

The Jewish[®] Veteran



An Open Letter to Senator Robert Dole from Murray L. Rosen, National Commander

Dear Senator Dole,

The members of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA have always had the highest regard for you as a leader of the Congress of the United States of America, as a veteran of World War II, and as a humanitarian.

That is why we are so deeply disturbed by your recent statements suggesting that Israel is not in grave danger from her neighbors, that American aid to Israel should be significantly reduced, that Israel should not be offered loans to assist in the resettlement of Soviet Jewish refugees, and that Jewish leaders are insensitive and selfish.

Your comments have instigated an outcry of disappointment and disillusionment from the members of

this patriotic organization, unprecedented during my administration.

Mr. Dole, I find it difficult to believe that you would allow yourself to be used to conjure up hateful Jewish stereotypes, distortions of truth, and just plain inaccuracies.

I would like to address a few of the statements you recently made—as quoted in the press—and respond to them. I would welcome a face to face meeting and the opportunity to address these matters with you, honestly and directly, and without the rhetoric which so often surrounds these issues.

Point 1—Senator Dole, you are quoted as saying, "I know all the Jewish leaders. . . . They wouldn't give one penny to anybody else. . . . They shouldn't be that way. . . . It's not sensitivity, it's selfishness. There are a lot of people in the world who need help in addition to Israel." (*Jerusalem Post*, April 13, 1990)

Mr. Dole, the facts clearly belie your statement. Domestically, American Jewish organizations support a plethora of assistance programs whose recipients are not exclusively Israeli or Jewish. Internationally, American Jewish organizations endorse aid to emerging Eastern European democracies, African nations suffering from the results of famine and internal strife, and Central and South American countries

continued on page 3

National Commander Presents Legislative Priorities to the House-Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee

March 15, 1990

On this date, March 15, 1990, we are celebrating two significant birthdays. Today is the first birthday of the Department of Veterans Affairs, officially created one year ago today, thanks to the efforts of many of you on the Veterans' Affairs Committees, and also, thanks to the work of the veterans' organizations. I can tell you with certainty that the members of JWV actively and effectively worked toward this important objective. The selection of Secretary Edward Derwinski was a great choice!

Today is also the 94th birthday of our organization, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV), founded in 1896. During the past 94 years, JWV has stood for a strong national defense and for just recognition and compensation for our veterans. JWV prides itself on being in the forefront amongst our nation's civic groups in supporting the well-earned rights of veterans, in promoting American democratic principles, and in vigorously opposing bigotry and terrorism—here and abroad. Today, as much as ever before, we still stand for these principles. Those 94 years of continuous service to our nation's veterans of all faiths make JWV the oldest, active national veterans' organization in the United States. We are already beginning plans for our 100th anniversary celebration in 1996. I sincerely hope you will be able to join us at that time.

continued on page 4

INDEX

Editor's Desk	2
Letters to the Editor	2
View From The Top	2
On the Hill	5
Reunions	5
JWV Programs	7
In Search Of	7
Keeping Posted	10
Veterans Affairs	11
Taps	14
News Notes	18



Testifying before the Joint House-Senate Veterans' Affairs Cmte. is NC Murray Rosen, along with (from l-r): Rep. Charles Schumer (D-NY), NED Steve Shaw, NLD Herb Rosenbleeth and Rep. Ben Gilman (R-NY), JWV Natl. Legislative Officer.

National Commander in Europe and Israel



PNC Harvey Friedman, NC Rosen and Chief of Staff Burt Herman at a wreath-laying ceremony at Yad Vashem.



NC and Mrs. Rosen, r, and Chief of Staff Harry Eigel and his wife Sally, stand before a memorial to the Jews of the Holocaust at Dachau Concentration Camp.

FORUM

Editor's Desk

by Warren S. Dolny, National Editor

Anytime we start new ventures, we are always concerned about how those around us will react to the change. I must admit the staff of *The Jewish Veteran* was quite anxious about how you, our readers, would respond to our newspaper format. You had expressed your happiness with the magazine design, and as the old proverb goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it".

However, I am pleased to say that our readers' overwhelmingly positive responses on our new newspaper, was appreciated by the Editorial Board. As I mentioned in my column in the last issue, our magazine will remain a staple of our organization twice a year. Our goal for the newspaper, is to publish four times a year. This allows for increased advertising opportunities, a long-standing dream of the staff. I speak for the entire Editorial Board, when I say that we are grateful for your kind letters and comments regarding our new format. Also, we thank you for your suggestions as to how to improve the newspaper. They will be taken into consideration for

future issues. I encourage all our readers to write us with any suggestions on how to better improve your publication.

I have the pleasure of announcing that for the second year in a row, *The Jewish Veteran*, has been awarded the honor of top quality newsletter by the Printing Industry of the Virginias. This Award of Excellence was presented to Beacon Press, our printers, for outstanding processing and production of this tabloid. It is quite an honor to win this award just once. To win it a second time, however, is a testament to the high quality of *The Jewish Veteran*, and the professionals who publish and produce it. My compliments to Michelle Spivak Kelley and Howard Metzger, whose tireless efforts were pivotal in our winning this award. Production is based on quality, and quality begins with the staff. I know I speak for everyone when I say there are no two more award-winning individuals than Michelle and Howard. My special thanks go to Beacon Press for its fine work.

In this issue, some of our Conven-

tion speakers and trips are highlighted, as is the testimony of the National Commander before the Joint House-Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. Our National Commander has done much traveling in the past months, and some of his observations are recounted in this issue. A poignant message from the forgotten World War I veterans is reprinted, and amongst our usual columns, are some of this organization's more prominent press statements, including an open letter to Senator Robert Dole, regarding his comments on Israel. Those of you who are unfamiliar with the positions of your national organization on important issues, should familiarize yourself with some of our positions. An informed member is our most important asset, and our greatest membership tool.

Speaking of Convention, we have reprinted our registration coupon and pre and post-convention cruise information. I hope to see all of you in beautiful San Diego this summer, and on our beautiful cruise to Mexico.

View From The Top

by Murray L. Rosen, National Commander

As I mentioned in my last column, one of my continuing priorities as your National Commander is to increase the visibility of this organization. This could be accomplished by our membership becoming aware of the positions and actions of our organization. As the television ad for a national clothing store says, "An educated consumer is our best customer." I say, "An educated member is our best asset."

A member familiar with JWV positions on the issues is our most effective weapon. He or she can accurately answer questions about JWV to a potential member and even defend this organization when it is unfairly attacked. To do so, however, communication must be improved. As I mentioned in my last column, most of our general membership is unaware of the efforts of National on a variety of issues. Post Commanders, National Executive Committeemen, Department and County Commanders, have a responsibility to disseminate all information sent them from National to their respective echelons. Whenever a position statement is announced from National, the entire JWV membership *must* be made aware. Post and echelon officers have the responsibility to copy these releases, policy statements, etc., and pass them out at meetings and place them in post bulletins and other mailings. They must not be ignored!

I will even go one step further. When a press statement, letter to the editor, or any other informational piece is sent out by National with my name on it, I give you permission to remove my name from it and use your own. I will gladly give credit to you rather than me. What is imperative is that the word gets out! I don't care who in this organization gets credit for saying it, I just want it said!

continued on page 16

Letters To The Editor

Allied Veterans' Mission To Israel

Dear Commander Rosen:

I wish to thank you and the members of your organization for having invited me to participate in the recent Allied Veterans' Mission to Israel. It is an experience that I will never forget.

I became familiar with the issues surrounding Israel, when I had the privilege of serving as an Aide to the late Congressman Benjamin S. Rosenthal in the early 70's. However, I could not fully appreciate what was happening there until I was able to see the country for myself. An issue such as the West Bank can become very abstract, until you can see with your own eyes how vulnerable the Israelis are to the whims of their enemies. It is clear to me that it would be suicidal to give back this territory, given their neighbors' attitudes.

While the trip was very educational with regards to military and political issues, I must admit that I am most grateful for the opportunity to visit the Holyland. To attend Easter Sunday Mass at St. Ann's Church in the Old City of Jerusalem was a great thrill, as was the opportunity to leave my prayers and petitions at the Western Wall.

I cannot fully express my gratitude for you having selected me for this trip. I hope that I will be able to repay your kindness in some way. If I can ever be of service, please feel free to call upon me.

With kindest regards to you and all the members of JWV, I am,

Sincerely yours,
John P. Rowan,
Past National Regional Director
Vietnam Veterans of America
Queens Chapter 32

Dear Sam and Barb:

As you know, I was a participant in the December, 1989 Allied Veterans' Mission to Israel. I guess you're very aware of what is going on over in Israel since we left.

Quite frankly, I'm upset with some of the statements made by our political leaders, both past and present. I've told anyone who would listen that there is no way Israel should give up *one inch* of the West Bank or Golan Heights.

Having been to Israel, and having come to love the country and its people, I will always have a special interest. I cannot put into words how much I am indebted to you for your kindness and friendship. I wish you and your family the best, and "Next Year in Jerusalem,"

Peace and Love,
Tim Carmody,
Past State Commander,
American Legion
New Jersey

Editor's Note: This letter, addressed to PNC Sam Greenberg and his wife Barbara, illustrates the importance of the Allied Veterans' Missions.

More Calendar Praise

Dear Sirs:

I am writing about the outstanding 1990 Calendar which I received from the National Museum.

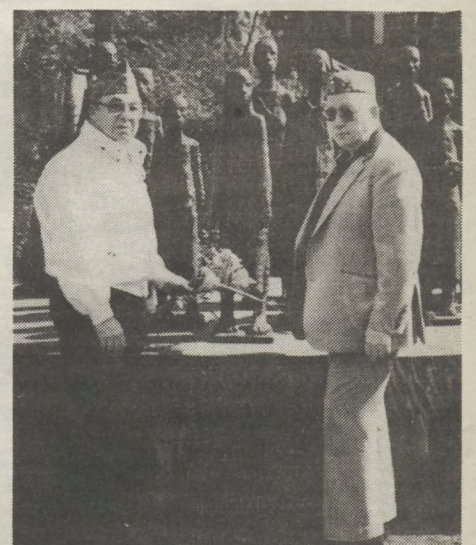
The wealth of history recorded on each month's pages is unbelievable, including the extraordinary photographs by Edward Owen, the moving artifacts and memorabilia exhibited on each page. I could go on and on, but the page which caught my eye and gave me the most exhilarating and also humble feeling, was the photo used for August, 1990. In the center of the photo, poised on the uniform jacket once worn by Maj. Gen. Julius Klein, were *my* dogtags with the Star of David attached.

When I realized that my identification tags from the Air Force were resting next to and upon the possessions of such gallant servicemen, I almost wept. The pride that welled up in my chest overcame that sudden feeling of inadequacy.

The calendar represents untold hours of research, planning, and decision making by the museum staff. The staff has done the Jewish servicemen and women a great service. I salute your efforts on our behalf. WELL DONE!!

Sincerely yours,
Paul Schweisberg
Abe Krador Post 2

continued on page 8



NC Rosen and PNC Bob Zweiman stand in front of a memorial statue to the victims of the Holocaust, West Germany.