

The Jewish® Veteran



The Future of JWV. Cadets Avram Primost and Craig Senzon at the West Point Jewish Chapel. Photograph from 1995 JWV Calendar.

New Faces Highlight 104th Congress;

Republican majority appoints new chairmen; Gilman heads International Affairs Committee

by Howard Metzger

As the Republican Party takes control of the 104th Congress, the first time the party has a majority in both chambers in forty years, new faces will chair congressional committees. And, if not seeing Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-MS), sitting in the Chairman's seat on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee is surprising and confusing, the names of many of the congressional committees have been changed. Some, like the District

of Columbia Committee, Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and the Post Office and Civil Service Committees, have been terminated.

Veterans' Affairs Committee

The new chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee is **Rep. Bob Stump (R-AZ)**. Stump, 67, was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1977.

One of Congress's few remaining

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JWV Calls For Cancellation of "Enola Gay" Exhibit

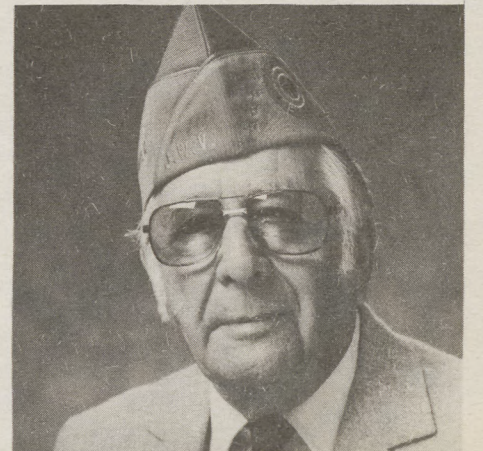
"Desecrating memories of those who died," JWV leader tells President Clinton

by Howard Metzger, Assistant National Director of Communications

In a decision announced by National Commander David H. Hymes and in a subsequent letter to President Bill Clinton, the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV) advocates the immediate cancellation of the proposed Smithsonian Institution *Enola Gay* exhibit commemorating the end of World War II, and the immediate withdrawing of exhibit funding.

"The animosity and rancor created with our fellow veterans' organizations and military associations, by pseudo-historians, peace activists and the National Air and Space Museum, honors the Japanese in war - while it desecrates the memory of those soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who gave their lives in the Pacific to defeat Japanese imperialism," Commander Hymes stated.

In advocating a revocation of funding for the exhibit, Commander Hymes suggested that the *Enola Gay*, the highlight of the exhibit, merely



be displayed. "JWV's position is that the best interests of all involved will be served by canceling the exhibit and withdrawing the exhibit funding, and that the Smithsonian merely display the *Enola Gay* with a simple statement of its part in bringing World War II to an end."

JWV's actions have earned praise from fellow veterans' organizations,

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Ladies Auxiliary Joins JWV For Assembly in Israel;

Mission to Israel, February 16-26, 1995

by Howard Metzger

JWVA National President Adele Zucker has joined JWV National Commander David H. Hymes in a call to all JWVA and JWV members to attend the Jewish War Veterans Assembly in Israel, February 16-26, 1995.

The eleven day trip is packed with tours of Israel, meetings with Israeli government officials, meetings with members of Israel Post 180, a visit to the U.S. Naval Base in Haifa, and other more exciting activities. For the first-time traveler to Israel, the tour provided gives the new visitor an opportunity to see all the famous sights of Israel-Jerusalem, the Western Wall, the Knesset, Yad

Vashem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, the Golan and Ashkelon.

For the experienced Israeli traveler, the Assembly affords you the opportunity to meet with Israeli government officials, tour the U.S. Naval Base in Haifa and the USO, tour the Golan, and see its strategic importance to Israel and meet the Mayor of Jerusalem. The JWV Assembly allows you to see more than you ever would with a conventional tour.

Join your fellow comrades in Israel. The rate per person, including air fare from New York is **\$1695.00**. Additional add-on fares from cities other than New York are required. A complete itinerary can be found in this issue of *The Jewish Veteran* on page 5.

For further information or to make your reservations, please contact The JWV Travel Desk at (800) 228-1516.

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FORUM

Letters To The Editor

Shimon Peres Equating Atom Bomb with Holocaust - Israel Responds

Dear National Commander,

I am writing to you upon your request and the request of other members of the Jewish War Veterans regarding the statement of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on the bombing of Hiroshima.

Hereby are the Minister's remarks on this statement:

"The ceremony which took place at the U.N. Headquarters in New York, commemorated the anniversary of a monument dedicated to peace and liberty which is composed of a stone base from Israel and a bell built on top of it from Japan. In my remarks I quoted an author who stated that nuclear weaponry represents a threat to mankind. No Jew, indeed no right-minded individual, can even entertain the thought that two such totally different issues, as the Holocaust against the Jews and the events in Hiroshima, can be compared to each other. History has seen nothing which approaches the horrors of the Holocaust."

*Shimon Peres
Foreign Minister of Israel*

Sincerely,

Shlomo Gur
Deputy Chief of Mission
Embassy of Israel

Dear Mr. National Commander,

I am writing in response to your inquiry about Foreign Minister [Shimon] Peres' remarks at a recent United Nations event.

The Foreign Minister did not in any way intend to compare the magnitude or the circumstances of the Holocaust to the U.S. raids on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The reference in his remarks was meant only as a general association, and was taken out of context.

While ringing the Peace Bell at the United Nations, a bell whose base is made of Jerusalem stone, and whose body is cast from coins donated by Japanese children, Mr. Peres referred to the suffering that the two peoples - the Jews and the Japanese - have endured in this century - suffering caused by completely different circumstances. The Foreign Minister's remarks were a humanitarian call for world peace to accentuate the potential horrors of a nuclear war.

Sincerely,

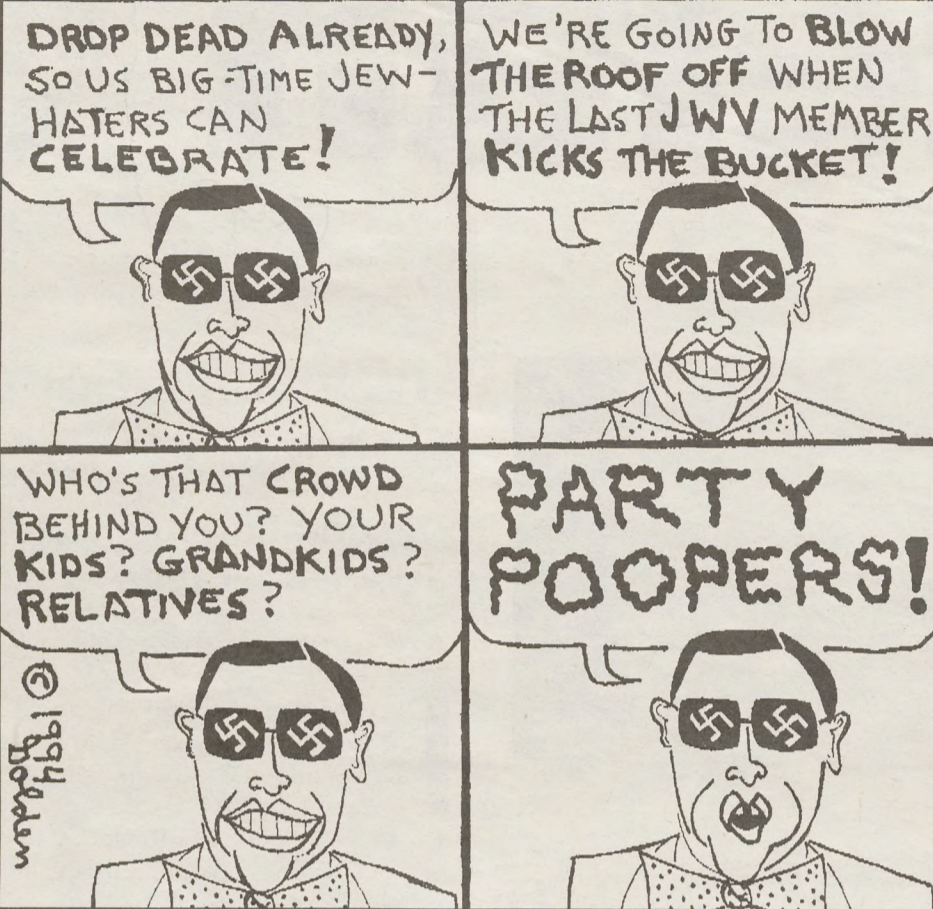
Ambassador Colette Avital
Consul General of Israel

JWV Members Respond

Dear Editor,

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres equated the use of the atomic bomb by the United States to Nazi atrocities. That statement is an insult

FARRAKHAN SPEAKS TO THE JWV:



to American veterans, and especially, to the Jewish veteran.

The atomic bomb ended World War II. It has been estimated to have saved the lives of one half million American soldiers, and who knows how many Japanese. I wonder why Peres didn't complain about the "fire storm" created by continuous Allied incendiary bombing of Dresden. Casualties were as great as the Hiroshima or the Nagasaki bombing.

Hitler and his henchmen were murderers! Jews were innocent victims. The Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor was unprovoked. The Bataan Death March was notorious. The horrible treatment of allied prisoners by Japan is well documented.

Mr. Peres should retract his statements and apologize to American veterans. I'm sure the Israeli Defense Forces used the most effective weapons during their conflict with the Arabs. He has no right to look down on us.

Sincerely,

Herman Sacks, Commander
Friedman-Paul Post 201
Tucson, AZ

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter appeared in *The Bulletin*, Post 201's publication.

THANK YOU for the many cards and letters which I received from JWV and JWVA members during my recent illness.

You demonstrated that comradeship truly is the essence of our great organization.

My wife, Eleanor and I want you to know that your thoughtfulness was essential to my recovery.

Albert Schlossberg, PNC
National Editor

Sam Greenberg wishes to express his appreciation and thanks to all those who sent get well cards, letters and good wishes following his recent surgery.

Dear Editor,

The letter written by PNC Edward D. Blatt to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin, which appeared in the Convention 1994 issue of *The Jewish Veteran*, was most outrageous. From the news reports I read, which only occupied a few lines in the newspaper, the conversation took place between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and a representative from Japan. Mr. Peres merely remarked that both the Jews and the Japanese had experienced a holocaust.

According to my dictionary, *Holocaust* comes from the Greek, and means, 1) "An offering, the whole of which burned; 2) burnt offering. 3) Complete destruction of people or animals by fire. 4) Great or widespread destruction."

My point is that the word *holocaust* has been part of the English language long before the awful happenings in Germany during World War II. Shimon Peres is educated in the English language, and knows the word has more than one meaning.

I am aware of the fact that we Jews have chosen the term "*holocaust*" to describe the Nazi's attempt to eradicate all Jews. However, the word has many meanings. In PNC Blatt's letter, he explains to Mr. Rabin of what happened in the concentration camps, as if the Israeli Prime Minister needed some history lesson on the Holocaust, and the history of the United States' war with Japan.

Sincerely,

Louis Brodsky
Abe Ader Post 246
Pinellas Park, FL

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Where We Stand

by Albert Schlossberg, National Editor

Recently, a feature story in a major newspaper reminded me of a truism. The thrust of the article reflected the imminent demise of the Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A., Inc. Familiar as we are with "Old Soldiers never die, they just fade away", deep in our minds we know that despite General MacArthur's catchy words, old soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and women and Coast Guardsmen and women do die.

4.7 million Americans served in the U.S. military in World War I. Today, 76 years later, less than 25,000 are still living. The average age of the World War I veterans is 98 years. 200 die each day. What was once a vibrant, thriving group, like the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. of today, is now holding on by a very weak, tired thread. Within a decade, in all probability, the contributions which those veterans of World War I made to the defense of our nation, will, for all intents and purposes, have disappeared from public recognition.

We can not, and must not, allow a similar fate to be the future of JWV. But then, any of us have refused to come to terms with truth - our mortality. Despite the inclusion of Jewish veterans of the wars and military actions which came after World War II, the average age of the membership of JWV is beyond the proverbial three score and ten. Bluntly, our years truly are numbered.

Yes, we have established the National Museum of American Jewish Military History to be our *yerusha*, our legacy to our survivors. But without demeaning or minimizing the value and great progress which we have made in our efforts to support and to maintain the Memorial, without living members of JWV present to continue the enormous need for funds, there is no guarantee that the Museum will long survive after the Last JWVer is gone.

That's the downside. But we have the makings of a strong, powerful, generous *yerusha*. It is the organization we call "the Descendants of JWV".

In our Jewish tradition, *zichronot* (remembrance), is the thread of continuity and perpetuation of our people and faith. Over thousands of years, despite the worst that the world could do to us, Jews and Judaism have survived. Our forbearers accomplished it by implanting in the minds of generations which followed them that there was an obligation to not allow Jewish history and traditions to disappear.

Yes, we join with all Americans in prayer that our country will not be involved in military conflict. A peaceful nation and world is our ultimate dream. We'd welcome a time when the very words, "war veteran", become anachronistic. But until that day, it is imperative that we create a definitive process which could assure the presence of the Museum as an icon of the

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