

# The Jewish® Veteran



## National Commander Cohen Presents Priorities to Congress, Senator Inouye Honored

by Howard Metzger, Associate Editor

Stating, "JWV believes the VA should eliminate the various eligibility rules so all veterans have access to care in VA facilities", National Commander Albert L. Cohen presented JWV's legislative priorities before a session of the joint House-Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

In his testimony, Commander Cohen outlined JWV's position on national health care, proposed changes in VA and geriatric health-care, medicare insurance, restoration of burial benefits, agent orange compensation and the plight of homeless veterans.

Furthermore, Mr. Cohen reiterated JWV's continued opposition to opening VA health facilities to non-veterans. "JWV believes the nation must have a separate and unique medical system in existence not only to care for current war veterans, but also for

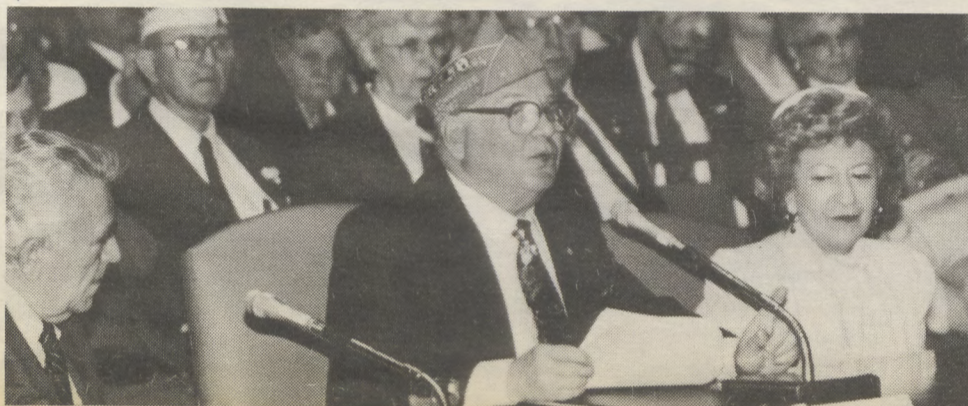
those who may come in the future." "Admitting non-veterans, no matter how humanitarian the motive, will only dilute the integrity of the VA system," declared Cohen.

In his presentation before the Committee, Mr. Cohen continued to press

for a pension for World War I veterans, an issue JWV has been actively supporting throughout the years. Responding to frequent criticism that this pension would unfairly favor World War I veterans, Mr. Cohen

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*NC Albert L. Cohen presents JWV legislative priorities before Congress. Joining him are Rep. Ben Gilman(R-NY), JWV Natl. Leg. Officer and JWVA Natl. Pres. Charlotte Steinberg*



## Allied Veterans' Mission to Israel Yields Tremendous Response

Writing, "my impressions of my visit to Israel were completely opposite to those which the U.S. media portrays," PNC Lincoln Tamaraz of AMVETS and seventeen other veterans' leaders recently returned from Israel, where they toured the land, and had the opportunity to personally witness the struggles to maintain the sovereignty of the Middle East's only democracy.

PNC Tamaraz of Chicago, joined veterans' leaders from Massachusetts,

California, Texas, New York, New Jersey and Florida in the Allied Veterans' Mission to Israel, the acclaimed program sponsored by the Jewish War Veterans, which brings non-Jewish veteran leaders to Israel in an effort to counteract negative publicity Israel receives in the media. This contingent of eighteen leaders, led by PNC Albert Schlossberg, represented the largest and most successful Mission to

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## JWV Leaders Lodges Protest of Waldheim Visit with German Official

Albert L. Cohen, Jewish War Veterans (JWV) National Commander, expressing disgust at the insensitivity of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's decision to invite Austrian President Kurt Waldheim for an official visit, registered an official protest to Jurgen Ruhfus, German Ambassador to the United States.

Mr. Cohen, accompanied by Past National Commander Robert M. Zweiman, JWV International Liaison Officer, Col. Herb Rosenbleeth, JWV National Executive Director and George Tilton, Chief Aide to the National Commander, met with Mr. Ruhfus at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to express the organization's anger and disappointment at the visit of Mr. Waldheim, former General Secretary of the United Nations, and former Nazi officer.

"Thousands of members of the Jewish War Veterans fought to defeat Nazism and free the German people from its' oppressive yoke. By inviting a former Nazi for an official visit, the German government has insulted every American who fought to free the German people," decried National Commander Cohen. "This action by

German officials only encourages the rising neo-Nazi movement in Germany. What message does Mr. Waldheim's reception by the German government send to that nation's youth?"

During one assignment in his military career in the U.S. Army, JWV National Executive Director, Col. Herb Rosenbleeth, served with U.S. forces defending West Germany from the Communist threat in the East. Rosenbleeth told the German Ambassador, "I, and thousands of other U.S. soldiers, did not stand watch in the ice and cold along the border of East Germany, so a Nazi could someday be invited for an official visit to Germany. This meeting is an insult to those of us who served in Germany."

Past Commander Zweiman said that Chancellor Kohl was pandering to right-wing pressures from the German electorate when he accepted Mr. Waldheim. Ironically, Mr. Zweiman pointed out, this electorate opposed Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats in the recent elections, and elected even more defined racists. "It seems to be in vogue now for national leaders to ignore Jewish sensitivity, and follow

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FORUM

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, I thank you for the coverage you gave to the 50th anniversary you gave to the 50th anniversary commemoration both on the mainland and in Hawaii (*The Jewish Veteran*, Winter 1991). It was both a pleasure and honor to have met my fellow New Jerseyan, JWV National Commander Albert L. Cohen, at various ceremonies in Hawaii.

We are delighted that JWV truly "Remembers Pearl Harbor".

With much gratitude,  
Lee Goldfarb  
National Vice President  
Pearl Harbor Survivors Association

Dear Editor,

The Winter 1991 edition of *The Jewish Veteran*, commemorating World War II, was the best I have ever read. The war chronology was excellent.

Cheers to you all.

Sincerely,  
Arthur L. Pinansky  
Jacob Cousins Post 99  
Portland, ME

Dear Editor,

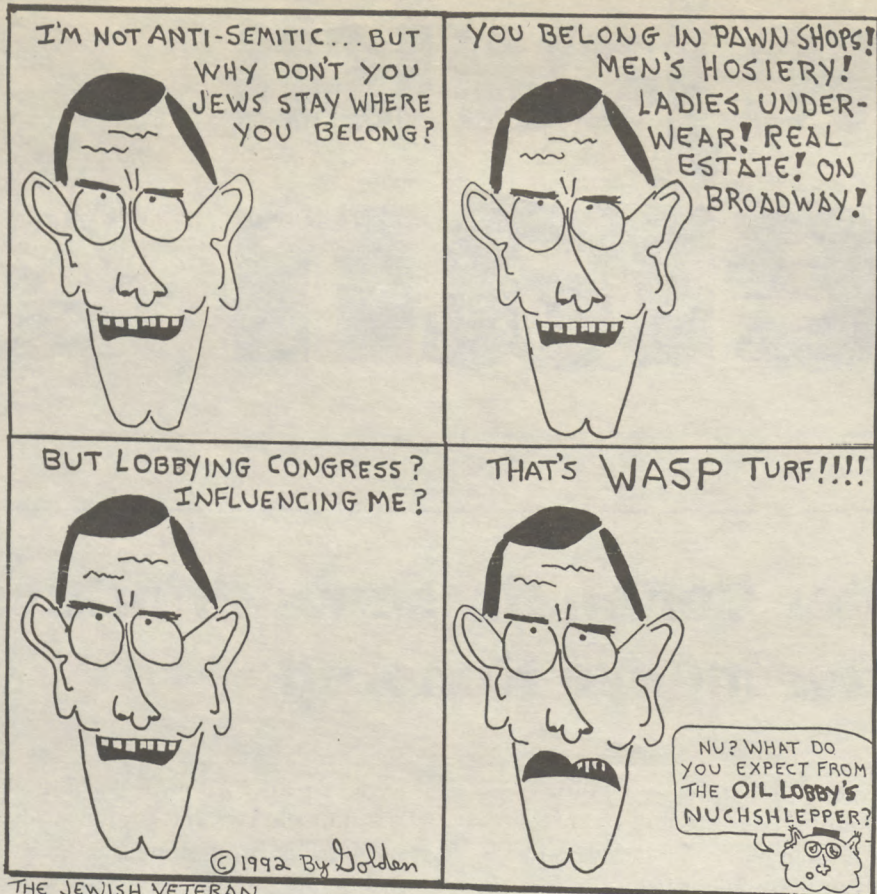
In the Winter edition of *The Jewish Veteran*, you printed a very informative chronology of World War II which I read twice, because it was so complete. Except, however, for the end.

The chronology listed the end of the war as August 18, 1945, and did not mention the total Japanese surrender ceremony on September 2 aboard the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

I served almost four years in the Navy during the war, and was assigned to the "Big Mo" when she was still in the Brooklyn Navy Yard being finished. After commissioning in June of 1944, and many months of testing and firing on shake-down cruises in the Atlantic, the ship arrived in the Pacific on Christmas Day, and until the surrender, spent time backing up invasion forces of Okinawa and Iwo Jima. All the while, the Missouri was fighting off and shooting down kamikaze Japanese pilots.

Admiral "Bull" Halsey was on board the Missouri most of the time during the surrender. I was an eyewitness to the surrender proceedings. As the man in charge of the anti-aircraft gun, I was able to open my hatch, and watch the entire proceedings all day long.

After dark, the wood planks which the Japanese stood on when surren-



dering was torn down for souvenirs for the dignitaries, and I have a large section of the wood, which I cherish.

Sincerely,  
Cyrus Topol  
Worcester Post 32  
Worcester, MA

Dear Editor,

In his letter in the Spring 1992 edition of *The Jewish Veteran*, Howard J. Leavitt of San Bernadino, CA, writes that he found it extremely interesting reading about the heroes of World War II found in the Winter 1991 *The Jewish Veteran*. Mr. Leavitt goes on to say that he has always been intrigued by statistics, especially those of the military.

He begins to lose his credibility, however, with his contention that one statistic omitted from the summary of decorations awarded Jewish servicemen was the number of Jews "screwed out of the Medal of Honor because they were Jewish". I doubt very much that Mr. Leavitt can back up his damaging accusations with precise and accurate documentation.

For a man to be so nonsensical, so blatantly bigoted in a letter which will get wide distribution, not only amongst Jewish organizations, but also among veterans' organizations, government agencies and libraries, is simply unbelievable.

I am somewhat familiar with the problems and complicated procedures involved in fact-gathering and witness-authentication to substantiate the validity of a particular heroic action by an individual or unit. The higher the decoration, the more detail must be sought. I suspect that Mr. Leavitt has little experience in the field. I will say that choosing recipients for decorations is far from an exacting science. Taking all wars into account, I'm sure that errors and/or omissions have been made, but unless Mr. Leavitt can clearly document his accusation, he is very much out of order.

Parenthetically, I am surprised that the editor of *The Jewish Veteran*

would allow to be published such an inflammatory letter without first challenging the writer to furnish proof to back up his diatribe.

Although, I am aware of your disclaimer statements, most readers do not read the disclaimer, and will tacitly assume your approval of published material. It's all in the perception. I would hope that it is not your intent to lend support, even implicitly, to the Howard Leavitt's or others who see fit to fight their private wars through unsupported, vicious accusations.

Sincerely,  
James Goldsmith  
Fineman-Trinkel Post 439  
Providence, RI

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Our policy concerning "Letters to the Editor" is to provide access in *The Jewish Veteran* to a broad range of opinions. Although we may disagree with positions and/or philosophies included in letters received, we opt on the side of open forum, knowing that rebuttals from other readers will always be received. The letter from Comrade Goldsmith (above) demonstrates that the policy works.**

Albert L. Schlossberg,  
National Editor

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Where We Stand

by Albert Schlossberg, National Editor

For almost 100 years the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. has included in its basic raison d'etre the premise that we - Jewish men and women who have served in the armed forces of the United States, during its wars - had a true symbiotic relationship with America's non-Jews who had also put their lives and well being on the line when our country called them and us into military service.

That "comrades-in-arms" relationship survived and grew over the near-century of JWV's being. Of course, we and the other American veterans' organizations each had unique, individual interests. Obviously, each of the major U.S. veterans' organizations, like JWV, has policies and programs directed toward their specific membership. That organizational individuality of purpose created a mosaic of "veterans" mirroring America the Beautiful; persons of all races, religions and ethnic backgrounds, dedicated to patriotism, justice and freedom, in our own country and across the globe.

With the rebirth of Israel, a new challenge was taken up by the Jewish War Veterans, USA: interpretation of Israel's philosophies, ideals, democratic government and peoples, to America's total population in general and specifically, to our comrades in arms, America's other veterans' organizations.

For too many years, our successful efforts in that sphere were unrecognized. Too often, because we were men and women who served in the military forces of the United States, some in America's Jewish community seemed unwilling to admit that as the "patriotic voice of American Jewry", we were unique in Jewish America.

Now, finally, that myth has been destroyed! The recently concluded Allied Veterans' Mission to Israel, building on the success of the previous six missions, has been recognized to be, in the words of Israel's Prime Minister Yitzchak Shamir, "...a remarkably effective process for communicating the truth of Israel's very being, to Jewish and non-Jewish Americans alike."

From California, New York, New Jersey, Florida, Massachusetts, Illinois and Texas, dedicated American leaders of major veterans' organizations joined together to sweep away the foggy media-curtain which has so misrepresented the reality of Israel's accomplishments and problems in the so-misunderstood Middle East.

Within the pages of this issue of *The Jewish Veteran*, you will find photographic and editorial copy demonstrating the success of the program. In their own words, the mission-veterans share thoughts with our readers.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the sixteen men and women from our fellow veteran

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# View From The Top

by Albert L. Cohen, National Commander

The past few months have seen increased anti-Israel activity within the corridors of the American government, and JWV has vehemently protested these actions to President Bush and the appropriate members of Congress. JWV has been vocal in its denunciation of the Administration's hard-line with Israel, and President Bush's continued opposition to Israel's settlement policies.

When the Secretary of State James Baker attempted to exempt the State Department from regulations restricting it from doing business with companies cooperating with the Arab economic boycott of Israel, we demanded that this action cease immediately. Additionally, we demanded an end to the State Department practice of issu-

However, the Senator said, one receives a second passport that could be used as an Israel-only passport under this policy. All someone has to do is realize that they may have a problem getting a visa, so as a result, they'll take the one that was used in Israel and bury it, taking out the clean passport instead. What it effectively does, charged Senator Lautenberg, is to mask the Israel-only imprint and permits the U.S. to acquiesce in the Arab League boycott. Instead of directly answering Lautenberg's charges, Secretary Baker feebly replied, "I think that what we're (the U.S.) doing is within - I'm sure, or we wouldn't be doing it..."

This disingenuous response by Mr. Baker demonstrates an unwillingness

anti-Israel climate orchestrated by the President and the Secretary of State.

Coupled with the preconditions attached to Israel's grant of \$10 billion in promised U.S. loan guarantees, and a myriad of broken promises made to Israel by this Administration, JWV issued a pointed statement with regard to the situation involving Israel and this Administration.

If this was not bad enough, we were further angered at the resumption of U.S. aid to Jordan, a nation which opposed U.S. activity in the Persian Gulf and actively sided with Iraq. The U.S. never detailed Jordanian violations of the economic embargo against Iraq because the President did not want to upset his relationship with Hussein, the Hashemite King. The U.S. attached no unilateral conditions to this aid, as they did with Israel, who not only sided with the U.S. during the Gulf crisis, but subjected itself to attack by Iraqi weapons without reprisal.

We are outraged at this nation's deliberate attempts to smear the good name of Israel through the media and the world, in order to gain favor amongst those Arab nations who have vowed to obliterate the nation of Israel. While the Administration criticized Israel on unsubstantiated rumors that they were selling weapons to China, this country granted most-favored-nation status to the oppressive and murderous Chinese government, against the will of Congress and the American people. This showed the callous disregard this Administration has for nations with democratic histories and principles, in favor of governments who will use the United States for their own material and political gain.

The climate of increased terrorism against Jews

NC Cohen addressing the Man of the Year banquet of Lt. Arthur Gartenberg Post 398, Dept. of IL

NC Cohen presents award to Police Chief Gerald O'Donnell, Kingston, PA, for pursuing those responsible for anti-Semitic acts against PNC Sam Greenberg, 2nd from r, and war monument in Kingston. From l-r: Kingston Mayor Frank Soroachak, NC Cohen, Chief O'Donnell, PNC Greenberg and Fred Potzer, City Admin.

NC Cohen speaks at Yom Hashoah service at Liberty State Park, NJ.



by the State Department and the Administration to honestly demand an end to the Arab boycott.

JWV subsequently found out that this practice was approved by President Bush. In other words, the failure of the Department of State to comply with stated U.S. law against the boycott, was traceable to the White House!

Secondly, JWV reacted angrily and forcefully following the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, which killed many Israelis, along with innocent men, women and children. Without mincing words or assuaging feelings, JWV stated that this bombing, coupled with the intifada, and the accusations of illegal weapons transfer, was the direct result of the

ing Israel-Only passports. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), openly questioned Secretary Baker on this issue. Asked whether the State Department has stopped issuing passports good only for travel to Israel, Secretary Baker replied, "Israel-only? Yes, we've stopped that."

Senator Lautenberg then responded that the State Department began to issue a second nongeographic specific passport for nondiplomatic travelers going to the Middle East.

of innocent people did not move the Administration to action. Israel's legitimate security concerns are of no concern to the President or the Secretary of State, who would rather pass scurrilous lies against the State of Israel, then look at the facts. Further Jewish and Arab blood that will be shed because of an increase in terrorism will be on the hands of Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker.

Naturally, many of our "friends" in the Jewish community criticized us for our strong denunciation of the President. They felt we were too strong in our feelings, and that by insulting the Administration, we risked losing access to the White House the Jewish community had in the past.

It is time for the Jewish community to wake up and face reality! The President of the United States has no interest in the Jewish community or its agendas. Recent events have confirmed this. It is time for those who profess to be Jewish "leaders", to stop beating around the bush, and start telling it like it is. The opinions of the American Jewish community are not reflected in the actions of national Jewish leaders.



NC Cohen and Stanley Silver, Natl. Chief of Staff at Natl. Memorial in Brussels.



NC Cohen and Joseph Hems, Natl. Cmdr. of Military Order of Purple Heart and past Allied Vet. Mission to Israel participant.



NC Cohen with proclamation making him an honorary citizen of New Orleans. PDC Ben Katz presents honor.

was fostered by American policy and the actions of the President and the Secretary of State. In the process, they have eroded the special relationship this nation has had with the State of Israel for nearly half a century, and have deceived the Israeli people. Angrily, JWV condemned the Bush Administration for their betrayal of Israel's trust and loyalty. The killing

We are angry and hurt at the White House, and their betrayal of Israel and the Jewish community. Let the President and the Secretary of State know of our anger. The time for wishing is over. The Administration will not change their attitudes

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