

The Jewish Veteran®

Spring, 1989

1989 Congressional Testimony



Dear Mr. Greff and Mr. Labush,

I would very much like to thank you and the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. for the wonderful scholarship that you have given me. Receiving the award is a special honor, and I appreciate your generosity very much.

I am now attending Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. I am enjoying my classes, and I truly love college life. Being a student at Brown is a wonderful experience. The scholarship has played an important role in making this possible.

Once again, thank you very much. Please extend my thanks to all of the members of the scholarship committee.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Weiss

Editor's Note: This letter addressed to National Commander Greff and JWV National Scholarship Chairman Bernard Labush reminds us of the importance of our scholarship program.

Dear Editor:

Now that Mr. Jacques Moreillon, Director General of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has freely admitted that the ICRC is guilty of not saving more Jews from the Nazis, we have a right to consider what steps they must take to do some sort of "penance" for their dastardly neglect. Their lack of action is all the more reprehensible since it has now been historically proven that the ICRC was called upon during the Holocaust years to save Jews from "the Final Solution".

Others who have been found guilty of the same neglect towards the Jews during the Nazi years have agreed to make some kind of restitution to the Jews in the form of reparation payments, etc. Is it not proper then, that one of the forms of restitution and reparations asked of the ICRC and its sister organizations is to find a way to immediately recognize the Magen David Adom of Israel and bring it in as a full-fledged member of the world Red Cross family?

As International Chairman of Operation Recognition I can unfortunately attest to the fact that, since Israel became a State in 1948, the ICRC and its affiliated groups

have found all sorts of ways to deny Israel membership in this humanitarian fellowship. They thus have given in to the blackmail and bigotry of the Arab countries who have been permitted to use the Red Crescent as their protective emblem.

The Geneva Red Cross officials readily admit that Israel fulfills nine of the ten criteria for admission to the world body. It is only the emblem that keeps Israel out. Fairminded people the world-over agree that Israel should be allowed to use its own Shield of David emblem and not be forced to use the Christian Red Cross or the Arab Red Crescent.

The ICRC can clear some of the blemish from its record by at least granting recognition and admission to the Magen David Adom of Israel. The waning universality and humanitarianism of the ICRC will thus be somewhat restored.

For a free Operation Recognition Information Kit send a long stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Rabbi Rubin R. Dobin, Operation Recognition, POB 6194, Miami Beach, Fl. 33154 USA. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Rubin R. Dobin,
Intl. Chrman.
Operation Recognition

Editor's Note: JWV has, for many years, been active in the fight to have Magen David Adom recognized by the International Red Cross.

Special Thanks

Robert M. Zweiman, PNC wishes to thank all those who sent words of sympathy to him following the recent death of his beloved brother. Your thoughtfulness was most appreciated.

Sam Greenberg, PNC and Martin Greenspan, D.C. Dept. Cmdr., wish to thank all those members and their families for the countless get well wishes they received during their recent illnesses.

By Warren S. Dolny
National Editor

Now that it is spring, 1989, our thoughts turn towards our 1989 Convention in Hartford Connecticut. And completing another JWV year. JWV's accomplishments and goals are stated elsewhere in this issue by our officers and staff and it is my hope that many of you will join with us to see first hand how it is done. Your input is most important to all of us who wish to see our organization on the leading edge. Now that the Veterans Administration is on par with other cabinet level arms of our Government, our job to communicate our needs, wants and rights is greater than ever.

Our aim in the magazine is to tell you what is happening and why it is happening. Yours is to help us accomplish these goals.

By the way, in the fast moving modern computer age we sometimes find ourselves stymied by computer problems. Therefore, the TAPS and New Member features are sometimes unavailable to us at our deadline. If we miss inserting these features in certain issues, we will put all the names we missed in the next issue.

In that vein, please forgive the small print that makes up TAPS. Because we didn't insert TAPS in our last issue, the list is longer than usual, and in order to facilitate inclusion of all the names, print size was reduced.

The Jewish Veteran has a new Associate Editor in the person of Howard Metzger. Howard, a native of New York, comes to JWV from the National Conference on Soviet Jewry in Washington, D.C., where he was involved in multi-faceted duties including Congressional oversight, press, lecturing and research.

All submissions to the magazine, inquiries regarding advertising or the Convention Journal can be directed to Howard. Additionally, Howard oversees our JNF tree program. If you have any questions regarding that project, direct them to Howard.

On behalf of everyone associated with JWV and the magazine, we say "Welcome Aboard, Howard."

Speaking of submissions, let me reiterate that this is your magazine, and that your

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Spring, 1989



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HERBERT D. GREFF
National Commander

STEVE SHAW
National Executive Director

WARREN S. DOLNY
National Editor

MICHELLE SPIVAK KELLEY
National Director of Communications

HOWARD METZGER
Associate Editor

EDITORIAL OFFICES
1811 R Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
Phone: (202) 265-6280

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Jewish War Veterans of the US, America, Israel:

What a strange beginning to an article you may say to yourself. However, if you stop to think, they are interrelated and interdependent. During my tenure as your National Commander, I have travelled to many states in the United States, to Israel and to Europe. All that time I was representing you, the people of JWV.

While many conversations I was involved in revolved around JWV, inevitably, all these discussions began to center on the new administrations, both in the United States and in Israel. These joint concerns come about because people in America, specifically American Jews, are concerned about Israel and its problems for which there appears to be no immediate end in sight. Conversely, Israelis question the fervor by which the Bush administration will lobby for continued moral and financial support to Israel. While Americans remain concerned with the continued religious and political conflicts in the Holy Land, Israelis criticize American immigration policy with regard to Soviet Jewry. Isn't it ironic that while both American Jews and Israelis easily berate each others governmental policies, their own countries political and social problems continue to fester?

Perhaps the time is coming when both nations should concern themselves with what is occurring within their own borders. We have problems, as do they. They can no more tell us how to solve ours then we can tell them how to solve theirs.



NC Greff before the Joint House-Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

What are our dilemmas? As members of Jewish War Veterans, some problems remain tantamount. As the 101st Congress convenes in Washington, the largest single concern is the federal deficit. Why? Because the swelling federal deficit adversely affects our advocacy for necessary increased expenditure with regard to the VA



NC and Mrs. Greff meet U.S. Ambassador to Israel William Brown, and his wife Helen.

Budget, long term care for the elderly, homeless veterans, veterans pension offsets, drugs, teenaged parents, etc., while at the same time endangering our military strength and increased aid to Israel.

The younger in age our Congress gets, the less appreciation it has for the commonality of the veteran communities. If one has never experienced the humor, honor and personal sacrifices of having served in the military, there can be no appreciation for the needs of this great group of men and women. Obviously there is a need for financial belt tightening, but must it always be at the expense of our veterans? If cuts are made will the monies remaining be used in the most efficient manner? These are questions. These are problems.

As both Americans and Jews, we are obviously concerned with Israel. Israel is an ally. Israel is a friendly port for the U.S. in an unfriendly part of the world. We should involve ourselves with that issue rather than their political structure. We have American veterans residing in Israel who are our members, just as we have Israeli war veterans who are our friends. As JWVs and Americans, it is only natural we should concern ourselves with their welfare. However, it is not our duty to instruct their government in the proper

way to handle their civil problems. Believe it or not, this was suggested to me as the leader of JWV!

"It is not our duty to instruct their government (Israel) in the proper way to handle their civil problems."

As humans, we have the right to disagree. I submit to you that internally we should exercise that right. Externally, I submit to you that we be a unified body of veterans attentive to the problems of this great land we call home and face the challenges ahead in the coming year. Let's leave the political arena to those proficient in the art of swaying public opinion for political purposes. ■