

The Jewish Veteran[®]



“Connect with Congress” is Theme of 97th Annual National Convention of JWV

by Michelle Spivak Kelley, National Director of Communications

Becoming tough by aggressively lobbying Congress on veterans' concerns, security issues and the elimination of the concept of "ethnic cleansing", were themes of the 97th Annual National Convention of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV) held in Baltimore, Maryland, August 16-23, 1992. "Connecting with Congress and with elected officials at all levels will be the major goal of my administration," declared newly elected National Commander, Warren S. Dolny.

In his inaugural address to the over one-thousand Jewish veterans in atten-

dance, the Marine Corps veteran of the Korean conflict explained the necessity of strengthening ties with Congress. "We will see a new face to Congress in the coming year, it will be younger, with fewer veterans and more women. This Congress needs to understand the issues of concern to America's veteran and Jewish communities," declared Mr. Dolny.

"Advancing our agenda, which include protection of veterans' entitlements, establishment of the Desert Storm GI bill, and strengthening the

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National Commander Warren S. Dolny is jubilant at Final Convention Session of JWV's 97th Annual National Convention.

National Commander Dolny Visits Devastated South Florida

JWV Establishes Hurricane Relief Fund

by Michelle Spivak Kelley

"It looked as though the hand of God had swept through Homestead, wiping away all in its path." Those are the words of National Commander Warren S. Dolny who recently returned from an emotion-packed visit to South Florida, a region torn

asunder by the fury of Hurricane Andrew.

"I was impressed by the super-human effort of the National Guard to create temporary shelter, provide food, and medical care for the desperate victims."

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PNC Greenberg, NC Dolny & PNC Irvin Steinberg (far r) join Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-MS), Chmn. House Veterans Affairs Committee and Beverly Byron (D-MD), House Armed Services Committee.

JWV Criticizes Federal Response to Hurricane Andrew

by Howard Metzger, Associate Editor

Pointing an accusatory finger at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Warren S. Dolny, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV), criticized FEMA's lack of authority in dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew.

"FEMA's delayed response to Hurricane Andrew exacerbated an already tragic situation," Commander Dolny stated. "Thousands of our citizens were forced to go without food, drink dirty water, and sleep in the streets, because of FEMA's incompetence in handling this crisis."

National Commander Dolny bluntly blamed mismanagement at FEMA for creating an air of tension and hopelessness amongst the residents of South Florida and Louisiana hit hard by Hurricane Andrew.

Mr. Dolny particularly criticized President Bush for filling the ranks

of FEMA with political patronage appointees, who can not deal with crisis management, and whose only qualifications for their jobs, was friendship with the President.

"FEMA's ranks are filled with political hacks who have no knowledge in the field of crisis management. They are friends of the President, and their incompetence showed during this critical juncture following the hurricane," Commander Dolny said.

Furthermore, JWV is concerned that continued appointments to federal agencies based on patronage, puts our government in a dangerous predicament, and robs this nation of qualified, dedicated professionals, and replaces them with neophytes. "Could you imagine what the outcome of the Persian Gulf War would have been had the President appointed positions at the Department of

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FORUM

Letters To The Editor

Dear Sirs,

In the latest issue of *The Jewish Veteran*, relative to the protest of PNC Albert Cohen over the recent visit of Kurt Waldheim to Germany, may I say that the protest was commendable, but the accompanying statement that "thousands of Jewish G.I.'s fought to free the German people from its 'oppressive yoke'", does not express the true sentiment of the Jewish G.I.

I did not fight to free the German people from being "oppressed". They were the oppressors. To re-enforce my thoughts, let me refer to the many recent statements made by World War II correspondent, William L. Shirer. He stated that the crimes of the Holocaust were perpetuated by Germans in the name of Germany.

The truth is immutable and must not be forgotten. How can we ever forget the many news reels showing hundreds of thousands of Germans saluting Hitler? The Germans be damned.

Too many Jewish elements are trying to "sweep" the story of the Holocaust under the rug. Despite their work, the Holocaust is being told to a new generation.

In today's world, we find neo-Nazism on the rise throughout this country and in Europe. Now, with the rise of the independent nations expressing their nationalistic fervor, anti-Semitism is once again coming to the forefront. The time has come to heed the warnings once again.

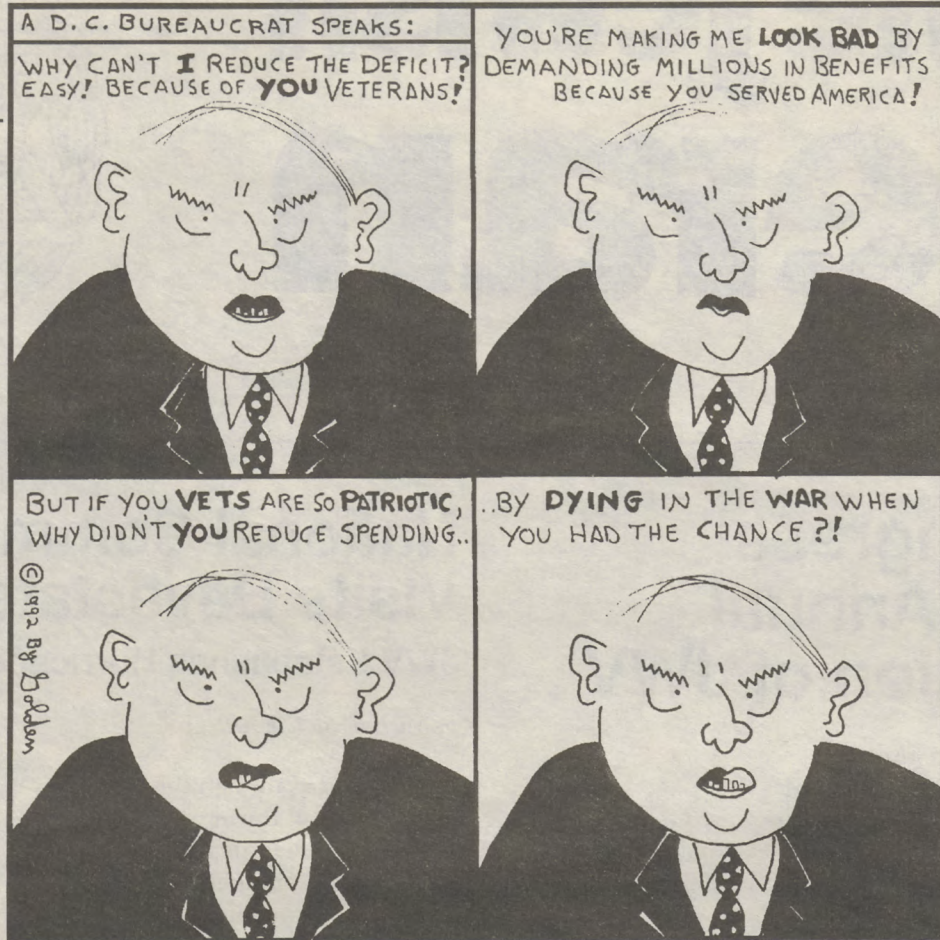
Sincerely,
Martin Glembouert
Fresh Meadows, NY

Dear Editor,

Despite James Goldsmith's polemic to the contrary, I stand by my original contention that Jews were screwed out of the Medal of Honor. (*Forum, The Jewish Veteran*, Spring 1992). I am familiar with the painstaking and thorough process required in consideration of awards, and that's just the point - Mr. Goldsmith misses it. In spite of this excruciatingly careful investigation (or perhaps because of it?), Jewish servicemen were denied their due.

It is difficult to understand Mr. Goldsmith's choice of words. Choosing such terms as "nonsensical", "blatantly bigoted", "inflammatory" and "vicious". His demeanor brings into question his motives, let alone accuracy. What have I to gain other than a re-evaluation, or new understanding of what I (and others) perceive as an injustice?

I have read many citations of recipients of our highest honor. I have also read citations of Jewish recipients of lesser awards. Clearly, had they been of other religions, they would have received higher decorations. I have a letter from Hyman Goldberg (who



THE JEWISH VETERAN

was featured in the "My Story" section of the Winter 1991 edition of *The Jewish Veteran*). I quote:

"I read your article in the JWV paper and I must say you hit the nail right on the head! Of course, I felt the same way, but not much I can do. Especially, when I came across the exact citation in *Bombardiers Magazine* last year. As you can see, his name isn't 'Goldberg'. The only difference is that he died and I pulled through."

Unquestionably, if Mr. Goldberg (and Sidney Goldstein, Solomon Isquith and others) were not Jewish, they would have received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I don't know why Mr. Goldsmith chose to attack me personally. He is misguided in his overall assessment. He contradicts himself. He says, "...I'm sure that errors and/or omissions have been made." That's exactly my point. By intent or otherwise, errors were made. Rather than take issue with my thesis, he should join me in lauding these heroes, protesting the "errors", and making an attempt to correct any injustice.

Sincerely,
Howard Leavitt, Commander
San Bernardino Post 512
San Bernardino, CA

Dear Editor,

We all wish to thank you for your story on "The Roof for Demobilized Soldiers" (*The Jewish Veteran*, Spring 1992). At the request of "The Roof", they asked me to update you.

Nearly 1,300 young men and women have called "The Roof" home.

You mentioned that volunteers came from "Ashdod, Beersheva, Netanya and Jerusalem" to help build the facility. Many devoted people from Haifa offered their time and joined our volunteers. As visitors came to see the facility, organizations such as the B'nai B'rith and JWV Post 180, joined forces to raise money and to bring in needed supplies, such as bed-

ding, to fill the ongoing needs of the veterans, and to refurbish the century old building, that was in ruin following Israel's wars.

Post 180 also worked with the Haifa USO, and its USO Outreach Program, to bring the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet to "The Roof". They volunteered their time and helped paint and repair the rooms.

Sincerely,
Naomi Greenberg
Acting Organizing Chairperson
Post 180 Ladies Auxiliary in Israel
Kiryat Bialik, ISRAEL

Dear Editor,

I became eligible to vote in 1940, and I voted for Roosevelt. I've voted Democrat in every presidential election since then, and I have no intention of voting for George Bush because I think he's an incompetent. However, Lou Golden's cartoon in the Summer 1992 edition of *The Jewish Veteran* is so ridiculous and simplistic, that it gives further ammunition to the anti-Semites.

I understand, and I've been warned often enough, that the JWV Constitution and By-Laws specify that our

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Where We Stand

by Albert Schlossberg, National Editor

Veterans Benefits - Going, Going, Gone

Shades of 1928! Then, veterans, the doughboys of World War I, were reduced to selling apples and pencils on street corners to retain their pride and house and feed their families.

We thought our nation's ingratitude towards the men and women who had served in our country's armed forces in time of war had been put to rest 50 years ago. Americans rallied around as World War II was ending, and convinced the Congress and Administration that ex-G.I.'s deserved more than a certificate of honorable service. Passage of the GI Bill and subsequent legislation, we thought, had once and for all codified a national determination to treat all ex-wartime servicemen and women with consideration and respect.

Sadly, it now appears that we were wrong! Bit by bit, dollar by dollar, program by program, we face elimination of the concept of a nation grateful to its war veterans. Slowly but surely benefits have been chipped away. Example: death benefits. Proposals to reduce benefits suggest that soon, the only thing that a veteran's family can expect to receive from this country when a veteran dies, will be an American flag.

JWV has been in the forefront, along with all of America's veterans, in support of elimination of governmental waste. However, we refuse to concede that legitimate benefits to veterans can even remotely be considered wasteful.

Now hear this: We're mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore! Several proposals floated by government bureaucrats, under the guise of "efficient use of VA facilities", have surfaced in the past year. One, you will recall, was an attempt to create a policy which would have opened the doors of VA hospitals to non-veterans. Although the resulting outcry from the American veteran community cut that idea off at the pass, they've not given up!

Now, specific proposals have surfaced which would deny vocational rehabilitation benefits to veterans whose service-connected disability is 30% or less. Apparently, there are persons in the Administration and the Congress who see that strike against veterans' benefits as just a first step toward eliminating all benefits for those classified as 30% or less disabled. What would they do? **Eighty-percent (80%) of all benefits paid to veterans go to veterans with a disability of 30% or less!**

We believe that if the initial proposal were to be activated it would surely be just the first step onto a slippery slope which ultimately will effectively destroy Department of Veterans Affairs programs now available to qualified veterans.

Even a cursory look at VA statistics spotlights the danger. Today, more than 7 million veterans are 65 or older. In less than 8 years, that number will be between 9 and 10 million! More than

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View From The Top

Warren S. Dolny, National Commander

We Jews are a tough people. We are one of a handful of ancient cultures still in existence. We survived slavery, plagues, expulsion, inquisition, holocaust, and assimilation. Many attempted to wipe us off the map. Ironically, what others failed to do we may do to ourselves through apathy and over-confidence.

We must rejuvenate ourselves as "tough Jews." That will be the theme of my tenure as National Commander of JWV which is both a great veterans' organization and an equally great Jewish organization. We must not be complacent as we sit in the comfort of our homes enjoying the fruits of our labors and the freedoms we fought to preserve. We can take a lesson from the German Jewish community, who with a 400 year history of contributions to their nation, became the victims of the worst atrocity of the century some 50 years ago.

How do we be "tough Jews?" Firstly, by exercising our rights as Americans; our right of free speech, of assembly, and to vote. Let's not be reluctant to speak our minds on issues of concern to the veteran and Jewish communities. Let's gather and march and rally if need be. Never let us be accused of putting our heads in the sand, hoping the problems we face will go away. Let's not be afraid of offending anyone just because our position may be unpopular. **IF IT IS JUST, IF IT IS RIGHT, FIGHT FOR IT - BE TOUGH!**

Can you believe that approximately one-million Jews have failed to register to vote? Many of the unregistered are seniors - fifty-five and older - who simply neglected to sign-up following relocation to a new state. Who you vote for is up to you, but failing to vote is a

national shame. In key states such as New York, New Jersey, Florida, and California the Jewish vote can swing an election. A priority of the first months of my administration is to reach every member and friend of JWV with this message - you must vote!

What else can you do to be a "tough veteran" and a "tough Jew?" You can "Connect with Congress" and with your legislators on the local and state level. Get to know your local legislators, build a relationship with them, communicate frequently on issues of concern to veterans and Jews. We must make our voices heard. In the numbers we have, if everyone does this we'll create a roar instead of a whisper.

As I look forward to the year ahead, I am full of hope and excitement. We can accomplish so much if we unite for the greater good of our country, our veteran comrades, and our Jewish brethren. Let's get tough, together. ■



Warren S. Dolny.

PNC of Catholic War Veterans Made Honorary JWV Member

by Meyer Sokolow

Walter D. Hyle, Jr., Past National Commander of the Catholic War Veterans was made an honorary member of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, at the recently concluded 97th National Convention in Baltimore. Walter has been a devoted member and fundraiser of the JWV National Memorial Inc., the museum, archives and library of JWV.

Past National Commander Hyle, traveled to Israel with JWV in 1964 during his term as National Commander of the Catholic War Veterans with Past National Chaplain of the CWV, Father Rufus Weslenski. He met with many Israeli government officials, including Golda Meir and Abba Eben. Upon leaving Israel, Hyle traveled to the Vatican to report to Pope Paul VI on his trip to Israel, to relate a message from Golda Meir, and to praise the tiny Israeli nation.

Walter Hyle began his military service in 1939 when he enlisted as a private in the 29th Infantry Division. He was called to active duty in February 1941. He was discharged at the end of World War II as first lieutenant.

In addition to attaining the status of National Commander of the Catholic War Veterans, He has also served as a State Commander of the Disabled American Veterans (1970-1971) and assisted in the effort to erect the Baltimore Holocaust Memorial.

Hyle served as the Chairman of the Veterans' Committee of Maryland, which is the legislative committee for the American Legion, Catholic War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, Marine Corps League, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Veterans of World War I, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. He also serves as a member of the War Memorial Commission of Maryland and the Maryland Veterans Commission. He is a leader in the "Patriots of Fort McHenry" which raises funds to improve the condition of the old fort.

Walter Hyle recently celebrated 50 years of marriage to his wife, Grace. They are the proud parents of two daughters and two sons, and have eight grand-children and four great-grand-children. ■



Walter Hyle of the Catholic War Veterans receives Honorary JWV membership from PNC Al Cohen (l) and PNC Harris B. Stone (r).

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U.S.-Israel alliance will be a priority of my administration," announced Dolny. "JWV has many friends in Congress. But, as I see it, we will need to become much more assertive, much tougher, to insure that America's veterans are protected in this era of shrinking budgets."

Mr. Dolny, a thirty-five year member of JWV, is the President and CEO of Port Printed Products in Long Island City, New York. He was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Transit Authority by Governor Mario Cuomo. The Commander and his wife, Violet, are the parents of three children and reside in Monsey, New York.

Mr. Dolny's election was the culmination of a week-long JWV convention during which delegates dealt with issues as diverse as Israel's challenge in absorbing 400,000 new immigrants, prescription drug abuse, congressional term limitation and abortion rights.

The delegates heard from Mr. Neal M. Sher, Director of the office of Special Investigations (OSI) of the U.S. Justice Department. Sher said, "the changes in Europe have been a big windfall for OSI, because we now have access to documents in countries such as Latvia, Lithuania, and the Ukraine, where everyone knows so many crimes were committed against the Jewish people, that we're able to identify many new cases."

Tragically, Mr. Sher indicated that historians of the Holocaust believe the new information will reveal many more Jewish deaths than were formerly known.

Major General Baruch Levy, Vice-President of the Association of Israeli War Veterans - representing over 13,000 of Israel's career officers - spoke with optimism about the changing middle east scene. "Our former enemies know there is no other option for them than to seek peace,"

said Levy. "They attempted to destroy us through war and terrorism and they have failed."

Israel can now engage in developing its most vital natural resource - its only natural resource - the Israeli people, Levy explained, and set about the business of building up its economy.

Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Anthony J. Principi spoke to the Jewish War Veterans about the challenges ahead for the world's largest provider of health services. "Government must change if we are to meet our commitment to those who wore the uniform. An aging population and infrastructure, the technology explosion, and budget pressure on Congress make it difficult to obtain the money we need," remarked Principi. The Deputy Secretary believes the VA must learn to be a better manager in order to best utilize the resources that do exist.

The JWV premiered two new video productions at the convention. The first addresses a long-neglected health concern, "The Other Drug Problem: Medication Misuse Among Older Americans" describes the health and financial costs of abusing prescription and over-the-counter drugs.

The second video describes the museum, archives, and library of JWV, recently named the National Museum of Jewish American Military History. Both videos are available through the JWV National Headquarters at 1811 R Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. ■

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