

# The Jewish Veteran®



## JWV Mourns Yitzhak Rabin

by Howard Metzger,  
National Director of Public Relations

**T**he Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV), expressed shock and incomprehensible sadness at the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"It is with great sadness and anger that JWV expresses its profound sorrow at the tragic and brutal death of Prime Minister Rabin," JWV National Commander Neil Goldman stated.

"We are saddened that Mr. Rabin, a distinguished military officer and political figure, was struck down by a tragic act of extremism that precluded a sense of reason. By his actions, this Jewish assassin was no less a terrorist than the worst of people seeking the destruction of a nation and its people."

JWV sent its prayers and profound wishes to the Israeli people and to Prime Minister Shimon Peres. "We know that Mr. Peres will continue the peace process with Israel's neighbors, and will not allow a senseless act of wanton violence to destroy the legacy of Mr. Rabin," Mr. Goldman stated. "The Israeli government has the wholehearted support of the American-Jewish community in this time of national tragedy, and hopes that the people of Israel will find comfort during this time of national mourning."

"The membership of JWV is comprised of American war heroes," Commander Goldman noted.

"Yitzhak Rabin was a military hero of

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## YITZHAK RABIN

1922-1995



*Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, IDF Chief-of-Staff, enters the old city of Jerusalem following its liberation during the 1967 Six Day War. With Rabin were Uzi Narkiss, I, Central Front Cmdr, and Moshe Dayan, Defense Minister.*

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## JWV Recounts Memories of Slain Israeli leader

**W**hen Albert Schlossberg was National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.

(JWV) in 1970, he was welcomed to Washington, on behalf of the State of Israel, by Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Ambassador to the United States, and hero of the Six-Day War. Mr. Schlossberg recounts the many pleasant experiences he had with Ambassador Rabin and how the door to the Israeli Embassy was always open to JWV. PNC Schlossberg even remembers his meetings with Leah Rabin, the Ambassador's wife.

PNC David Hymes remembers that when he met Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Israel, that though Mr. Rabin disagreed with JWV's objection to the possible placement of U.S. troops on the Golan Heights as monitors of any Israeli-Syrian peace agreement, the Prime Minister was respectful of JWV's views and thanked JWV for its consistent support of Israel.

Such has been the reaction of many JWV leaders, as well as leaders of American veterans' organization who met Yitzhak Rabin during his many

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## An Opinion

### As I See It

by Albert Schlossberg, National Editor

### Rabin: Patriot, Warrior, Person

It happened 25 years ago. I entered the headquarters of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., in Washington, D.C., sat down at my desk, and began to work on routine JWV matters. National Executive Director Felix Putterman and National Director of Communications Warren Adler walked in.

"Al," Felix said to me, "You have an appointment to meet with Israel's ambassador to the United States. We have to be in his office at 11:00 o'clock."

"I do?" I responded.

"Yes. He'd like to welcome you to

Washington, on behalf of Israel, as the JWV's new national commander."

Two hours later we were escorted into Yitzhak Rabin's office at Israel's embassy. The ambassador walked around to the front of his desk, extended his hand and said, "Commander, welcome. Welcome to Washington and welcome to my office."

The chemistry was fantastic. Putterman, Adler and I expressed our appreciation to Ambassador Rabin for taking the time from his busy schedule to meet with us.

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## FORUM

### Letters To The Editor

#### Push JWV Membership

Dear Editor,

How many of us refer to tissues as "kleenex?" When you make a copy of a report, how often do you say, "I need to make a xerox?"

That's the value of advertising. You, the membership of JWV, must advertise our organization. But, you may say, that you don't have the resources available for such an endeavor. But, you have the best resource available - *word of mouth!*

What General Motors, Coca-Cola and Kellogg's all attempt to do with their massive advertising budgets is to develop a "word of mouth" association with their products. JWV needs "word of mouth" advertising. Don't underestimate its power and don't be shy about using it. It's the simplest, easiest and cheapest way to get new members.

JWV members need to talk about JWV often and positively. Enthusiasm is catching, so our members have to catch the spirit.

We must speak about JWV with friends, relatives and anyone we know. Anyone who you know should be asked this simple question - "Would you like to join JWV today?" Just ask. Many people who don't know about us, would be happy to join JWV if asked.

Be proud of our organization.

Sincerely,

Harry Estreicher, Commander  
Hyman L. Solomon Post 684  
Royal Palm Beach, FL

**EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter originally appeared in Post 684's bulletin. JWV thanks Commander Estreicher for his strong defense of our organization.**

#### Opposes Amendment Making Flag-Burning Illegal

Dear Editor,

I see the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV) has joined with other veterans' organizations in supporting a constitutional amendment making it illegal to desecrate the American flag. Upon entering the Navy, I took an oath to uphold and defend the U.S. Constitution, and I have never renounced this oath.

I write to defend the Constitution. It should continue to give rights and protections to individuals against intrusions by the government.

It pains me to see our flag being desecrated. However, we veterans should defend the Constitution we swore to uphold and not be sidetracked by the irrelevance of an amendment outlawing flag burning.

We are a diverse people from different heritages. When I pass a private

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Pentagon Federal Credit Union  
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home or business and see the flag displayed, the thought that comes to my mind is, whatever else I might be, I am an American first.

Sincerely,

David Lashinsky  
Malcolm A. Tarlov Post 141  
Norwalk, CT

The outpouring of support that my family and I received after the death of my mother, Ida Nadel, was a great comfort to us. The many Shiva visits, cards, letters, and donations made in her memory were overwhelming and greatly appreciated. Thanks with all my heart.

Dale Nadel  
National Video Officer

#### Appreciations

Dear JWV,

Thank you for the award given me for the first-year study project in Marine Engineering at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. I am honored to be the recipient of this award, and I appreciate your interest in the success of the cadets at the Coast Guard Academy.

I have learned a great deal in my four years at the Academy, particularly in the field of Marine Engineering. I find this field to be challenging, exciting and relevant to a career in the Coast Guard. I look forward to using what I have learned as a Marine Engineering student at the Academy in my first assignment as a student engineer aboard the *CGC Midgett* in Seattle, WA.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Lake, ENS  
U.S. Coast Guard

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the U.S. Navy Public Affairs Alumni Association, please accept our appreciation for mentioning us in the Spring 1995 issue of *The Jewish Veteran*.

I am sure that you and your associates know that one of the problems facing any organization is getting the word out about the association. We know there are present and former "veterans" of Navy public affairs who would like to join us if they only knew about us. This is why we are grateful when we see publicity, like the one that appeared in your publication, aimed at veterans.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Jones  
Captain, U.S. Navy (Retired)  
Membership Chairman  
United States Navy Public Affairs  
Alumni Association

#### Kudos to the National Memorial

Dear Editor,

At a recent meeting of the Jewish Federation of Houston, I spoke to a holocaust survivor, Siegi Izakson, who recently visited the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH). He was very impressed with the displays, especially *G.I.'s Remember: Liberating the Concentration Camps*, and mentioned next to the exhibits at the U.S. Holocaust Museum, our display is the best he's seen.

He also wanted to express his appreciation for all the museum volunteers who gave him a tour and answered his questions.

Sincerely,

PDC Irv Wilson  
Houston-Levy Post 574  
Houston, TX

## Where We Stand

by Albert Schlossberg, National Editor

The year, 1996, will mark one-hundred years of dedication, support of and service to our nation by the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV).

Living in the United States today, most Jews have no comprehension of the troubles and travails American Jews endured 100 years ago, simply because they were Jews.

Bigotry against Jews was pervasive. From the highest seat of government to the lowest economic levels of the general population, Jews faced prejudice and suffered indignities. Despite a record of bravery in combat, service in the military alone did not protect Jewish veterans or non-veterans from Jew hatred.

In 1896, a relatively small band of Jewish veterans of military service in wartime decided that they had enough of virulent Jew hatred and would do something about it. They did! They formed an organization of Jewish men who had participated in the military forces in the Civil War.

Name all of the conflicts of the last one hundred years in which Americans have willingly put their lives on the line in defense of freedom. You will discover that American Jews, as a percentage of the total armed forces of the United States, exceeded our percentage of the total population of the United States. America's Jews have clearly demonstrated their love for and willingness to protect our nation.

As the Jewish community in the U.S. rushes towards assimilation - six of every ten Jewish marriages are to non-Jews - the concern about Jew hatred will diminish. But at a considerable cost, the disappearance of Jewish America as we know it today.

Each generation of Jewish, American war veterans has continued to demonstrate that we can be proud Americans and dedicated Jews. Five decades ago, after World War II, the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. became a significant force in the struggle to wipe out Jew hatred. Wherever bigotry against Jews reared its ugly head, JWV was there to strike it down.

It wasn't easy. At times opposition to JWV even surfaced in America's Jewish community. We were characterized as being like all other veterans' organizations, falsely slandered as crude, six-pack beer toting ignoramuses.

It wasn't easy, but by our dedication and perseverance, our willingness to take positions on all matters of concern to our nation and Jews across the globe, we have won the attention of, and considerable respect in America's Jewish and non-Jewish communities. Despite the reality of our membership numbers being limited by the requirement that veterans must be Jewish to be a member of JWV, when contrasted with the major U.S. veterans' organizations, JWV has taken leadership positions on a host of issues which have earned commendation from the entire American veterans' community.

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