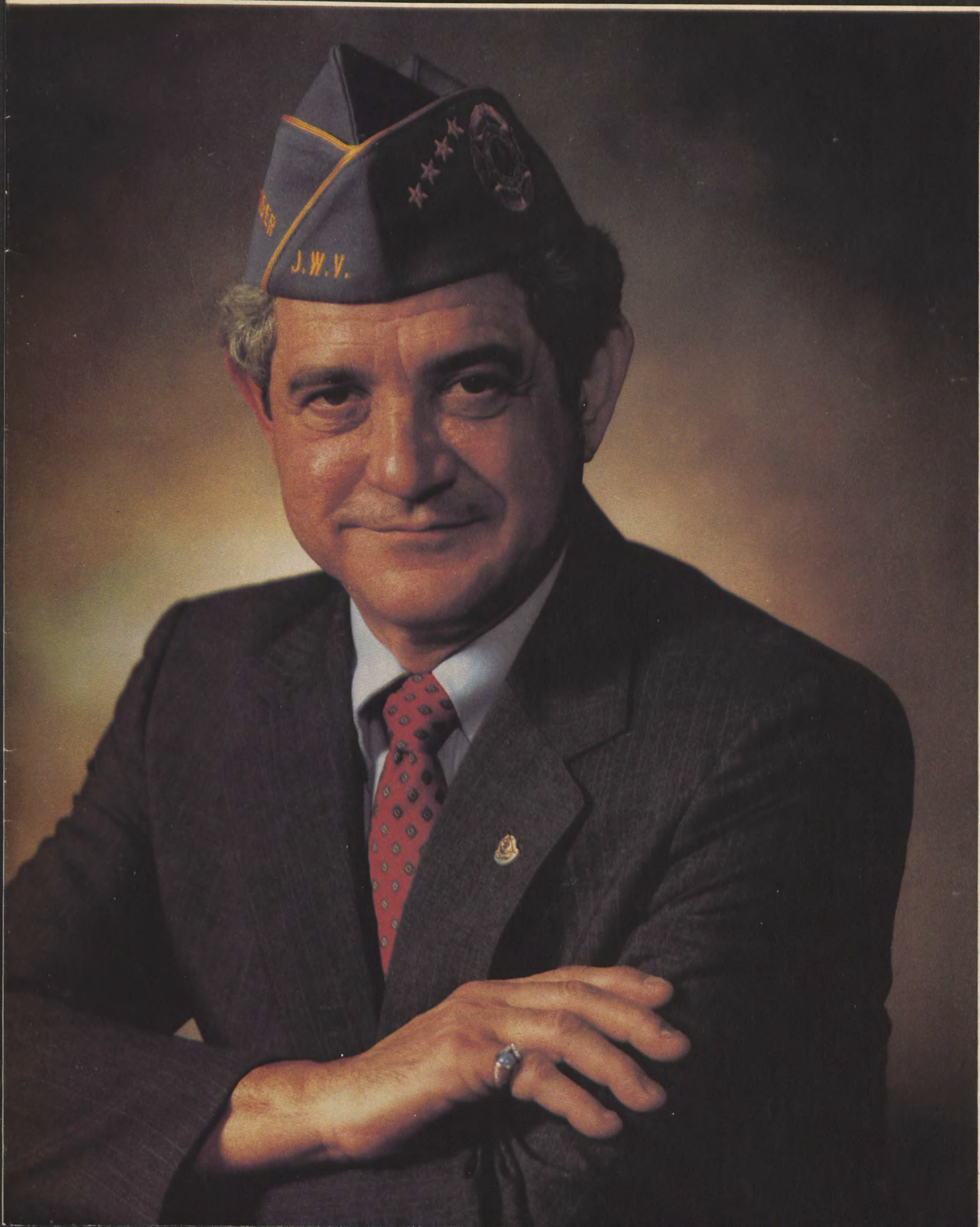


The Jewish Veteran®

Post-Convention Issue, 1988

*Judge Orders Latin Cross
At Marine Base Removed*



**Vietnam
Veteran
Herb Greff,
New National
Commander**

WHEN

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The Editor's Desk

by Warren S. Dolny

Since our Spring issue of The Jewish Veteran we prepared and published a preconvention newsletter in a continuing effort to provide more information to all our members. It is our intention to communicate with the membership more frequently and to continually improve our appearance and content. Our editorial staff headed by Michelle Spivak Kelley and Scott Zucker must be commended for its efficiency as well as its dedication to the tasks at hand.

As I write this to you, I am at our national convention in Las Vegas. Those of you who have attended know what a fine job our convention committee and national staff did in the planning, arranging and execution of the overall program.

I did my small part at one of the workshops (PR and Programs), as chairman along with Past National Commander Sam Greenberg. It was extremely well attended.

As you know, one of our programs is the drive to obtain a Congressional Medal of Honor for Korean veteran Tibor Rubin. He sat in as guest on our panel and was enthusiastically received. Our drive to obtain signatures on our Rubin petitions must be given a high priority by all of us. When Tibor does in fact receive this most prestigious award he will give it to our National Memorial for exhibition in our museum.

Michelle Spivak Kelley, Director of Communications, was staff liaison for this workshop and did a magnificent job of preparation. She made Sam Greenberg and myself look good.

Due to the special nature of this Post-Convention issue some of our regular columns do not appear. They will return next issue.

Now that a new JWV year is in front of us, I'd like to thank Past National Commander Jack Litz for allowing me to serve as your National Editor. I also would like to wish good luck and a successful year to our new commander and allow me to wish our members, Posts, Councils and Departments a healthy, prosperous and happy new year. ■

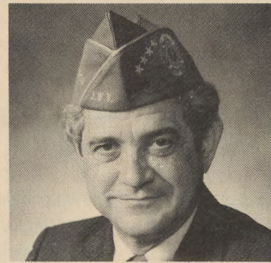
NOTICE

The Museum of the JWV-USA National Memorial Inc. was closed as of July 15, 1988 and will remain closed until renovations are completed in November, 1988. Look for notices of our reopening in *Routes to Roots*, which is the publication of the JWV-USA National Memorial, sent exclusively to *members of the National Memorial*.

The Jewish[®] Veteran

Vol. 42 No. 4

Post-Convention, 1988



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Herbert D. Greff, the new National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, who was elected at the National Convention.

A victory in the courtroom for JWV. Judge ordered Latin cross at Camp Smith removed. See Washington Report.

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It is indeed an honor and privilege to have been elected your National Commander. My thanks to all for their expression of good wishes in Las Vegas and best wishes to the membership who were not able to join with us.

On behalf of myself and my family, as well as my wonderful National Staff, let me wish you a L'Shana Tova Tikasevu for the year 5749. As we embark on the 94th year of JWV, I look forward to the challenges, but more importantly, to the achievements which, with your help, can be made in the coming year.

As we prepare ourselves for a New Year it is proper to reflect on the past year. If we look back just a few short years, we can view with pride the strides we have made, particularly the acquisition of our new building. Our Headquarters in the nation's capital is not just a home for JWV and JWVA but rather a legacy for future generations, your children and grandchildren, as well as my own. But the job has barely begun. There is much to do, not only the final demise of the mortgage but also the needed renovation, displays, etc. You can be a part of this future. Your moral and financial assistance are needed now.

This year we look forward to the final changeover from a computer system of the 1950's to a system that will carry us into the 1990's. When this is completed, we can service the membership in the



Herb Greff prepares his first speech as National Commander.

manner it deserves—timely and efficiently.

The coming year is one of challenge. We unfortunately lost some long tenured and deeply admired staff who will be difficult to replace.

There has not been a National Commander in recent history who has not mentioned membership. As your past National Insurance Chairman, I too dwelled on the subject as I toured the various Departments. However only you, the reader of this article, can really make it happen, and you can.

Twenty percent of our membership has joined since 1980. This shows we are an organization which has something to offer. As a candidate I had the pleasure of visiting areas of new Posts, new young leadership and ambitious aims. I would love nothing more than issuing new charters in areas where we previously lacked presence.

"As we rededicate ourselves on Yom Kippur, let us also rededicate ourselves to JWV, its National Memorial and our fellow Jews wherever they may be."

As for external challenges, there are many. We must support Israel not only from a Jewish morality basis but also from a military viewpoint. As Jews, Israel is an extension of our home. As U.S. citizens, it is an extension of vital strategic military operations. Our support of Israel is exemplified in our opening ceremony as it expresses the ideals of Americanism and Judaism.

We must become a more visible part of our local communities. Many of our members do not realize JWV is a beneficiary agency of local federations. By your involvement, hopefully, we can increase this source of revenue.

On a national level, there are many challenges facing the veteran community, regardless of which political party prevails in November. We must retain our commitment to seeking maintenance of benefits through the VA for our aging veterans. We must pursue programs for



The New National Commander receives a congratulatory hug.

the homeless. We must insist that programs for our elderly be maintained. They deserve respectable and dignified long term care centers.

We must not let down our stand on human rights, not only for our brethren in Israel but throughout the world. Complacency because of Glasnost would be a vital error. Anti-Semitism is on the increase in these United States and must be combatted. Terrorism has not ceased but rather has become more prevalent everywhere in the world.

A Commander is only as good as his troops. YOU are my troops. You, the Posts, Departments, and Councils are the troops. While I may have impact on direction, much of our success is dependent on you. Not only in membership, but by getting involved, seeking assistance from your elected Congressman, exercising your right to vote - for which you bravely served and sacrificed, continuing to service our hospitalized veterans and on and on.

As we move forward in the coming year, let us resolve to be a unified organization. A house divided can not stand. We share common goals and common problems. Only together can we make an impact as a National Organization.

In closing, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all who supported me and special thanks to my Hospitality Room crew, my fellow Buckeyes.

As we rededicate ourselves on Yom Kippur, let us also rededicate ourselves to JWV, its National Memorial and our fellow Jews wherever they may be.

May you all be blessed with health and join with me in Hartford to celebrate year of pride and accomplishment. ■

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Chase, JWV's Director of Administration and devoted staff member for over 31 years, passed away at the age of 52 on July 18, 1988.

Words cannot describe the sense of grief and loss felt by the National Staff, Officers and members who worked with and knew Elizabeth. On a professional level, her loss will be keenly felt. She was a trusted right arm dedicated and loyal to me as National Executive Director and to the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. In her 31 years at JWV, she had responsibilities that ran the gamut from bookkeeping to office management, procurement to running the National Supply Department. Any staff member, myself included, who needed help or had a question regarding the employee insurance or pension plan, could go to Elizabeth. If any staff member just needed a friendly and sympathetic ear, again Elizabeth was there. I can't recall any time that Elizabeth ever said no, when asked to undertake a project, big or small.

But our loss transcends that of the normal employer/employee relationship. Elizabeth was a friend - someone I could talk to and take into my confidence, someone who could share my ups and downs, in and out of the office, and finally, someone on whom I could rely and count on in good times and bad.

Those of you in business, know how hard it is to find dedicated, competent and loyal employees. If ever a definition is needed for loyalty and dedication all that need be said is "Elizabeth Chase." We shall miss her terribly.



A familiar sight at past National Conventions, Elizabeth Chase (right), worked closely with Mrs. Y. Bailor, National Director of Membership.

Sadly and ironically, one of Elizabeth's last official JWV acts, was working on death beneficiary claim forms for the family of Helen J. Butler. Helen was JWV's Senior Data Entry Clerk. She passed away at the age of 46, less than a week before Elizabeth.

Helen began working for the Jewish War Veterans in 1980. She was the person we all depended on to update the many thousands of membership records, address changes, etc. that are received at National Headquarters annually.

Not many JWV members knew Helen since she worked behind the scenes. That, however, doesn't lessen her importance to the organization. Helen cheerfully went about her work, always with a smile and kind word for everyone. She too will be missed.

Needless to say, we at National Headquarters are devastated by the loss of Helen Butler and Elizabeth Chase, within one week of each other. We grieve but realize we must go on. Neither Helen nor Elizabeth would have had it any other way.

1989 Dues

Very shortly, (if not already) you will receive your 1989 dues statement. Your immediate attention to remittance of your dues would be very much appreciated. The earlier dues are sent to National Headquarters (along with the return portion of your invoice), the better. The funds received allow your National Organization, your Post and Department (and in some cases, County Councils) to do the work so important to you as Jewish veterans.

Many of you will say to yourselves, "I just paid my dues! What gives?" I remind you that dues are payable prior to the start of the calendar year. The invoices you are receiving now are for 1989. The dues you may have just gotten around to paying were for 1988. May I respectfully suggest that you remit your dues upon receipt so that the statement doesn't get buried in your desk drawer. Your immediate remittance will also save the National organization, the time and expense of sending out reminder notices. May I also remind you that the first dues statement includes your membership card. *This does not mean you are paid-up.* You are not a member in good standing until your dues check is received at National Headquarters and processed.

As has been the custom the last few years, you will note that your dues statement includes a request for a *voluntary* contribution for National programs. These funds are used for programs such as our lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill for veterans' benefits, a secure Israel, etc. Our National Service Officer program which assists veterans in obtaining benefits, our homeless veteran program and our Soviet Jewry efforts are all programs that are funded through your voluntary contributions.

I thank you, in advance, for your prompt renewal of your membership in the "Patriotic Voice of American Jewry" and your voluntary contribution to assist us with programs that help serve you, America's veterans and the American and world-wide Jewish communities.

JWV's Future

Unfortunately, being an optimist about the longevity for the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, makes you a pessimist on the issue of world peace. For us to remain a veterans' membership organization for another 92 years, means that our country would have to be involved in conflicts which would create war veterans.

I'm fond of saying that JWV looks forward to the day that we go out of business, for if there are not more wars, there will be no more veterans. Therefore there would be no pool of potential members.

However, the projections of our organizations' "imminent" demise are false. We are not "old soldiers fading away." Many of our Posts, Councils and Departments have never been so vigorous in responding to issues and providing service to our members and the community. New Posts are being chartered at every NEC meeting. As listed in every issue of our National magazine, many Jewish veterans are continuing to join our ranks.

Throughout this past year, our membership should have noticed a marked increase in communications and programs emanating from the National Headquarters. Programs such as Soviet Jewry, The Congressional Medal of Honor for Tibor Rubin, the Homeless Veteran, VAVS and Descendants of JWV have all been emphasized and expanded. However, none of these can be successful without the participation of you, our members. ■