

# The Jewish® Veteran



## National Commander Presents JWV Priorities to Congress

### Honors Sen. Rockefeller with Medal of Merit

by Howard Metzger, Assistant National Director of Communications

In testimony before the Joint House-Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Edward D. Blatt, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV), discussing the proposed changes in health care in the United States, declared, "Regardless of what health care plan is put into effect, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system must remain a vital, funded entity."

In his presentation before Congress, Commander Blatt concentrated heavily

on the Administration's health care proposals, and the diminution of veterans' health care that would result. He urged the Committee to oppose efforts to consolidate the federal health care system into a monolithic health care system, which would end the VA's unique care.

Blatt listed a number of considerations supported by JWV, regarding continued veterans' health care, including - maintaining service connected and non-service connected as

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## JWV Tackles Controversial Veterans' and Jewish Issues

by Howard Metzger

Over the past few months, as controversial issues and events such as the continuing anti-Semitic outbursts by leaders of the Nation of Islam, the nomination of Strobe Talbott as Deputy Secretary of State, the lifting of the economic embargo against Vietnam, President Clinton's proposed health care reforms and the events in Russia, the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV), has been at the forefront of commenting on these issues as they have unfolded. Never one to shy away from controversy, JWV, under the leadership of National Commander Edward D. Blatt, has staked a position on many of the controversial issues that have made headlines over the past months.

"JWV has never lacked the courage or conviction to make its point known as issues of concern to the membership of the organization," Commander Blatt said. "As evidenced over the past weeks, JWV has vocally and strongly argued for or against many dichotomous issues which affect us as veterans' and as Jews. In the process, we have been heralded as an organization willing to take a stand, and not one to shy away or put our heads in the sand from policies that can cause friction and dissent."

### The Russian elections

The surprising results of the Russian elections, and the strong support of ultra-nationalist and anti-

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Ed Blatt and President Clinton at the White House.

## JWV Stamp Rally Enormous Success

Capitol Hill Event Draws Prominent Congressional,  
Veterans' and Jewish Leaders



National Commander Edward D. Blatt, pictured, spoke to the rally urging continued work on behalf of the stamp.

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## FORUM

Letters To  
The Editor

## Remembering Bob Stone

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following letter was sent from AJEX (Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women in Great Britain), and is a poignant remembrance of PNC Harris B. (Bob) Stone.

Dear JWV,

I first met Bob Stone in 1979 when he was JWV National Commander and he came to England to attend the AJEX Annual Remembrance Parade and Rally. I was his counterpart, the National Chairman of AJEX.

From the first meeting with Bob and his lovely wife, Ray, it was as if we had known them all our lives. Apart from a strong personal affection, we admired him greatly for his many achievements, long service and contributions to the Jewish War Veterans and the American Jewish community.

Over the years we corresponded regularly, and on occasion, met in Israel, America and England. I still have happy memories of sharing the platform with him as the guest speaker at the 1980 JWV National Convention in New Orleans. Through him, I saw the strength of your organization, and made many friends.

I last saw Bob two years ago when my wife, Anne, and myself, stayed with him at his home in Virginia. Sadly, he was taken ill on the last day of our visit, and we went to see him in the hospital before leaving for the airport. Bob and Ray were wonderful hosts and we had a great time sightseeing in Washington, D.C.

Bob is well remembered in the U.K. as a strong, resourceful leader and a fighter for veterans' causes. We admired and respected him, and I doubt if JWV will find anyone to take his place.

Bob had a fine record of military service, one in which his family, and the Jewish community, can take great pride. He was a wonderful husband, a great family man and a friend I will always remember and cherish.

He brought lustre to JWV. We will remember him.

Sincerely,

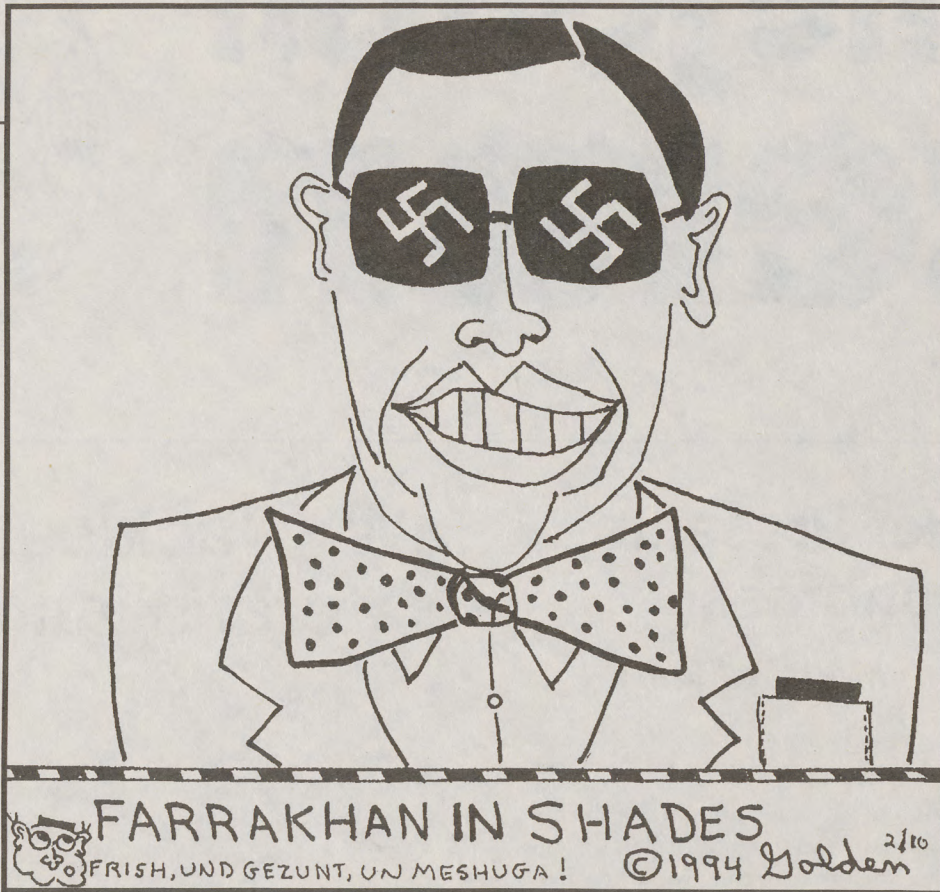
Sidney Morris, Vice President  
Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men  
and Women  
London, England

## Importance of JWV Membership

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following column appeared in *The Howitzer*, the bulletin of Robert K. Franzblau Post 177, Dept. of FL.

Dear Editor,

In all that we write, whether it's about membership, fundraising, hospital services, demonstrations, poppy drives, anti-Semitism, etc., etc., - we



are not trying to place a new thought into your heads. We are trying to remind you of what you already know. If there is no answer, no recognition, we cannot do anymore. Someone once put it this way, "Selection begins with refusal - if a man doesn't care, any reason is good enough." Membership is at the heart of this organization.

All of us took the Oath of Obligation when we joined JWV. Do you still remember it or know what it is all about? Here is a reminder:

"In the presence of the eternal G-d, surrounded by defenders of the flag and our faith, I swear to support the Constitution of the United States of America, and to respect and protect its flag and institutions. I will obey the Constitution and By-Laws of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America and obey its orders."

"I pledge that I will protect the Jews from persecution by his enemies, to the best of my ability. I will be true to the high ideals of our ancient faith. I will do my best to obtain fair treatment for Veterans, for their families and dependents."

"I will maintain true loyalty to the principles of patriotic citizenship, true comradeship to all veterans and Judaism."

"This obligation I promise to fulfill ON MY HONOR and in the presence of the flag of my country - so help me G-d."

Think JWV. Help boost our funds. Help increase our membership. Bring in a new member.

Sincerely,

Errol Weiss  
Junior Vice Commander  
Robert K. Franzblau Post 177  
Pembroke Pines, FL

## Clinton Health Plan Bad for Veterans and Elderly

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The opinions expressed in these letters are those of the individual, and do not necessarily represent the views of JWV. The orga-

nization continues to study the new health plan, and will make no policy decisions on its merits until such time as it has been thoroughly reviewed.

Dear Editor,

With all the discussion over President Clinton's health care proposals, we seem to have lost sight of two very important facts - the Administration's utopian plan of "quality care for all", and a practical solution to the President's controversial ideas.

Instead of adopting inferior "managed competition", "managed care", HMO's or other medical alliances, why not extend Medicare to all U.S. citizens and legal residents.

To get the quality health care coverage necessary, we can set national health standards, and have it apply to everyone. Medicare could control costs as does now, and not cover those providers who do not accept Medicare's reasonable fees (current fees are not reasonable and should be raised). Physicians, not federal bureaucrats, should set standards and fees. Those providers who would not accept Medicare fees would lose their patients, or treat those who could afford to pay without this coverage, as many do now.

Converting to a general Medicare plan, we would have to add prescription drugs and long-term care. Because of their high start-up costs, it would probably be more feasible to wait two or three years for their implementation.

This plan would take in all current proposals - universal coverage, quality medicine, freedom of choice of doctors, cost control, a workable system already in place (no new bureaucracies), and it will be relative inexpensive.

This plan could be funded by increased Medicare premiums, higher deductibles, increased "sin taxes" and a surcharge on our income tax. Reducing benefits and/or adding premiums only to the elderly, as this Administration now proposes, is unconscionable.

Above all, we must eliminate the various HMO's and "managed care"

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Where  
We  
Stand

by Albert Schlossberg, National Editor

Recently, a high school teacher took her class to a cinema to see Steven Spielberg's widely acclaimed movie, *Schindler's List*. As reported in the media, the students were ejected from the theater because during some of the most emotionally chilling scenes in the movie their response to the images and sound on the screen had been loud laughter and raucous conversation. Other patrons in the theater, disturbed by the insensitivity of the high school students, had complained to the management.

When asked why they thought the horrific scenes were so funny, many of the students said that the scenes shown never could have happened in real life. Questioned further, they expressed ignorance of the history of the Holocaust and the tragedy which had been inflicted upon its victims.

Almost six months ago John Demjanjuk slipped back into the United States after specific charges against him for being "Ivan the Terrible", a Nazi S.S. concentration camp war criminal were dismissed by Israel's high court.

Seldom mentioned in media reports, at that time, was a strong statement by the Israeli justices that despite their dismissal of the specific charge relative to "Ivan the Terrible", he had been proven to have perpetrated war-crimes acts as a guard at Sobibor, an infamous concentration camp.

Regrettably, well meaning persons, some in high places, have called for the government of the United States to allow Demjanjuk to remain in our country and that charges which would result in his deportation be dropped.

It is appalling that now, as press reports from across the world tell of a resurgence of neo-Nazism and an increased propaganda campaign by revisionist "historians" designed to "disprove the Holocaust", any knowledgeable Americans are willing to give comfort and support to a man who personally participated in one of history's most cruel and inhuman efforts to eradicate the world Jewish community.

Because so many members of our organization - the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. - served in Europe and personally witnessed the results of the horrors perpetrated by the Demjanjucks of Hitler's S.S., we refuse to be a party to any movement to forgive John Demjanjuk and allow him to remain in the United States.

U.S. law is crystal clear. Demjanjuk lied when he applied for citizenship in the U.S. He was then and still is a person who minimally, willingly inflicted terrible trauma upon pitiful victims in the Nazi concentration camp, Sobibor. The facts are clear. It is essential that the Attorney General of the United States immediately order all U.S. government officials associated with Demjanjuk's case to expedite action which will result in Demjanjuk's deportation from our country. Demjanjuk deserves no sympathy. He is a war criminal. Let this minimal punishment - deportation - fit his crime! Now!