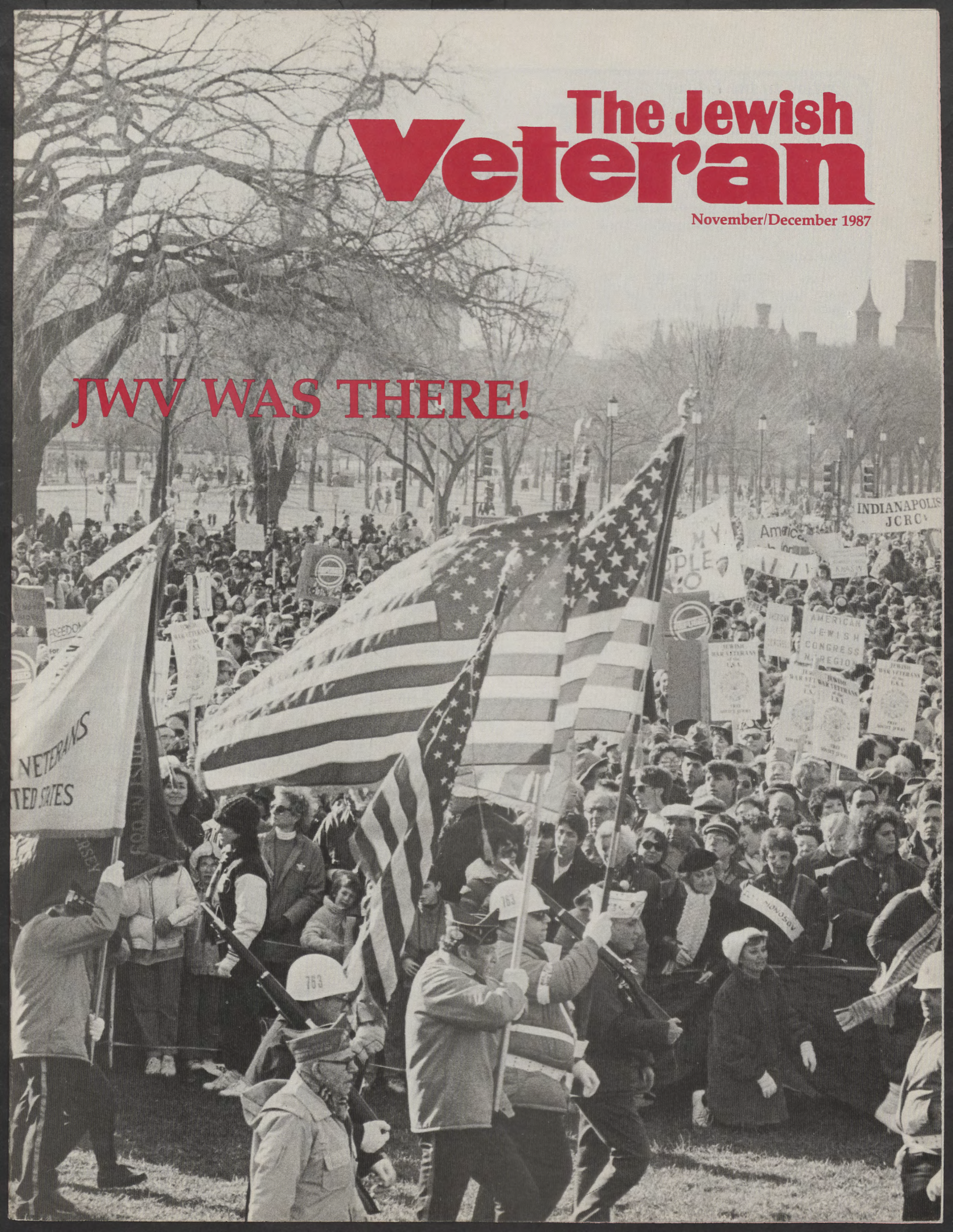


The Jewish Veteran

November/December 1987

JWV WAS THERE!



Letters to the Editor

The following letter is very much in keeping with efforts begun by Past National Commander Goldwasser to have a unified veterans' voice. It also speaks to the issue, in spirit, of elevating the Veterans Administration to a Cabinet level department:

Dear Editor:

There is evidence that service in veterans' hospitals, and throughout the Veterans Administration, has been cut ever since the Korean War. There is no way budget cuts will be restored and raised, and help given to veterans' problems, until all veterans organizations in this country act together.

Opponents of beneficial veteran legislation are happy that there are so many veterans organizations that are not united. There is no group or people who know better than vets what divide and conquer means—except the President and Congress; thus these legislators have the guts to cut veterans' benefits.

I suggest that all National Commanders of veterans organizations get together, draw a plan for beneficial veteran legislation, select a leader as their spokesman and, with this spokesman, go to Congress. Have this spokesman present affirmative action for veterans, informing Congress they represent 32 million, or so, American veterans—and their families.

Sincerely yours,
Sanford Gelfand
Paul A. Rosenblum
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Editor:

On November 5, 1987, the Star Ledger of Newark, N.J. printed a "Letter to the Editor" titled "Religious garb for military" which expressed fears that Senator Frank J. Lautenberg's amendment to the Defense Act, allowing the military to wear all kinds of religious garb, would interfere with the discipline and fighting ability of our military service people.

Senator Lautenberg's office assured the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. that those genuinely interested would find that the amendment would permit the wearing of neat and conservative items of religious apparel that are part of the religious observance of the military member as long as the item does not interfere with the performance of military duty.

The determination of whether an item meets those standards will be made by the secretaries of the services them-

selves, and not by the member who seeks to wear the item.

The amendment would not order the military to permit turbans, yarmulkes, cloaks, daggers, flowing robes, painted faces and feather headresses in the military.

We were assured that the purpose of the amendment was so that Americans of all faiths could serve their country without having to forsake their religious values and practices that could reasonably be accommodated by the military.

At the same time, there are legitimate concerns over whether particular item of religious apparel would threaten either the safety, the military performance, or the neat and conservative appearance needed by our fighting men and women.

It is our opinion that this amendment hopes to strike a balance between these values.

Sincerely yours,
Sy Brody

Dear Editor:

I am disturbed by the article "Waldheim Redux" by Arnold Lapiner in your July/August '87 issue. The only direct accusation made against Waldheim in it is that he is a liar. The others are by association and implication, reasons for which I was imprisoned in Dachau.

The author's view of affiliated Nazi Party groups is simplistic and self-serving. Hitler, like Napoleon, operated on the principle "he who is not for me is against me." Therefore, there was no room for non-involvement. My friends and sympathizers had to belong to the appropriate organizations for their very existence.

The author also makes light of the common claim "I did not know what was happening in the death camps." Many people did not know because it was just as 'unhealthy' to ask about it as to talk about it. When I was released from Dachau in 1939, I did not mention my experience to anyone in my family, for their protection and mine. I had only one long talk with a non-Jewish friend, and he had no idea of what was going on. I am sure he did not spread it either.

I cannot rid myself of the feeling that motivation for airing this case now was done for political benefits which may be garnered by the White House Staff in their quest for popularity among voters, just like the arms deal with Iran. According to the article, the Justice Department urged, that if Waldheim were elected

(President) he be barred from entering the United States. What has that to do with his previous behavior?

Martin I. Selling
Fair Lawn, NJ

From The National Editor

About a year ago I appealed to our readers for help in trying to obtain paid advertising for this, our *Jewish Veteran* magazine. Unfortunately, we did not receive even one response. Many of our readers have sent "Letters to the Editor" extolling our magazine which, of course, is very much appreciated. Many of our members have even submitted articles which have been published.

The *Veteran* is the single most expensive item in our National budget after payroll. If we are to be able to continue, we must start paying our way. So, once again, I am going to appeal to all of you out there to try and help us. I'm asking you to let us know of any major national or regional advertisers whom you might be able to recommend our publication to. Better yet, tell us who they are and, with your permission, we will contact them. . . . Thanks.

For about a year now, we have been sending a letter to recently widowed spouses extending our condolences and offering to continue to send *The Jewish Veteran* to them for a full year at no charge. We asked them to respond and many did. Approximately 95% said "Thanks, but no thanks." It was costly to send out these letters but I felt it was worth it. Now, however, with a 95% "No vote," we will discontinue that practice. However if any widow or widower still requests it, we will be most happy to continue them on our mailing list for a full year.

Warren S. Dolny

Apologies:

In the September/October issue, we accidentally cropped Dr. Herman Wax out of the photo in which the David J. Hirsch Post received a silver bowl for outstanding volunteerism. The photo included Post Quartermaster Larry Immerman without identifying him.

On the Awards Page, captions for photos #2 and #3 were flipped. In "Keeping Posted" Jerome Waldor was erroneously listed as being promoted to Brigadier General. He is, in fact, a Major General.