



# THE JEWISH VETERAN

Fall • 2010

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## JWV National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth Elected President of The Military Coalition

Colonel Herb Rosenbleeth, USA-Ret., National Executive Director of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV) has been elected President of The Military Coalition (TMC), which is comprised of more than 30 military and veterans' and uniformed service organizations that advocate on behalf of servicemembers, retirees, and military families.

Members of The Military Coalition work together to reach shared goals on behalf of America's servicemembers. After first banding together in the mid-1980's to fight the Gramm-

Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction law, the Coalition formalized itself in 1986, then incorporated in 1995. PNC Bob Zweiman of JWV was on the TMC Board of Directors, and was one of the leaders of the TMC incorporation. We are very proud that PNC Zweiman continues today on the Board of TMC.

TMC today consists of 32 member organizations, representing 5.5 million members and their families. It has been described by Military Update columnist Tom Philpott as "the most formidable lobbying force ever to fight on behalf on servicemembers, retirees,



and families."

TMC has been instrumental in

*Continued on page 17*

## Allied Veterans Praise JWV's 25th Annual Allied Veterans Trip to Israel



Photo by Peggy Gilbert

JWV's 25th Allied Veterans Trip to Israel took place Oct. 7-17, 2010. More than 30 Allied Vets, spouses, and JWV members from around the country enjoyed a spectacularly successful trip. For the 25th time, JWV Departments around the country

sponsored dignitaries from Allied veterans' organizations to see Israel for themselves.

These Allied Vets, as have those who have gone before them, have come back as ambassadors for Israel to the greater veterans community

after seeing the Jewish State for themselves. National Commander Steve Zeitz, who led the Mission, gives us an overview of the trip in his column, which you can find on p. 4 of this issue.

**Below is a sampling of some of the messages we're received from the Allied Vets since their return.**

\*\*\*\*\*

To all the Jewish War Veterans and the JWV Department of Pennsylvania, please accept my heartfelt thanks for your sponsorship of my visit to Israel. The ten days was an awakening to me as to the struggles of the Jewish people over the past few decades. In the US we focus on the "political" aspects of Israel without

*Continued on page 10*

**Join us in Washington for Capitol Hill Action Day & NEC, March 2-6, 2011**

## Upcoming JWV Teleconferences

*Your opinions and ideas count!* All JWV members are encouraged to join in and participate by calling this toll-free number:

Dial 1-866-266-3378 and enter the JWV Code Number: 202 265 6280#.  
Enter the full number, including the # sign.  
All calls start at 8:00 PM EST or EDT

### 2011

- Jan 11, Tues. .... Membership
- Jan 26, Wed. .... National Finance Board
- Feb 9, Wed. .... NEC - Plans and Preparations
- Mar 24, Thurs. .... NMAJMH
- April 12, Tues. .... Past National Commanders  
Visions of the Future of JWV
- April 27, Wed. .... Information Technology
- May 12, Thurs. .... Membership
- May 24, Tues. .... Veterans Services and Hospitals
- June 2, Thurs. .... The National Convention
- June 22, Tues. .... The Manual of Ceremonies
- July 7, Thurs. .... JWV in the Year 2020
- July 27, Wed. .... The Jewish Veteran and Local PR
- Aug. 10, Wed. .... At the Convention Committee Meetings,  
Business Sessions, Speeches, etc.
- Aug. 24, Wed. .... Convention Overview
- Sept. 13, Tues. .... Membership
- Oct. 26, Wed. .... Meeting Planning and Programming
- Nov. 16, Wed. .... Membership Drives, Veterans Shabbats,  
Poppy Drives and Other Post Activities



## THE JEWISH VETERAN

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# YOUR LETTERS

## Fellow Veterans of the Second World War!

A long time ago during cruel and terrible days you and our Grandfathers fought together for the future of the civilization against an insidious and powerful enemy—and this Union, this Friendship, this Fraternity stopped the advance of the Axis forces and destroyed fascism.

And now, exactly 65 years after the End of the Great War, on this beautiful Victory Day, we are saying to you: Thank you, dear Veterans, thank you for fighting, thank you for leaving your houses and families, thank you for being with us in those difficult days, thank you for your bravery and honor, thank you for the future that you gave us.

We remember your feat!  
Long live the heroes!  
Praise to the fallen soldiers!

*With regards and best wishes  
Foundation "Popular Assembly," Russia*

## Chaplains across the Generations

In 1952 I received my commission as an Ensign in the Navy. In October I went on active duty and was assigned to report to the USS Philippine Sea, CVA 47, at Coronado, San Diego, California.

Prior to leaving for Korean waters I attended a party at the local Jewish Center and met a Navy Chaplain, LT Silver, who told me of this orders to report to the Naval Base at Yokosuka, Japan, as Chaplain to the fleet.

Upon arrival at Yokosuka, I looked up Chaplain Silver, who welcomed me. After we took station off North Korea for 30 days, the carrier returned to Yokosuka for repairs and supplies, and I again went to see Chaplain Silver. While there, he asked me if I would like to have a Passover Seder on board the carrier, although we would again be at sea on combat operations during Passover.

He arranged with the carrier's Protestant Chaplain to provide the necessary provisions: books, chicken soup packets, gefilte fish, candles, and matzos.

The ship's chaplain arranged for a meal and services which were attended by four officers and ten enlisted men. We held the Seder while the carrier operations were going on. A Navy photographer took pictures since this was the first time a Passover Seder was held while in combat at sea.

The Rabbi was LT Daniel Jeremy Silver, who later became the head of Temple Tefereth Israel in Cleveland, Ohio.

Recently my nephew Sgt. Major Jeffrey Harris Hill was on active duty in Kuwait, where he worked with his Chaplain to have, when possible, Friday services, a Chanukah party and a Passover service for all Jewish service men and women in the area. He told his Chaplain of my experience in 1953, and he gave Jeffrey a Chaplain's coin for his work and one for me. This was a great honor from Chaplain (Rabbi) Joel Newman.

Today every effort is made to serve our Jewish service men to have services, and my Protestant Chaplain worked with me on the Seder as well as attending the service.

*Sidney Hill, Post 44  
Cleveland, Ohio*

## "The Jewish Veteran"

Congratulations to Cheryl Waldman, Christy Turner, and the JWV Executive board who have coordinated their efforts in taking the first steps to abandon "The Jewish Veteran," the glossy, slick showpiece magazine consisting of opinions, retrospective commentary and reminiscences. What we have now is a new, refreshing, factual and clearly written current report of JWV activities.

It is a new start which presents a bright image of an active JWV membership. The Directory of the contents helps the reader to quickly find specific areas of his or her interests. Committee reports are informative and give the member a chance to learn how his own Post can copy or adapt the accomplishments. In the near future, the editors can include the ideas and thoughts submitted during the phone-in conferences.

The savings from using a less expensive but legible and classy paper that does not reflect the light into the eyes of the reader is a great choice. The print size is better. Paragraphs are shorter. Italics have been eliminated. The use of color is judicially limited. Guidelines for submitting articles, photos and information are quite clear. My preference is to see more photos or activity than just seeing persons giving awards without a brief article to support and explain the award. The number of letters to the editor has increased and will continue to get the pulse of the membership. I would not be surprised to see published regularly the Preamble of the JWV to provide Post and Department Commanders a guide with which to direct Post activities.

We are off to a new start. Where do we go from here?

*Jack Ralph  
Joseph Barr Post 58, Washington, DC*

## Thanks from the VFW

Thank you for honoring the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States with your generous donation to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Please extend our thanks to [Past] National Commander Robins and my good friend Bob Zweiman.

In the celebrations of our 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of the VFW Memorial Building, we are truly grateful and appreciative of your thoughtfulness.

*Robert E. Wallace  
Executive Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States*

## Thanks for Honoring Wife

My family and I deeply appreciate your expression of sympathy about my Sweetheart for more than 60 years. She served as a U.S. Army Cadet nurse during WWII. She truly was a lovely lady and will be greatly missed. I also appreciate your generous donation honoring her memory to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

Your thoughtfulness and compassion during this difficult time in our lives makes our sorrow easier to bear.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

*Sincerely,  
Pete Wheeler  
Commissioner, Georgia Department of Veterans Service*

[Editor's Note: General Wheeler was a featured speaker at the 2010 JWV Annual Convention in Savannah, GA.]

## The National Veterans Suicide Hotline

Thank you so much for your recognition and thanks to the National Veterans' Suicide Hotline! Our responders and health technicians and support staff sincerely appreciate your support and encouragement. Thank you for the many ways you encourage us all to recognize and support our Veterans.

*With respect,  
The National Veterans Suicide Hotline  
Vic Bridges, Manager*

[Editor's Note: The JWV passed a resolution at the most recent National Convention commending the work of the Hotline.]

# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Stephen R. Zeitz



I am honored to have been elected your National Commander at our most recent National Convention. I am looking forward to an exciting year ahead and to meeting as many of you as possible as we work together for the needs of our veterans.

In my first major trip as your new commander I had the privilege of leading JWV's 25th Allied Veterans Mission and JWV Leadership Mission. Through the Allied Veterans Mission, members of Allied Veterans groups are sponsored by JWV departments and come back from their missions to become spokesmen and advocates for Israel to the members of their organizations

We all came away amazed and dazzled by Israel and its accomplishments. Our extensive 10-day tour gave us all a truly comprehensive view of Israel's past and present, and it was truly a pleasure to meet members of



National Commander Steve Zeitz presented the PNC pin to his predecessor PNC Ed Robins.

Jerusalem Post 180 on our trip.

We started our tour with a visit in Tel Aviv to the Carmel market and the Soho of Tel Aviv. We then toured the city and visited the site of

Prime Minister Rabin's assassination and the building that houses the Ministry of Defense and the IDF headquarters.

We visited the "boardwalk" and watched Israelis of all ages performing and enjoying Israeli folk dances. Then we took a tour of Jaffa.

We visited Independence Hall, where Prime Minister Ben Gurion announced the independence of Israel. After that we visited the museum depicting Rabin's life and had the special privilege of meeting with his daughter Dalia.

Later that evening we participated in the highlight of our trip, a gala dinner to celebrate the 50th anniversary of TZEvet, the IDF veterans' organization, featuring Israeli President

*Continued on page 5*

## NEWS

## FROM CAPITOL HILL



By Herb Rosenbleeth,  
Colonel, U.S. Army(Ret)  
National Executive Director



### BUDGET DEFICITS AND VETERANS

The commission created by President Barack Obama to recommend ways to reduce record budget deficits is preparing a report to be released in early December. The final public meetings of this commission are scheduled for November 10 and December 1.

Officially titled the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, this commission has been tasked to review possibilities to reduce this country's staggering national debt crisis. Some 57 members of Congress have banded together to urge "in the strongest terms that any final Commission report include among its recommendations substantial reductions in projected levels of future spending by the Department of Defense." Costs to DoD would almost certainly be followed by, or even include, cuts to the VA.

The likelihood of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts scaling down will vastly increase the pressure to reduce VA spending. Even our

hard won advance appropriation legislation could well become endangered and the doors could close on Category 8's. There are many in Congress who would like to get out of this financial commitment.

Our closest ally, cash strapped Britain, is in a similar situation, and has unveiled its deepest military cuts since the end of the Cold War. Britain has recently announced substantial troop reductions, will decommission warships, mothball a class of fighter jets, and delay upgrading its nuclear arsenal.

What must we do? We must become involved. We must especially communicate with the new members of Congress, and continue to regularly stay in touch with the holdovers.

The Commission's findings are merely recommendations. It is Congress that must approve any cuts to federal spending. Nothing can be taken from veterans without the approval of Congress.

Let's communicate with our members of Congress!



With President Obama discussing veterans issues.

# DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

By PNC Paul Bernstein, National Editor



## Anti-Semitism on the Rise in Europe

Over the last few days, I have received several articles regarding the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe, especially in France and England.

This reminds me of a conversation I had in 2003 with a lay leader of a large Jewish community in Brussels, Belgium, when I was National Commander. He told us horror stories of anti-Semitism in Belgium and all over Europe. He told us that he has his bags packed, ready to get out of Europe at a moment's notice. I was taken aback by this statement; I did not realize that anti-Semitism was on the rise again--this was 2003 not 1933.

Since I received these articles a few days ago, I wanted to do some research on the subject. Here is what I found out. The news is very bad. We only hear bits and pieces of this story in our media. As of this date, there are about six million Muslims in France and about 600,000 Jews. Here are some acts of terror:

In Lyon, a car was rammed into a synagogue and set on fire.

In Montpellier, Strasbourg, and Marseilles, synagogues and Jewish centers were firebombed.

In Paris, the statue of Alfred Dreyfus was desecrated.

There were hundreds more anti-Jewish acts which I could cite.

In 2009, the UK saw 374 violent acts against Jews as compared to 112 in 2008. France was a distant second with 195 violent attacks compared to 50 the previous year. The total number of anti-Semitic incidents was a record number of 1,129 in 2009, compared to 559 in 2008. Four percent of incidents or 41 cases were armed assaults against Jews because of their religion, and 15 percent were weaponless assaults. Arson accounted for three percent or 34 instances. The fact that the UK and France led the chart is partly because these countries are home to Europe's largest Jewish communities (250,000 and 500,000 respectively).

The best explanation for the differences between European and American incidents of anti-Semitic attacks probably has to do with the history of immigration to the U.S. and Europe. Muslims who come to America can traditionally afford the price of a ticket for the trip. That means that they tend to be better off and better educated than Muslims who are guest workers, children of guest workers, and poor economic migrants who have shifted for decades to

Europe from Turkey, North Africa and the Middle East.

JWV is not just sitting back and letting this happen in the U.S.A.

JWV has developed an Anti-Terrorism Commission to be a watch dog. Part of the Commission's mission is to develop an alert network in which all departments will be notified of a pending attack against a Jewish institution. More information about this network and your responsibilities as JWVers will be forthcoming.

### References:

"Anti-Semitism Keeps Rising in Europe," Miller-McCune online.

Study: "Anti-Semitism in Europe hit new high in 2009," Haaretz.com

"UK Anti-Semitism at record high," The Jerusalem Post, Aug. 23, 2010

## FROM THE COMMANDER

*Continued from page 4*

Shimon Peres and a host of other top dignitaries. JWV was afforded a great reception at the dinner. The next morning we met with Major General Baruch Levy of TZEvet and Colonel Mordechai "Max" Avigad and others. PNC Sam Greenberg presented General Levy with a medal from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains. The General gave Sam and me each a medal to celebrate the 50th anniversary of TZEvet.

Other stops included Caesarea, Haifa, Tiberias, a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, and the Golan Heights—what a view! Israel needs to keep this space to protect itself from Syria, Lebanon, etc.

Next it was on to Jerusalem, stopping at kibbutz Ayalon to see the hidden ammunition factory operated during British occupation. What Chutzpa!

The next day we visited the old city of Jerusalem, Herod's quarter, and Ammunition Hill. We laid a wreath at the Memorial to the Six-Day War and at the Holocaust Museum.

The Allied Veterans and others who desired to also had the opportunity to visit many important Christian sites including the Way of the Cross,



NC Steve Zeitz, second from left, in rear, led a wreath laying ceremony at Yad Lashiryon - The Armored Corps Museum.

the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Bethlehem, and the Church of the Nativity.

The last day of tour we visited Masada and the Dead Sea, where many went into the water. We were blessed to have a terrific tour guide and driver.

At one site we visited, an Arab introduced

himself to me as a Colonel and addressed me as a General due to the four stars on my commander cap. When I advised him I was not a General, but the Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, he abruptly turned and walked away.

Several Arab Israelis advised me that even if the Arabs got their own country, they would not leave Israel.

When you see what Israel has done with the desert, you would be amazed--they are growing vegetables and fruits and trees. They have irrigation systems in place. Technology is second to none. During your lifetime you must visit our partner Israel.

I must give a special thanks to PNC Sam Greenberg's grandson Evan, who is to be lauded for all of his help to our group. He is a great kid and Sam and Barbara should be proud.

Being able to lead this Mission to Israel was a very special way to start my term as your National Commander. What a thrill to experience Israel and to see firsthand the high regard in which the JWV is held. I look forward to an exciting year and hope to see as many of you as I can in the coming year.

# COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee

## It's a New Reality Show, Stupid!!!



The Teaneck Armory Family Assistance Center in New Jersey just terminated one of its few employees. We are on our way—with one more lay-off we can eliminate the whole section on Military Family Assistance.

I know now with that lay-off all of you can feel comfortable that the budget is being balanced, the deficit is being eliminated, and we look forward in a short time to having no more national debt, and that's just from laying off [a polite way of saying fired].

Of course, as usual, it's only the families of those serving our nation who continue to find that their dependency is minimized and their needs ignored—they are disposable like toilet paper. We continue to gut those who give of themselves and leave them with the short end of the stick.

The popular slogan is, "It's the economy, stupid." The key word is "stupid." The politicians, bankers, lobbyists, media analysts [many with the insight of a bedbug] and all others consider you as "stupid." They discuss economics with you as though you were going for your masters or doctorate in economics so that you can use big words which have no meaning to you—you don't find many Keynesians at your meetings.

Now would you believe that the conservatives and neo-conservatives have just won the mid-term elections—I guess you do since you may have voted. What can we expect? A different form of the same thing? A government turnover? Anarchy on the left or the right? The bleeding of industry from America? Or, just plain nothing?

As veterans we can probably expect reductions and obstacles—elimination of class 8—moratorium on advanced determination—let's hope that the VA and Administration are willing to stem this movement through administration rulings and the like thus opening health and other benefits to our returning troops. You can do it by doing it—not so hard to

do—all you have to do is to demand not just recognition of veterans' needs, but making sure they get them.

Nationally and statewide there is an economic program called Balanced Budget—theoretically based on the premise that you don't spend more than you have.

Now, in practice, this is supposed to only apply to the enemy called government—I always called it absurd [it sucks]. Now to make it really work, it has to apply to business and citizens. But, can you imagine telling your wife or children that they can only buy everything they want for cash? It would eliminate the trade deficits since no one would export into the United States, especially the American firms which set up their companies and factories overseas.

So how does this unilateral theory work in practice? First we determine how much we have by totaling taxes and revenue adjusted after deducting tax cuts, subsidies to the oil and gas companies to assure them of billions in profits, exclusions to pension plans and other goodies.

Then we must determine and eliminate earmarks [you try to figure what the word really means] which are needed to help the incumbents get reelected. It could be the end of pay to play. That candidate from South Carolina could end up being a role model [if they don't convict him].

Set aside the monies for entitlements such as Medicare, social security, and Medicaid, which we can reduce by changing the rules, and don't forget defense spending, which is required to carry out our wars in the Middle East and anywhere else the oil barons determine. Then, whatever is left, if any, we can use to run a reduced government and social and other programs.

This always ends up with a deficit since some programs have to be passed to allow voters to feel that the legislators really consider their needs, which, of course, they don't. Well, we can always

borrow or print some needed money, and government will go on to greater heights of deficit and debt. Since the new group in Congress is repeal crazy, they can repeal the balanced budget and replace it with common sense.

Or, we can turn to zero-based budgeting. This will be very difficult for both new and old-time legislators since they would have to understand what is in the budget rather than what they have been told by lobbyists to be against. Especially since they have to start from the bottom up. That's usually where they start their fundraising.

Now there's a good place to consider. Fundraising. The election cost about \$3.5 Billion [with a "B"]. If we required matching funds, we could apply them to the budget or infrastructure. After California and Connecticut, we might encounter a reduction in billionaires running for office—although, hopefully, they who just lost their elections bought their new fashion wardrobes so the states will have gotten the sales tax returns.

How about requiring matching funds to be paid against budget short fall [excluding the money checked off on your income tax return]? How about charging increased tariffs on goods imported from overseas made by or for American companies so that it would be cost-effective to bring the industry back to the US? What if we eliminate lobbying expenses as tax-deductible—which would result in defeated Congressmen having to go on unemployment?

Come to think about it, how about a new reality show, making it an actual reality? We could take Russia's approach of annexing Japanese islands taken during WWII having mineral and other assets. We could take control of oil fields which we bought with American blood and go into competition with OPEC, thus

*Continued on page 7*

# AN AMERICAN HERO

John Burton Crites 1923 – 2010

By Rabbi John Crites-Borak

My father died today of natural causes after a long and productive life.

Many years ago, not long after I converted to Judaism, I invited my father to attend a Yom ha-Shoah [Holocaust Day] observance at my synagogue. He had been a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne in World War II. He was in the first wave that landed behind the lines on D-Day. Some months later, during Operation Market Garden, he jumped near Nijmegen, Holland. Within days he suffered severe battlefield wounds from a German mortar that cost him his hearing in one ear, a year in the hospital and permanent damage to his legs and circulatory system.

I invited him to the Yom ha-Shoah commemoration because he never seemed to have a sense that anything he did in the war had a meaning larger than only having done his duty. I said to him, “Dad, I’d like you to meet people face to face who are alive today because of what you and your fellow soldiers did.” Because he was by nature a humble man, he declined. My mother did not. “We’ll be there,” she said.

When we entered the synagogue sanctuary I handed him a kippah [yarmulke].

“Do I have to wear this?,” he asked. I told

him he didn’t, but that it was customary and would be the polite thing to do. He sat in the front row because his hearing was bad, and he had a bum leg from the shrapnel, and he needed the extra room. The service was completely foreign to him, of course.

In truth he was a bit suspicious about Judaism. His only son had abandoned the family’s secular Christian family heritage to become an observant Jew.

For him, as for my mother, my conversion represented loss. But he was there, and the stories he heard that night touched him at the very core of his soul. When just before the Mourner’s Kaddish [Jewish Prayer for the Dead] the rabbi asked everyone in the room who had fought in World War II please to stand, my father rose unsteadily to his feet. He was weeping openly, tears streaming down his weathered face. It was the only time in my life I ever saw him cry.

We recited the Kaddish and the service ended. My father sat completely still, lost in thought, still crying. One of the Survivors who had spoken that night walked over and placed his hands on my father’s shoulders. Then he leaned down and embraced him. “Tank you,” he said in his thick Eastern European accent. “Tank you so much. Tank you. Tank you. Tank



you.” They were forehead to forehead now, both of them weeping. As I gazed at them I noticed the Survivor’s shirt sleeve had ridden up his arm. And there it was: the tattooed number that marked him for life.

When we were all cried out, I helped my father rise from his chair. We walked slowly to the exit. As we neared the door he reached up and took the kippah from his head. “Can I keep this?,” he asked. I nodded. He folded it carefully and placed it in his pocket. It was the same kippah he later wore when he and my mom sat with us at the Pesach Seder and occasional Erev Shabbat

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## COMMENTARY

*Continued from page 7*

reducing our deficit. We could also make a reduction in our debt by turning over the monies owed to us by foreign governments [which we will never get or which we will forgive] and discount it making it a bargain and assign those debts to China [they’ve been jerking us around with the valuation of their money, so monkey see, monkey does]—cleaning up our balance sheet and use the interest we would not have to pay for budget revenue. And, we can accomplish all that without having to eat reality ants or beetles and without worrying about Nielsen ratings, let alone Standard and Poors [it’s the Poors part which puts us into poverty].

Usually those who write look up quotes to use. I did and found a good one. It turns out to be my comment to our NEC at our last National Convention:

“Right now, equally as to what we stand for; we must unite, not only in this organization, but through all the

other VSOs, to make sure we’re not screwed, with somebody going around saying “balanced budget.” They didn’t say balanced budget when Americans spilt their blood. Now it’s balanced budget. We have fought for years for mandatory funding, and we still don’t have it, and it’s vital for those that are coming back from Afghanistan and Iraq. PTSD – eh, they’re coming back and committing suicide. They’re getting divorces. Families are broken apart. And you’re going to allow the politicians to throw you away because you got some cockamamie people who think they’re more important than our mission, our duty? Don’t let them do that. Never let them do that. If you do that, you’re screwing yourself as well as everybody else. That would be my report. Reports are wonderful. Action is a hell of a lot better.”

*Ain’t it the truth?*

### Murray L. Rosen Member of the Year Award

The 2010 Murray L. Rosen Member of the Year Award was presented to Bob and the late Carol Cirkus of NJ for their extraordinary service to veterans and their families. Through the sale of their patriotic merchandise, they have been able to give the proceeds to the families of members of the New Jersey National Guard. Their tireless efforts have helped veterans and their families throughout the State of New Jersey and truly encompass the best values of the JWV.

## A First Vietnam War Vets Reunion

by PDC Harvey Weiner, Department of Massachusetts

The final impetus for the first reunion of MACV Advisory Team #73 after 40 years was the unexpected death of Alan Miller two years ago. Alan, from Oklahoma, was the other Jewish



1969 - Chuong Thien Province, South Vietnam - 1Lt Alan Miller in front of his bunker.

member besides myself of our small Vietnam War Advisory Team in forlorn Chuong Thien Province, located in the southern Mekong Delta and statistically one of the most Viet-

Cong controlled of the forty-four South Vietnam provinces in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Our team was composed mainly of Army advisors to the Vietnamese, but we also had a Navy Seal, two Air Force FAC's, two CIA operatives, two State Department (CORDS) specialists and a couple of other civilian contractors.

There were about 80 Americans assigned to our province at any one time, but with the limitation of one-year individual tours, there were about 160 Americans that one would get to meet over the course of a year. We hadn't trained together; we did not regularly work side by side as we each had separate Vietnamese counterparts whom we advised; we each had different missions; and we were of diverse ages and backgrounds. Could a reunion of such war veterans after 40 years of separation be a success?

We met in St. Louis for the weekend. The 100 degree heat and the 117 degree heat index in St. Louis was very reminiscent of Vietnam. Twelve veterans from 11 different states and six spouses attended the reunion. Ten of our American team members had been killed in Vietnam, and six had died thereafter, some perhaps due to the effects of Agent Orange. Others could not be located or

could not attend. The few Vietnamese counterparts whom we could locate also could not attend.

Except for each of us gaining "several" pounds and "several" gray hairs, it was almost as if the forty years had melted away. We talked for hours and hours. The sites we visited – the St. Louis Arch, the St. Louis Vietnam Memorial and Soldiers Military Museum, the Anheuser-

*Continued on page 14*



June 27, 2009 Reunion of MACV Advisory Team #73 near the St. Louis Vietnam War Memorial. PDC Harvey Weiner in JWV cap at center kneeling.

## Picking Apples

By Harvey Blumenthal, M.D.

On Memorial Day, we will honor and reflect on those who gave for our country what President Lincoln first called "the last full measure of devotion." Etched on the polished black granite wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., are the names of 58,260 Americans who died fighting that war; 988 of those warriors were from Oklahoma. Based on state populations, Oklahoma had the second-highest casualty rate.

In 1974, I joined the faculty of the newly established University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Tulsa. Before that, I served two years active duty as neurologist at U.S. Naval Hospital in Great Lakes, Ill. My workdays were not pleasant, for my task was to treat young soldiers and Marines who had been wounded in Vietnam. Weekends afforded some relief while my wife, our three young boys and I explored various experiences around Chicago.

One warm and sunny October Sunday in 1971, we went apple picking in the Wauconda Apple Orchard, nearby the Naval Hospital. We

paid \$2 for the bushel basket and entry into the orchard to pick all the apples that would fill the basket. My wife photographed our three sons and me, and this photo of the four of us together remains one of my all-time favorites. When I now look at this picture, snapped that autumnal Sunday, I cannot help but think of those wounded and killed American boys in the context of their own childhood, and the joys, hopes and ambitions their parents nurtured for their sons. Each of these families had photographs, just like mine — happy times with their little boys who had unlimited futures.

They were McIntosh apples, which are semi-tart, not sweet and juicy like Red Delicious apples, but McIntosh apples remain special to me because we picked them together. Even now, I sometimes indulge myself in a few rueful moments when I happen across McIntosh apples in the grocery store, not only because of this special moment with my sons, but because those baleful times are also recalled. Advancing age seems to be a catalyst for this kind of retrospect.

Until now, I had never really studied this photograph. By chance, the photo has an artistic composition; notice the linear progression of

height, from left to right, of the four of us — reminiscent of a similar structure in the famous photo of the flag-raising on Iwo Jima.

The bushel basket is brimming with apples. If you look closely, among the red apples, front and center there is a single green leaf from the apple tree, symbolic of one memorable day of our lives, together and everlasting. Somehow, every day of our life is special and valuable and has meaning, if only we look for it.

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# Congratulations JWV Award Winners

National Awards are an opportunity for recognition of work accomplished to benefit veterans. At National Convention each year the special achievements of various echelons are recognized through the presentation of National Awards. All members and the echelons to which they belong are encouraged to submit entries for awards so that the hard work of all can be recognized. Winners and runners-up are announced at Convention and presented with certificates of achievement by the National Commander.

## Department Awards

**Wolfson Award - Outstanding Record in Community Relations**  
Department of Massachusetts

**National Commander's Award - Performing Outstanding Service**  
Department of Massachusetts • *Honorable Mention - Department of TALO*

**Edward D. Blatt Award - Outstanding Department Commander**  
Department of New York

## Council Awards

**National Commander's Award - Performing Outstanding Service**  
Bronx Council, Department of New York

## Post Awards

**Ben Kaufman Award - Doing the Most for Hospitalized Veterans**  
Post 459, Florida

**National Headquarters Award - Outstanding Community Relations Record**  
Post 256, Texas • *Honorable Mention - Post 1, New York*

**National Commander's Award - Performing Outstanding Service**  
Post 1, New York

**Brenner-Jaffee Award - Post Bulletins** Post 619, Arizona  
*Honorable Mention - Post 256, Texas + Post 652, New York*

## Echelon Awards

**Vietnam Veterans Award** Post 1, New York

## Individual Awards

**Judge Lawrence Gubow Memorial Award - Americanism**  
Josephine Anton, Florida

**Individual Award - Signing up most new members**  
Robert Richter, New Jersey

## Post Membership Increase Awards

Category 1: Posts with 4-99 members  
Jules Lazard Post 580, Department of TALO

Category 2: Posts with 100-174 members  
Drizin-Weiss Post 215, Department of Pennsylvania

Category 3: Posts with 175-249 members  
San Fernando Valley Post 603, Department of California



Allan Milifeský accepts the Category 3 Post Membership Increase Award on behalf of San Fernando Valley Post 603, Dept. of CA



Donald Westerman accepts the Wolfson Award on behalf of the Dept. of MA.



Dept. of PA Commander Jerry Farris accepts the Category 2 Post Membership Increase Award on behalf of Drizin-Weiss Post 215.



Sidney Goldman accepts the Edward D. Blatt award for winner Jon Zak of NY.



Hannah Deutch accepts the Vietnam Veterans Award on behalf of Post 1 of NY.



Robert Richter, NJ, winner of the Individual Award for signing up most new members.



National Commander's Award honorable mention went to the Dept. of TALO. Accepting is Dept. Cmdr Jerome Benjamin.



Josephine Anton accepts the Judge Lawrence Gubow Memorial Award.



Photo left: Jerome Benjamin and Dick Lethe accept the National Headquarters Award on behalf of Post 256, Texas.



Photo middle: Jesse Gersten accepts the Brenner-Jaffee Award on behalf of Post 619, Arizona.



Photo right: Helene Van Clief accepts the National Commander's Award on behalf of the Bronx Council, Dept. of New York.

# Bragging Rights

By John Jay Fleitman, Ed.D.

Although I have never heard my uncle Frank Levine boast about his numerous lifetime achievements, I could not resist writing about his many accomplishments and contributions to his family, to athletic competitions and to his country.

Born in 1914 and raised in the tenements on the Lower East Side of New York, Uncle Frank was the oldest of seven children whose Jewish parents emigrated from Russia. After his father became ill, Uncle Frank was obliged to leave high school in 1928 before his fourteenth birthday and take a full-time job in the garment industry. In the same year, he resumed his high school education by attending full-time night school while working full-time during the day.

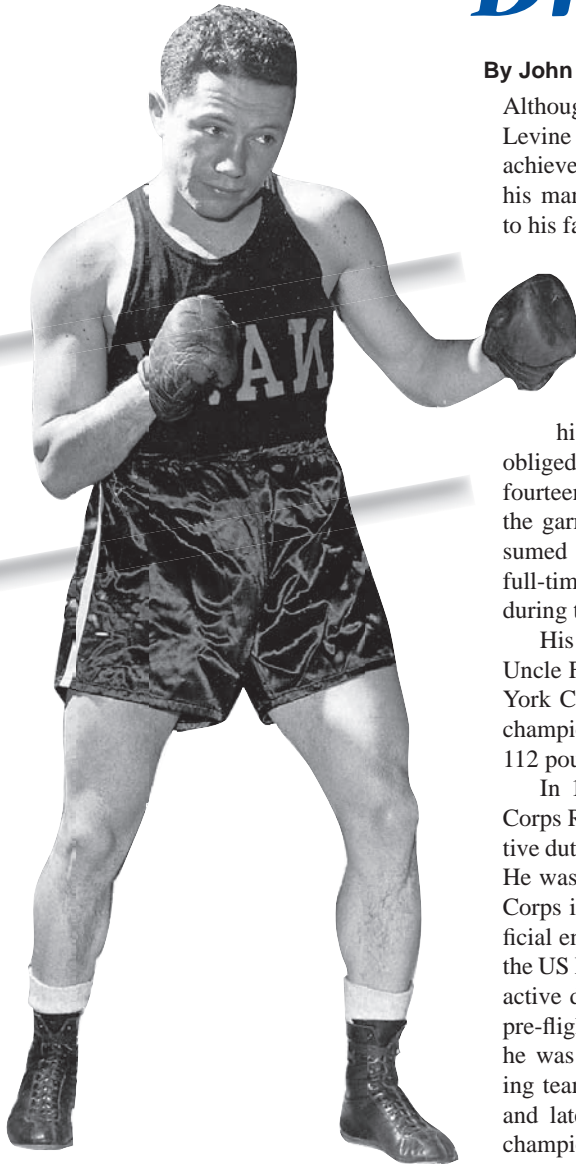
His amateur boxing career began when Uncle Frank, at the age of 20, entered the New York City Daily News Golden Gloves Boxing championship. He won the championship at the 112 pound weight classification.

In 1936, my uncle enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves and in 1940, was ordered to active duty, and served at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in early 1941. Immediately after our official entry into WWII, Uncle Frank enlisted in the US Navy at the beginning of 1942. While on active duty, he was assigned to the US Navy's pre-flight school in Iowa City, Iowa, where he was placed on the pre-flight school's boxing team. In that capacity, he was undefeated and later won the US National AAU boxing championship.

After the war, Uncle Frank enlisted in the Naval Reserves and was later ordered to active duty during the Korean conflict. He served his time at the Brooklyn Naval Yard and on several aircraft carrier voyages to European ports. Having served 11 years of active and inactive duty, my uncle Frank was honorably discharged from the Navy. Taking advantage of the GI Bill of Rights, he earned his Certified Public Accounting certificate and his law degree after spending 22 years at night school interrupted only by his active duty service.

Keeping true to his words and deeds, Uncle Frank undertook another athletic endeavor, competitive running. At 65, he began to run marathons and finished 18 of them with excellent times. During the course of his competing, Uncle Frank won numerous regional and national track and field competitions. At the age of 90, he broke the world's record for the 3,000 meter run, and in 2009 at age 95 he established the world record for the 5,000 meter race. Recently, he was inducted into the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in May, 2010.

"Never give up!" and "Always keep in excellent condition" are two very important maxims which my Uncle Frank has tried to instill within his two married children, five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. According to him, finishing in first place is quite an achievement; however, getting there can only be achieved through daily exercising, proper training, and a having a positive, competitive spirit. Those precepts have been the foundation of my Uncle Frank's very active life as athlete, sailor, and as the true patriarch of his loving family.



## 25th Annual Allied Veterans Trip

*Continued from page 1*

taking the history into account. Now knowing the history and seeing the history, I have a better appreciation of the terrible injustice that the Israeli people have and continue to endure even today. We all learned of the Holocaust in our history books, but to see it up close at the Museum was emotionally draining. This visit to the museum was the highlight of my trip and the most significant learning point of the Mission.

The Mission also gave me a better appreciation for the energy and spirit of the Israeli people. In spite of all the injustice that they endure, they continue to drive on. Their culture is varied and rich. Of course, the best part of the trip was meeting and spending the 10 days with 30 plus great people.

To all who had any involvement in setting up this Mission, I thank you for enriching my life with the experience of the Israeli/Jewish story. I can now go out and set the record straight as to what Israel and the Jewish people are all about! There are so many misconceptions in this country that need to be corrected.

*Many thanks,  
Carl*

Carl Weinschenk, Lt. Colonel (ret)  
American Legion

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A short note to thank you and the Jewish War Veterans for hosting me on our trip to Israel.

It was an enlightening experience, and I have a much better understanding of the efforts of the

Jewish people in establishing the State of Israel. As well as visiting the Holy Land and seeing the magnificent sites so important to every one all over the world.

*Major General J. F. Perugino USA (ret)*

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It was a wonderful trip. We enjoyed every minute from the time we got off the plane to the time we got back on the plane to head home. Every one was very accommodating from the bus driver and esp. the tour guide Ronit to the hotel personnel. We cannot say enough good about this trip. Needless to say we had a wonderful time. We are ready to go again.

*Capt. Robert Ambrose, USN (ret)*

# KENNETH SHAKER: ADVENTURER AND WARRIOR

By Steven Shaker and Kevin Shaker

As a kid growing up in Springfield, Massachusetts, Kenneth Shaker read about the Wild West and dreamt of a swashbuckler's existence. Wanting to avoid the dreary everyday life, he acted on these dreams and at the age of 16 hopped across the country on a series of freight trains. With the goal of witnessing the Japanese-Chinese conflict, he stowed aboard a vessel heading toward Shanghai. When the British Captain discovered him, he put Ken to work in Singapore where the ship landed, and he then returned on its long trek back to the US.

Ken's thirst for adventure was not abated. At 20 he sailed off to fight in the Spanish Civil War, not for any ideological reason, but purely to experience endangerment and life to its fullest. Ken served 18 months with the Abraham Lincoln brigade fighting with the loyalists at Fuentes de Ebro, Teruel, Seguro de los Banos, Retreats and Ebro. He was isolated behind enemy lines twice, wounded, captured and then escaped. Because of his excellent fighting skills he became one of the few non-Communist division commanders in the Soviet-backed International Brigades. Although fairly conservative on many issues, Kenny was proud of that promotion because "he was a damn good soldier."

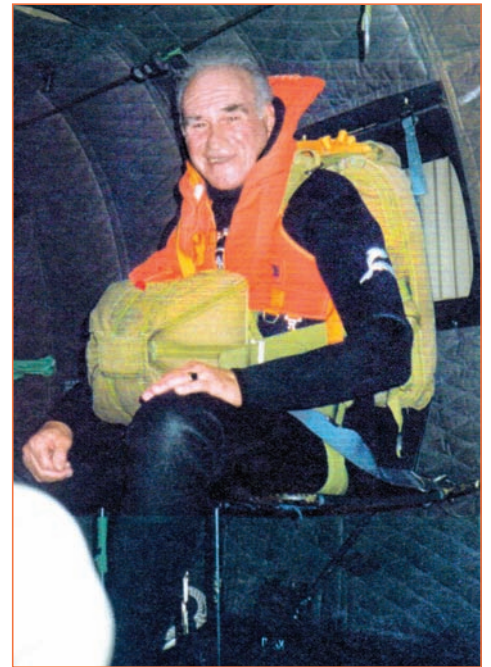
With the victory of the Franco-led Nationalists, Ken returned to the US and moved to New York. Soon after Pearl Harbor, Ken enlisted as a paratrooper. Since he was one of the few Americans with recent battle experience and natural leadership skills, he was sent to Officers Candidate School. He was then assigned to the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion, the first combat paratroop unit of the US Army formed during WW II. The troops of the 509th were also known as the "Gingerbread Men". This nickname was derived from their regimental insignia depicting a stylized "stick-man" yellow figure showing a parachutist standing in the doorway of an air transport plane.

The 509th made history as the unit to make America's first combat jump, and Ken was among the first to land at Anzio. He made a name for himself in a special operation which

began on September 8, 1943. Lieutenant Ken Shaker was part of a special raiding force of the 509th whose mission was to destroy the lone German radar site on the island of Ventotene in the Gulf of Gaeta, just south of Rome. The radar could alert the Germans of the 82nd Airborne paratroop flights heading past the island towards Rome. The heavily armed raiding party was under the command of Captain Charles W. Howland, and he and his 45 paratroopers were stealthily landed by boat at around 23:00. The men moved single file through a small village on the island, and Howland halted his men at the base of the hill beneath the radar installation. There were two possible trails leading up to the hilltop. As Howland was pondering his course of action, an elderly gentleman approached the GIs and in impeccable English explained that he was a college professor who had been expelled to the island by the Fascists. He also claimed to be a friend of the German major commanding the installation. The professor volunteered to lead the way to the installation and to relay the Americans' message to the German commander.

Howland had Ken and his platoon follow the professor up the hill to arrange for surrender of the Germans. The other platoon remained in the village ready to attack in case the professor double crossed them. As they came close to the installation, the professor asked Shaker and his men to stay put while he went the rest of the way to speak with the German commander. Not completely trusting the professor, Ken and his men took cover behind a stone wall that was alongside the trail.

After 20 minutes Ken was getting impatient and started getting his men into formation for an assault. But then just in time, the professor returned stating that the German major would not surrender to anyone of lesser rank than himself. The quick witted Ken replied to the professor, "I'm a full colonel and I have an entire battalion behind me. Tell that son of a bitch if he doesn't surrender promptly we're going to kick hell out of him and his men and blast his god-damned radar clear off that hill!" The professor went back up the hill to the installation. Soon, they heard the loud detonation of the equipment being destroyed. The major and his 114-man detachment of troops descended down the hill without their weapons with their arms held high in surrender. The major became quite upset seeing Ken's lieutenant's bar affixed to his collar. But it was too late to turn back and fight, as the 23 grinning paratroopers were pointing



their Thompson submachine guns on the "hood-winked" Germans. The German-held island was surrendered without a shot. (Although he was not mentioned by name, Ken's exploit with the German radar station was chronicled by John Steinbeck in his book "Once There Was a War.")

Ken took part in numerous missions in Italy, France, Belgium and Germany. The battle-hardened 509th was used to help thwart the German's last ditch offensive at the Battle of the Bulge. Arriving at the battle with a full battalion of 700 men, the battalion was reduced through their intense fighting to fewer than 55, including Ken. No airborne unit had suffered more casualties at the Battle of the Bulge than did the Gingerbread Men. On January 28, 1945, Ken, who was the ranking officer, was ordered to lead the attack to secure the high ground near St. Vith. First moving his men down a narrow road, and then dispersing them into the woods paralleling the road, he precariously moved his men forward. A shell burst between Ken and his lead scout, but fortunately both were unharmed. His men dropped down and belly crawled until they reached the base of the hill. He saw that the hill was clear of all vegetation and was covered with snow up at the top. Going up the hill would have been pure suicide for his men. Ken decided to take another man and himself

*Continued on page 15*



## JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Dept. of MA commander David Westerman presented a plaque to Barry Lischinsky, of North Shore Post 220 (Peabody, MA) recognizing him as JWV Commander of the Year.



WWII veteran Irving Mann (at left) of David J. Kauffman Post #41, Rochester, NY, received his long overdue Purple Heart from Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) at the Community War Memorial.



PNC Sam Greenberg, at right, greeted Israeli MG Baruch Levy during JWV's recently concluded Allied Veterans Mission.



Department of PA Commander Jerry Farris (at right) recently presented the new textbook "Care of the Combat Amputee" to Dr. Jay Kloin, CMO at the Allentown VA OutPatient Clinic in Allentown, PA.



The newly formed Palm Beach (FL) County Council recently received an altar cloth. Show from left are Claire Newman, maker of the altar cloth; PDC Donald H. Haber, Quartermaster and Chief of Staff of the new council; and PDC Morris Fasberg, Trustee of the new council.



Mel Woda, (center), Past Commander of the Jewish War Veterans Asbury Park-Ocean Post 125, has been honored as the State of New Jersey Commander of the Year 2009-2010. He received his award from Department Commander Irwin Gerechoff (at right). At left is current Post Commander Norm Ginsberg. Woda was recognized for his outstanding Post leadership, exceptional dedication, and community service to NJ veterans in memorial homes and veterans hospitals regardless of race, religion, or creed.



Palm Beach Post 520, Lake Worth, FL, took 10 hospitalized veterans from West Palm V.A. hospital to Denneys in Lake Worth for lunch. The members of the post standing from the left are Herman Glassman, PC Herbert Gordon, PCC Seymour Kirschner, PC Abe Dunn, Commander Samuel Rosen, and seated, Walter Greenwald. The bus in the background was donated to the hospital by JWV.

## JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Members of Post 60, Palo Alto, CA, had a table at the JCC Festival Street Fair. Shown seated from left are: Commander Stewart Levin, Dr. Jack Geffner, Shirley Geffner, and Miriam Branstetter. In back is Sam Silverman.



Members of the Chwatsky-Farber Post 717, Oceanside, NY, distributed 40 lap blankets made by Mrs. Bea Wolf and other ladies of the Meadowbrook Women's Initiative Group to wheelchair-bound veterans at the Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook, NY. Shown from left are Buddy Epstein, Al Chanon, and Rudy Schwartz.



Judge Sol Gothard, Commander of Post 580, at left, Sidney Cotlar, and Rabbi Uri Topolosky stand at the grave side of WWII veteran Edwin Bruchis at the Beth Israel Cemetery on Memorial Day. Photo by Alexander Barkoff.



Members of Post 440, Lake Worth, FL, have purchased another extension to the Tree of Remembrance at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center's Nursing Home. Each of the over 500 veterans who resided and passed away at the Home have been honored by having their names engraved and placed on the Tree of Remembrance. Shown at the dedication ceremony for the extension to the Tree of Remembrance from left are: VA Program Chairman Donald Barr, Medical Center Director Sailer, Sy Block, PC Morris Buruck, PDC Morris Fasberg, and Stanley Semel.



Delegates to JWV's Annual National Convention laid a wreath at a monument memorializing the Jewish Community in Savannah, which has been in existence since 1733.



Sgt. Manny Peven Post 65, Henderson, NE, presented a generous donation to the Nevada State Veterans Home to sponsor a room and another donation for the 2010 Veterans' Olympics. Pictured from left are Quartermaster Barbara Margolis; Commander Selwyn Goldberg; Angela Metcalf, Coordinator for the Nevada State Veterans Home; PC George Barnett; and Ed Kranson, Senior Vice Commander, Department of Nevada. Photo courtesy Jane Kranson.



Members of the Department of Michigan participated in the Hamtramck, MI, Labor Day Parade. Shown from left are Marv Delidow, Myra Gross, Frank Blasé, Bernard Gross, Al Lewis, Shelly Order, DC Jerry Order, all from Post 510, and Harmon Tron, from Post 135.

# REUNIONS IN SEARCH OF

► 494th Bombardment Group (H) Reunion, WWII—7th Army Air Force reunion will take place Apr. 28-May 2, 2011, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Chicago-Northbrook, Northbrook, IL. For reservations, call 1-877-270-1409. For more information contact Marshall Keller, 248-626-3684, or Gilbert Rohde, 303-678-1087.

## IN SEARCH OF

► Seeking some long-lost relatives of my late grandfather's who moved from Poland to Pittsburgh before WWII. All we have from them are several photos, including one of a man in a US Navy officer's uniform. On the back of the photo is written, in Yiddish, "Chanele's son". My grandfather's surname was Kaluszyner and his mother's maiden name was Kusmierski.

Please contact [apollo@netvision.net.il](mailto:apollo@netvision.net.il).

► Civil Air Patrol is looking for members who served the organization during World War II--Dec. 7, 1941, through Aug. 15, 1945--who were at least 18 years old during at least part of that service. This search has been prompted by legislation pending in both houses of Congress that, if passed, would award a single Congressional Gold Medal to CAP for the service of its members during World War II. This search encompasses those who are living but not currently active in CAP, as well as deceased members. Substantiation of CAP service may be requested. Names, with contact information, or, in the case of deceased members, names along with the name of a close relative or friend

and their contact information, should be sent to: Civil Air Patrol Public Affairs, 105 S. Hansell St., Maxwell AFB, AL 36112. Alternatively, e-mails can be addressed to [paa@capnhq.gov](mailto:paa@capnhq.gov).

► Searching for a member of the army's Field Artillery OCS (Officer Candidate School) of Fort Sill, OK, Class #12 of 1952, named Robert I. Feldman, from Brooklyn, NY. Please contact Gene C. Richards, 817-590-0245, [ocsgene@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ocsgene@sbcglobal.net).

► I am looking to hear from veterans who served at US Army Nike Missile Base NY-93/94 Franklin Lakes - Mahwah (1955 to 1971) and others who have interesting information about this base. Contact Richard M. Levine, 201-529-1863, [levine1944@verizon.net](mailto:levine1944@verizon.net).

## Korean Vets 2010 Convention Visit to Hunter Army Air Base

By PNC Ainslee R. Ferdie

At the 2010 National Convention in Savannah, GA, members of the Korean Veterans committee, along with guests and in cooperation with the Department of Defense, visited Hunter Army Air Base. Among those in attendance were then NC Ed Robins, NEC Chairman PNC Paul Bernstein, PNC Mike Berman, PNC Louis Abramson, Committee Chairman PNC Ainslee R. Ferdie, Committee Co-Chairman PDC Marty Greenberg, Committee Photographer Gerald Levine, Committee Secretary Code Gomberg, and about 45 other members of JWV.

The group was briefed by Garrison Commander LTC José Aguilar. Hunter can deploy a strike force, either lite within 24 hours,

or a Brigade Force in 72 hours to any place on the globe. The group asked questions about equipment, troop morale and mental health, deployment and organization--it's part of the 3rd Division out of Ft. Stewart. The group was pleased to be able to inspect some of the base after the briefing.

They also visited and were briefed on the Coast Guard Air Sea Rescue Mission, which is part of the 7th District.

The Korean Vets Committee looks forward to a visit to a similar facility in the Jacksonville area during our next Annual Convention, August 7-14, 2011.



Shown from left at the convention visit to Hunter Army Air Base, Korean Veterans Committee Chairman PNC Ainslee Ferdie, Co-Chairman PDC Marty Greenberg, PNC Ed Robins, Garrison Commander LTC José Aguilar, PNC Paul Bernstein, PNC Mike Berman, and PNC Louis Abramson.

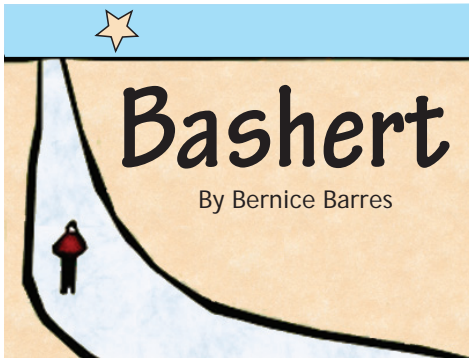
## Vietnam War Vets Reunion

Continued from page 8

Busch brewery tour – only meant that we talked while walking. Stories and events were recounted (or embellished), some of which had never been told to anyone else before. Concerning some matters, war veterans can only talk to other war veterans. Old pictures and war memorabilia were eagerly examined. A reunion book had been prepared by the dedicated individual who had organized the reunion. The spouses who attended gave the veterans their space and took hundreds of pictures. Tears were shed and for some, perhaps a little closure was obtained.

One noteworthy occurrence was the first meeting between one team member, who had been shot six times and had been lying in a rice paddy, and the team member who, under fire, helped fish him out and onto a medivac chopper. Another was my meeting with a former Lieutenant under my command who I thought had told me in 1970 that he hated the Army. He was now a retired three-star Army general.

The final evening meal took place in a private room at a restaurant, where most of the veterans stood and shared some final thoughts. A Role Call of the Absent was held to memorialize our fallen team members, both Vietnamese and American, who had died either in Vietnam or after the end of the war. Then, a lengthy memorial prayer which had been specifically created for the occasion was recited. It had been written by a member of our team who had recently become a Catholic Deacon. It was inclusive in all respects and even closed with a short Hebrew prayer. Alan, who had badly wanted this reunion, would have been greatly pleased.



Massachusetts, and Sam is attending Boston University.

That year, on our first visit to Atlantic City since our marriage, Sam and Marvin, my older brother, had a chance to discuss their wartime experiences.

Marvin asked Sam, "Where and how were you wounded?" Sam replied, "I was with Patton's Third Army in the 80th Division at S. Avoird (somewhere near the Maginot Line), and the Germans were throwing everything they had at us. My platoon leader and I jumped into a foxhole—he head first, and I feet first." "Turn around and face me," he said. "I didn't, and a moment later a German missile made a direct hit on our foxhole, severing my platoon leader's head and both my legs. I knew immediately that my legs were gone. I put my rifle to my temple, but something kept me from pulling the trigger. There was no water because my canteen was full of holes so I took my pills without water. The freezing weather kept me from bleeding to

death. Buried under several feet of soil, I poked my rifle with the baton attached through the dirt in hopes of attracting attention. Fortunately, after several hours a Yankee Division medic found me. Then I remember coming to in a hospital."

"That's amazing," said Marvin, "because I was that medic."

The story of our life is so inspirational. The things Sam did with his life, his many accomplishments and ability to live each moment to the best of his ability gave hope and encouragement to many.

Someone said to me in awe, "You married a man without legs!" I replied, "His heart and brains were not in those missing body parts." And he proved that many times.

We were married almost 50 years when Sam died in 1996. He left three children and eight grandchildren. Now there are five great-grandchildren, four of whom carry his name.

Sunday morning! It's a beautiful day in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The beach invites me to spend the day sunbathing, and there is nothing more that I would like than to answer the call of the splashing waves. However, today I must head for the USO to meet a young wounded soldier my mother feels it important for me to know. The date is July 7, 1945.

About three years later, my husband Sam (that young wounded soldier), our newborn daughter, and I are living in Newton,

## ADVENTURER AND WARRIOR

*Continued from page 11*

and circle around the right of the hill to see if there was a covered approach coming from that side. From the new position Ken could view the valley off to the right which contained five American tanks and a large number of soldiers around them. Any desire to attack the hill completely dissipated with a view of all those fresh troops accompanied by armor. Nonetheless he continued to circle around the hill and did notice a covered approach. Returning to his men, Ken sent a very competent sergeant to take a four-man patrol up the covered approach to determine what was on top. He also asked his radioman to accompany the patrol to provide communications in case they had any problems. The patrol encountered a German machine gun emplacement and exchanged gunfire. Some of the Germans ran away, and one surrendered. Unfortunately Ken's radioman was killed in the exchange, and Ken's decision to send him on this mission haunted him for years later.

Ken grabbed the prisoner and asked him in German, "How many men are on the hill?" The German refused to talk, and Ken then grabbed his pistol and put it up against the German's forehead. He asked again. The German gritted his teeth and still declined. Ken could have made the wrong decision, but instead logic prevailed, and he had his men take the prisoner to headquarters. The interrogation team at HQ was also unsuccessful in questioning the prisoner until they resorted to harsher tactics. They had him take off his shoes and socks and stand

out in the bitter cold. Within half an hour he told of a company of 160 Germans up in the hill. Kenny learned of this from his men, and later in the afternoon was ordered to return to Battalion headquarters with his men because the attack had been called off. Those fresh troops which Ken had seen in the valley were going to attack from a different departure point. The few remaining Gingerbread men got on trucks and moved to Trois-Ponts where they learned that the 509th had been deactivated.

When possible, Ken wrote to his younger brother Theodore Shaker. "Ted" served in WW II in North Africa and Italy as a Sergeant in the Army Air Corps. (Ted became an active member of the Jewish War Veterans and served as Post Commander in 1996 and 97 with the Hartford Laurel Post 45.)

During the war Ken received many honors as testament to his courage and his adventurous spirit. These included the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars with Oak Leaf Clusters, a Purple Heart, plus other decorations for acts of valor.

After the war and upon leaving the Army, Ken was still thirsty for more adventure. He wanted to explore and experience the world, and sought a profession where he could be in the middle of action. He found a source of income selling life insurance and mutual funds to servicemen in conflict areas. Among his first clients were Marines digging foxholes in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1958. He also spent 18 months in Vietnam. Finally settling in 1978 in

San Diego, Kenny gained a passion for tennis, and became an active member of the "Return to Normandy Association." This group of geriatric paratroopers participated in parachute jumps around the world to celebrate and honor their airborne comrades who died in World War II. On one jump he broke a bone in his right leg. The man who followed plunged to his death when his parachute failed to open. Ken and his fellow ex-paratroopers continued to make jumps, with his last jump being at the age of 83. The group was invited to the White House, and Ken did not shy away from engaging President Clinton in some active and entertaining political discussion.

Ken passed away at 85 from a heart attack following a stroke on May 3, 2001. Kenny's Honors Funeral at Arlington National Cemetery included a caisson-driven casket, gun salute and the bugle call of taps. The Washington Post carried a front page feature article on Ken that day with the heading "The Soldier with a Taste for Action." At the funeral his brother Ted thanked those for attending and said, "Here I am 80 years old, and I still think of him as my big brother. He still makes me proud."

[Editor's Note: Steven Shaker is an executive with an international market research firm and a freelance writer. Kevin Shaker is a student at the University of Mary Washington. Together they researched "Uncle Kenny," and Kevin acquired and enhanced the digital imagery.]

# PEOPLE & PLACES

• Members of **JWV Post 609**, Monroe Township, NJ, raised close to \$1,000 in two hours by selling poppies outside the Nativity of Our Lord Church in Monroe. The members of the Post received enthusiastic support from members of the Church, and presented Father Edward Flanagan with a plaque to express their thanks. Those participating included **Bernie Passer**, **PC Frank Slavin**, and **Shelly Bloom**.

• Members of **Penny Whitman Memorial Post 300**, Volusia/Flagler County, FL, attended a luncheon held for Medal of Honor winners at the International Speedway in Daytona Beach, FL. Those in attendance were **Charles Shalett**, **Rabbi Stanley Howard Schwartz**, **Commander Jack Resnick**, **Irving Hoffman**, **George Gold**, **Stan Kates**, **Al Brust**, and **Gerry Soria**. The JWV was the only veterans organization at the luncheon.

• **David Guralnik**, **Paul Stern**, **Dr. Edwin Snyder**, and **Bruce Bogner** of the **Garr-Greenstein-Friedenberg Post 39**, Margate City, NJ, visited Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC, to personally hand out gifts to wounded military personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The gifts consisted of battery-operated electric shavers for the male patients and hair dryers for the female patients. Post 39 has also donated a 20-by-40 foot tent to the Vineland Veterans Home so that wheelchair-bound veterans can have a shady place to socialize and enjoy the outdoors in the hot weather. The tent was dedicated to the memory of **Major Bert Mann**, a past member of the Post and a WWII hero who flew over 50 missions and received, among other awards, five Purple Hearts.

• **Martin Becker**, Quartermaster of **Post 105**, Albany, NY, was the keynote speaker at Veterans Field in Amsterdam, NY, at their Memorial Day commemoration. Becker is a Holocaust survivor who grew up in Germany but was lucky enough to get out of that country by 1940.

• Members of **Inland Empire Post 512**, Bryn Mawr, CA, participated in the 20th Annual Veterans Car Show at the Loma Linda Medical Center, to support the Volunteer Coffee Cart Program. A Post 512 Booth at the show manned by **Sonny Katzman**, raised an additional \$600 for the Golden Age Games. **Gene Elkin**, also of Post 512, has proudly participated for years at Riverside National Veterans Cemetery, playing his bagpipes for burial services.

• **Major General Robert Magnus**, USMC, ret., a member of the JWV Military Affairs Commission was the guest speaker at the Suffolk Y JCC, Commack, N.Y., on Tuesday, September 28, 2010, to discuss his career in the military as well as what it was like for him to be Jewish in the Marine Corps. When General Magnus retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in 2008, he was the 30th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. General Magnus had more than 39 years of service, from being a naval aviator in 1969, through his appointment as Assistant Commandant of the Corps in 2005.

• **Marvin Barrash**, Adjutant of the JWV Department of Maryland and a member of the **Maryland Free State Post 167**, was the guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Gen. George C. Meade Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars. Barrash is the author of the recently published book, *U.S.S. Cyclops*, an account of a ship that mysteriously disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle during WWI. **Sheldon Goldberg**, JWV NEC, for the Department of Maryland is the Junior Vice Commander, and Department of Maryland Commander **Erwin Burtnick** is the Adjutant of the MOWW Gen George G Meade MD Chapter.

• Holocaust survivor **Ester Grun** spoke at a breakfast meeting of **JWV Post 191**, White Plains, NY. Grun was imprisoned in three different concentration camps before she managed to escape during a bombardment.



PDC Walter Stern, at left, met with Capt. Issac Greenberg who spoke at JWV's National Convention in Savannah. PDC Stern, JWV liaison to the Jewish community at West Point, first met Capt. Greenberg when he was a cadet at the academy.

## Health Care Legislation Provisions' Target Dates

*The provisions of the health care reform legislation passed earlier this year will take effect throughout the coming decade. For your information, the effective dates of key provisions are shown below.*

### 2010

#### Within a year:

- Would provide a \$250 rebate this year to Medicare prescription drug beneficiaries whose initial benefits run out.

#### 90 days after enactment:

- Would provide immediate access to high-risk pools for people with no insurance because of pre-existing conditions.

#### Six months after enactment:

- Would bar insurers from denying people coverage when they get sick.
- Would bar insurers from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions.
- Would bar insurers from imposing lifetime caps on coverage.
- Would require insurers to allow people to stay on their parents' policies until they turn 26.

### 2011

- Would require individual and small group market plans to spend 80 percent of premium dollars on medical services. Large group plans would have to spend at least 85 percent.

### 2013

- Would increase the Medicare payroll tax and expand it to dividend, interest and other unearned income for singles earning more than \$200,000 and joint filers making more than \$250,000.

### 2014

- Would provide subsidies for families earning up to 400 percent of poverty level, currently about \$88,000 a year, to purchase health insurance.
- Would require most employers to provide coverage or face penalties.
- Would require most people to obtain coverage or face penalties.

### 2018

- Would impose a 40 percent excise tax on high-end insurance policies.

### 2019

- Would expand health insurance coverage to 32 million people.

*Sources: Speaker of the House, Congressional Budget Office, Kaiser Family Foundation, McClatchy Newspapers.*

# NEW MEMBERS

## DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Stephen L. Seiden-64 • Capt. Ari Cohen-99  
• COL. Dave Abramowitz-100 • 2nd Lt.  
Jacob R. Abramowitz-100 • Jeremy Ball-  
100 • Capt. Stacey Cohen-100 • David  
Daugherty-100 • Yair Eisenberg-100 • LTC.  
Richard Erenbaum-100 • Herman Josephs-100  
• Andrew J. Kaufmann-100 • Leonard J.  
Kirschner-100 • Kyle Nielson-100 • Matthew  
Philbin-100 • Daniel J. Podberesky-100 • LTC.  
Jonas Vogelhut-100 • Tim Zerbe-100 • Alan M.  
Greenspan-180 • David MacArov- 180 • Lee  
M. Wetherhorn-180

## DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Raymond Milenko-60 • Arthur Fradkin-123  
• Harold William Segal-185 • Warren Ken  
Gomberg-603 • Howard Sagalow-603

## DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Robert E. L. Talley-172 • Howard E. Mandel-321 •  
Gerald Aarons- 373 • Bernard M. Kasebaum-506  
• Allan A. Ziker-520 • Herbert Z. Weiner-819

## DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Irwin B. Hoffman-346 • Lionel J. Kaiser-346 • Jacob  
L. Schulzinger-605 • Alvin S. Appelbaum-644 •  
Albert Katz-644 • Marvin Plattner-644 • Martin  
Tessler-644

## DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Herbert Block- 567 • William Mandell  
Eisenberg-567 • Sydney Glassman-567 •  
Jeffery Robert Greenwald-567 • Abraham  
Alexande Hamburg-567 • Hyman Nathan  
Hirschberg-567 • Lee Jolles-567 • Jerome  
Kopelman-692

## DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Richard A. Kaplan-26 • Robert Perlman-32 •  
Richard Aronson-140 • Harold Allen Berman-211 •  
Eric Polonsky, USN-220 • Edward Neiterman-735

## DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Richard "Rick" Egrin-333 • Harold Gross-333 •  
Robert N. Lipson-474 • Robert Saul Bolton-510

## DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Barry Goldman-21 • Harold Paul Seldes-64 •  
Stephen Seiden-64

## DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Marvin Golden-39 • Philip Greenberg-39 •  
Dennis Wallach-125 • SRA Berish Benjamin  
Wetstein-125 • Israel Poleyeff-133 • Rudy  
Kurinsky- 178 • Seymour Wilens-651 •  
Charles M. Roman-741

## DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Stanley Arbeit-25 • Anthony Michael  
Ferrarese-41 • Ronald Barry Gould-41  
• Marvin L. Schwartz-42 • Esther Terry  
Ferrara-68 • Neil Schimler-80 • Capt. Jordanna  
Mallach-105 • David L. Rider-413 • Mark D.  
Lefkowitz-425 • Michael Silberstein-625 •  
Simon Berger-717 • Melvin Orenstein-717  
• Simeon Jules Rodesk-717 • Sol Roth-717 •  
Arthur Silverman-717

## DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Sam Bernstein-44 • Fred D. Blank-44 • Michael  
S. Goldstein-44 • Stanley L. Josselson-44 •  
Mark Kaufman-44 • Harold J. Tanenbaum-122  
• Maj. Benjamin Robins-587

## DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Jeffrey Goldstein-98 • Arthur Lehrfeld-98 •  
Irvin William Brahen-215 • Irwin Joseph Paul-  
215 • Meyer Slott-697 • Clinton S. Shear-791

## DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Stacey Alys Oliver-976

## DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Eugene Rose-210

## DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Nathan Bumagny-580 • Miguel S. MacIas-580  
• SGT. Michael Waitzman-580 • Will Kevin  
Kutler-755

## DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Irving Kershner-777 • Seth Perry Novoselsky -777  
• Kenneth Jordan Robinson-777



The Wilfred Bank Orange County Post 413 of Newburgh, NY, held its new member induction at its last meeting, which was held on Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010. PDC of New York Ben Storch is shown presenting a lapel pin to Robert Fischer, new member, while Jack Dabrusin and George Handler look on.

## Herb Rosenbleeth

*Continued from page 1*

lobbying for passage of such important legislation as Tri Care for Life and the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

The Military coalition conducts most of its work through eight action committees—Guard and Reserve; Health Care; MWR and Military Construction; Personnel Compensation and Commissaries; Retirement; Survivor Programs; Taxes/Social Security, and Veterans. TMC Members who serve on these committees are experts in each of these areas, highly dedicated professionals who know how to work the Hill.

The Military Coalition supports a strong national defense provided by highly capable personnel, and adequate compensation and entitlements to attract and retain these personnel. As indicated by these goals, The Military Coalition places primary focus on the "people side" of the national defense structure.

The goals of the TMC are directed by the two Cochairs, currently MOAA Director of Government Relations Col. Steve Strobridge, USAF-Ret., and Fleet Reserve Association National Executive Director Master Chief Joe Barnes, USN-Ret. The Cochairs keep TMC in focus and keep each of the organizations going in the same direction.

Colonel Rosenbleeth served in the military for 28 years, including overseas service in Germany, Vietnam, Iran, and briefly in Panama. His final assignment was in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

As the President of TMC, he will continue to work with all of the major organizations representing servicemembers and their families, veterans and survivors to fight to ensure that DoD and Congress honor commitments to members of the Total Force, including Active, National Guard, Reserves, retired members, veterans, families and survivors.

If you would like to receive a calendar but have not yet received one, please contact the JWV Development Department at 202-265-6280.

You will be supporting the JWV and sharing our story-- a story that must continue to be told--while having a calendar for the coming year that supplies you with all the information you will need.

The JWV calendar is unique, combining information ordinarily found on a Hebrew year calendar in a Jan.-Dec. format, while telling the story of Jewish service to the American military and supporting the JWV.

# NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

## Homeless Committee

By Chairman PDC Maxwell S. Colon

The VA's strategy to eliminate homelessness among Veterans is to implement a "no wrong door" approach, meaning Veterans who seek assistance should be able to find it in any number of VA programs, from community partners or through contract services. The VA will continue to offer a full range of support by providing education, jobs, health care and counseling, in addition to housing. The VA will look at and be aggressive in trying to prevent homelessness before it starts.

I was truly surprised to find that the ranks of the homeless now every day are made up of a vast majority of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who have just returned from deployments. It seems that these numerous deployments are having

an effect on the family lifestyle to include jobs, divorces, suicides, etc. in greater number than in previous wars. With the economy at a low, returning Veterans are finding it hard to get jobs, thereby possibly leading to suicide, substance abuse, and/or divorce. Numerous states are providing what are called "Stand Downs." A Stand Down is a community-based intervention program designed to help the nation's estimated 200,000 plus homeless Veterans combat life on the streets of their cities. Today, these Stand Downs (200+) take place across the country every year.

The philosophy is a "hand up," not a "hand out." This work is done by dedicated volunteers and numerous sponsors. I could go on and on, but due to limited space, I will try to keep you enlightened in the next edition of our Jewish Veteran.

## Development Committee

By Chairman PNC Monroe E. Mayer

We trust that, as you read this issue of The Jewish Veteran, many of you have already received the 2011JWV Calendar. We more than hope that you have also looked it over, enjoyed the stories and pictures, and in many instances, have pinned it up on a wall for future reference.

We would also like you to look through your own, old picture albums, with an eye toward sending a photo and a story of your military experience that contributed to the total JWV USA story that we are trying to tell to everyone. Certainly, a picture of your father, brother, sister, or cousin, who served, IS the story we want to tell. You all should full well realize that if we don't tell that story, no one else will. That's why we need your

help in finding these revelations, that may be just ancient history to you, but actually are part of the Jewish Military Heritage of which we are so proud.

If you haven't received this 2011 Calendar but have received it in the past, this may indicate that you have not been sending in a donation to keep JWV USA functioning into the future. Our programs of the High Holiday cards and other mailings are not rewards for active membership—they are meant to raise funds for the organization. We need your help to support us, and to help us to keep these memories alive. It's another way of saying "Never Again."

The programs of the Development Department help to support the organization. An additional way in which you can support JWV is to get a Bank of America JWV MasterCard. Please check our web site, [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org), for further information.

## Insurance Products Designed for JWV Members

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\*Information includes costs, exclusions, limitations, reduction in benefits and terms of coverage.

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# AN AMERICAN HERO

Continued from page 19

[Sabbath Eve] meals. I believe it became for him the reminder of the moment he learned there was something meaningful, perhaps even divine, in what he'd done all those decades before.

It was also the moment he began to accept me as a Jew. Years later, when the University of Judaism installed a Prisoner of War flag at its entrance, my father was asked to speak at the dedication on behalf of the WWII generation. He ultimately became a proud honorary member of the Jewish War Veterans.

Today my father joined the ranks of those he called the real heroes of the war: the men and women who did not come back.

[Editor's Note: Rabbi John Borak, founder and director of Amud ha-Shachar/First Light, converted to Judaism late in life. Since his May 2000, ordination in the Conservative movement, Rabbi Borak has served the Jewish community in the pulpit, as a writer and lecturer, as Director of Interreligious Affairs for the American Jewish Committee, and as a popular scholar-in-residence in the U.S. and abroad. Rabbi Borak resides with his wife in Los Angeles.]

# Winners of JWV Education Grants for Academic Year 2010-11

The JWV Scholarship committee under the leadership of its Chairman, Steve Lodgen, faced the daunting task of selecting three winners from among the outstanding group of applicants for the JWV Education Grants for Academic Year 2010-11. All applicants for Education Grants must be direct descendants of JWV members in good standing, be in the top 25% of their class, and be active in extra-curricular activities and in the Jewish community.

After difficult deliberations, the committee awarded the following:

**\$1,000 Bernard Rotberg Memorial Scholarship Fund**  
Benjamin Schwartz of Owings Mills, MD.

# JWV Announces 2010-2011 Olympiad Award Winners

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA is proud to present to worthy High School Seniors its Olympiad Award in memory of the Israeli athletes murdered at the Munich Olympics in 1972. All student athletes, whether or not they have ties to the Jewish community, are eligible for this award. The Olympiad Committee, under the leadership of Chairman Harry Ettlinger, has awarded two cash prizes to this year's winners:

**\$1,000 1st prize award**  
Kirby Costello of Toms River, NJ.

**\$750 Louis S. Silvey Grant**  
Hillary Wasserman of Manalapan, NJ.

**\$500 JWV Grant**  
Tamar Feigenbaum of West Hartford, CT.

We congratulate all of the winners, and wish them continued academic success as they begin their college careers.

Information on the competition for next year's grants to be awarded to outstanding high school seniors who will be attending 4-year colleges in the fall of 2011 is available on the home page of our web site, www.jwv.org under Highlights.

**\$300 2nd place award**  
Emily Urciuoli of Clifton, NJ.

The achievements of both of these student athletes-leaders impressed the committee greatly, and the JWV wishes them the best as they begin their college careers.

Information on the competition for next year's awards is available on our web site, www.jwv.org, on the home page under Highlights.

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### "A DREAM BECOMING A REALITY"

The mission of our National Museum of American Jewish Military History has been consistent since it was chartered by Congress more than 50 years ago – to show both non-Jews and Jews “that” and “how” Jewish Americans have served in the military of the United States. But how best can our museum tell that reality?

P.N.C. Robert M. Zweiman had a dream (and if you know “Bob,” he has a habit of making his dreams come true). It was his vision that our story would best be told by a permanent core exhibit. “The exhibit – designed to appeal to all religions and cultural backgrounds – would cover the whole span of Jewish service

in the American military, from the Colonial period to the present day.” The uniqueness of the project is its bells and whistles – sights and sounds – appealing to children as well as adults.

Bob, with the help of P.N.C. Ed Goldwasser and the Department of New York, had an initial creative and design study done. It came back as a display of merit, and beauty; but with a price tag in excess of \$600,000.00. My reaction, as we say in Miami, was “no way José.” Others were more emphatic in their inability to digest the amount. Nevertheless, things of worth often cost money. Bob persisted.

Bob enlisted Jeffrey Greenhut, a J.W.V. member and a profession-

al military historian. With the title of “Development Director of the Museum,” in hand, Jeff went to work. His efforts and diligence have now succeeded. Recently, we received a grant of \$100,000.00 from a private individual, who obviously believes in both our mission and the Exhibit. The grant in part is conditioned on matching funds – and this aspect of our fundraising effort is well underway.

In mid-January letters will go out to all echelons, and all friends who believe it is important to preserve and tell the story that Jews really did serve in the military of the United States of America, asking for financial support. Those



**PNC DAVID L. MAGIDSON**  
President, NMAJMH

Jewish Americans who served and those who died should not have sacrificed in anonymity! Please help!

*It is your obligation to make this proof a reality.*

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES By Pamela Elbe

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

The NMAJMH has a wonderful collection of mementos, photographs, and archival materials pertaining to Jewish service in the American armed forces, but, as with most other museums, we are only able to present a small portion of this material at a time. We created an exhibition, *Hidden Treasures: Selections from Our Permanent Collection*, to highlight all of the interesting items that have been donated to the Museum over the years. Material in this exhibit changes regularly so that we may display as much of our collection as possible, and we are now in the process of updating the exhibition to include memorabilia and photographs relating to William Shemin, a World War I veteran.

William Shemin was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for heroic conduct under fire during World War I. The official citation reads: “For extraordinary heroism in action on the Vesle River, near Bazoches, August 7, 8, and 9, 1918. Sergeant Shemin, upon three different occasions, left over and crossed an open space of 150 yards, exposed to heavy machine-gun fire to rescue the wounded. After officers and senior noncommissioned officers had become casualties, Sergeant Shemin took com-



mand of the platoon and displayed great initiative under fire until wounded August 9.”

Shemin’s family has long felt that he was overlooked for the Medal of Honor because of anti-Semitism, and their perseverance has led to HR 5371, the William Shemin Jewish World War I Veterans Act. The bill would review the case of Sgt. William Shemin, and other World

War I heroes, claiming they may have been deprived of the recognition they deserved because of racial or religious discrimination. In recognition of Shemin’s heroism the Museum is currently displaying a small selection of his memorabilia, including his Distinguished Service Cross.

In addition to the certificates and medals awarded for Shemin’s military service and valor, the exhibition also includes artifacts that focus on another aspect of his life – his great athleticism. Shemin was a member of the American Expeditionary Forces baseball team, and displayed are photos of his team and the cleats that he wore. The materials exhibited provide a small glimpse into the life of this World War I hero. Visit the Museum to learn more about William Shemin and other American Jews who have proudly served their country.

*“When a person walks through this museum he just doesn’t read facts and see pictures. He looks into a window of the first and second world wars. He gets to see the life that men and women had to lead. This experience is one I will not forget.”*

- C. Sanders, Boy Scout Troop 532

## Administratively Speaking By Mary Westley, Asst. Administrator



Marcia F. Waldstreicher, our newest intern and a University of Maryland University College Student majoring in History, is our new museum docent and library assistant. Her enthusiastic style and genuine desire to learn and share provide the perfect fit. She has proven to be a valuable team player by suggesting ideas and implementing them for a Veterans' storytime /tour to be presented to a local Men's group. Marcia's interview with Seymour Greene (one of the lecturers for the event, is noted below). Welcome Aboard Marcia!

### An Interview with Seymour Greene

*By Marcia F. Waldstreicher*

Seymour Greene, now age 90, was drafted directly into Special Services when he was 22, having been a professional musician playing the trombone, for over five years. As part of the orchestra for "This is the Army," the travelling military musical, Seymour traveled all over the world providing fun and boosting the morale of US soldiers, sailors, and airmen everywhere.

While working with many other Jews in show business, including the creator of the show himself, Irving Berlin, it wasn't hard for Mr. Greene to share his beliefs with others. He tried to go to prayer services whenever he could, and even tried to gather a minyan so those who wanted to mourn their deceased loved ones could do so. My two favorite stories of his hap-

pened in two very different places.

The first revolves around the town of Naples, one of Italy's and the world's oldest cities. While in Naples, Seymour tried to visit as many synagogues as he could, many having been there for centuries. During one of these forays, he encountered a unit of Palestinian troops. They were Jews fighting for the British military, trying to make sure that Jews had a homeland to come to if they survived the carnage.

The second story takes place in Tehran, home to what sounds like a strange population. Jews from all over Europe had fled to Muslim lands to escape the Nazi and Soviet regimes, in hopes they would be accepted. After finding this small subset of the Jewish community in Tehran, Mr. Greene and his fellow Jewish performers were invited to share a traditional Russian meal.

Seymour told me that he had wonderful

Jewish encounters everywhere he went, but he was still eager to go home to his family. Judaism places a very high value on the family and its importance in everyday life. Going around the world was great, but being at home with his family was even better.

We wish to thank everyone who supported the museum this year, both in deed and dollar.

To those of you who forwarded your service records so that our archives would be more complete, or who lectured about the museum and displayed our traveling displays at a local library or school, and those who sent your proceeds from a "chai money can" stationed by your front door, we want you to know that everything counts. You count. And we thank you.

*Mary Westley*

## From Our Archives By Mike Rugel

Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH

The stories of Jews in American military history are often the stories of immigrants. Military service provided a way for many to "become American" more quickly. The experience of father and son Max and Fred (born Fritz) Levi testifies to this. The Levis were from Glauberg, Germany. Max had served there with honor in the German 422nd Infantry Regiment in the First World War, receiving multiple decorations. When the course of Germany under Nazi rule became clear, the family left for the U.S. in 1936.

In April 1944, Fred was about to turn 18 and wanted to enlist in the U.S. Navy to fight against the country where he spent his first ten years. He was initially unable to enlist because of hang-ups in the family's naturalization process. His status remained enemy alien. Trying to assist his son's effort to enlist, Max wrote to the Immigration and Naturalization Service: "Fred, with our consent, wished to prove his loyalty and devotion to the country of our adoption and to repay in this way, his part of our debt, which we owe to our new homeland. He is very eager to enter this branch of the armed force(s)..."

INS responded and expedited the Levy case. Fred enlisted on May 11, 1944, the day before his 18th birthday. He entered service a week later. Fred trained as a U.S. Navy fireman. By July 11th, he was able to send his father a picture postcard showing that he was the "Pride of the U.S. Navy" who had the Axis powers quaking in fear. Fred Levi served for over two years, mostly aboard the attack transport USS Renville



(APA-227). The American WWII memorabilia of Fred Levi sits with his father's German WWI objects in the museum's collection, helping to illustrate the experience of Jews in the military and that of the American immigrant.

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# The Reason I Serve

By MAJ Marc J. Blum

I would consider my reasons for serving my country are pretty much the same as every other soldier, sailor, airmen, or marine that raises his or her right hand to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic. I serve out of a sense of patriotism and pride for my country and what she stands for.

I was born and raised in a military family. Both of my grandfathers honorably served in the military during World War II. My maternal grandfather served as an engineer and a tank mechanic in the European Theatre. My paternal grandfather served as a Merchant Marine transporting supplies to the war fight and returning to the United States with German P.O.W.s. My father was a career military officer for 42 years, until his recent retirement two months ago. I have many memories of when I was a young kid-- my father leaving to attend his military training or to go assist when there was a major storm that either caused flooding or excessive amounts of snow. I also remember my father taking me along with him when his platoon/company were having a "fun day," and I would see the camaraderie, friendships, and pride that they would have for each other and the uniform they wore.

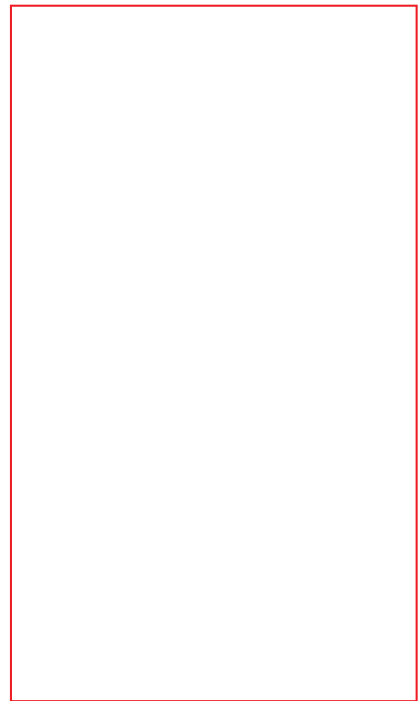
While I was in high school, I was unsure of a lot of things. What college I wanted to attend. How I was going to pay for college. Then one day, while talking to my father, we were discussing my options, and the idea of joining the military came up. I tossed out the idea of joining the Army, the Marine Corps, and the Air Force. I eventually decided to join the National Guard while in High School and attend basic training and AIT upon graduation. This would allow me to serve my

country and state as a soldier, allow me to qualify for the GI Bill and attend college to earn my degree, and to earn a pay check to assist in paying for books and a car. It would also allow me to develop the friendships and camaraderie that I was privy to while growing up.

At this time the National Guard was still considered a Strategic Reserve, which drove the way we trained. The unit I enlisted in was a great unit; we trained hard, and I enjoyed what I was doing. All the while I was developing friendships and camaraderie, and had the ability to serve my country and the citizens of the state numerous times during natural disasters. I was having "fun" so I eventually re-enlisted, continued with my military education, and was promoted numerous times. I enjoyed my time in service so much that after I graduated from college I got married and applied for our state's Officer Candidate School. As I progressed up the ranks and was promoted into positions with greater responsibility, I became more focused. I eventually applied to go Active Guard and Reserve and to make my obligation full time. After September 11, 2001, the OPTEMPO within the National Guard increased significantly, and the mission changed to become more of an Operational Force.

From the time of my enlistment in January 1987 to the present day, the reasons for serving my country have not changed. But I feel that due to my time in service, the positions that I have held, and the deployments I have been on have strengthened those reasons.

[Editors Note: MAJ Blum is currently attending the Command and General Staff College at Ft Leavenworth, Kansas.]



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