

The Jewish Veteran®



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Patriotism*

100 YEARS
The Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Centennial Report

PNC Robert M. Zweiman, National Centennial Chairman

The Centennial has reinforced our oneness that we are not in the throes of a last hurrah—we are experiencing a resurgence of purpose. This came out, in part, when we experienced a consciousness of exhilaration from seeing that the work involved in Centennial theme planning not only went right, but it was accepted by all as being one of the best things we ever did.

That's the feeling from what happened at our Centennial NEC weekend and of the Gala which had a good band and piano music during dinner—which brought the presence of and the recognition of JWW from leaders and officials from the VA, government, and sister and brother organizations (by the way, Jewish organizations were invited, none saw fit to either attend or acknowledge)—no formal dais and no speeches—the result was a bonding of our members and a good time had by all of the 327 who attended. Based on the reports I have been receiving from around the country, the Gala celebration was duplicated with great success by many of our Posts.

The carrying out of our Centennial celebration planning signals a more complete and generous holiday offering for our Veterans Day National Convention when we host the Arlington Cemetery Services.

Marcel Proust may have said it best, "The real voyage discovery consists not in seeking a new landscape, but in having new eyes." Our membership can not only see where we have been; but they are bonded together in continuing our journey of service into the next century.



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Where We Stand

PNC Albert Schlossberg, National Editor

Navy vets will recall that when the C.O. wanted to be certain that all aboard would get his message, his remarks were preceded by "Now hear this!" The following message representing the position of the Jewish War Veterans, USA is a "Now hear this" communication.

Clearly Louis Farrakhan is an avowed Jew-hater. From the time his public profanity about and to Jews first surfaced we of the Jewish War Veterans made it clear that we would not be silent. No "Sha,sha" policy would be observed by JWW. Unlike too many other national Jewish agencies we stipulated that we would not be cowed into silence to avoid possible conflict with America's so-called national and local black "leaders." We were and remain confident that a vast preponderance of black Americans oppose the words of hatred expounded by bigot Farrakhan. We have received communication from many Americans, veterans of service to our nation in time of war who happen to be black, supporting JWW's disdain of the self-anointed leader of "The Nation of Islam".

We are equally disturbed by our government's reluctance to prosecute Farrakhan for his apparent, open violation of regulations which prohibit American citizens from consorting with leaders (in their countries) of nations which are designated by the U.S. as being supporters of "terrorism".

His 18-nation Mideast tour which ended on February 23 of this year included a "head of state" meeting with the dictators of Libya, Iraq, Iran, Sudan and Nigeria. Farrakhan issued pronouncements from those centers of totalitarianism which made it clear that his hatred of Jews was exceeded only by his hatred of the United States.

We will not legitimize the liturgy and litany of his spoken and printed words by repeating them. His vile condemnation of our country, its leaders and people (including black Americans who publicly scorn him) is common knowledge.

Sadly, we can not comprehend why the "Minister" was not immediately arrested upon his "triumphal return" to these shores, and tried for his obvious violations of federal law.

Why, we ask, has he not been required to appear before officials of the Departments of State and Justice to respond to inquiries relative to the huge sums of money—\$5 million from Iran, \$1 billion from Ghadafi of Libya—which, in press conferences, he publicly bragged would be given to him by the despots?

Why has our government not ended its existing contracts with the organizations Farrakhan heads which ultimately pump hundreds of millions of tax-dollars into his cess pool of public and private hate messages?

We know that Farrakhan does not speak for the predominant majority of America's black citizens. We suspect that too many of America's political leaders, from Pennsylvania Avenue to Capitol Hill, seem loathe to rock political boats as the time for national elections near. That fear is insulting to the overwhelming numbers of Americans who just happen to be black. Black pride in America has been and continues to be epitomized by the proud record, through all of our country's conflicts, of black citizens who have fought, died and been wounded. These gallant men and women should not be cast in the shadow of Farrakhan's intolerance and disdain for their patriotism and love of our country. Though his loathsome rhetoric is protected by the U.S. Constitution, his violation of existing diplomatic regulations is subject to investigation and conviction.

JWW In Brief

JWW Announces Successful Allied Veterans' Mission to Israel

JWW is proud to announce the successful completion of its eleventh Annual Allied Veterans' Mission to Israel, the critically acclaimed program in which JWW Departments sponsor non-Jewish American veteran leaders to visit Israel during the Easter holiday, for a week of touring, visits with high level Israeli government and military officials, meeting with American diplomats and tours of Israeli veteran service and rehabilitation facilities, affording the participants an opportunity for introspection into Israel, her history, people and place as the Middle East's only democratic nation.

The Mission, which was led this year by PNC Ainslee Ferdie of Coral Gables, Florida, traveled to Israel March 30-April 8, 1996, with veteran leaders representing seven states, and such esteemed veterans organizations as The Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, The Korean War Veterans and The Vietnam Veterans of America. The trip coincided with the Easter and Passover holidays, providing the

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JWW Stamp Update
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Letters to The Editor

A Tribute for Presidents' Day

To the Editor:

We Americans should be thankful for the privilege and obligation for living in a land of liberty.

We Americans should be thankful for the life of a man, Abraham Lincoln, whom we should remember and honor, one who came from the grassroots of the people, who painfully pitted brother against brother in a calamitous collision in order to preserve this nation, abolish slavery and enhance democratic development within our borders.

May we learn intestinal fortitude from this great American. From deep sorrow, from failure after failure, adversity he became President of the United States to lead this country, our country, through the struggle for the rescue of an enchained race.

If you have seen a pensive statue of this man, you have seen the symbol of love for all humble people in this world.

Through his years as a rail-splitter, grocery clerk, mail man, lawyer, politician, statesman, and president he was humorous and witty. One thing he said which for years impressed me: "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him."

May the citizens of the United States help complete G-d's design for a creation based on juvenile justice and human rights, the dream and desire of Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States.

Sanford Gelfand, JWV Post 44

A Call to Merchant Marines

To the Editor:

Now that former members of the merchant marine are welcomed into the ranks of the Jewish War Veterans, those who have served in the United States Maritime Service should consider becoming members of JWV.

The United States Maritime Service training station at Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn had many members of the Jewish faith because of its location in New York City.

I wish to point out that all members of the United States Maritime Service were volunteers. Many who joined the USMS were not eligible to serve in the armed forces due to physical reasons or age. Nevertheless, they had a desire to serve, and so they joined ship's company in Sheepshead Bay.

These men gave up lucrative jobs and professions to wear the uniform of the USMS and were given Navy pay. They deserve plaudits as the unsung heroes of World War II upon whom the merchant marine depended.

I would urge readers to invite friends and relatives who have served in the USMS to become members of our organization.

The writer also would like to hear from any former members of the USMS.

Mandel Fogel, JWV Post 655

Grave Decoration

To the Editor:

May 30, 1868, date of the discharge of the last union army volunteer, General John Logan, Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, declared May 30th as Decoration Day for the purpose of decorating graves of comrades who died in defense of their country. In 1966 Congress adopted the idea of Memorial Day.

On Decoration Day every community in the United States will sponsor a parade with bands, scouts, majorettes, dignitaries, and veterans.

With all due proper respect and courteous applause to marchers, parades are not honoring our fallen comrades.

What should be achieved on Memorial Day is to visit graves of fallen comrades decorating their graves with the flag of our country and perhaps with flowers. This is a proper memorial to our buddies.

Jewish War Veterans of U.S.A.
 Paul A. Rosenblum Post 44
 Cleveland, Ohio

Memorial Day Tribute

To the Editor:

With Old Glory flying high overhead, the small contingent gathered once again to pay homage to their veteran comrades.

In that Veterans Day this year fell on Saturday, the Sabbath, Asbury Park-Ocean Post 125 met on Friday, November 10, the day prior to that which the nation observed this year's holiday.

Joined by members of Mt. Carmel Post 714, Catholic War Veterans and Harold Daley Post 1333 Veterans Foreign Wars, they paused in silence with bowed heads, their grey hair peeking out from beneath cocked overseas caps. The majority of the little band of World War II survivors prayed for those comrades who gave so much. . . many of whom gave their very lives in the struggle for peace.

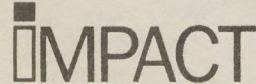
With taps playing in the background, they stood at attention before the Sunset Lake Veterans Memorial in Albury Park, remembering a time in history when the entire world was at war. . . remembering, too, that 50 years have passed since that global conflict ended.

Yes, remembering and reflecting on a time so long ago when most were teenagers fresh out of high school, going off to war to defend a nation so different than that we know today.

With ranks thinning, the veterans of World War I soon shall be no more. Sadly military veterans of later campaigns have emerged. There is less hoopla for the latter; however, our nation must never forget the valor and sacrifices made by all her sons and daughters in their dedication to preserve this great land of ours.

And, as I stood with the others, on that brisk November morn, it was 1944 again, and a skinny kid in a blue sailor suit and squared white hat was answering his nation's call. As I looked up at my beloved stars and stripes blowing in the wind, I could swear that I heard Kate Smith belting out "G-d Bless America."

Robert I. Barr, JWV Post 125



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PROMOTIONAL SOLUTIONS WITH IMPACT

My View

Power From The People

PNC Albert Schlossberg, National Editor

I didn't attend the recent NJRAC plenum in St. Louis. I made that decision after reading the advance material which indicated that some of the top honchos intended to change the organization's decision-making process and put an unrepresentative, unelected cabal in complete control. There are many basic flaws in America's organized Jewish community which have been developing over the last decade.

From generation to generation America's Jews had created a network of local and national organizations. The primary objective then was to protect Jews from the public anti-Jewish philosophies and actions which made it very tough to be a Jew in America.

When Israel was reborn in 1948, her safety and security became a priority for U.S. Jewish groups. Without question, that responsibility was carried out very effectively. Jewish agencies created and nurtured an ambience in American culture which was invaluable to Israel.

Not long ago, all that began to change. Except for minor irritations, hatred of Jews in the U.S. was delegitimized. Public and government support for Israel had been institutionalized. Eventually, Jewish agencies discovered that changes in our society had diminished the need for many of their programs.

The reality of the changes threatened the careers of America's "Professional Jews." An excess of personnel in the agencies exacerbated the problem. Jewish agencies, looking for new problems to solve, found gold in a vast array of secular causes. Almost overnight those matters were co-opted into the American Jewish agenda.

However, despite the fact that millions of Jewish dollars were now being expended on secular causes, the democratic organizational structure was still good insurance should circumstances for Jews in the United States deteriorate. Local Jewish community relations organizational and national Jewish agencies remained a vital part of Jewish America's decision-making process. Issues and policies were debated in public forums, and votes were public. They were all inclusive. At NJCRAC, national Jewish agencies could veto policies or positions which their organization deemed detrimental to the causes they supported.

About a month ago, a communication from NJCRAC told of an internally created, not-all-inclusive committee which, if it came into being, would substantially change the rules of the game. The proposed changes would create a small, non-elected sub-group of the NJCRAC which would unilaterally decide policies. By implication, the general public would be led to believe that NJCRAC's public position was that of all national and local Jewish agencies. Public statements would not reveal that conflicting views exist, as is now the practice. National Jewish agencies would no longer have a veto. NJCRAC policy would automatically become the position of all Jewish groups affiliated with the NJCRAC.

Segue to the recent NJCRAC meeting in St. Louis. Pandemonium ruled! Representatives of several national Jewish groups let it be known they would not sign on to the proposed changes. The proposals were never brought to a vote. When questions were raised about the process in an attempt to obtain information, delegates were told to "sit down and shut up!"

I spoke to several people who were at the conference. Almost without exception, they related the divisive manner in which a small coterie of NJCRAC leaders attempted to stuff their power grab down the throats of the attendees. They called the process a disaster.

I believe it is time for rank-and-file America Jews to closely examine the agenda of organizations which continue to exist only because of the generosity of rank-and-file members. I strongly believe that Jewish money should now be concentrated on stopping the hemorrhaging of Jewish America. Given the current rate of dropouts from Judaism, in a decade or so today's Jewish power structure will be operating in a vacuum, in effect speaking for a Jewish-American society that no longer exists.

In a democracy, which "leaders" constantly invoke as their American, Jewish constituency, power must flow from the people to its representatives.



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