

The Jewish Veteran®



*Jewish
Pride &
American
Patriotism*

100 YEARS

The Jewish War Veterans of
the USA

View from the Top

by Bob Zweiman, National Commander

If you don't watch out, you may learn something new each day. One of which is to find out that Hillel is not really off track that the only way to do anything is to do it yourself.



Robert M. Zweiman
National Commander

So let's start at the beginning of our journey as I relate the experiences of that week - not because I was representing you - but because the Jewish War Veterans was invited and was there. We started the week at the State Department with briefings on world conditions and the Hebron negotiations which was followed by a luncheon for the outgoing Secretary of State Warren Christopher sponsored by the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, which is chaired by a long time JWVer, Leon Levy.

Then we went back of our building for meetings of the JWV/NMI Coordinating Committee, meeting with our staff and the volunteers and did some office work - then came Friday and JWV was at the White House as a guest of the President for the World War II Memorial proposal and for the President's presentation of the Freedom Medal to former Senator Bob Dole.

The week continued with the Inaugural events - the Veterans Inaugural Ball, (with our own National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth as the Chairman of the event), the VFW Inaugural Dinner, the Hispanic Inaugural Gala (where we were the guests of the GI Forum, the Hispanic veterans group), the luncheon hosted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the breakfasts hosted by the Reserve Officers Association and the Jewish Community Center of Washington - JWV had been invited to all events having garnered the respect of the other organizations. They all spoke in glowing terms of our Centennial Convention events and of the pride radiating from our hosting of the National Veterans Day services at Arlington Cemetery.

The Inaugural and all of the veteran Inaugural events were devoted to honoring the possessors of the Congressional Medals of Honor - there were more than a half of the 196 medal holders who attended the various affairs. They all stood very proud and among them was our Jack Jacobs.

I recited the above not to bore you with a travelogue but to report to you on the extent of the recognition and of the respect with which the JWV - your organization - is held by the other veteran, service and community organizations and by officials of our Government. Not only for JWV's presence, but also for its work and its opinions - For the opinions we have expressed and the opinions we will continue to express.

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Women in the Military

by Josephine Anton

The ugly stories of sexual harassment of women recruits by these Officers has spotlighted the role of Women in the Military. Speedy responses by the Pentagon and our own National Commander, Robert M. Zweiman, calling for "zero tolerance on sexual misconduct" is not the only issue brought out by these revelations. It is time now, to quote our Commander, "...to attain a better understanding of the trend for and the role of our women in the military service more than the issue of sexual harassment."

Although 1.8 million women have served in the U.S. military since the Revolutionary War, recognition of their services has come slowly.

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NC Zweiman (front row, right) and PNC Goldman (front row, second from left on end) pose with other military and veteran leaders during trip to NATO Headquarters in Brussels last June. It was during this trip that leaders toured Bosnia.

Editor's Corner

by Seymour "Sy" Brody, National Editor



Illustration by Art Seiden

Your name and our legacy is on the line!

As we cross the bridge leading us into the twenty-first century what will become of your name and our legacy? How will our children and their children know about our role in defending our country against its enemies and helping it become the number one nation in the world?

As in a relay race, we have to pass on the baton of your name and our legacy to them. They have to know about the great sacrifices, contributions and services that we, as Jews, have given to our country.

Our children have to know that Jews have fought in every American major battle, war and expedition from colonial times to the present. They have to know about our war casualties, the dead and the wounded, and of our many thousands of decorations for heroism and bravery, including the twenty-one Jewish recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

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Letters to the Editor

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December 14, 1996
RE: PVT Celia Goldberg

Reading your article stirred up a great deal of memories for me - memories never forgotten as to how Celia Goldberg touched my life. I, too, was stationed at Ft. Devens, MA, in the WAC - eventually assigned to Company 161. This was my first experience away from home - home being Maywood, IL. I called home as often as I could to speak to my mother and father - but on this particular day, I called to learn that my mother was in the hospital - had emergency surgery for a thyroid condition. I felt helpless and devastated - so far from home and very little money.

I remember requesting a 3 day pass from my commanding officer at the time to go home. It was given reluctantly, as I was basically a new recruit, having entered the service in February 1943. It was suggested that the Red Cross would be able to cover the cost of the trip for this emergency. I remember begging them and trying to assure that office that they would be repaid. I was refused - "Sorry." How could I get home?

I was sobbing hysterically when I was stopped by Celia Goldberg and asked what my problem was - I'll never forget her kind words as she asked "How much money do you need?" I had never met her before; I can't remember how she looked except being 22, I thought she looked old to be in the service. She did volunteer to mention that she felt this was also her war and she wanted to be a part of it - and so it was that I traveled around the clock (on a local train) to spend a few precious hours with my mother. I then had to return to camp.

My father wrote Celia a letter of thanks and repaid her. I did not see Celia aboard ship - just learned that she died of kidney failure just 2 days out of Oran N.A. A Jewish service was conducted for her.

Why I'll never forget Celia Goldberg? My mother died while I was overseas - Nov. 1944. I never saw her again. Those few hours that were spent with her will always be cherished.

Fae Barsky Gadz
JWV Post 192

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JWV Post 192 November 18, 1996

Dear Commander:

We, of Post #467 West New York, New Jersey were completely surprised at the publicity given to North Bergen Post #76, North Bergen, NJ in The Jewish Veteran page 27, issued in Volume #49 #3, whereby they alluded to be the only Post having decorated the graves at Mt. Moriah Cemetery prior to Decoration Day this year.

The truth of the matter is that both of us, Barry Weiss, Commander of Post #467 and Sanford Price, Sr. Vice Commander together with several other members, as well as three members of North Bergen Post #76 and three members from Jersey City Post #10, were fully instrumental in the decoration of the graves in Mt. Moriah Cemetery. We also were aided by North Bergen Boy Scout Troop #60 and PAL Explorers of Jersey City, NJ.

Our Post has continuously and exclusively sketched the maps of the grave sites to be used in discovery of each grave. We obtain the markers and flags to be used in the course of the decoration process. This policy has been perpetually the sole responsibility of West New York Post #467 for the past 30 years and has been recognized by Hudson County Council as to the appreciated results of our efforts.

We felt that proper recognition should be given to all the organization responsible for participation in relation to the article published as indicated in prior paragraphs.

West New York Post #467 is proud to have maintained this program so successfully in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Commander Barry Weiss
JWV Post #467

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November 6, 1996

You are to be complimented for an excellent *The Jewish Veteran* Fall/Convention issue.

The picture (page 12) showing the late Chaplain Capt. Marcus elicited fond memories of him of our meeting in the fall of 1944 in Verviers, Belgium.

On several occasions, I had the opportunity to detail the circumstances of our meeting, most recently in a published letter to the editor of *U.S. News and World Report* (June 10, 1996) and testimony on video to Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation and in an interview given to the Oral Archives of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The paper this is written on was left with me back in 1944. I still have several of them. Captain Marcus left an entire large wooden box filled with them before the push into Germany. Also, Capt. Marcus had an immense interest in locating buried synagogue relics, buried before my escape as a child from Wehen, Germany.

Again, thanks for bringing back warm memories of the late Chaplain Marcus.

Sincerely,

Fred Kahn
JWV Post 692

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VA Intensifies Outreach To Women Veterans

VA News Release

Washington, Jan. 28 - More than 400,000 women veterans will receive letters from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) about VA programs specifically designed to meet their needs, including sexual trauma counseling.

Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown said, "Some women veterans who are the victims of sexual assault have come to VA for counseling and treatment, but we know there are many more who reluctant to come forward for help - a common reaction to sexual trauma. I want women veterans to know there is help available. VA staff can help them cope with the long-lasting effects of sexual trauma and improve the quality of their lives," Brown added.

Legislation signed in 1992 authorized VA to provide counseling to eligible women veterans to overcome psychological trauma resulting from sexual assault, battery or harassment while on active duty. Since that time, VA has treated more than 15,000 women veterans in its Vet Centers and medical centers.

Said Brown, "VA is committed to ensuring that the unique health-care needs of women veterans - now numbering 1.2 million - are being met and, in addition to sexual trauma counseling, we have targeted other special programs to meet those needs."

Gynecological services are available at all VA health-care facilities, the majority of which also have special women's clinics. Eight Women Veterans Comprehensive Health Centers have been established to develop new programs for meeting women veterans' health needs, and each VA medical center and regional benefits office has a women veterans' coordinator to provide information on benefits and services.

Women veterans seeking information may call VA's national toll-free number, 1-800-827-1000. VA counselors or women veterans' coordinators are available to provide information on VA and non-VA community programs, as well as assistance in filing claims.

Information also is available through VA's Web site on the Internet. The address is www.va.gov.