

# The Jewish Veteran<sup>®</sup>



## Reflections: The Allied Veterans' Mission to Israel

by Nathan M. Goldberg, PNC

The Sixth Allied Veterans' Mission to Israel took place over the winter holidays. I, along with three of my



comrades, traveled to Israel as part of the ongoing program sponsored by JWV, which hopes to counter negative imagery Israel receives in the American media by giving our participants a personal look at the realities facing Israel.

The participants on this trip were all leaders of their veterans' communities. They included Laurence Wiest, Esq., First Vice President, Tri County Council Vietnam Era Veterans, New York; Dr. Roger Rothrock, Past State Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, California; and Joseph Hems, National Commander of the Military Order of the

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▲ PNC Samuel Greenberg stands in front of the window of his home defaced by a swastika. See page 7 for complete story.

## JWV Registers Dissent At NJCRAC Plenum

by Howard Metzger, Associate Editor

A resolution which interfered with Israel's settlement policies was recently defeated, due to the strenuous objections of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV), Hadassah and other national organizations.

At the yearly plenum of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), the national coordinating body for the field of Jewish community relations, held in Portland, Oregon, a resolution criticizing Likud's policy of settlement activity was tabled due to the insistent opposition of JWV and Hadassah. A sizable portion of the delegates in attendance expressed opposition to the Likud's settlement policy, and felt that a majority of the Jewish constituent



▲ Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth prepares JWV's position statement for special session at the NJCRAC plenum.

agencies supported their position. Rabbi David Saperstein of the Union of American Hebrew Congregation and Emanuel Muravchik of the Jewish Labor Committee, among others, stated their belief that settlement activity was a hinderance to the peace process and should be halted. It was felt their

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## Bush's "Sell-Out of Israel" Angers JWV

by Howard Metzger, Associate Editor

Robert L. Cohen, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV), responded to the Bush Administration's decree that Israel immediately cease building current and future settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to qualify for loan guarantees requested by Israel last summer, by blasting the decision and vented organizational frustration at what he viewed as the "selling-out" of Israel.

"The Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America views with abhorrence the Bush Administration's decision to prejudge substantive peace issues by forcing Israel into immediate cessation of current and future housing starts in order to obtain \$10 billion in humanitarian loan guarantees, promised to Israel last summer," the National Commander angrily stated. "The Administration has at the same time, acquiesced in the purchases of excessive amounts of armaments by Israel's so-called 'moderate Arab neighbors' who seek Israel's destruction."

The Commander explained that the solely political decision was based on recognized White House fears of the candidacy of Patrick Buchanan, a well-known critic of Israel and her policies, and a fear of losing support amongst traditional Republican voters.

"Unfortunately, President Bush has decided to trade off the Jewish vote in favor of seeking Mr. Buchanan's fol-

lowers by pre-judging the substantive issue of Middle East peace. In his effort to stop his declining political fortunes, the President has pandered to the dangerous proclamations of his opponent, at the expense of a long-time ally."

The Administration recently forgave billions of dollars of debt to Egypt and Syria, Israel, which a year ago, withstood the ambush of Iraqi scud missiles landing in their nation, and following U.S. wishes, did not retaliate and has now been ambushed by this government. Mr. Cohen said, "The United States is turning its back on its stalwart ally in her time of need, and has sided with the transient whims of Arab nations, openly hostile to U.S. policies in the past, and ruled by iron-fisted dictators, totally ignorant of human rights and human freedoms."

The National Commander echoed the feelings of his membership on the abandonment of Israel, in favor of Arab nations. "It is indeed a sad day for Israel, for her faithful ally has abandoned her, and America's credibility is once again tarnished - as it has been in the Baltics and with the Kurds. The lesson is once again apparent - Germany, Japan and the Arabs have learned that in order to gain United States' acceptance, it is important that you start off as America's enemy." ■

**Baltimore Convention**  
see page 16

**JWV in Israel**  
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**FORUM**

**Letters To The Editor**

The following are some of the many letters we received regarding the Pearl Harbor/Winter edition of *The Jewish Veteran*. We thank everyone who took the time to express an opinion on this commemorative edition. We thank you for your comments, and hope you have passed the issue on to family and friends.

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the Pearl Harbor edition of *The Jewish Veteran*. It was a great issue. I have sent the issue on to the Aide to the Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S.A.

I enjoyed reading the issue very much, and thank you for sending it to me.

Sincerely,

William Caldwell, IV  
Associate Director  
Office of Public Liaison  
The White House

Sirs,

I just wanted to write and congratulate you and your staff on an excellent Pearl Harbor commemorative issue of *The Jewish Veteran*, particularly those portions dealing with the 50th anniversary of World War II. The JWV can be very proud of its role in helping all Americans remember the sacrifices of our World War II veterans.

Congratulations on an outstanding production.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Kalinger  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
Department of Defense

Gentlemen:

I very much enjoyed reading the Pearl Harbor edition of *The Jewish Veteran*. I am very proud that JWV National Commander Albert L. Cohen is very active in the Metro West community. I particularly enjoyed reading "My Story: Jewish Soldiers' Voices From World War II".

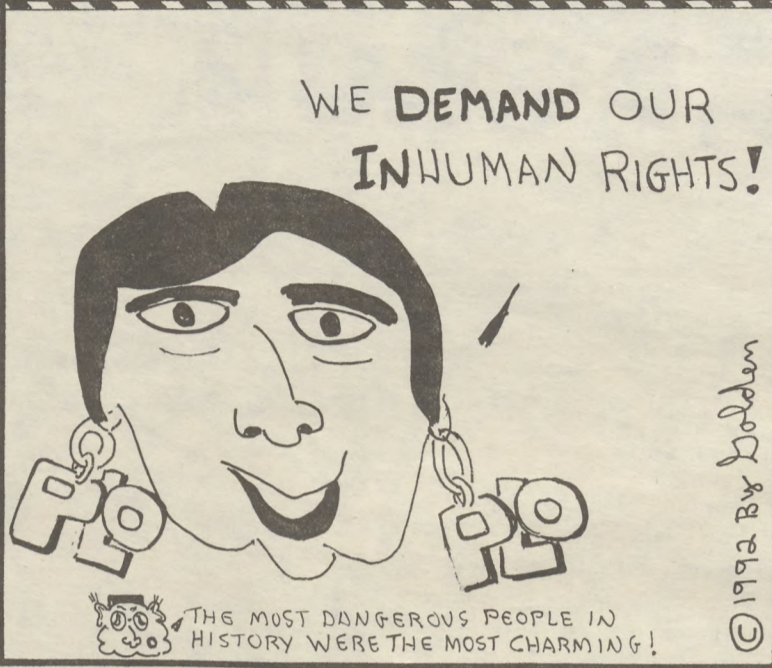
I took great pride in the individual achievements of many of my fellow veterans.

All the best wishes.

Sincerely,

Jerome N. Waldor, M/Gen, USAF (Ret)  
President, United Jewish Federation of MetroWest East Orange, NJ

NEWS NOTE: HANAN ASHWARI - PALESTINIAN "PEACE" NEGOTIATOR - URGES THE INTIFADA KILLERS TO CONTINUE.



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Dear Sirs,

Thank you very much for printing my story in "My Story: Jewish Soldiers' Voices From World War II", in the Pearl Harbor edition of *The Jewish Veteran*. I am very pleased with this issue. It is an excellent piece of work and I am confident that it will be received by all in our organization with great pride. You have done an outstanding job in compiling the information. I am certain that it will not only awaken some of our "friends" who still believe we have done very little in defense of our country, but also renew the pride of Jews in the accomplishment of the Jewish veterans in America.

I have placed a few copies of the issue with synagogues in the area, and have requested personally that the Rabbi take this issue and expose it to the congregation. Hopefully, we can pick-up some additional members, while at the same time showing that JWV is part of the community.

Congratulations on your ingenuity and hard work to make this beautiful and interesting issue.

Very truly yours,

Don Retig, Commander  
Buddy Friedman-Sam Silverstein  
Post 297  
Chairman, Jewish Affairs, NY County  
New York, NY

Gentlemen:

The Pearl Harbor edition of *The Jewish Veteran* was extremely interesting, containing great reading about the heroes of World War II. I've always been intrigued by statistics, especially those of the military. Not unlike other families, I, too, had relatives who fought in the war, some of whom were decorated.

One statistic omitted in the summary of decorations awarded to Jewish servicemen was the number of Jews screwed out of the Medal of Honor. Reading the citation of Hyman Goldberg, Distinguished Ser-

vice Cross (DSC), one can only speculate on the ultimate outcome of his accomplishment had his name been Jones, Murphy or Jefferson. Sidney Goldstein in California, as well as other recipients of the DSC and Navy Cross, were denied the Congressional Medal of Honor because they were the wrong religion. Servicemen who demonstrated similar or lesser heroics than Adm. Solomon Isquith received the Medal of Honor.

The heroism and devotion to duty of Goldberg, Isquith and Goldstein will always be an inspiration to all Americans. But, they were denied our ultimate honor because they were Jews, a stain of disgrace that remains indelibly inscribed upon our government.

Sincerely,

Howard J. Leavitt  
San Bernardino Post 512  
San Bernardino, CA

Dear Editor,

The recent edition of *The Jewish Veteran* was very interesting to me. Not only the personal anecdotes relayed in "My Story: Jewish Soldiers' Voices from World War II", but the article spotlighting Pvt. Louis Schleifer held special meaning to me.

Louis was a classmate of mine at South Side High School in Newark, NJ, and we graduated in 1939. He was a quiet, unpretentious person, as I remember, but witty and funny.

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When you have finished reading **The Jewish Veteran** Pass It On to friends, relatives & prospective new members

**Where We Stand**

by Albert Schlossberg, National Editor

**Lest We Forget, Again**

On January 28, President Bush addressed a joint session of the Congress of the United States and, through the medium of radio and television, more than a hundred million Americans.

In his sixty minute State of the Union address, our president expounded on a multiplicity of subjects. With sweeping, broad, brush strokes he painted a verbal picture of where our country has been, is now, and where he wants to take it, into the 21st Century.

I listened attentively. My military-service-veteran antenna vibrated at warp-speed when he touched on multi-billion dollar reductions in the U.S. defense budget. He did recount the disasters which were visited upon the U.S. military after World Wars I and II when our armed forces were decimated. He stipulated that this time he would not allow those mistakes to be made again.

But as President Bush counted off his hopes and goals for the next five years, I waited for even a hint of how he intended to address the human factor, the fallout which would accrue to the men and women, in the military, and civilian industrial segments of our workforce, who would be directly affected by the massive downsizing. I heard nothing. Not a word. Not a hint.

A majority of the members of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. are veterans of service in World War II. We remember and were beneficiaries of the G.I. Bill which, upon our return to civilian life, educated us, helped us to establish businesses, created housing and made it possible for so many of us to set down roots in our own homes. It was a bold program. It used tax dollars as seed to economic and social growth. The seed blossomed, the fruit nourished the American economy and the harvest of that investment was a generation of productive Americans.

Surely, America can and should do no less for the men and women who comprise the present, all-volunteer military forces of the United States, today.

Just as the return of the G.I. Bill investment turned out to be such an outstanding success, so too would the replication of that process guarantee an orderly transition into civilian life for the men and women whom President Bush proposes to declare surplus to the direct, immediate, military needs of our country.

In every field on endeavor, today's American servicewomen and men are the best educated, most highly skilled, in the long record of U.S. military service. They are industrious and well-capable of utilizing their military-service connected experiences in America's civilian economy. From medicine to avionics. From math to geology. From food service to public safety. Throughout the entire panoply, their knowledge is readily

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