, Tenn.

It should be made clear to the culprits that these American Jews died, so that they may live in peace.

Shalom,
Dr. Lawrence Nessman
Post #695

Editor's Note: We have informed the Knoxville Police Department of this reward and anyone with information may contact them as well as National Headquarters.

Dear Editor:

We of Post #6 are thankful for the efforts being made by all JWV echelons, to combat the KKK, wherever they may arise.

Yours in Comradeship,
Manny Laster
Junior Vice-Commander

Debate on the "Yarmulke case" continues . . .

Dear Editor:

Sometimes, the perception of an injustice will overshadow what really is an injustice. What do I mean by this?

In the matter of the "yarmulke" issue, recently decided in the courts, JWV has perceived an injustice where none exists. Uniform regulations are prescribed by the service components, and are not subject to interpretation by the members thereof.

The issue of the yarmulke is not even sustained by biblical directive. The wearing of the yarmulke is a custom, repeat custom, that has developed over the years. We must be careful to avoid equating the customs of men with the mandates of God.

Sincerely,
William Scheck

Dear Editor,

As an orthodox Jew who wore a yarmulke while serving on active duty between 1965-1967, I found Hy Rosenfeld's letter in the July/August issue very offensive.

His comments about "what's to prevent a Sikh from wearing a turban? Or a Hari Krishna from wearing a bedsheet and sandals?" are irrelevant to the issue as wearing these items would be in place

of regulation dress, not an addition, as the yarmulke is. I was also surprised that there was no editorial comment to his remarks since the JWV supports wearing a yarmulke by those who desire to do so.

Unfortunately, views such as those held by Mr. Rosenfeld bring about the divisiveness that he states he wants to avoid.

Sincerely,
Henry G. Rieser

Irving Newman, of Post #302, was moved to write about his experience as a "Volunteer for Israel" after reading of the positive experiences of our other readers in The Jewish Veteran. We reprint below an excerpt from his letter, the text of a note he left on the tank on which he worked. This note, wrote Mr. Newman was "an old soldier's legacy":

To the crew of this tank, "Shalom" I have dismantled the filters, cleaned them, replaced parts, checked them for operation, reassembled them, tested, and I find them operational in all respects so that I would not hesitate to use them myself or have my own children do so. It is of great importance for me to know that your air is clean and you can perform your duties free and unencumbered.

May the good Lord watch over you just as you watch over your portion of His Land and His People.

I found a note such as this attached to a parachute issued me some 40 years ago. The fact that I am here today attests to the care and skill with which that chute was inspected and packed. At a time of critical need when I called on it to perform its lifesaving function it performed just as that beautiful person had prayed it would. May this statement stand as a testimonial to the person and as a pledge that my work will be to the best of my skill and capability. And . . . I am not alone. Volunteers for Israel do care.

Dear Editor:

Please refer to page 22 of the July/August 1986 issue—and then down to the fifth name—first column—Retired General John B. Colson—etc.

I certainly appreciate the honor—and the wonderful promotion—but you see I am a Major—AUS—Retired-Reserve according to my card. Yes, I *did* climb up from the very lowest "Honey Wagon" Assistant Teamster back in 1940 to a Major but never any further—and please—ask some of your oldtimers—particularly old Cavalymen or even Red Legs (Artillerymen) if they'll explain my very first responsibility—Horse Cavalry you know.

But General?—No.

Also, and undoubtedly far more im-

portant—Major General Francis Gerard who is head of our New Jersey Defense Dept. was the one to receive the Award of Merit from the Dept. of New Jersey for all that he has done in support of the JWV aims. I was VERY honored by the Dept. of New Jersey with their Community Relations Award for my efforts as a veteran who had entered those horrible camps during the first hours or days of liberation—my efforts to "tell Our Story So that the Holocaust will never be Forgotten"—and I am so very proud yet humble about this—both my award and my mission.

Thank you for a great magazine—

My Very Best—and SHALOM
John B. (Jack) Coulston

The Privilege of Being Free Jews

The Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States of America grants freedom to all its people. Our brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union and in other lands of oppression do not possess this freedom. How fortunate are we that we may not only openly attend the Synagogue of our choice but we are encouraged to do so by our society. We are all familiar with the slogans—"A Family That Prays Together, Stays Together," and "Your Family—Worship With Them This Week."

Let us, therefore, at the beginning of this Jewish new year of 5747, resolve that we, the fortunate ones, will attend Synagogue services more frequently throughout this coming year.

Let us resolve that because millions of Jews in the Soviet Union and in other lands of oppression are denied religious freedom, we will take advantage of the climate of the religious freedom that prevails in this great land of ours.

Let us further resolve that our homes will witness the lighting of candles on Sabbath eves, and on the eves of Holy Days so that, symbolically, we may cast a light of hope and peace to the darkened homes of Jews who are denied the light of religious freedom.

Let us also resolve to identify freely and openly as Jews without fear so that we may be a source of strength to our fellow Jews who live in fear because they are Jews. Let us say to them that there are places in this world where Jews can live freely and proudly as Jews.

May this coming year of 5747 be one of good fortune and abundant blessings for you, for all Jews and for all humanity! Shana Tovah!

Rabbi Jacob S. Friedman
Past National Chaplain



On the Cover

Recently elected National Commander Edwin Goldwasser has set increased membership as a priority for the year ahead. Featured on the cover is our new membership brochure, copies of which are available at National Headquarters. Cover design by R. Shimron.

In this Issue

This issue features highlights of the 91st National Convention. Photographs reproduced in this issue were taken by Jeff Helberg of Honolulu, Hawaii and Ron Shimron, Curator of the National Memorial Museum.

Organized 1896
Official Bulletin of The Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America

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Advertising information and rates
available from the Editorial Office.

The opinions expressed in signed articles and letters in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editors of JWV.

The Jewish Veteran is published five times a year: January-February-March, April-May-June, July-August, September-October, November-December by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America at Washington, D.C. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C. and other post offices. Subscription price in the United States is \$2.50 per year, included in membership. Non-member subscriptions: \$5.00 Single copies: \$1.00.

Postmaster send address changes or undelivered copies to Editorial Offices, 1811 R St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

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ISSN 0047-2018

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