

The Jewish Veteran

June 2007 • Volume 60 • Number 3



**Soldiers Rest from Battle
I Cannot Rest from the Battle
for Veterans' Rights**

Participate in a National Committee Meeting

All you need to do is just make a FREE telephone call!

All individual JWV Post Members are an important part of the Jewish War Veterans. As a JWV member, you can attend a National Committee Meeting by dialing into any Teleconference listed below:



PLEASE JOIN WITH US!

To participate in the Teleconference call:

Dial 1-866-266-3378 and then enter the JWV Code Number 2022656280#
(Enter the full number, including the # sign)



Teleconference Schedule • All calls start at 8:00PM EDT or EST

June 14, 2007	Thurs.	Veterans Benefits <i>What's available?</i>
June 27, 2007	Wed.	Housing and Homeless
July 17, 2007	Tues.	Women in the Military
Aug. 1, 2007	Wed.	National Convention <i>What do you expect?</i>
Aug. 23, 2007	Thurs.	At the Convention Information Technology Committee Meeting
Sept. 11, 2007	Tues.	What happened in Charleston, New National Commander, Resolutions
Sept. 26, 007	Wed.	Working together to fight anti-Semitism and protect the Veteran
Oct. 9, 2007	Tues.	Hospitals and VAVS
Oct. 24, 2007	Wed.	Leadership at all levels <i>Make sure your elected officials know of your concerns</i>
Nov. 13, 2007	Tues.	United Nations <i>What's it all about?</i>
Nov. 28, 2007	Wed.	Homeland Security
Dec. 5, 2007	Wed.	Leadership at all levels <i>Meeting your Past National Commanders</i>
Dec 18, 2007	Tues.	Veterans' Legislation <i>What's pending?</i>



**All JWV Members are strongly encouraged to participate!
Your voice matters - your ideas and input is important!**

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Contents

The Jewish Veteran



The Official Publication of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America

Features

- 8 From Generation to Generation
- 9 The Second Lebanon War and Jerusalem Post 180
- 12 At Last He Finds a Special Peace



From Generation to Generation
Page 8

Departments

- 4 Commander's Corner
- 5 News from Capitol Hill
- 6 Letters to the Editor
- 7 Editor's Corner
- 14 Commentary
- 19 Press Releases
- 20 JWV in Action
- 22 New Members
- 23 People and Places
- 24 JWV in Action
- 26 Museum News
- 30 Taps



A Special Peace
Page 12

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November, 2007 copy, photo and ad deadline-Oct. 18; in mail Nov. 16



Commander's Corner

A message from National Commander Norman Rosenshein

The Jewish service people of today share with their fellow soldiers the prospect of service-related mental and physical disabilities. They also face unique problems relating to their heritage. The problems of our military in general and of the Jewish military in particular are the two parts of "The Mission: The Veteran."

As an emphatic reminder that Jews have served not only in the conflicts of the past, but continue their service today, the JWV has recently received a challenge from a young man who has already served in Iraq and is waiting for his next deployment. Speaking not only for himself, but for all of those Jews who serve today, he writes, "*Never forget that Jews serving overseas amidst the maelstrom and din of mortar attacks, (VB)IEDs, are in an environment in which the enemy would love nothing more than to find and behead an American Jew!*"

Those young Jewish servicemen and women in today's Army face not only the perils that confront all of our current soldiers, sailors, and Marines, but they face the additional burden of maintaining their Jewishness in an environment that may be unsympathetic to their spiritual needs. As this young soldier remarks, "*in a war zone when one feels a particular need for G-d and theology there is no support network for them.*"

These pressing concerns are among the reasons we have formed a GWOT committee to tend to the needs of today's soldier. As the Civil War Veteran joined with the Spanish-American War Veteran, and the World War I Veteran joined with the World War II Veteran, the veterans of previous conflicts must join with the veterans of today's conflicts as the JWV goes forward into the 21st century.

While our GWOT committee is hard at work to aid all of our current service people, and the Jewish service people in particular, several agencies, spurred by the needs of all of our service people in this unique conflict and by the negative publicity surrounding our treatment of those most seriously wounded, have produced reports since

my last communication.

Among those reports are the most recent report by the U.S. Army Medical Department's Mental Health Advisory Team and the report of the Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes, chaired by VA Secretary Jim Nicholson, and a report by the National Academy of Science's National Research Council. All of these reports paint a grim picture of the challenges confronting the veterans of today's conflicts and those organizations, such as the JWV, that serve their needs.

The JWV welcomes all of this attention to the needs of the returning soldier. We salute the recommendations of the Task Force that include coordination to VA standards of a joint process for disability determinations between the DOD and the VA. The report of the Mental Health Advisory Team highlighted the strains on U.S. troops in Iraq, especially those with multiple deployments. The report of the National Academy urges the development of better tests to determine and treat those soldiers returning from combat with PTSD.

All of the reports in the world, however, amount to nothing more than a mound of paper or gigabytes of information lost in cyberspace unless they result in better treatment for our soldiers. We must not allow these reports to join so many others throughout the ages that have been written with the best of intentions but whose recommendations remain unimplemented. Reports will do nothing for our troops unless action is taken.

The JWV applauds the implementation schedule for the recommendations in the report of the Task Force chaired by Secretary Nicholson. The coordination of disability coordination between the DOD and VA were supposed to be implemented as early as May 2007. As part of our mission, the JWV will monitor the work of the two departments to ensure that this coordinated effort is indeed underway



Continued on page 10