

The Jewish Veteran®



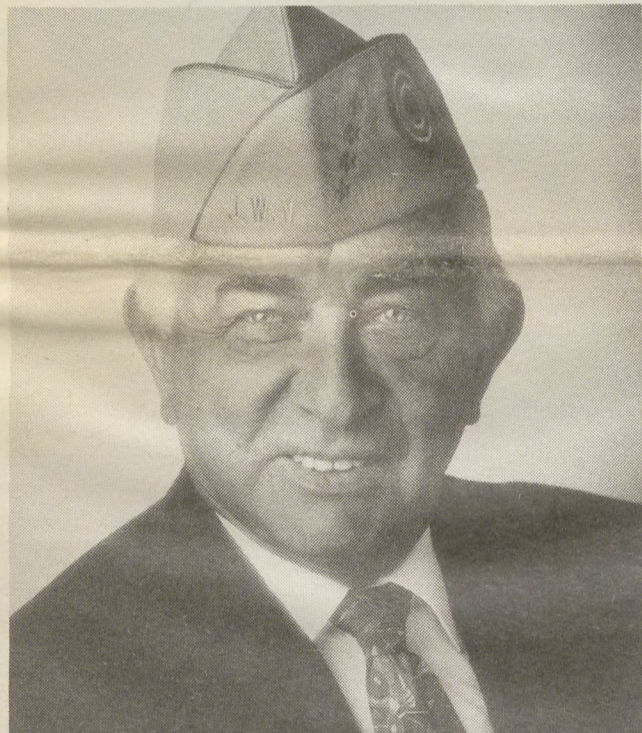
Edward D. Blatt Elected National Commander of JWV

by Howard Metzger

Declaring, "I give my pledge to all members of this wonderful organization, that I will do my best to represent you and all that you have done," Edward D. Blatt of Philadelphia, was sworn in as the new national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV), during ceremonies at the JWV national convention in Orlando, Florida.

Upon attaining the highest office in the organization, Commander Blatt pledged to continue the work of his predecessor, PNC Warren S. Dolny, in urging the Congress to maintain continued levels of funding for veterans' programs and benefits, and to fight any reduction in veterans' entitlements. "Deficit reduction must not be on the backs of America's heroes, its veterans," Commander Blatt strongly stated. "This nation must keep its promise to the men and women who fought to protect this democracy and its freedoms. We will not accept a diminution of those benefits which our veterans have earned."

Commander Blatt also promised to continue JWV's stalwart and unequivocal support of Israel. "JWV has always, and will continue to be, a strong friend of the State of Israel. There will be no questioning our resolve in defending Israel against those American groups, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who wish to compromise her security."



National Commander Edward D. Blatt

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VA Secretary Brown Tours National Museum of American Jewish Military History

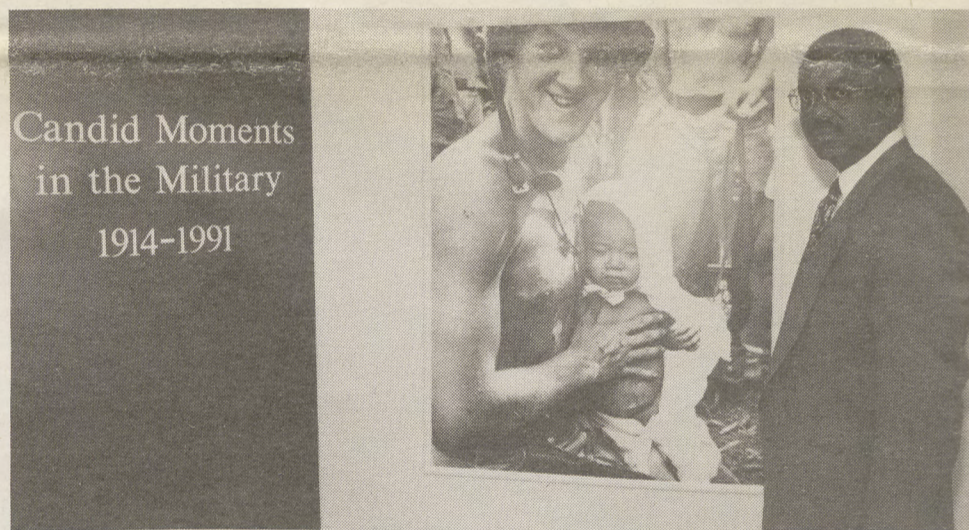
By Ira Brett Greenspan

His face displayed disbelief as he stared at a German school textbook promoting anti-Semitism. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jesse Brown, discovered the book while touring the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) during a recent visit to the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV) Headquarters. The head man at the VA, his Chief of Staff and several Assistant Secretaries and his Department Directors joined executive directors of the veterans' service organizations (VSOs) for a

meeting on issues of mutual concern on July 21, 1993.

Upon taking office Secretary Brown, instituted the concept of having a bimonthly meeting with executive directors of veterans' service organizations. As a former executive director of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) he understands the importance of communication between the Administration and veterans. JWV recently hosted this bimonthly meeting which resulted in Secretary Brown, his deputy assistants and the executive directors of the

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Secretary Jesse Brown visits NMAJMH.

Midwest Flooding Ends But Need Overflows

PNCs Dolny and Greenberg Visit Area

by Michelle Spivak Kelley

The bottom land on the Conover Family farm outside Quincy, Illinois is flooded. There will be no planting until 1994, no waving blanket of corn, no soy beans budding.

The clean-up will require not just the fathers and sons, geared up like firemen in thigh-high rubber boots, but the mothers and daughters, too. There is more than mud and muck to sort through. There are armless doll-

ies, bloated pigs, rusting refrigerators and human feces. It all floats together, directionless, this hodge-podge reflection of life along the river. It is a peculiar sight on this formerly pristine green heaven fenced-off by a boundless blue sky.

From Bible lessons we know flood waters eventually recede. And, of course, people here live and die by the weather and the Good Book.

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FORUM

Letters To The Editor

PNC Harris B. Stone
(October 1923 - June 1993)

Dear Friends,

How do I say thank you to all the hundreds of people from all over the country who sent their condolences? I had the honor and privilege of being married to Bob for almost 45 years. He left us too soon!

Bob had touched so many lives. Letters tell of wonderful memories, how proud people were to have worked for him at the Pentagon, as well as on the many JWV committees through the years. Letters spoke of his kindness and love of people—perhaps gruff on the outside, but so soft and sweet inside. He was extremely intelligent and many letters spoke of his support, guidance and friendship.

One letter said Bob was a contributor who raised the level of competence among his comrades, having the dedication and ability to make a significant difference.

Another letter said his efforts to develop the Museum and National Memorial is already enshrined. He will ever be recognized as bringing JWV into their new surroundings and developing the physical place in history of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. He was one of the architects of the modern Jewish War Veterans.

Still another said Bob was their friend and comrade whose commitment, enthusiasm and vision was an inspiration to all. He will be remembered as a man of strong convictions, someone who knew right from wrong and would not tolerate injustice.

The Memorial meant so much to Bob, that the family requested all contributions to his memory be made to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH). What a beautiful tribute to Bob to show support for the project he worked on until the day he died!

There are certain thoughts and feelings that mere words cannot impart. I have so many wonderful memories and you, my JWV family, are such great friends. It is difficult to express how much all your support has meant to me. It is impossible to write to each of you, but I've read and reread your cards and letters and your support will always be my strength.

May we all continue in warm friendship - Bob would have wanted it that way.

RAY STONE

Publication and Cartoon Strikes Home

Dear Editor,

As a new member of New Brunswick Post 133, I thank you for your welcoming letter.

I must tell you that I joined by "accident". The previous owner of my home was a JWV member, and I

HIS EVIL SPIRIT LIVES!....

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BASED ON DAN GOLDEN SCULPTURE.



WILL WE LET IT CLAIM THE FUTURE?

would occasionally get mail from JWV, which I then forwarded to him. It was clear from post newsletters that the JWV participates in many worthwhile activities. Hopefully, I'll be able to participate more fully as time permits.

Please permit me a few specific comments on your outstanding Spring 1993 issue of *The Jewish Veteran*. The Lou Golden cartoon was most appropriate. It's a shame that other Jewish organizations don't have the moxie to "tell it like it is". I was born on a westbound freight train along the Polish-Ukrainian border. My mother who grew up in that region pointed out that the Ukrainians killed us before the Germans. These nations now try to revise history to cast themselves as hapless victims, rather than willing accomplices to the Holocaust.

I, too am troubled by the slant of JTA on many issues, as pointed out in "As I See It". Am I a "right-wing" Orthodox Jew simply because I take a Torah viewpoint on homosexuality? The word "orthodox", itself was coined by reform Jews who wished to paint themselves as centrists, thus labeling traditional Jews as "right".

Increasing membership is, I imagine, quite challenging. I've already located two members of my synagogue who are eligible and have handed applications to them. I plan to follow up as gently as I can, perhaps a JWV Sabbath Service on Veterans Day, might bring some potential members out of the woodwork.

Sincerely,

Carl A. Singer, Col, Ordnance,
USAR (Ret)
New Brunswick Post 133
Edison, NJ

Museum Opening Stirs Memory

Dear Editor,

The last issue of *The Jewish Veteran* (Summer 1993), prompted me to write to you and thank you for the

wonderful articles contained in the issue, especially the one by Helen Belitsky, highlighting the opening of the museum's new exhibit on concentration camp liberators, and the suffering and liberation of the last remaining survivors of the Holocaust.

I am the sole survivor of a large family. I was liberated by the American army in Austria. The last ten days before the liberation, seven thousand Jewish men and women were taken out from Mathausen, and sent out on foot until we reached a sparse wooded area called Gunzkirchen. Most of these young people had already survived the infamous death marches from Germany to Austria. It rained day and night. We had no food or water. We walked or died in the mud. The German guards avoided us for fear of being infected with typhus or other infectious diseases. People who were walking one moment, were dead the next.

On the tenth day, May 5, 1945, there were rumors that we were free. There was no rejoicing because we had no strength left. The next morning, the small remnant of survivors walked to the road where those who were still alive saw a dream come true. American army tanks with soldiers, were throwing their rations to us.

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Where We Stand

by Albert Schlossberg, National Editor

Inexorably, the mantle of leadership of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. has once again been passed on. As Warren S. Dolny joins the ranks of past national commanders, memories of his tour of duty as JWV's highest ranking officer will always be with him. The experiences of the past year will enable and encourage him to continue to contribute to the enhancement of the Jewish War Veterans, America's oldest, active veterans' organization.

Now, as Edward Blatt steps onto the world-stage as "National Commander Blatt," he will be emotionally and culturally enriched by events which will fill his days and nights. Because National Commander Blatt, as his predecessors soon discovered, will find that the future too quickly becomes the past, he will see himself working tirelessly to make every moment contribute to the betterment of our organization.

As the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. enters its 98th year, it must face up to the reality of its past and future. Where were we? Where are we? What is our future? Let's look back, and ahead.

In 1896, when the founders of what is now the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. banded together to stand up against bigotry and Jew-hatred, the Jewish population of the United States was minimal. It took courage, then, for a handful of Jews to proudly, publicly proclaim their Jewishness. Then it was easy to be a Jew in America. Religious tolerance was not the norm. Jews tended to fade into the background. To not make waves. Often swallowing their pride to avoid conflict. Truly, in the Yiddish idiom, it was **schver tzu zein a Yid!**

All that is history. Today, in 1993, the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. has become a highly respected, recognized icon of the patriotism of America's Jews! Our peers in America's war-veteran community and leaders in government at all levels, understand why and who we are, and for what we stand.

But realism clouds our future. Given the ever-diminishing numbers of Jews in the United States, the aging of its overwhelmingly "senior-citizen" demographic of America's war veterans, we must face up to these self-evident truths.

Firstly, the uniqueness of JWV in the ranks of America's organized Jews community must continue to be emphasized. We are singular amongst America's Jews. Because we are veterans of America's military conflicts, our patriotism can never be challenged. We have developed a remarkable rapport with all other U.S. veterans' organizations. We respect them. They respect us. We all understand that we have a mutuality of purpose - Defense of our nation and its free institutions! Given indications that the federal

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