

The Jewish Veteran[®]

Convention, 1990

Join JWV in San Diego
for the 95th National Convention



by Warren S. Dolny, National Editor

Comments on the Allied Veterans' Mission

Dear Sir,

When several of my media colleagues in Chicago found out that I was going to be visiting Israel, their reaction was to note that it was a good thing that I had spent a year in a combat zone in Vietnam as I was now going to be entering another one. Images of a sort of armed camp were the norm, and only the most hardy and adventurous tourist need apply.

The reality, however, has proven quite different. Even though on occasion we encountered troops, at no time did we feel that there was a threat which placed us in the category of being in a combat zone.

For part of my time in Israel, I had been traveling with a group of leaders of American veterans' organizations, all Christians who have been brought to the area by the Jewish War Veterans. It is interesting to note that these individuals who served in combat from World War II, to Korea and Vietnam, all shared the impression that their military service might prove necessary in the troubled region. Indeed, several members of the group stated that their families had urged them not to make the trip in view of the danger involved.

This is not to deny that there are serious problems facing the tiny state ranging from threats from enemy nations which surround it to internal problems and the much publicized intifada. However, the perception is that it is business as usual in the region, not a "real shooting war" on many fronts as one of the members of the group put it.

As the days in Israel passed, it was interesting to see the group relax as those who have shared the unique experience of war began quickly to realize that this was a nation busy with the day to day business of living, raising families, turning a profit, not a nation preoccupied with war where visitors faced being caught in everyday shoot-outs and rocket barrages.

Sincerely,

Joan Maiman, Chicago
Staff, *The Veterans Voice*

Dear Commander Rosen,

On behalf of my wife and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the members of JWV for the very kind invitation to join an outstanding group of war veterans on a trip to Israel.

The trip was very informative regarding the lives and hopes of the Israeli people and their destiny in the only democratic state in the Middle East. I was very impressed with the resolve and determination of the people of the Israeli people. It reminded me of the early pioneers of our country, and if only we in America would rededicate ourselves to the principles of our forefathers and those who gave their lives for the freedom of America, it would spark the feeling of pride for our country that the Israeli people are displaying daily for their country.

In short, the trip was fantastic. I would go again, and I would certainly recommend a trip to Israel to all my friends and acquaintances.

I once again thank you and JWV for the honor and privilege you bestowed on me and my wife by inviting us to join PNC Ed Goldwasser on this fabulous trip to Israel.

Sincerely,

PDC Benjamin DeLucci
AMVETS President Emeritus
Yonkers, NY

Dear Sir,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to JWV for the invitation to visit Israel, and see for myself just what is going on there. We were given the opportunity to look, listen and learn. Not only were we educated about the terrain and the beauty of Israel, but we got to know the people, and I enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk frankly with the officers of the IDF.

After my visit, I must say my opinion has greatly changed, as I feel the American public has a totally different view of what is happening in Israel. I also think that after visiting the West Bank and Golan Heights, I agree that Israel should maintain control of the area, as they are of extreme military importance and necessary for the security and well-being of the country.

I feel that Israel can be proud of the advancements they have made in the relatively short time they have existed as a nation. I will convey my feelings not only to my organization, but to our elected officials in Washington.

Yours in comradeship,

PDC Otto A. Gollon, Jr.
VFW
Dept. of NJ ■

Another year has come and gone. It seems like it was just yesterday we were convening in Hartford, and now it is time to go to San Diego. It has been an exiting year. We have accomplished much and seen our organization grow in stature.

As you are probably aware, this is our magazine format, which had been the staple of *The Jewish Veteran* for many years. Though this is the only magazine of the year, I hope you take this opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the hard work that goes into producing any issue of this publication, more so the magazine. It is a professional publication done by our outstanding staff, who spend countless hours preparing the magazine. I hope it meets your standards and that it continues the fine tradition of *Jewish Veteran* magazines of years past.

I want to take this opportunity to thank outgoing National Commander Murray Rosen for affording me the opportunity to serve as National Editor. Murray Rosen has shown his deep and abiding commitment to this organization and its members. It has been an honor to serve him, and I look forward to his continued guidance in years to come.

It is time to turn our attention to San Diego. In this issue of the *Veteran*, a complete listing of convention events, tours, and special programs is outlined. Additionally, those featured guest speakers who will address our convention are introduced. For those of you who have made your reservations, I look forward to seeing you at the convention. For those who still have not made plans to come to San Diego, I urge all of you to make a reservation. As you can see, our schedule of events is both informative and entertaining. Our speakers are knowledgeable individuals with information that will be of interest to all of us, and other activities are fun-filled and sure to be enjoyable.

In our continuing commitment to fight the scourge of drugs in our society, this issue contains some wonderful essays by public school students in New York regarding the evils of drug abuse. I urge all of you to read these fine essays, and help in this important struggle.

All of us who have been in battle or struggled for freedom, will certainly want to read the outstanding stories written by Don Retig and Paul Jackson. They are excellent examples of the triumph of the human spirit in the face of danger, and I urge all of you to read these war reflections. I'm sure some of us can relate and appreciate the messages contemplated in these stories. ■

The Jewish Veteran®

Vol. 43 No. 3

Convention, 1990



On The Cover
National Commander
Murray L. Rosen
meets President George Bush

FEATURES

Convention 1990 7

Sunny San Diego awaits you and so does a busy and exciting schedule of events.

A Rabbi Remembers 12

A young Jewish hero exemplifies the spirit of JWV.

In Praise of Jewish War Veterans 14

Our members are more than just flag-wavers.

Reflections of War 16

Two veterans remember a time of war and survival.

On the Book Shelf 18

PDC Bob Sherman reviews "These Good Men".

Death Be Proud 26

"Preserve Your Past" says PNC Bob Zweiman, President of the National Memorial Museum.

DEPARTMENTS

Forum	2
The Editor's Desk	2
View From The Top	4
Director's Chair	6
On The Hill	21
News Notes	22

JWV Programs	24
Reunions	19
In Search Of	19
Keeping Posted	11
Taps	31
National Memorial News	26

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

MURRAY L. ROSEN
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

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 JWV.

The Jewish Veteran is published five times a year: Winter, Spring, Summer, Convention, and Fall 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.

Photos and articles submitted to the Jewish War Veterans of the USA shall be used at the discretion of the organization. JWV assumes no responsibility for products and services advertised in this publication.

Postmaster send address changes or undelivered copies to *The Jewish Veteran*, 1811 R St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

© 1988 by the Jewish War Veterans. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.

ISSN 0047-2018.

As I write my last column as your National Commander, I am tempted to recount our achievements over the past year and comment on our successes. We have accomplished much since our convention in Hartford. We have sent more veterans to Israel, each coming home from his visit, with renewed vigor to publicize Israel in a positive light. We have been at the forefront in the fight against anti-Semitism, offering \$2000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those individuals who savagely vandalized a yeshiva in suburban Washington, D.C. The "skinhead" arrested for the crime will stand trial, and police have credited JWV with providing the incentive for bringing this hater to justice.

On Capitol Hill, we made our collective voices heard during "Capitol Hill Action Day." Senators and Representatives now know that JWV is a powerful voice for issues ranging from veterans' benefits, to Israel, to Soviet Jewry. Additionally, we expressed our outrage at the anti-Semitic statements made by Senator Robert Dole regarding Israel and her leaders. We wrote a letter to the Senator expressing our anger, and he was forced to respond.

When I testified before the Joint House-Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I told of JWV's commitment to the veterans of our nation, including those brave men who fought in World War I. Our outspoken support on behalf of government benefits for those World War I veterans, prompted a letter of gratitude from the Veterans of World War I, Inc., thanking us for our support. That evening, we gave our Medal of Merit to Rep. Les Aspin for his continued commitment to our causes.

We were all overjoyed at the reunification of JWV and the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Ladies showed their renewed commitment to JWV by attending the testimony and the evening reception. My thanks to JWVA for its support. I look forward to our joint conventions in San Diego.

When I was elected as your National Commander, one of my priorities was to improve the image of our organization. Hopefully, some of the activities mentioned helped achieve that goal. Additionally, our continuing presence at VA hospitals across the country, also shows that JWV is an organization that cares.

We have many admirers, both in the United States, and abroad. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Edward Derwinski has continually shown himself to be a friend of JWV, as has Sonny Montgomery, the eminent Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. Without their help, much of what we have accomplished would not have happened, and I would like to thank them personally and express the gratitude of JWV. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our comrades from AJEX for their continued support for our cause. The ladies and gentlemen of our sister organization in England have shown themselves to be courageous fighters for entitlements for British veterans, and are vocal supporters of Israel. I will always remember the hospitality they showed me during my visit last year, and I wish them continued success.

However, I cannot help but think of the future of JWV. Though we have accomplished much, there is still much more to be done. Where will our organization be as we approach its centennial year? We are all getting older, and most of us hate to admit that we won't be around too much longer. How will we insure the survival of JWV after we're gone? The answer is the National Memo-



NC Rosen and Hon. Richard Cheney, Secretary of Defense.

rial (NMI) and our vital subsidiary, Descendants of JWV, which will carry on our commitment to service after we're gone. Our museum is the proof that we served, fought, and died. In its halls, the patriotic service of Jews will be maintained for future generations. However, it can't continue telling the story of the Jewish contribution to America and her democracy, without our support. I once again ask each of you to become a member of the NMI, and insure that the Jewish contribution to the defense of this nation is never forgotten.

Another organization that needs our support is the Descendants of Jewish War Veterans. These young men and women will take over for us and maintain JWV as a viable organization. They are dedicated to preserving the memory of Jews in service to their country, and it is through them and our museum, that the story of Jewish patriotism and service will continue in perpetuity.

In closing, I would like to thank the entire staff at National Headquarters for all their help. I am indebted to them. They are truly professionals in every sense of the word, and I am proud to be associated with such a fine group of individuals.

On behalf of Lila and myself, I would like to thank everyone for making this year possible. Being National Commander was a tremendous experience, and I enjoyed every minute of it. Representing JWV in the U.S. and abroad, made me realize what a truly wonderful organization we are. I am convinced that we are the finest organization in the world, and it has been my honor and privilege to serve you.

I hope to see you all at our convention in San Diego. Be well, be happy and Shalom! ■



NC Rosen and NLD Herb Rosenbleeth prepare to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery.