



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Summer • 2010

IN THIS ISSUE!

The Life of Private First Class Solomon D. Mosner

Page 7

Navy Pilot's Last Act: Saving 3 Crew Mates

Page 10

Shipmates Reunited

Page 15

Admiral Mike Boorda

Page 16

Notes from the Committees

Page 18

Harvey Redak, Honoring Heroes through His Music

Page 22



Medal of Honor recipients and JWV members, Tibor Rubin (at left) and Jack Jacobs, are among the Jewish American Heroes whose lives are honored in the Hall of Heroes at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.



For more information on the Hall of Heroes, visit: <http://www.nmajmh.org/exhibitions/hallOfHeros>, or plan a visit soon to the Museum.

Medal of Honor recipient from N.J. swears in 300 U.S. Army recruits at Statue of Liberty

LIBERTY ISLAND, N.Y. — On their way to the swearing-in ceremony of 300 new recruits at the Statue of Liberty, the officer accompanying Col. John (Jack) Jacobs realized he left his copy of the oath in his car.

“Don’t worry, I got one,” Jacobs said, reaching into the inside pocket of his suitcoat. He took out a large, worn index card, with the oath in his handwriting. “I don’t need it, anyway. I’ve got it memorized by now.”

Jacobs does a lot of these, about one a month. On July 5th, he’ll throw out the first ball at Mets’ Citi Field after he swears in another contingent of enlistees. He calls it an honor. The Army recruiters say it is an honor to have him. For the recruits, it is an honor to be sworn in by him.

The word honor can’t be over-

used when it comes to men like Jack Jacobs. It has identified his life since the day in the Kien Phong Province of Vietnam when he earned the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest military award. There are only about 90 living recipients.

“There were about 400 when I received the medal,” said Jacobs, 64. “Most were from World War II.”

Jacobs was given the honor for his actions on March 9, 1968. Severely wounded and under heavy fire by the Viet Cong, he fought his way across an open rice paddy, killing and wounding enemy soldiers along the way, to evacuate his wounded men. Then he did it again, and again. In all, he saved 14 lives, and reorganized his shelled troops to stop the enemy advance.

Sgt. First Class Walter Melendez, a recruiter from Jersey

City, tried to explain it to a new recruit, Angel Gonzalez.

“It will be an honor for you and me to meet this man. When this man wears that medal, he is saluted first by everybody, even the President. It’s selfless service, selfless sacrifice. He was willing to risk his life for the life of his buddies.”

Today was the 235th birthday of the U.S. Army, and Lt. Col Harry T. Woodmansee, who is in charge of all mid-Atlantic recruiting, wanted the new troops sworn-in at the base of the Statue of Liberty. “Cake Boss” Buddy Valastro, star of his own reality show, made a cake in the shape of “la Liberté éclairant le Monde” (Liberty Enlightening the World). But what made it really special was Jacobs.

“When you talk about liberty, and freedom, well, its guys like him

Continued on page 14

See you there!

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 July 22, Thurs National Leadership: Operation of JWV
 Aug. 26, Thurs Business at the Post and Department level
 Sept. 21, Tues..... Allied Veterans Mission
 Oct. 19, Tues..... Working to Improve JWV
 Nov. 17, Wed Dues and Membership



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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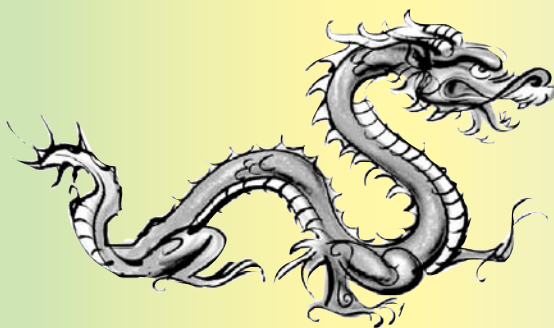
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DEPARTMENTS

YOUR LETTERS	3
MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER	4
NEWS FROM CAPITOL HILL	4
DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR	5
COMMENTARY	6
JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY	12
REUNIONS	14
PEOPLE AND PLACES	17
NEW MEMBERS	17
NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES	18
MUSEUM NEWS	20
TAPS	22

Supreme Court Decision

On this Memorial Day, I feel obligated to tell you of the injustice done by the Supreme Court of this great nation regarding the ruling on *Salazar, et al., v. Buono*. Placing a religious symbol to represent American War Veterans on public land is a travesty. As a daughter of a Jewish War Veteran from WWII, this is an insult and outrage. The cross is not only absent from Jewish cemeteries, but it is not a symbol of the dead for all people. The cross is and remains a symbol of Christianity. Maybe some of the Supreme Court has not heard that not all war veterans are Christian, but families like mine know this all too well.

My family left countries to seek religious freedom that America offered. However, rulings like this are reminiscent of a time when intolerance and hatred existed. The United States until recently has been careful to leave separation of state and church in place. However, since the religious right has gained financial and political strength, these lines have been blurred. Unfortunately, regardless of who is in power, it is the obligation of the Supreme Court to uphold the Bill of Rights and laws of this land. I commend Justices Ginsburg, Sotomayor, Stevens and Breyer for attempting to protect the interests and rights of all citizens.

It is not only the Jewish veterans that have been wronged by this ruling, but countless others. Native Americans, Buddhists, agnostics, atheists, and Muslims (to name a few) also served and gave their lives for this country. In the ruling of this case, their representation appears absent.

My hope is that an overturn on the ruling will be sought and that all symbols of secular groups will be removed from public lands, as these places belong to every citizen regardless of religious affiliation. Regarding, Justices Kennedy, Roberts, Alito, Scalia and Thomas, only they can justify their support. It is hoped that their reconsideration, however, will be sought.

In conclusion, I am grateful to live in a land where on Memorial Day I can speak my mind about opposition to rulings from the court. However, I am also aware that such freedoms are fragile and can be obliterated by ignorance even from the highest court. With optimism, I submit this note to you in hopes that it is not too late to honor all of our fallen who have served this country diligently and with reverence.

*With regards,
Iris Surette*

Omaha Beach Cemetery

I recently had the humbling experience of visiting the Omaha Beach Cemetery in France and would like in some small way to repay the great debt, (often unacknowledged) that so many people in the free world owe America, who whilst not under attack in their homeland from the Germans, sent so many of their sons to die in the cause of liberty for all of Europe, and in particular having done so only some two or three decades ago in the First World War.

Particularly as someone of the Jewish religion I am aware that in addition to the 6 million who perished in the death camps, all European Jews would have died in a similar fashion but for America's involvement.

Whilst at Omaha, I took a number of pictures of the gravestones (Stars of David) of some of those who now lie there. I said a short prayer for the dead (Mourner's Kaddish) for each one. If their relatives are in any way able to come either to England, they would be welcome in my home, and, if they so wish, next time we visit France, I can either place a small stone on each grave (a Jewish custom and practice), or anything else they would like me to do. I am sure that none of these men are forgotten, but many of their relatives must either have passed away or be now at least in their late 60's or older.

I hope their names may be enough for you to identify them. If not, I have more details.

Herbert Becker
Abraham Goldstein
Sydney Granoff
Charles Knobler
Raymond Leport
Eli Mayzel
Irving Pearlman
Robert A. Price
Stanley Siff
Joseph L. Vill

*Yours respectfully,
Nathan Dony*

[Editor's Note: Mr. Dony has sent pictures of all of the graves. If anyone wishes to contact him further in regard to these fallen soldiers, please contact Cheryl Waldman at JWV Headquarters, 1811 R St., NW, Washington, DC 20009 or cwaldman@jwv.org]

Stolen Valor Act

Take this to the Federal Lawyers. What the Stolen Valor Act does not address is that any

citation awarded by the Federal Government is still Government Property. The medal or ribbon which identifies the citation or award is simply a physical symbol to be worn or displayed on the uniform, which is still Government Property, the cost of which was subsidized by the Federal Government.

As in the case of hospitals receiving government grant subsidies for the purchase of MRI and CAT Scan equipment, the hospital must operate in a certain Federally-approved manner. Auto and truck license plates are not owned by the owner of the vehicle, and they can be recalled by the State when they are still valid. The State owns the plates and specifically allows the owner of the vehicle to display the plates for legal purposes. Improper use of Government subsidized property is illegal, and is punishable.

Medals and citations are government property. Claiming to be the owner of an award is worse than driving with an invalid license plate.

*PC Jack B. Ralph
Joseph Barr Post 58*

General Julius Klein

November 6, 2010, will be the 70th anniversary, when my parents, my 9-year-old brother and I arrived in the United States, having escaped from the Holocaust through the tireless efforts of my uncle, then Colonel (later Major General) Julius L. Klein, who became the National Commander of the JWV after World War II.

What makes this anniversary remarkable is the manner in which General Klein and his brother, Ernest L. Klein, managed to accomplish this miraculous feat of rescuing my father from the Dachau Concentration Camp and my brother and me from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. To achieve this exploit, Klein used his past contact with Generalissimo Italo Balbo, the commander of the Italian Air Force and Governor of Libya, as his initial contact and, after he died in an airplane crash, appealed directly to Benito Mussolini, the dictator of Italy.

A story regarding this event was published in the JWV paper some years ago, and I have provided the JWV with a copy of the complete file on this matter.

I did not want the occasion go by without making note of it.

*Charles Ticho
Hackensack, NJ*

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Edwin M. Robins

There is a beginning and an end. So this is it for my term as your National Commander.

I wish to thank everyone who has invited me to their Department functions: Minnesota with its warm welcome; New Jersey for a testimonial and legislative program; Massachusetts and the scholarship program for students; Pennsylvania for the visits to homes for the elderly.

I had the honor of visiting the White House twice—once for a breakfast on Veterans Day that was followed by a program at Arlington Cemetery where a wreath was placed to honor our unknown soldiers; and again for a Chanukah program with the candle lighting by Allison Buckholtz and her two children that the JWV was honored to facilitate. I was thrilled to attend the Department of NY convention in the Catskills followed by a trip to California to visit their Department.

To those who say we do not go out West, we are pleased to visit when invited. It was special

to be able to present the JWV Medal of Merit to Cong. Tim Walz from Minnesota on behalf of his work to aid our veterans. To speak before the Joint



NC Robins attended the Department of MA "Classmates Today—Neighbors Tomorrow" Brotherhood Program. Shown from left are: Department of CT Commander Elliott Donn, Elisa Donn, NC Robins, Joanne Blum, Jerry Blum, and PNC Ira Novoselsky.

Veterans Affairs committee was very special, and I was so moved, especially as a National Service officer, to depart from my prepared remarks and speak from the heart.

It has been my greatest honor to serve as your National Commander and to support those who have served and continue to serve to keep us the greatest nation on this planet.

I hope that I did not slight anyone in any way, that I answered your questions, shared your views, and returned all your phone calls. I thank 'Hashem' above for giving me this chance to serve you this past year, and I hope to be able to serve in some way in the future.

Shalom-peace-and thank you from a grateful Past-National-Commander-to be.



NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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



JWV CAPITOL HILL ACTION DAY

Jewish War Veterans of the USA recently gathered in Washington, DC, to meet with our Legislative delegations on behalf of Veterans' health benefits and services. JWV Past National Commander Nathan Goldberg met with Congressman Paul Tonko, who represents the 20th District of New York, which includes Albany County.

During his meeting with Rep. Tonko, Goldberg emphasized how the war in the Middle East differs greatly from previous expeditions by our armed forces. There is no specific battlefield to fight terrorism, nor direct contact with the enemy; and most importantly, today's veteran suffers much more from psychological disturbances, rather than physical injury from an enemy they cannot see nor protect themselves against. There is no prosthesis for injury to the mind or coping with leaving families on a number of occasions and for longer periods of time. And what consideration is given to the interruption of lives, education and futures? Medical facilities are generally ill-equipped to treat those

veterans. In their neglect, we have the tendency to pass them off as homeless, addicts, or just plain lazy, because we don't know what to do with them.

Also discussed between Tonko and Goldberg was the fact that today's veterans are made up of far more female ex-service personnel than ever before. Because of changes in demographics, there has to be a different approach to the dispensing of medical care and facilities. Greater funding for the VA is necessary to develop facilities and research to provide for their needs.

Both leaders agreed that this nation and its citizens owe a debt to these veterans. They didn't ask to go off to foreign lands for years at a time—collectively we sent them there. Their lives were totally disrupted; children did not have a parent for months; and spouses were thrust into roles as single parents. This country must do more than just mouth platitudes of appreciation. We must place ourselves into the

lives of these veteran and treat them in a manner in which we would expect to be considered. Congressman Tonko was very considerate of these issues.

We thank PNC Nathan Goldberg for his leadership and participation.



Congressman Paul Tonko (D-NY) and PNC Nathan M. Goldberg.

DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

By PNC Paul Bernstein, National Editor



"See Something; Say Something"

The following information was provided by the New York City Transit Authority's (NYCT) Department of Security. I am grateful to PNC Warren Dolny for passing on this alert bulletin to me. As you know, there was an attempt to blow up a vehicle in Times Square. As luck would have it, a civilian saw something that was not right and notified the police. "See something; say something" is the motto of the Transit Authority, and it works. It worked here, and it worked also in the Ft. Dix incident, when a young man working at a video store saw something wrong on a video he was to copy.

According to most authorities, the most destructive weapon used by terrorist groups worldwide is the vehicle bomb. The vehicle is the most ideal means of hiding and transporting large quantities of explosives to a specific location or target without generating much attention. The vehicle offers a number of places to

hide explosive material, i.e., rear trunk, doors, and other interior compartments.

Historically, large amounts of explosives, from 500 to 1,000 pounds, can be carried by vehicles, from compacts to full-sized sedans. Larger amounts, 10,000 to 20,000 pounds of explosives, can be carried by U-Haul types of trucks or tractor trailers. Vehicle borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED) have already been used here in the U.S. One was used in the Oklahoma City bombing, and the other in 1993 at the World Trade Center basement (Editor's note, I was not there for that one. I went to work for the Port Authority in 1998, but many of my fellow engineers remembered it well, and that memory presented a problem for them during the 9-11 evacuation).

Below are some of the indicators presented by the NYCT Department of Security Bulletin TSU#10-3:

SUSPICIOUS SIGNS-VEHICLE

- Vehicle sags-riding low on the rear springs
- Interior panels removed or out of place
- Problems with license plates-appear altered, switched, or unmatched
- Unusual looking switches mounted or hanging from the dash board or door panels
- Windows darkened or tinted
- Signs that the vehicle was broken into
- Vehicle out of place-given type of vehicle and surrounding environment (Editor's note-this was the single deciding indicator used by the civilian in Times Square incident.)
- Illegally parked vehicles-parked over a long period of time near a sensitive location (Editor's note-this also helped in the Times Square incident.)
- Wires protruding from unusual areas within or out of the vehicle
- Wires, switches, kitchen timers, cellular phones, pagers attached to or protruding from items in the vehicle.
- Automobile 6- or 12-volt batteries in the vehicle
- Compressed gas cylinder, plastic/steel drums, large tarps covering objects, or beer kegs in the back seat or truck
- Cargo concealed with tarp or blanket
- Large boxes or heavy bags spread throughout the vehicle attached by wires
- Fuel-like odor (Diesel fuel, gasoline, fertilizers)
- Smoke observed coming from a delivery vehicle

SUSPICIOUS SIGNS-DRIVER

- Suspicious and/or threatening driving-either too slow or too fast; driver is unfamiliar with the handling and operation of the vehicle, etc.
- Signs of fear/mental stress-driver sweating profusely, appearing lost, looking around a lot, etc.
- Driver-made threats
- Driver alone in the vehicle-according to the Israeli police, 90 percent of their truck bomb attacks have involved a single attacker

I leave you with this one thought, *Complacency is the Enemy!*

Guidelines for Magazine Submissions

We would like to publish all of the submissions from Posts regarding their activities, but in many cases we are unable to.

Unfortunately, photos that are blurry, are very dark, of very low resolution, or are photocopies of original or newspaper photos cannot be used. To increase your chances of getting published in future issues of the magazine, please follow the guidelines below.

- Photos must be clear and sharp original photographs or high-resolution (300 dpi at 100%) jpeg's or tif's. We prefer a digital format.
- Photos emailed to us must be sent as full size attachments. We cannot use photos that are included in the body of an e-mail, or embedded in a Word or pdf document.
- Please identify the people in the photo, and the occasion being photographed.

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Please obtain permission to reproduce before submitting the information if you want the original article or photograph in *The Jewish Veteran*. When you obtain copyright permission, you can also request an electronic copy of the article and/or photograph to be sent to cwaldman@jvw.org.

Ideally, submissions should be typed or e-mailed. Items will not be included if the editors cannot read the handwriting of the submitter.

We at *The Jewish Veteran* want to feature as many Post activities as possible. Please help us by following these guidelines.

Thank you very much!

COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee

BEING A PATSY SUCKS

Watching TV, we saw helicopters over the Embassy in Saigon taking American personnel out of Viet Nam. We declared victory and left. We had replaced the French in the war. No one replaced us—that is, other than the North Vietnamese, with whom we had been at war. The challenge was that we would return our troops back to the United States, but the result was that our men and women who returned were greeted with despicable treatment. Victory was not easily accepted.

Our country should have known better. We then learned that we should avoid war at all costs, except when there was nothing else to do, and the world decided that we primarily should do their job for them so they would be able to condemn us for doing it. We really had nothing else to do since most of the economy was overseas, and the rest of our economy was being stolen at home by our respectable financial geniuses. Financially the rest of the world now seems to be catching up with our financial failures. We can teach them about bailouts—hopefully, we can teach them to do it without using American money.

So, here we go. Rather than wait until the end of my Commentary, let me say right now that the United States should immediately get the hell out of Iraq and Afghanistan and withdraw our troops and equipment together with our nation-building incompetency, winding down at the earliest possible moment without setting up elusive and meaningless time tables for public relations purposes.

This does not mean that we leave with our tails between our legs. It means that we have had enough double talk, and we have been suckered into providing bribes to our “friends” in both countries so that they don’t make deals with those we are supposedly fighting to bring stability in the area.

Our returning troops can be immediately deployed to clean up the effects of the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and our other infrastructure needs. The thought of building our own Nation is unique and

interesting and is worth trying. We could even remedy the remaining problems of Katrina and use defense dollars to do it.

Vice-President Biden initially made a suggestion to resolve the Iraq situation by breaking up the nation into three parts [Shiite, Sunni, and Kurd] with a central government. Now, it was a good approach then and is worthy of being in the forefront as the solution.

We could even make use of that approach geopolitically—we have had good relations with the Kurds. They are an autonomous region so that we would be in the position to turn the tables on Iran and Turkey by supporting Kurdish desires to expand their area by consolidating the Kurdish areas in Iran and Turkey into the Iraqi area—or even form a new Kurdish nation. We could even do that without sending in any American troops—only a surge of support and ideas—a battle plan without IEDs.

Anything we provide in the area must have a material benefit to the United States without shedding American blood. For example, any assistance we give to Pakistan must be conditioned on our government knowing exactly what nuclear weapons they have with a defined measure of actual US control attached to it. They have sold nuclear procedures on the black market to the world’s detriment.

Everyone in the area has been playing geopolitics with us as though we are children although, to be honest, we have been acting like children. We prance around as the sole major superpower with troops we can send out to meet global demands. We also can claim another first position as the world’s greatest debtor.

A major part of our industry has been outsourced, but no one has equaled our export of our military prowess and American blood. We have learned that the only approach to be employed is a regional one, such as the one we are part of in the Korean conflict. Can you imagine what the result would have been if there was such a regional Middle East group dealing with

Iran over these many years—they would have had to do their own dirty work?

At least they would not have been sold missiles, defense packages, centrifuges and all the other goodies for war.

Now the reports come that those we have been supporting are looking to enter into understandings with the Taliban—splitting the spoils. A number of years ago, on a visit to NATO, an American official spoke of spending a part of his youth with his father, an American official in Afghanistan. He told of battles between warlords resulting in the serious defeat of one warlord—but actually ending with the embrace of the warlords and the combination of their forces into one group to oppose other warlords. With such past understandings of the mystique of a way of life—shouldn’t we feel stupid for our surges? And shouldn’t we get the hell out of there now—when we realize that we should not have been there at all?

Shouldn’t we change our approach [we had an election which apparently was based on change]? How about adopting the approach of benefiting from our change? We should immediately assert our ability to avoid being played as fools. The two non-Arab Islamic nations have been jerking us around to their benefit, and we have played from our weaknesses in being submissive in seeking sanctions with Russian and Chinese support and consent while Russia has contracted to build nuclear reactors in both Iran and Turkey.

We should be able to accomplish such a new realistic approach of coming home and reducing the world’s dependency on our largesse instead of continuing to be played for fools looking to be loved. Obama likes to make speeches. Just think of the speech Obama’s staff can write for him—it can deal with CHANGE from world community building to American community building. Yes, we can!!!



The Life of Private First Class Solomon D. Mosner

By Martin J. Siegel, Colonel USAR(Ret)

Approximately 1 1/2 years ago I came across a notice in *The Jewish Veteran* from Monsieur Fabrice Dubois in Belgium, who was looking for information about the friends or family members of PFC Solomon D. Mosner who was killed in action on January 18, 1945. At the time, I glanced at the article and gave no further thought to it.

Several months later I decided to respond to Monsieur Dubois who wrote back that he had visited the US Military Cemetery in Henri-Chapelle, Belgium, and had come across Private Mosner's grave. He had started a one-person campaign to care for the grave and had made several attempts to locate any family members or friends who remembered him to learn more about this person resting in a grave thousands of miles from home.

Efforts were made to locate his military records information to locate possible family or friends. Unfortunately, in 1973 a major fire at the main repository for military records in St Louis, MO, destroyed many of the military records of veterans from World War II.

With the passage of time, the trail of people who might have remembered him grew cold. I attempted to contact several individuals with the same last name. Unfortunately my efforts were unsuccessful. I was able to learn the unit Private Mosner was assigned to at the time of his death as well as the probable circumstances of his demise.

As time passed, I tried to visualize the life of Solomon or Sollie as I would come to call him. Solomon D. Mosner was born in Queens, NY, on January 26, 1926. His father was Abraham, and his mother may have been Sarah. His grandfather, whose name may also have been Abraham, emigrated from Probusna in Poland. Sollie may have been one of three children growing up in Queens. In my mind, I tried to picture the time he grew up in and the events which would later shape his life and ultimately his death.

Sollie was 3 1/2 years old when the Stock market crashed in October, 1929, leading to the onset of the Great depression that strangled the economic lifeblood of this country for many years. During those turbulent years of the depression, Sollie grew up in Queens. As a young man he encountered the normal stresses and

strains of growing up and the early part of his adolescence. By January, 1939, Sollie had most likely concluded his Hebrew School education and stood before his proud family at the synagogue for his Bar Mitzvah.

He then may have had a modest gathering to celebrate this joyous event.

However while he and his family and friends rejoiced, in Europe the dark clouds of oppression and terror were circling above the Jewish people. After May 10, 1940, the circle of horror would dramatically increase with the Nazi thrust into France, Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg. The success of the Nazis opened the door to the full horror of the Holocaust.

As these events were unfolding, what were Sollie and his friends' thoughts? How did they reconcile their personal feelings of being American Jews with the events facing the world in general and the Jewish people in particular?

As his life moved on, it was mixed with the catastrophic world events swirling around him, Solomon may have attended high school in Queens, graduating sometime in 1943. Sollie's scant military records indicate that he attended college for almost a year before enlisting in the Army in April, 1944. He formally enlisted in the Army and was processed at Camp Upton in Long Island, New York. During both the First and Second World Wars, Camp Upton was a major transit center for troops going overseas.

There is no indication where Private Mosner received his basic and advanced military training prior to being sent overseas. At that time, a soldier would not be sent overseas until he had been in service for at least 6 months.

While Sollie was undergoing his training in the United States, on June 6, 1944, which we know as D-Day, Allied forces landed in Normandy, France, to initiate the task of liberating Western Europe from the heel of Nazi tyranny. In July, 1944, the Allies finally broke out of their Normandy enclave and were able to free much of France by the end of August. The liberation of Paris occurred on August 25, 1944, followed by a quick thrust toward the German border by September. For Sollie, who was still



undergoing his training in the United States, his thoughts probably were mixed. On one hand he might feel bad that the war would end before he was sent overseas and fight the Germans, or conversely he would be happy that the war was going to end shortly, and he could soon resume his college studies. Unfortunately fate and world events would override his choices.

By the late fall, the Allied advance in Europe had ground to a halt for various reasons, including a disastrous operation-code name "Market Garden" in Holland in which the Allies suffered a stinging defeat. In addition there were significant delays in supplying the Allied forces that had rapidly moved from the Normandy coast toward Germany, outrunning their logistical support. There were also unfortunate disputes among the various Allied commanders as to the progress and direction of the continued Allied advance. This gave the Germans a chance to regroup and lick their wounds from their devastating defeat in France where they lost several hundred thousand soldiers and irreplaceable supplies and equipment.

By early October, 1944, the German Army was reorganized and refitted and was again a potent danger. Based upon the military situation in the late fall of 1944, I assume that Private Mosner had arrived in Europe and, after spending a period of time in a replacement depot in France, was assigned to the 78th Infantry division. However, he may have come over to Europe as part of the 78th division when it arrived in Europe during the fall of 1944. The 78th Infantry division was organized in August, 1942, as a training division in North Carolina. It was subsequently deployed in the late fall of 1944. It is possible that Private Mosner may have arrived in Europe as part of the 78th or was later assigned to the unit. He was subsequently assigned to the 311 Infantry Regiment

Continued on page 14

MEMORIAL DAY, 2010



New York Army National Guard Chaplain Candidate (1st Lt.) Mark Getman, center, from the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, attended the Community Memorial Program held at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in Manhattan on Memorial Day at which Retired Col. Jack Jacobs, a Medal of Honor recipient, was the keynote speaker. Getman is a member of the Geir-Levitt Post 655 in Plainview-Old Bethpage. With Getman is Chaplain (Col.) Jacob Goldstein, right, the Command Chaplain for the U.S. Army 1st Mission Support Command in Puerto Rico. At left is Maj. Barry Pinchefskey from the New York Guard's 88th Brigade. Photo by Lizaveta Litvak.



Norman Gudema (2nd from right), Commander of Dan Michelson Post 740, was chairman of the Memorial Day Parade Committee in Livingston, NJ. Former Post Commander Steve Hoffman (Lt Col, USA, ret) (2nd from left) was the parade's Grand Marshall. At right is Peter Berkowsky (Col, USAF, ret), a life member of the post, who delivered the keynote address at the memorial ceremony before the parade. John Werner (left), Livingston High School Class of 2010, was invited to march with the Post, in honor of his recent appointment to the USMA at West Point.



During Memorial Day ceremonies at Bourne National Cemetery, Boy Scouts Jacob and Benjamin Westerman, grandchildren of MA Dept. Commander David Westerman, carried the JWV banner preceding their grandfather.



Members of Post 316, Long Branch, NJ put flags on the graves of the veterans at the Brothers of Israel Cemetery, West Long Branch, New Jersey. Pictured from L-R: Michael Winnick, Edith Landberg, Sol Friedman, Cathy Friedman, Arthur Tauber, Steven D. Friedman, Danny Friedman, Alexis Castellon, Bernard Grauman, Joel Landberg, Joshua Levine, (Grandson of Jerry & Florence Levine), Lowell Landberg, Jerry Levine, Henry Lewis, Burt Resnick, Buddy Rassas. Photo by Ralph Binder.



PPC Manford Levy (at left) and PDC Ben Schwartz, both of JWV Post 436, are shown saluting the flag at Memorial Day services held in their hometown of Maumelle, Arkansas. Three other members of the Post attended Memorial Day services at the National Cemetery in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Photo courtesy of The Maumelle Monitor.



Post 125, Asbury-Ocean, NJ, held a Poppy Sale on Memorial Day. Shown (L-R) are Ralph Binder of Post 316, Long Branch, NJ; Selma Klang, and Stan Shapiro of Post 125, Asbury-Ocean, New Jersey.

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Mel Brody Announces His Candidacy for National Commander



A 55-year member and a Life Member of the JWV, Mel Brody has held every position in his post and his Council and served two terms as Department Commander of the Southwest. He was the Department NEC representative in 2005 and 2008-2009 and has served on the Budget, Finance, Membership, Policy and Housing Committees.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the start of the Korean War and took part in several campaigns, receiving several decorations and commendations. Discharged in 1955, he returned to college in Los Angeles and joined the JWV and was also elected President of the 27,000-member District Four of B'nai B'rith and served as Post Commander, Department Commander and state officer for the American Legion.

After moving to Arizona in 1999, he discovered the "best kept secret in the Greater Phoenix area: JWV Post 210" when the Post's membership totaled 44. Under Mel's leadership, the Post roster hit 134, including 80 Life Members and continues to grow. As Department Commander, he has taken the Department from near bankruptcy to a very sound

financial position. Both he and the Department have received awards for their work from the Carl T. Hayden VA Hospital, the Arizona State Veterans Home and Victory Place, the Arizona Homeless Veterans shelter.

In May, 2005, he was selected from more than 50 candidates nationwide to become the first recipient of A&E Television Network's "Lives That Touch Others" award and donated the \$5000 award to the Arizona Veterans Home, in Phoenix.

The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame inducted Mel in October, 2005. He serves on the Executive Board of the Arizona Hall of Fame Society; selected as Veteran of the Year in 2005; and serves as treasurer of the Memorial Day Committee of Arizona. He serves as Chairman of the Unified Arizona Veterans, the first Jew to be elected. Mel raised \$90,000 through public and corporate donations for the Carillon that was dedicated in May, 2008, at the National Cemetery in Phoenix and for a Carillon at the State Cemetery in Southern Arizona. In April, 2008, he was appointed to Arizona Governor Napolitano's

Continued on page 14

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Steve Zeitz Announces His Candidacy for National Commander



Stephen (Steve) R. Zeitz of Pennsylvania, long-time Chairman of JWV's National Insurance Committee and 2003 winner of the Murray L. Rosen Member of the Year Award, has announced his candidacy for National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

Steve is a life member of the JWV and has belonged to the organization since the 1970's. He is a member of Kelkey-Blatt Post 575 and is currently the Post Quartermaster. He has held many other positions in the Post, including Post Commander. In addition to having been National Member of the Year, he has also been named Member of the Year in his Post on more than one occasion.

He, along with Phil Rein, started the Descendants of JWV in Philadelphia, and he is active in both the Philadelphia County Council and the Department of Pennsylvania. He has also received the Legion of Honor from the Chapel of the Four Chaplains.

Steve is especially grateful to the tutelage in the JWV he received from his mentor and friend, the late PNC Ed Blatt, and he looks forward to continu-

ing in PNC Blatt's footsteps as he hopes to lead the JWV as its next National Commander.

Steve has been a member, chairman, or co-chairman of the National Insurance Committee for many years. He is also a member of the NMAJMH and is currently an NMI representative. He also belongs to several other veterans' organizations.

Steve served in the U.S. Army in Germany.

Steve is an insurance broker and several years ago started a committee to open the city of Philadelphia for inner city agents, working with the Federation of Insurance and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Insurance. He has also placed and written insurance for the City of Philadelphia in one of the city's housing programs.

Steve, who was born in Philadelphia, went to Central High School, North Philadelphia Realty (then a part of Temple University) and Penn State University. He is currently active as the owner of Eagle Associates Insurance in Cheltenham, PA. He is the father of daughter Perri and son Scott, and he is a proud grandfather.

Navy Pilot's Last Act: Saving 3 Crew Mates

By Jim Woods

The plane had blown an engine over the northern Arabian Sea, and the lead pilot, Lt. Miroslav "Steven" Zilberman, had to make lightning-quick decisions.

The E-2C Hawkeye, returning from a mission in Afghanistan, was a few miles out from the Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier. Zilberman, 31, was a veteran U.S. Navy pilot who had flown many times in the Middle East with the Hawkeye, a turbo-prop aircraft loaded with radar equipment.

The starboard propeller shut down, causing the plane to become unstable and plunge. Zilberman ordered his three crew mates, including the co-pilot, to bail. He manually held the plane as steady as possible so they could jump.

"He held the plane level for them to do so, despite nearly uncontrollable forces. His three crewmen are alive today because of his actions," Navy Rear Adm. Philip S. Davidson wrote to Zilberman's parents.

Zilberman went down with the aircraft on March 31. The 1997 graduate of Bexley High School was declared dead three days later, his body lost at sea.

The Navy soon will start recovery operations to try to pull the wreckage from the sea, said Lt. Cmdr. Philip R. Rosi II, a public-affairs command officer for the Naval Air Force Atlantic fleet in Norfolk, Va. The crash is being investigated.

Zilberman's last act earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross, one of the highest honors the U.S. Navy bestows, Rosi said.

The medal was presented to his wife, Katrina Zilberman, in Norfolk, where she lives with their children, Daniel, 4, and Sarah, 2. A copy of the medal also was given to his parents - Boris Zilberman and his wife, Anna Sokolov - who live in the Eastmoor area of Columbus.

"Now we have unbelievable pain," Sokolov said this week. "He was our one and only son."

After an April 8 memorial service in Norfolk and through conversations with fellow officers and friends, Zilberman's parents have learned how highly regarded their son was.

"He saved three lives. He's a hero," his mother said.



Boris Zilberman and Anna Sokolov, parents of Miroslav Zilberman, are mourning the loss of their son, whose plane plunged into the northern Arabian Sea on March 31. Photo by Kyle Robertson. Reprinted with permission from the Columbus Dispatch.

Zilberman was born in Ukraine, and his flight nickname was "Abrek," the name of one of the first two monkeys that flew into outer space for the Soviet Union.

Making a better life for their son was a major reason his parents decided to emigrate from Kiev, Ukraine. They were fearful of living only 90 miles from the leaking nuclear reactor at Chernobyl, and that their son would one day be forced into military service. They joined a wave of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union who settled in Columbus in 1991.

Marilyn Rofsky remembers the first time she met the young Zilberman. Rofsky was teaching an English class when he walked in and interrupted it, asking his mother for 50 cents to buy a pop. Rofsky asked him what he was doing.

"Well, I am thirsty," Steven Zilberman said matter-of-factly. Rofsky said she soon found that Steven, who was then 12, was strong-

willed and "incredibly smart." She said he picked up English quickly.

Rofsky helped him navigate the cultural adjustment to America. "He knew what he would want, put things into place and accomplished it," she said.

During high school, Zilberman met Katrina Yurchak, a Torah Academy student who became his wife. He was accepted into Ohio State University but had other ideas.

Sokolov said she was initially shocked when her son told her he had joined the Navy.

"We were afraid of the military service because it was awful for Jewish people" in the Soviet Union, she said.

Rofsky said she went to the recruiter and tried to persuade him to have Zilberman change his mind. But Zilberman wanted to pay his own way to college and knew that the military would help him do that. He also liked following in the footsteps of a grandfather who was a military pilot during World War II for the Soviet Union.

While in the Navy, Zilberman earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., in three

years.

Zilberman had planned to go on to study medicine and hoped to become an emergency-room doctor. Sokolov said she learned that he spent his spare time reading organic-chemistry books.

He was about to take a new assignment in Pensacola, Fla., as a flight instructor. Rear Adm. Davidson, in his letter to Zilberman's parents, said they should be proud of what their son did. Zilberman's crew mates, he said, owe their lives to him.

"I know they will never forget him," Davidson wrote. "I will remember him forever."

[Reprinted with permission from the Columbus Dispatch]

JWV Americanism Medal Award Recipients



June 3, 2010

Dear Jewish War Veterans,

My name is Brittany Williams, and I am a second year cadet at West Lincoln High School [Lincolnton, NC] "Rebel Navy" JROTC. I was shocked and honored to receive the JROTC award. I try hard to do my best in this program, which I care deeply about. I am glad to be recognized for it. I hope to join the US Navy when I leave High School. I want to serve my country just as you have. Thank you for supporting my unit this year.

Sincerely,
Brittany Williams



Allen Goodman, Quartermaster of the Maurice Kubby Post 749, El Paso, TX, presented the JWV Americanism medal and certificate to Cadet Willard Hill of the University of Texas El Paso ROTC.



SGM Keith Castaneda presented JROTC cadet, Brian Ceballos with a JWV certificate and medal as Outstanding Cadet at Waimea High School in Waimea, HI.



Cadet Chloe R. Powell received the JWV Americanism Award and medal at ceremonies held by the Alvin C. York Institute JROTC in Jamestown, TN.

Reflection Not Recreation

By D. Morton Tener

Unfortunately, our society has lost the meaning of Memorial Day. Most of our citizens view this national holiday as a time to shop, party, go to the beach, have a day off from school or work, and enjoy a fun day. One has to question how many individuals realize the significance of the sacrifices our veterans of today and prior wars made to put themselves in harm's way and confront the possible loss of life or serious injury.

In return, we must recognize their contribution on our behalf by supporting veterans' causes regarding medical, legal, educational and family benefits, etc. As beneficiaries of their efforts, our support must be current and perpetual. Their sacrifice was without limits, and we should react without limits on their behalf.

Memorial Day, as all national holidays, should give us reason to thank God for giving us the opportunity to live in the greatest country on earth.

WELCOME TO SAVANNAH!

The JWV is so pleased to be holding our 115th Annual National Convention in Savannah, a city known throughout the world for its architecture and history as well as its Southern charm and hospitality.

If you are joining us in Savannah, there is still time to register for a host of enjoyable activities throughout the week.

- **Sunday, Aug. 8**, use your sleuthing skills at a fun mystery dinner in the hotel. The cost is \$37.50 per person, and dinner is a choice of baked fish or fried chicken.
- **Monday, Aug. 9**, explore the charms of old Savannah on a tour of the Low Country. The tour is \$45 per person.
- **Wednesday, Aug. 11**, set sail with the Century Club on a riverboat cruise complete with a sumptuous buffet. Cost is \$100 per person. The cost for a spouse or significant other is \$50.
- **Friday, Aug. 13**, welcome the Sabbath with a traditional dinner. The cost is \$27.50 per person.
- **Saturday, Aug. 14**, celebrate our outgoing National Commander Ed Robins at the National Commander's banquet. For \$40 per person, you will have a choice of sirloin or salmon.

For more information, or to register, call Cheryl Waldman or Greg Byrne at 202-265-6280.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



SGT Keith Lewis, Active Duty Recruiter for the TN Army National Guard and a member of the Memphis TN Post, has been awarded the Soldier's Medal for Heroism for helping rescue a citizen from a burning vehicle. SGT Lewis received the award from MG Terry "Max" Haston who is the Adjutant General for the State of TN. His children Jonathon and Emilee (at right) were present at the ceremony.

SGST Lewis writes, "I am proud to be part of the less than 1% of our country who ever serves in the US Military. I am even prouder to be part of the even smaller percentage of us who are Jewish!"



Shown at the Salute to Israel Parade in Manhattan on May 23 were from left: Lester Friedman, Linda Singer, NEC Irwin Beck, Jack Holzman, Anton Gancz, Marshall Duberstein, Wolf Popper, Edward Baraw, Petra Kaatz and Sidney Goldberg.



The "Man of the Year" award at the Nassau Suffolk District Convention May 16 in Plainview, NY, went to NEC David Zwerin. Shown from left: District Commander Lewis Wunderluch, NEC David Zwerin, Max Graber and PDC Theodore Shuster.



The Sylvia and Hyman L. Solomon Post 684, Royal Palm Beach, FL, presented a check for \$5,000 to the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center. Shown at the presentation from left are Larry Schmookler, Jules Horowitz, Hospital Director Charlene Szabo, PC Elliot Belt, and Chief of Voluntary Services Mary Phillips



National Commander Ed Robins installed new Post Commander Ed Blecher (standing) at his home Post 44 in Cleveland, OH. Looking on are Past Commander Sid Wakser (at left) and new Post Jr. Vice Commander Sandy Binkofsky.



Members of Drizin-Weiss Post 215 presented 1,700 sets of underwear to the Coatesville VA Medical Center's "Winter Carnival." Shown from left are: Robin Aube-a Warren; Jean Ostroy; Special Events Chairman PPC Benjamin Kauffman, PDP Hannah Kauffman; Assistant Medical Director Kirk Fernitz; PDP Shirley Elkin; PPC Marvin Simon; PDP Yetta Donsky; Medical Center Director Gary Devansky, PDC Jerome Rudman, and Commander Irving Faye.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Shown at the Sunset Parade aboard USS IWO JIMA May 30 [from left]: National Inspector Sidney Goldman and Astronaut Buzz Aldrin.



PNC Paul Bernstein is the recipient of the 2010 Colonel Larry Epstein Award from Manhattan-Cooper-Lieutenant Colonel Larry Epstein-Florence Greenwald Post 1. New York County Commander Morton Weinstein (at right) was the keynote speaker at the luncheon on April 25 where Bernstein received the Epstein award.



Shown at the West Point Baccalaureate Service on May 20, are PNC Lawrence Shulman (center) with graduating Cadets Lindsey Adao of New City, NY and David Finkel of Longmont, CO.



On Sunday, April 18th, the Somers Library partnered with the Jewish War Veterans and the Somers Historical Society to participate in The Big Read grant program. The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest, presented by ARTSWESTCHESTER and the Westchester Library System. At the Jewish War Vets meeting, the Library showed the feature film, "A Soldier's Sweetheart," which is partly based on Tim O'Brien's book, "The Things They Carried," a fictionalized Vietnam memoir. Discussion followed with the JWV; Daniel Griffin, Commander of the Vietnam Veterans of America; Tim McArdle, Commander of the Somers VFW; and other guests. Shown at the event on left is Lawrence Kaufman, Commander of Post 46. On right is Dr. Melvin Shrebnick, Post Chaplain.



Shown are members of the Post 167, MD, Memorial Honor Guard, which was formed 5 years ago and which attends funerals for Jewish Veterans of any post within its region. From left are: Gilbert Miller, David Back, Melvin Leventon, Ben Blum, Henry Dickman, Honor Guard founder Martin Greenberg, Commander Richard Udoff, Will Shavitz, and Frank Bressler.



Members of the Department of Florida recently met with U.S. Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL). Shown from left are PNC David Magidson, Dr. Robert Pickard, Sen. Nelson, PNC Ainslee Ferdie and Jerry Abrams.



Harry Feinberg (at left) of Lt. James I. Platt Post 651, Fairlawn, NJ, received the NJ Service Medal from Capt. Abel of the NJ Department of Veterans Affairs at the Paramus Park Mall in Paramus, NJ.

REUNIONS IN SEARCH OF

► Marine Air Groups (WWII to present) reunion will be held Oct. 13-16, 2010, in Branson, MO. Please contact James Jordan, james.m.Jordan@hughes.net, 417-535-4945, or Bob Miller, mbobsue13@aol.com, 636-327-5854.

► USS Plymouth Rock LDS-29 8th reunion will be held Sept. 20-23, 2010, in Mount Pleasant, SC. Please contact David Dortch, tazrhondave@yahoo.com, 870-236-3725, or Harry T. Andersen, htajma@att.net, 847-336-2151.

► The 35th Infantry Association will hold its annual reunion Sept. 15-19, 2010, in Branson, MO. For details, call Col. Robert Dalton at 785-267-3295, or go to www.35thInfDivAssoc.com.

IN SEARCH OF

► My father, Ernst Schaefer, is looking for his best friend when he worked for Douglas Aircraft in Italian Eritrea with Project 19 in WWII, Ralph Schwartz from Buffalo, NY. Please contact Meg Schaefer at wrightsferrymansion@comcast.net.

► WWII veteran of the British Army is looking for two men with whom he shared time in Egypt. They are Benno Lichtenstein(ien) and Ernie Mandowski, who met with Dick Foote (Armourer Gloucester 0452/525283) in 1943/44 at 135MU. If you have any information, please contact Helen Mass at helenmass@aol.com.

Solomon D. Mosner

Continued from page 7

of the 78th Division

On December 16th the Nazis attacked the Allied forces in the Ardennes area of Belgium to commence what would later be known as the "Battle of the Bulge." The 78th Division participated in the Battle, and that is where Sollie faced his greatest danger. The ultimate German objective was to capture the major port of Antwerp, and cut the Allied forces in half. If successful, the Germans would then perhaps have attempted to negotiate a separate peace with the Western Allies and devote their murderous efforts to fighting the Russians.

After the Allies stopped the German advance in Belgium and Luxembourg, they went on the offensive and crossed into Germany during a terrible winter. The troops, at times, had to fight in waist-high snow drifts and below zero weather, against desperate, fanatical Germans fighting on their home soil.

It was in one of these battles, that the world lost Sollie. On January 18, 1945, in the small town of Birath, Germany, PFC Solomon D. Mosner, Serial number 42130652, was killed. The 311th regiment was heavily engaged in crossing the Siegfried Line, destroying German fortifications and fighting against an SS Panzer (Tank) division. On one engagement near Birath within a day or so of Sollie's death, a unit of the 311th sent out 40 soldiers to capture a position and only eight or nine survived. The Siegfried Line was a series of impregnable fortifications which included anti-tank traps, minefields and pill boxes. During January and February, 1945, the 78th Division sustained very heavy casualties, including PFC Mosner.

Sollie died just a few weeks short of his 19th birthday. In my mind I wondered what his life would have been like if he had survived. Sollie represents just one person whose life was cut too short. The world will never know what his contributions to society or his family could have been. The only reminder on this planet of PFC Solomon D. Mosner is his tombstone, which is pictured here. He was a person who had friends and family, yet the memory of his existence has for all practical purposes been blotted out, covered by the sands of history.

As we consider all the thousands of men and women, of all backgrounds who gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect our liberty and freedom, we must never forget what their friends and family lost for generations to come. The loss of one person is as if one throws a stone in a pool of water and watches the rings flowing from that one splash. The names we see of these patriots on memorial plaques or monuments are not just names, but they are people whose loss was in fact a loss not only for their friends and family but for all of us.

Finally I would like to personally thank Monsieur Dubois for the wonderful act of kindness and generosity he has undertaken by caring for a grave of a person long missed but not forgotten. As an American I respect him for not forgetting about the sacrifices of an earlier generation of Americans who freed Belgium from a period of fear and occupation by a murderous regime.

Medal of Honor recipient swears in recruits

Continued from page 14

that make it possible," said Capt. Eric Fekete, who heads the Newark area recruiting company.

Most of the recruits were from Fekete's district, which takes in all of northeast New Jersey. Jacobs, is a Jerseyan, too. Born in Brooklyn, he grew up in Woodbridge, went through ROTC at Rutgers and now lives in Far Hills.

On the trip over from Liberty State Park, Jacobs and his wife, Sue, sat with some of the recruiters, in front of a group of French tourists from Normandy. When the ferry captain announced, Jacobs was aboard, he stood up and gave a humble wave.

The French tourists asked about the diminutive man, wearing the blue business suit, as he wife fastened the medal to his neck.

"A big war hero. Vietnam," people told them.

"Ahhh, Vietnam." The French were there first. They understood.

And soon Jacobs was besieged by them, signing autographs, posing for pictures, all with the Statue of Liberty looming in the backdrop.

"This is a sensation," said Naniyoula Albert Rouen one of the tourists who had his picture taken with Jacobs. "We got to meet a real hero."

So did many of the new recruits. After the swearing in, Jacobs thanked the new recruits for "joining the long line of people willing to defend the United States of America." He then walked the formation line, shaking hands, posing for pictures taken by proud parents, the Army recruiters, and tourists who happened by. Families gathered around, pushing their children forward to meet him.

You could say he was getting the celebrity treatment, but that would dishonor all that he represents. **From the Star-Ledger, © 2010 The Star-Ledger. All rights reserved. Used by permission and protected by the Copyright Laws of the United States. The printing, copying, redistribution, or retransmission of the material without express written permission is prohibited.**

Mel Brody

Continued from page 9

Blue Ribbon Veterans Commission

He and his wife Maxine have been married for 55 years and are the parents of three children, Rochelle, Alan and Paula, and the grandparents to Janeane and Shauna. After 35 years, Mel retired from Nutone as Western Sales Manager.

With this background, he is well prepared for his run to be National Commander in 2010. Concerned about JWV's financial situation, Mel believes that no candidate should be soliciting contributions to finance a campaign for National Commander when members should be concerned about reducing our annual deficit and retaining members.

Shipmates Reunited

It was a small ad on p. 9 of the Spring 2010 issue of *The Jewish Veteran*, but it led to big results. The ad read:

Looking for Jewish Navy Veterans who served in the Pacific on the USS Wasp (CV18). Contact Len Berman, 805-969-3966.

When Mr. Berman of Santa Barbara placed that ad, he was hoping especially to find shipmate and Marine, Ken Schneier. They had often attended Friday night services together onboard the ship during the War.



Len Berman, today, at home in Santa Barbara, CA

In Newton, MA, Ken Schneier's cousin brought the ad to his attention, and a telephone reunion 65 years in the making ensued.

Mr. Berman was in the Navy as a musician, but during the war all hands were used in combat, and his saxophone was used to serenade his fellow seamen generally when they pulled into



Ken Schneier at home today in Newton, MA

port. Even today, Mr. Berman leads a Dixieland band.

Mr. Schneier was a Marine, and one of the first U.S. servicemen to enter Japan after the end of the war. He spent a month at Yokosuka Naval Base as part of the first occupation forces in Japan.

The Wasp is credited with shooting down the last Kamikaze pilot in WWII, and Mr. Berman recalls that, as he was helping to load shells on one side of the ship, he thought of Mr. Schneier performing the same duty on the other side.

While he was in Japan, the Wasp endured a typhoon, and Mr. Schneier was forced to go from destroyer to destroyer in pursuit of the Wasp. He didn't catch up with the ship until they reached Pearl Harbor. When the shipmates were reunited, Mr. Schneier gave Mr. Berman a pen from Japan as a souvenir. Mr. Berman cherishes that pen as a reminder of Mr. Schneier's generosity of spirit and comradeship.

The shipmates hope that, despite the fact that they live on opposite sides of the country, their telephone reunion will soon lead to a face-to-face reunion. After 65 years, they remain in each other's thoughts and memories.



The pen, a gift from Mrs. Schneier to Mr. Berman, remains a cherished memento.

Share JWV with your friends and colleagues!

Add a new member to our distinguished roster!



During the National Commander's official visit to California, he visited the Haym Solomon statue at Pan Pacific Park in Los Angeles with the California Haym Solomon Committee. Shown from left are Bill Sachs, DC Allen Miliefsky, PDC Steve Rosmarin, National Commander Robins, Matthew Millen, and Hy Arnesty.

MIKE

By PDC Clarence (Code) Gomberg

Somewhere towards the end of April, 1945, and the liberation of Buchenwald Concentration Camp, near the town of Weimar, Germany, the 78th Hospital Train pulled into a rail siding not far from the deserted camp.

A small boy approached the train. I was standing at an open door, and the boy put his hands out and said "schweinfresser." I answered, "Ikh farshtey nisht." He walked closer to me and repeated the words, and I answered in English that, "I don't understand." He walked closer toward me and answered in English that he was begging for our garbage to use as food.

He told me that he was a twelve-year old Polish Jew, and that his name was Mike. He had lost his family in Auschwitz. I got permission from our company commander to bring Mike aboard the train.

We adopted him. He became our orderly



and interpreter. I took him into Paris, and for a couple of chocolate bars and a cake of soap had a uniform cut down to fit him.

In September, 1945, the train unit was disbanded, and we were transferred to the 239th General Hospital, in a section outside of Paris, Petain. Mike worked

with me and a civilian helper in food rations and supplies.

In February, 1946, I received orders to be sent home. We took Mike to Paris and left him with the French Jewish Welfare Board. He thought that he had relatives in Indiana.

I never knew his last name, and I don't know if he ever got to the United States.



Code Gomberg, 1945

★ ADMIRAL MIKE BOORDA



By Malcolm Steinberg, Post 749, San Antonio, TX

Admiral Jeremy “Mike” Boorda was named Chief of Naval Operations in April 1994. He was the first Jew to become CNO and the first mustang—an enlisted man who became an officer. VADM Thor Hanson felt that Boorda prepared the Navy to face the 21st century. Leon A. (Bud) Edney, Admiral, USN (ret.), stated, “Mike instituted more improvements over a 35-year career for the sailor and the sailor’s family than any individual that I know.” Yet, he supposedly committed suicide on May 16, 1996. Why would he take his own life? Who was he?

Boorda was born in South Bend, IN, on November 26, 1939. His grandparents were Jews who fled Czarist Russia. Mike’s family moved a lot, possibly due to his father Herman’s bouts of depression. Herman was an intelligent man and a devoted Jew who had served in the U.S. Navy in WW II.

Around the time of his father’s hospitalization for an attempted suicide, Boorda had his Bar Mitzvah at South Bend’s Sons of Israel Synagogue. Commander Ronald Zubkoff (ret.) remembers attending the Hebrew Institute with him, saying that Mike picked up Hebrew quickly, and, though older than Zubkoff, he didn’t mind sharing his toys!

That year, the Boorda’s moved to Momence, IL. Mike entered high school, where he heard “Jew boy” a time or two, until playing football and running track got him accepted into the “drinkers” group—the drink being a six-pack of beer. His studies suffered, and his parents told him to attend classes or quit school and get a job. At 16, Mike left school, lied about his age, and joined the Navy.

Testing led Boorda to personnelman’s training. Six years later, Boorda was married to wife, Bettie, with whom he had four children, the first of whom, David, was born with severe disabilities. Senior Chief Petty Officer George Everding recommended Boorda to the Navy’s version of officer candidate school, describing Boorda as “the best personnelman I ever had the pleasure of working with.” Boorda often stressed that Everding (later a LT Commander) taught him the importance of caring for people.

In 1962, Boorda graduated from the integration program, an Ensign in the Naval Reserve. (The program was discontinued, but Boorda reinstated it as CNO.) He was assigned to the USS Porterfield (DD 682), serving in the Combat Information Center (CIC) until January 1964. The CIC provided surface, subsurface, and aerial observation.

Commander Michael Judd was an electronics technician’s mate in the CIC. In a 2003 let-

ter, Judd wrote, “He inspired me to apply for commissioning rank ... in a large measure, he inspired me to hold every rank from E-1 to E-8, Warrant Officer, W-1 to W-4, (to) commissioned ranks from Lieutenant junior grade to Commander in a 31-year Naval career ending in 1991.”

Larry Cote, Sr., who also served in the CIC, remembered Boorda as a man who handled pressure better than anyone he ever knew. He couldn’t believe Boorda committed suicide. Chief Cote recalled the good relationship he and Boorda shared. He also remembered calling Boorda “Jew boy,” but said it was just in jest, and that Boorda took it that way.

Boorda’s career continued to progress. In 1964, he was assigned to the Navy Destroyer School in Newport, Rhode Island, and to the Nuclear Weapons Training Center, Pacific. He then became weapons officer on the USS John R. Craig (DD 885). In 1965, Boorda received a promotion to full Lieutenant and a USN commission—he was no longer Naval Reserve.

The Craig headed for Vietnam, and Boorda got his first taste of hostilities, supporting the USS Midway in strikes against the North Vietnamese and conducting counter-battery fire. Later, the Craig commanded the U.S. Naval Gunfire Support Group. Captain James K. Jobe commended Boorda for developing and implementing naval gunfire support for the destroyer group. He recounted how, when Boorda found there was no manual for conducting these actions, he went ashore to develop the plans with Marine and Republic of Vietnam officers. Boorda then wrote the manual overnight. Jobe said that, at the time of his retirement, the Navy was still using Boorda’s manual.

On August 16, 1965, Jobe’s report stated that each day brought a new record of rounds fired at the enemy. While ashore at Danang, Jobe was told they needed fire support and called out to the Craig. Reputedly, Boorda moved the Craig into position and delivered the shelling. Another Craig officer stated that Boorda went from one five-inch gun to another, shouting, “We got



them that time!”

Captain Jobe and several senior officers were awarded the combat “V” following this tour. According to Operations Officer Bob Kahler, junior officers like Boorda and himself did not.

Over the years, a series of assignments showed Boorda to be a leader who ran a “tight ship,” receiving high efficiency ratings and superlative fitness reports, while maintaining the love and loyalty of his men. In December 1971, Lieutenant Commander Boorda was assigned as executive officer on the USS Brooke (DEG-1), the destroyer on which he saw his second tour in Vietnamese waters. His commander, William D. Pivarnik, is quoted as saying, “Mike Boorda was, without qualification, the finest naval officer with whom it has been my pleasure to serve.” Commander Pivarnik received a V for this tour.

Boorda also had several shore assignments, allowing him to receive a bachelor’s degree in political science. VADM William Porter Lawrence, his supervisor during one assignment in the Navy Bureau of Personnel (BUPERS), said that “Boorda was perhaps the most intelligent and conscientious officer I ever served with.” Lawrence also said that he

Continued on next page



worked with Boorda for a year before he knew he was Jewish. As one friend said, Boorda was not a person to wear his religion on his sleeve.

Boorda experienced Washington politics during assignments at the Pentagon. Yet, when offered the position of Assistant Secretary of the Navy, a civilian position that would require him to resign his commission, he chose to go back to sea.

In December 1991, Boorda was named Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe; and Commander, Allied Forces, Southern Europe. Boorda had a close working relationship with U.S. Army General Colin Powell. Both recognized that UN resolutions attempting to bring peace to the Balkans were being ignored by the Serbs, and agreed this should be met with force. That was the advice Boorda gave to President Bill Clinton—and it was a plan that Boorda carried out successfully. Clinton would credit Boorda for his contribution to the end of hostilities and to the humane relief efforts that followed. He also would comment that, when Boorda was CNO, Boorda's reports were the only ones he could count on for telling the truth.

Boorda became CNO in April 1994 in the aftermath of scandals involving sexual abuse of female naval officers. He also faced the need for quality recruits and reenlistments, budget constraints on ship numbers and personnel, and Congressional concerns about equal opportunities for female personnel. He soon discovered how hard it was to get things done in Washington, no matter how many hours he put in. Also, he wanted things done right, which didn't endear him to everyone. Boorda faced personal challenges as well.

Two years into his assignment, Boorda discovered that a reporter wanted to discredit him, claiming Boorda wore the "V" on two Vietnam medals without authorization. Boorda actually had removed the Vs a year earlier when a Navy panel said they couldn't find supporting paperwork. However, Admiral Elmo Zumwalt Jr., a CNO during the Vietnam years, said Boorda was entitled to wear the Vs. The commendation for one of the medals Boorda received stated:

The medal is for his service...as executive officer on the USS Brooke...including combat conditions. Boorda's unsurpassed skill in combat operations, training, and proficiency contributed to the Brooke achieving the highest reenlistment rate of any ship in its class in the entire Pacific Fleet.

Boorda's response to hearing the subject of the interview, scheduled later that day, was to say he would "tell the truth." Then, he apparently went home and shot himself through the heart.

PEOPLE & PLACES

► Members of the **Paul Rosenblum Post 44** placed 1,500 flags on the graves of veterans and dedicated a new section at Mount Olive Cemetery in Solon, OH.

► The Arizona Veterans Home thanked **Copper State Post 619** in their monthly newsletter for their recent contribution:

"For the next four months, we will increase our bingo and in-house Casino programs. Thanks to the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, **Copperstate Post 619**, we were able to upgrade our bingo hall with a new high tech bingo board. The board has all the sparkle and pizzazz that you would find in the casinos."

► **PNC Sam Greenberg** was the featured speaker at the annual Memorial Day program in the public park in Freeland, PA.

► **Violla Orloff** is the newly installed Commander of the Los Angeles District Council.

► **Commander Irwin Brewster** of the **Tucson Friedman-Paul Post 201** recently presented a plaque to Noah Sorkow in appreciation of his Bar Mitzvah Good-Deed project in which he raised over \$2,000 for wounded veterans in the Tucson VA Polytrauma Unit.

► **Sgt Joe Feldstein Post 549**, Stuart, FL, has donated funds to aid Jewish chaplains in Iraq and Afghanistan, sponsored a dinner for blind "students" from the VA hospital in West Palm Beach, FL, and sponsored a luncheon for wheelchair-bound veterans on Hutchinson Island. At all of the events, the Post distributed calendars, pens, and datebooks.

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Richard M. Rosenbleeth-100 • Jack Shohet-100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Harris Davis-603 • Charles Fuller-603 • Jordan I. Kurnick-603 • Isidor Lenoil- 603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Harry Donald Golden-45 • Edward L. Friedman-51 • David S. Salsburg-51 Michael Davis- 141 • Solomon D. Perman-141 • Robert Solon Rodwin-142 • George Saportin-204

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Barry F. Howard-321 • Wolf Wittenberg-459 • Herbert D. Steiner-631 • Richard H. Fine-639 • Joseph Kessler-730 • Ben Schwartz-730

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Michael Victor Metzger-29 • Robert J. Drucker-407

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Harry Berman-692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Peter Kober-26 • Day Asher-193 • Sumner C. Hoberman-211 • Jeffrey S. Blonder-220

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Michael S. Finn-333

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Norman F. Bennis-21 • Denny Deutschkron-21 • Stuart Allan Hess-21 • Norley Sirott- 021 • Alvin D. Levine-65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Ed Reisman-39 • Morris Scherr- 536 • Noel I. Yaskulka-657 • Sol Moglen-695

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Bernard Lewin- 002 • Jack Levin-25 • Arnold Irwin Klinsky-41 • Melvin E. Wilcove-105 • George Handler-413 • Martin C. Hochhauser-625 • Irwin J. Berson-652 • Richard Kahn-652 • Robert N. Barry-717 • Burton Franklin Jaffe-717 • Ronald Kobler- 776

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Steve Fishman- 044 • Sanford G. Fleishman-44 • Frank M. Mugford-587

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

David Rosenfeld-575

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA-NC

Joe Stewart-777

There is a six-pointed star on Boorda's Arlington National Cemetery tombstone. His funeral service was conducted by Captain Allen Kaplan, Rabbi, USNR. Questions usually aren't asked about the impact of being Jewish on a Naval career, but Tex McCrary, a World War II pilot, believed it was harder to be a Jew in the Navy than a black man in the Army.

Despite his suicide, Boorda's career was

brilliant and its ending a tragedy. Wikipedia's 2008 release notes four major actions taken by CNO Boorda: restoration of the Seaman to Admiral Program; the C41 Program to improve communications on amphibious ships; an improved rating system for personnel; and expansion of the Oceanographic Program to rivers and bays. His accomplishments also include helping who knows how many sailors during his career.

Development Committee

By Chairman PNC Monte Mayer

One of our functions is to retell the stories of Jewish service men and women to keep alive the best and most colorful of these events. We will publish them in our annual calendar and here in the Veteran, so that all may share this knowledge. However, we need these stories from you. You can relate to all of us how your family members or friends served, what they did that was unusual, or how their service represented the dedication of American Jews to the safety of our Nation.

Please don't think that these stories are unimportant.... No story is unimportant if it relates the service of an American Jew. But, we can't publish them, unless we are told about the incidents by those individuals who served. Please help us keep these stories alive for our posterity and counteract the vicious anti-Semitism that is growing today.

GWOT (Global War on Terror)-JWV Outreach to the Next Generation

By Chairman Colonel Nelson L. Mellitz, USAF, Ret.

As many of you know I recently retired from the IRS and accepted employment as a "Principal Consultant" (contractor) with the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Veterans Health Administration, DC. One of the first requirements for a new employee at VA is to read an 88-page overview. I came across valuable demographic information about the veteran that may be of interest to help us give additional direction for outreach to JWV's next generation.

NUMBERS: The estimated total Veteran population was 23,816,000 as of September 30, 2007. This included 7,884,000 Vietnam era Veterans, representing the single largest period-of-service component of the Veteran population. Gulf War era Veterans

now comprise the second largest component, numbering 4,996,000. World War II Veterans numbered 2,912,000, while Korean conflict Veterans totaled 2,961,000. Veterans serving only in peacetime numbered 6,077,000, about one-in-four Veterans. (NOTE: The sum of the numbers by period does NOT add to the total because the period categories shown here are not mutually exclusive: an estimated 785,000 Veterans served in two war periods and 99,000 Veterans served in three or more; these Veterans are counted in ALL the periods in which they served.)

AGE: As of September 30, 2007, the median age of all Veterans was 60 years. Veterans under the age of 45 constituted 20 percent of the total, while those aged 45 to 64 represented 41 percent, and those 65 or older were 39 percent of the total.

SEX: Female Veterans numbered 1,780,000 million, representing 7.5 percent of the total Veteran population. Roughly one-in-five resident U.S. males 18 years of age or older is a Veteran.

FUTURE POPULATION: The Veteran population (23.8 million in 2007) is projected to decline to 22.7 million by the year 2010, under currently expected armed forces strength and mortality rates. The population of Veterans aged 65 or older peaked at 10.0 million in 2000. It is projected to decline to 9.2 million in 2010 but rise again to about 9.6 million in 2013 as the Vietnam era cohort ages. The number of Veterans aged 85 or older is projected to increase by 14 percent between 2007 and 2010 from 1,219,000 to nearly 1.4 million.

Note: The VA is in the process of updating their veteran's population census.

A question JWV members always ask is how many of these veterans are Jewish? I will discuss the Jewish veteran population in a future article.

Your comments and suggestions about subjects you would like me to address will be greatly welcomed. Contact me through

cwaldman@jwv.org

Health Initiatives Committee

By Chairman Jack Romo

The Health Initiatives Committee is looking for new members. Please contact Committee chairman Jack Romo at: Jacob.Romor@va.gov.

Insurance Committee

By Committee Chairman Steve Zeitz

The JWV insurance committee is pleased to offer to our members a foreign travel medical plan. Many travelers assume that their basic medical plan will be enough when they travel abroad. This is not the case, as domestic medical plans are not designed for international travel and may leave serious medical gaps or lack of coverage when needed most. The plans available to our members are (1) Patriot Travel and (2) Patriot Platinum. Both plans provide a minimum of 10 days to a maximum of 3 years coverage. The plans will be available on the dedicated insurance web site (www.personal-plans.com/jwv). Depending on the plan chosen, ranges will be from \$1 million to \$2 million with varying deductibles and in and out of PPO networks. This is good opportunity for our members and friends that travel to protect themselves and their families.

The insurance committee is always available for our members' questions and suggestions.

Vietnam Veterans' Committee Report

by Co-chairman, Roger Gove

The Vietnam Veterans' Committee met for its usual extended hours at the March 2010 NEC: one hour, forty-six minutes. The Committee has requested a two-hour block of meeting time at the August Convention.

As usual, there was considerable business to which to attend. Co-Chair Mike London is mak-

ing the final arrangements for our Committee's Annual Vietnam Vets' Night Out, which will take place on Tuesday night, Aug. 10, from 6-9 PM and will be dinner and a guided tour of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. Check our ad elsewhere in this issue of the magazine for more information on how to register.

Probably on Monday, Aug. 9, 2010, at the convention, the Committee will be making a VA hospital ward visit. We plan to sit, talk, and present coupon books stamped JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.A./ VIETNAM VETERANS' COMMITTEE.

Come early and take part.

Check out the back inside cover of the Convention Book for our usual Vietnam Veterans page. There you will find the Committee schedule and agenda for the Convention.

Women in the Military Committee

By Chairman Josephine Anton

The VA has prepared an official half-hour film on the History of Women in the Military. It features three Women Veterans, including myself. It depicts the beginning of the Women Soldiers- the WAAC- the Vietnam era and current Women in the Military. For the first Women Veterans' segments they came to my home with a truckload of movie equipment and turned it into a studio. It was a first for a Jewish War Veteran. It will be shown at the Florida Department Convention, as well as the National Convention in Savannah.

**When doing your
estate planning,
remember a
bequest to JWV.**

VA Introduces New Medallion Burial Benefit Option

The manner in which families memorialize their loved ones is inherently personal. For those Veterans who, for a variety of reasons, choose not to be buried in a national or state-run Veterans cemetery or request a government grave marker, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced the availability of an additional option to highlight a deceased Veteran's honorable service and their sacrifices for our country.

Beginning this month, the next of kin of a deceased Veteran, or those acting on their behalf, can order a bronze medallion they can affix to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased's status as a Veteran.

The medallion, depicting a three-dimensional folded flag surrounded by a laurel wreath with the Veteran's branch of service displayed beneath, will come in three dimensions designed to fit on various-sized headstones, grave markers and columbarium or mausoleum niche covers. The sizes are 5 inches, 3 inches and 1 ½ inches in diameter.

This new product will be furnished in lieu of a traditional government headstone or marker to those Veterans whose death occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

Eligible Veterans are entitled to either a traditional government-furnished headstone, marker, or bronze niche marker, or the new medallion, but not both.

After accepting a claim for the new benefit,



VA will mail the medallion along with a kit that will allow the family or the staff of a private cemetery to adhere the device to a headstone, marker or niche cover.

VA created the medallion in response to Public Law 110-157, passed by Congress Dec. 26, 2007. The law gave VA authority to "furnish, upon request, a medallion or other device of a design determined by the Secretary to sig-

nify the deceased's status as a Veteran, to be attached to a headstone or marker furnished at private expense."

VA arrived at the distinctive folded flag design after a long deliberation process. Employees of the National Cemetery Administration's Memorial Programs Service, members of the VA Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials and the Army Institute of Heraldry participated in the development of the medallion. After months of exchanges in meetings, workshops and focus groups, NCA submitted the current design to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki, who approved it Jan. 13, 2010.

For Veterans interested in submitting a claim for the new medallion, instructions on how to apply for a medallion will be updated on the NCA Web site at www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp. Until a new form specifically for ordering the medallion is available, applicants may use the form used for ordering government headstones and markers, VA Form 40-1330.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Photograph provided by the National Cemetery Administration

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR MUSEUM

What is the purpose of your Museum, and why should you support it with your time, energy and money?

In the last edition of *The Jewish Veteran* we published the names of our Jewish Service personnel who had died in defense of our country in Iraq and Afghanistan – starting with Daniel Agami, Specialist, Army, Florida, and concluding with Jonathan Yelner, Senior Airman, Air Force, California.

My Post, 243, is based in Coral Gables, Florida, and each Memorial Day and Veterans Day we place flags next to the graves of our fallen brethren. Thereafter, we hold a moving service – sometimes in the sweltering sun and sometimes in the pouring rain. This

past Memorial Day, thanks to the effort of our Museum staff and *The Jewish Veteran* we read the names of each and every person listed – Elizabeth N. Jacobson, Roslyn Schulte, Stuart Wolfer.... Tears came to everyone's eyes.

I read the other day that the toll in Afghanistan has now risen to 1,000, or one-quarter of the 4,000 troops who died in Iraq. I then started thinking with some degree of my own guesstimation as to how many Jewish American fallen heroes there truly are. Almost 40 of our sons and daughters were listed in *The Jewish Veteran*. Unfortunately I believe I know about ten more who need to be added. Then, there must be at least an equal number of unknown

Jewish Americans who put “no preference” on their dog tags. Why? As my son, Captain Benjamin Magidson, specifically told me when I sent him synagogue and JWV announcements to the outreaches of Afghanistan – “Dad, don't you know who distributes the mail over here?”

Sadly, as in all of our wars, our sons and daughters represent our portion of the population. All of this is encapsulated in our current Exhibit at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington, DC, entitled “Fallen Heroes: Remembering American Jewish Casualties of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring



PNC DAVID L. MAGIDSON
President, NMAJMH

Freedom.” These Jewish American heroes and children deserve our thanks and our remembrance.

That is the purpose of your Museum, and that is why it deserves your support!

FROM OUR ARCHIVES By Pamela Elbe

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

How to Track Down 20th Century Military Personnel Records

One of the most frequently asked questions here at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History is, “How do I get a copy of my relative's military record?” It is a simple question that may not have a simple answer, depending upon when your loved one served. If you are searching for records from the twentieth century, the first – and hopefully only – place you will need to contact is the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR) in St. Louis, Missouri. The NPRC-MPR is a branch of the National Archives and can provide records upon request with the proper authorization.

The process to obtain records is straightforward. Fill out form SF-180 (available on the National Archives website) to obtain records. Provide as much informa-

tion as you can in this form, as it may help your ability to obtain the desired information. Your relationship to the veteran also effects what information you are able to receive. Limited information from official military personnel files is releasable to the general public without the consent of the veteran or the next-of-kin. You are considered a member of the general public if you are asking about a veteran who is no relation to you, or a veteran who is a relative, but to whom you are not the next-of-kin. Next-of-kin is defined as the unmarried widow or widower, son or daughter, father or mother, brother or sister of the deceased veteran.

While the process is straightforward, you may still encounter problems in obtaining records due a disastrous fire at NPRC-MPR in 1973. Approximately 16-18 million official military personnel files

pertaining to certain Army and Air Force service members were destroyed in that fire. Approximately 80% of the files pertaining to Army personnel discharged 11/1/1912 to 1/1/1960, and 75% of the records of Air Force Personnel discharged 9/25/1947 to 1/1/1964 (with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.) were lost. Alternate record sources are used to reconstruct basic service information destroyed in the fire.

An alternative resource to submit a request to is the county clerk or registrar in the county where the veteran lived following their discharge from the military. You may be able to obtain a copy if your loved one filed their honorable discharge with the county. If you reach a dead end with the NPRC-MPR, it would be worth the effort to contact the county – they may have the only surviving copy of the veteran's discharge.

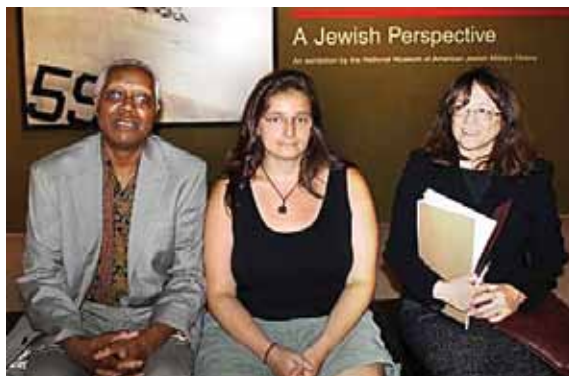
Contact:

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
314-801-800
www.archives.gov

Administratively Speaking By Mary Westley, Asst. Administrator

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History and the Jewish Study Center presented “Family Stories: Sons, Fathers and Zaydes,” June 6, 2010, during the 27th annual DuPont Kalorama Consortium’s Walk Weekend, a fun-filled weekend where a number of the “off the Mall” museums and historic homes were admission free and offered special events.

At our museum throughout the afternoon those who wished had the opportunity to tell their story about their son, father or zayde through words, photography, art, drama, comedy or film. There were three that came forward. Judy Meschel, grew up in Chicago and works in documentary film. Her father, George Meschel, still lives in Chicago and, among other things, is a presenter in the Lyric Opera Lecture Corps. Judy presented a birthday tribute film for her father’s 70th birthday. Kay Leslie Ackman, a writer and a lawyer living in Maryland with her husband who is a Chilean writer, told a short story about the travels of a father and son to Mount Meron. Don Williams, a comedian and comedy actor who has produced and directed his own plays with his own theater group, provided an inside look at the many sides of one of his heroes, his father.



Presenters at “Family Stories: Sons, Fathers and Zaydes” are Don Williams on the left, Judy Meschel in the middle and Kay Leslie Ackman on the right.



Docent Jeff Greenhut (second from right) spoke to the crowd visiting the museum during the Dupont-Kalorama museum walk weekend.



Photographs of the event are posted on our website home page and in the Museum Lobby. Guided tours of the museum exhibits for the adults were available with our docents, Richard Rosenzweig and Jeff Greenhut, with treasure hunts for the kids aided by Michael Bloom and Zev Lewis, both from the Jewish Study Center.

Convention Preview

At the National convention, on August 9, the Museum will show two documentaries by local independent filmmaker Jeff Krulik: “Hitler’s Hat”--a “witty and touching documentary,” according to the New York Times--the story of a Jewish GI who found Hitler’s top hat, crushed it, and took it home as a souvenir of war, where it sat buried in his magic trick closet for 50 years; and “Obsessed with Jews,” starring Neil Keller, owner of the world’s largest collection of Jewish memorabilia.

From Our Archives By Mike Rugel

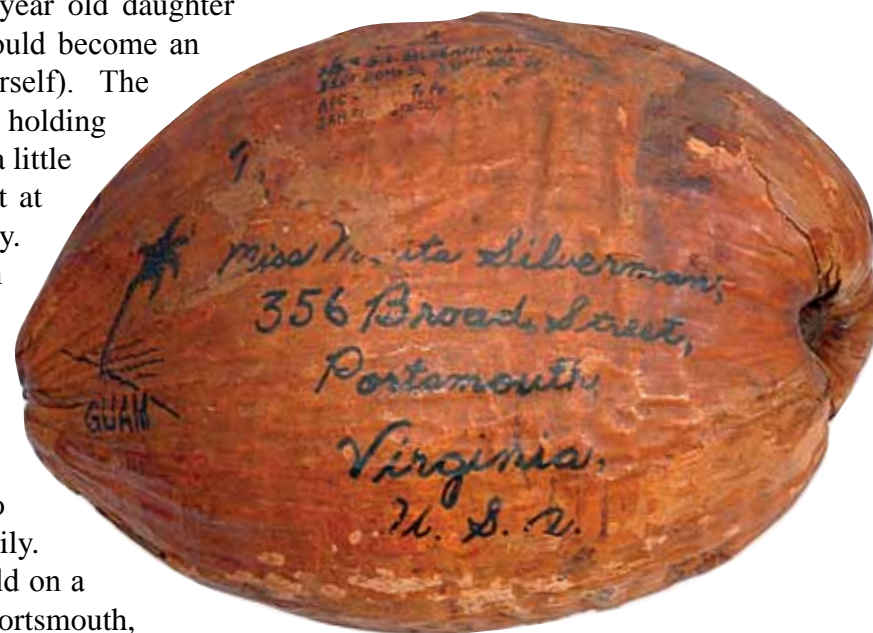
Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH

In 1944, the Battle of Guam was brutal and bloody, typical of the intense fighting against the Japanese in the Pacific. But by the second half of 1945, Guam wasn’t such a bad place to be for servicemen in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps that were stationed there. The fear of Japanese attack had subsided even before V-J Day. There was stunning scenery, entertainment from the USO and Red Cross, an interesting indigenous culture, and beautiful palm-tree lined beaches to visit (at least when it wasn’t raining). But none of these good things mattered to Sgt. Seymour Silverman who was there with the 355th Bomb Squadron. Silverman was desperate to return home to his wife and baby daughter. He’d been inducted into the Army in 1942, and his daughter was born in 1944.

Looking for ways to connect to his family at home, Silverman took a coconut off of a palm tree, drew a picture on it, covered it in shellac, wrote his home address on the outside and dropped it directly in the mail. The coco-

nut shell was the only box needed. It was addressed to Silverman’s one-year old daughter Marita (who, years later, would become an officer in the U.S. Army herself). The thought of his little daughter holding the coconut must have done a little to ease the loneliness he felt at the separation from his family. It connected his life in Guam with his family.

Fifty-five years, later this object still evokes the power of the feelings of a man fulfilling his duty to his country while wanting to share his life with his family. Mailed from an Army Airfield on a tropical island to home in Portsmouth, Virginia, this coconut evokes life on Guam in 1945 and helps us tell the story of one man in service.



DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Jack Spiegel-99 • Leroy Baker-100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Irving Walles-113 • Sidney Bleaden-185 • William W. Lowell-512 • Nicholas Schwartz-512 • Maxwell Lipman-617 • Isadore Lodawer-617 • Jerome Arak-680 • Hyman Haves-790

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Gerson Blatnick-525

DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Hyman Bialek-58 • Morton Brody-58

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A. Miller-567 • Lawrence Sturm-567 • Stanley L. Weinger-567 • Samuel Kaufman-888 • Irving S. Kroll-888

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DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Ben Calmenson-162 • Bernard Kegan-162

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Martin Spitcaufsky-605 • Robert Levin-605 • Nathan Gilbert-605 • Sanford Bovos-605

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Hy. Chinkes-21 • Carl Marden-64 • Carl Friedman-64

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Charles Paul-10 • Melvin Feldman-39 • George Kripitz-39 • Herman Polsky-39 • Myer N. White-39 • Leonard R. Wilf-126 • Abraham Yesser-126 • Jack Kronengold-273 • Carl Dworkin-395 • Karl Goldstein-395 • Jerome Sachs-498 • Richard M. Gold-689

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Adler-6 • Dr. Samuel Kaiser-25 • Daniel Klein-25 • Bernard F. Masling-41 • Malvin E. Ring-41 • George Shuster-46 • Marvin D. Baker-46 • Moshe Rosen-46 • Ralph Tannenbaum-105 • Herbert H. Simon-191 • Arthur Winard-191 • Moe Glickel-209 • Herman Reichman-218 • Ralph Gerber-335 • Lawrence Copans-413 • David Soiffer-415 • Murray Horowitz-552 • William D. Brainin-666

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Sanford Heiser-44 • Marvin Sorin-44 • Warren R. Stewart-44 • Eugene W. Rapport-62

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Louis Plokin-165 • Joseph Ungar-195 • Stanley N. Barer-215 • Aaron Cohen-215 • Sidney Levin-215 • Jerome Sacks-215 • Sidney Shore-215 • Jack Ainsman-499 • Milton Reznick-499 • Bernard Cohen-575 • Philip Devor-575 • Milton Kazen-575 • Louis Matkoff-575 • Abraham Lerman-706

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Sidney Kramer-533

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTHWEST AZ-NM

Ed Blum-201

DEPARTMENT OF TX-AR-LA-OK

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Harvey Redak, Honoring Heroes through His Music

By Phyllis Ross and Post 51 Commander Norman Hanenbaum



When 32-year-old Captain Benjamin A. Sklaver was laid to rest in Hamden, CT, in October 2009, CT Governor M. Jodi Rell ordered flags flown at half-staff. The military funeral drew mourners from many parts of the world. [Editor's Note: For more on Captain Sklaver, see *The Jewish Veteran*, Spring 2010, p. 7.]

Harvey Redak vividly recalls Captain Sklaver's funeral, because he was an important part of it. He was chosen to be the bugler playing "Taps" as part of the military honor guard. Harvey, a member of the CT Military Department and the State Guard, is often dispatched to play

at the funerals of fallen men and women in the Armed Forces.

Harvey was the first Commander of the Major General Maurice Rose Post in Middletown, CT, which was founded in 2004.

While serving in the Army, he was selected to attend the Naval School of Music, which prepared him to play in the Army Band.

Since residing in Chester for the past 40 years, he has performed in numerous local bands and sounded "Taps" at the Memorial Day services in his town. These experiences cannot compare to the sense of pride and deep emotional commitment he has felt as a Military Honor Guard bugler for many years.

"Bugler" is a term euphemistically used to refer to the person playing "Taps." In recent years, at all but the most high-level military funerals, live musicians are rarely used—and they may not actually be playing a bugle—Harvey prefers to use a trumpet. Often a ceremonial

bugle with a small insert containing a digital recording is used. A member of the Honor Guard will hold the bugle to his lips to simulate playing live music. Harvey is troubled by this. "There's something less than dignified in using a recording, not a real bugler." He believes that the honor of having a live bugler, accorded to those considered to be VIPs, "should be given to Private Jones as well."

No matter how many times Harvey has been part of a military funeral, it is always a very moving experience for him. "I weep every time, no matter who it is," he says. "I see a whole life. I'm thinking about the mortality when I'm playing."

Harvey has played "Taps" 150 to 200 times a year over the past 12 years—rain or shine. Once it was so cold the valves on his trumpet froze. It is never routine for him. Each time, he feels the solemnity of the experience, the pain of loss the loved ones suffer and the sacrifice that has been made by the departed. The act of honoring these heroic men and women, who have given their lives for the country, is a very important part of Harvey's life. He says, "Every one of them deserves a thank you, and that's what I'm there to do."



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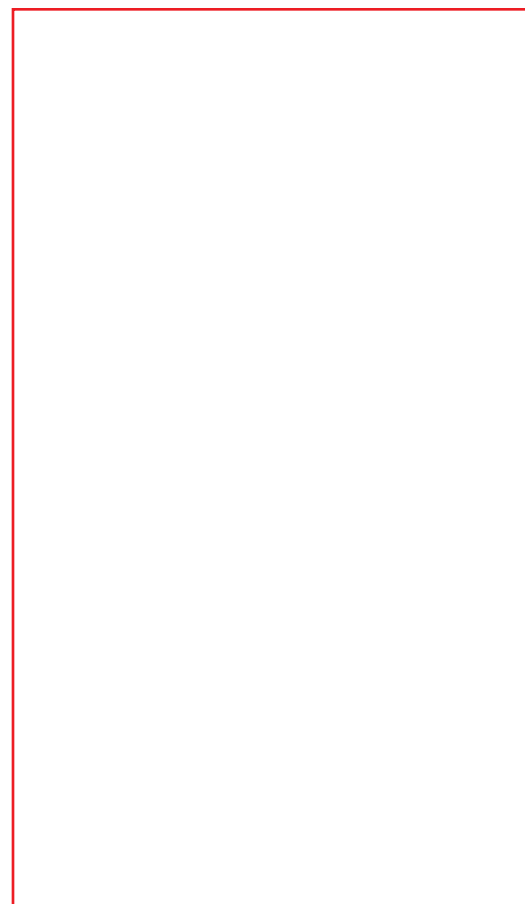
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