

# The Jewish® Veteran



## National Commander Presents 1995 Legislative Priorities to Congress;

### Rep. James Talent receives Medal of Merit for postage stamp support

by Howard Metzger, Assistant National Director of Communications

**T**estifying before the Joint House-Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and its new chairman, Rep. Bob Stump (R-AZ), David H. Hymes, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV), urged Congress to maintain the levels of funding for veterans' health care, fund other research projects into diseases which affect older Americans, address the Notch Law, provide proper care for veterans of the Persian Gulf suffering unknown maladies, oppose the employment and deploy-

ment of U.S. troops as peace keepers to resolve international conflicts and support JWV's campaign for an issuance of a postage stamp commemorating the organization's centennial in 1996.

Flanked by Adele Zucker, National President of the JWV Ladies Auxiliary, Steve Elfman, Descendants of JWV National President, Col. Herb Rosenbleeth, JWV National Executive Director and Harry Chernikoff, JWV Director of National Service Officers, Commander Hymes told the committee

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JWV National Commander David H. Hymes presents legislative goals before Joint House-Senate Vet. Affairs Cmte. Seated next to Cmdr. Hymes is Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-NY), Chmn., House Intl. Rel. Cmte. and JWV Natl. Legt. Officer.

## JWV STAMP RALLY



"100 years of service deserves a stamp!" chant Mary Hauptman and Dan Weiss. See story on page 14.

## 1995 JWV Assembly to Israel a Success

**J**WV National Commander David H. Hymes, JWVA National President Adele Zucker and PNC Robert M. Zweiman, International Liaison Officer, led over thirty members of JWV and JWVA, on a ten day assembly to Israel. The trip was successful, combining sightseeing with meetings with Israeli government officials, most notable, Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin and military officials. Expatriate members of JWV living in Israel also had the opportunity to meet the members of the assembly.

Commenting on the trip, National Commander Hymes noted the many disparate members of JWV and JWVA who joined in the assembly. "I was quite pleased to see that most of the trip participants were average JWV and JWVA members, devoid of rank or privilege. They are the bread and butter of this organization, and I am honored that they joined me in this critical mission to Israel."

The highlight of the trip, according to Hymes, was a private meeting with Rabin, attended by PNC Zweiman, President Zucker and Larry Richardson, JWV Director of Operations, who accompanied the group to Israel. A major topic of discussion in the meet-

ing was the ongoing peace negotiation with Syria. While the discussion between the JWV and JWVA leadership and the Israeli Prime Minister was cordial, exchanges became more strained when conversation centered on the possibility of the use of American troops on the Golan Heights as monitors of any peace treaty between Israel and Syria. JWV has been on record as opposing the employment and deployment of U.S. troops as peacekeepers in any international effort, unless "a clear objective is outlined followed with a defined withdrawal date," according to PNC Zweiman.

JWV's position, which is opposed by most American Jewish organizations, surprised the Prime Minister, though it should be noted, that the position had been relayed to the Israeli Embassy and the government of Israel months before, and through periodic correspondence. Blunting Mr. Rabin's assertions that American troops on the Golan would be safe, Mr. Hymes continued to affirm the organization's opposition to endangering the lives of U.S. troops, and more importantly, risking a severe strain in the U.S.-Israel relationship. "I fear that if an American soldier is killed on Israeli

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## FORUM

Letters To  
The Editor

## Peace Process

Dear Editor,

In order to stem the current self-destructive behavior of the Israeli government and prevent similar irrational actions in the future, the primary cause of the impending debacle must be identified.

The source of all Israeli misfortune is not the media, international opinion of Arab intransigence. Rather, it is their anachronistic and paternalistic political system.

Neither Likud, Labor and any other member of the Knesset believe in individual responsibility on the part of the voter of themselves, hence their opposition to political primaries, which if done properly, would break the "Party" stranglehold on the country, as advocated by *The Jerusalem Post*. As it stands, members of the Knesset who surrender the hinterland have nothing to fear from voter wrath, because their primary allegiance is to their Party, which shields them from accountability. Only a political system that ties a politician directly to the voter by eliminating party discipline will prevent Israel's self-inflicted suicide.

The basis of Judaism mandates that a Jewish government be built on the premise of individual responsibility, which is necessarily absent in any collectivist or Socialist system. Fortunately, Oslo forces every Jew to re-examine his basic premises and ask what is primary in Judaism - the altruistic concern with the needs of the Palestinians, or the self-interested security needs of the State?

Sincerely,

Marc Baker  
Birmingham, AL

Dear Editor,

If anyone needed convincing that stationing a U.S. force on the Golan either as observers, monitors, peace-makers or peacekeepers will not serve U.S. or Israeli interests, they should digest Yoram Ettinger's article in the Winter 1994 edition of *The Jewish Veteran*.

JWV should act quickly and decisively to tell our President and Congress of the dangers of such an action.

Sincerely,

Brig. Gen. Sumner Kaplan, USAR (Ret)  
Brookline Post 72  
Brookline, MA

**EDITOR'S NOTE - JWV has long opposed the employment or deployment of troops on the Golan Heights as part of any international peacekeeping force without expressed U.S. national interests, a pre-determined withdrawal date and the pre-requisite that these troops be under U.S. command.**

A POSTAGE STAMP FOR  
JEWISH AMERICAN  
VETERANS OF WWII?AS SURE AS MY NAME  
IS SCHULTZ IT'S  
SCARY!!©1995  
HoddenWHAT'S SO SPECIAL  
ABOUT BEING A  
JEWISH AMERICAN?NEXT THING YOU KNOW  
THEY'LL WANT A JEWISH  
AMERICAN FOR PRESIDENT!Smithsonian Institution and the  
*Enola Gay*

Dear Editor,

I don't know where the brave Smithsonian Institution's "historians" were in August 1945, but I know where I was.

I was a Pharmacist Mate aboard the *USS Sanborn* in San Francisco. I was part of the elite 8th Beach Battalion, U.S. Navy, working with the Marines and the Seabees. We were a flotilla of eight ships loading the Ohio "Buckeye" Division, men and equipment ready to set sail for the invasion of Japan.

In all the years that have passed since President Truman ordered the bombardment of Hiroshima, absolutely no evidence has emerged that undermines the correctness of President Truman's decision. The Smithsonian "historians" argued that Japan was already on the verge of collapse, but even the Hiroshima atomic bomb attack was not sufficient to induce the Japanese high command to surrender, and it took a second bomb on Nagasaki to end the hostilities.

Neither Harry Truman nor the brave American people including our servicemen and women had anything to be ashamed of with respect to the dropping of the atomic bombs to bring about an end to World War II.

Because of that action, we are here, alive, today.

Sincerely,

Irving Gurian  
Yonkers Post 68  
Yonkers, NY

Dear Editor,

I was an Air Corps Intelligence Officer with the 44th Troop Carrier Squadron on its way to join the 8th Army on Okinawa staging for the planned invasion of Japan.

One million American casualties were anticipated. The 44th was in double combat crew strength. I was a captain, up from enlisted.

President Truman saved many of us.

Sincerely,  
Jesse Chinich  
North Essex Post 146  
Florence, SC

Dear Editor,

Since it is universally acknowledged by all civilized persons that nothing is more precious than human life, it is a pity that the atomic bomb was not dropped at least a year earlier.

Let us assume that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Dresden, Germany, not on Hiroshima in 1944, a few months before D-Day. The destruction of Dresden, or even a death camp such as Auschwitz, would have crushed Germany, bringing about its capitulation, as well as that of Japan.

It is safe to assume that if World War II had ended in mid-1944, the lives of several million persons - soldiers, civilians and Jews - would have been spared, and the assembly lines to the death camps would have ground

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PNV Irv Steinberg wishes to thank everyone who sent get-well wishes to him during his recent illness. He also wishes to thank all those who sent him expressions of sympathy over the loss of his beloved brother. It is impossible for him to answer all the wishes and he thanks each of you for your expressions. He is truly grateful

The outpouring of support and consolation that my family and I received after the death of my mother was of great comfort to us. The many Shiva visits, cards, letter, and donations made in her memory was overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

Thank you with all my heart.

Warren S. Dolny

Where  
We  
Stand

by Albert Schlossberg, National Editor

On Wednesday, February 15, 1995, *The Palm Beach Post* (Florida) published an editorial which, in effect, ridiculed JWV's request to the U.S. Postal Service for a stamp honoring JWV's 100th anniversary. The newspaper is certainly entitled to disagree with JWV's conviction that in tribute to 100 years of its activity as an organization of Jewish men and women who wore the uniform of our country in time of war, such a stamp was well deserved. The long history of Jewish participation in the defense of America's people and nation, even before the colonies won independence from the British, is well documented. Obviously, as you will find when you read their editorial (reprinted below), they preferred to disregard fact, and instead resorted to snide, denigrating language which deprecated the facts of our historic, continuing contributions as members of the armed forces of the United States.

The reaction to *The Palm Beach Post's* editorial indiscretion was quick, powerful and direct. Many members of JWV, JWVA and both Jewish and non-Jewish Floridians communicated their disgust and distaste to the editors of the paper. The following is a verbatim reproduction of the editorial. It speaks for itself.

*The team gets licked*  
"What did you do during the war, Granddad?"  
"I fought in World War II as a Jewish American."

"Did anyone else fight?"

"Sure. Adventist Americans, Baptist Americans, Catholic Americans, Congregational Americans, Episcopalian Americans, Lutheran Americans, Methodist Americans, Mormon Americans, Americans, Orthodox Americans, Pentecostal Americans, Presbyterian Americans, Unitarian Americans, United Brethren Americans. Even some atheist Americans."

"Gee, it sounds like a whole lot of people were on your side."

"Yes, there were."

"How did you plan things? When there was going to be an attack, did all the captains from the different teams get together to decide when to start?"

"Oh, no. We were all mixed together in squads, platoons and companies. All Americans worked as a team. Everybody was on the same team."

"So why did you picket the U.S. Postal Service asking them to issue a stamp just for Jewish veterans?"

"We thought we deserved it."

"Didn't any other groups picket?"

"No."

"Did the others just want to remember what it was like when all Americans thought about the team first?"

*The Palm Beach Post* is not the first journalistic attack against Jewish, American war veterans. In 1865, less than 30 years after the Civil War ended, and despite the proven record of Jewish bravery and sacrifice in the forces of both the Union and

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