



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Spring • 2011

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JWV and NMAJMH Host Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano



Representatives from other VSO's who attended the breakfast were Pete Duffy, Deputy Legislative Director, NGAUS; Robert Madden, Assistant Director for the American Legions's Heroes to Hometown Program; Bob Norton, Deputy Director for Community Relations, MOAA; Herb Rosenbleeth, National Executive Director, JWV; Michael Blum, Executive Director, Marine Corps League; PNC Paul Bernstein, Chairman JWV Action/Homeland Security Committee; Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano; Jim Richards, Deputy National Service Director, MOPH; Garry Augustine, National Service Director, DAV; Joe Davis, Director of Public Affairs, VFW; and MG David Bockel, Executive Director, ROA.

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and representatives from the other major veterans' service organizations were guests of the JWV at a breakfast meeting followed by a tour of the NMAJMH on Tuesday, May 3, 2011.

JWV Action/Homeland Security Chairman PNC Paul Bernstein, who welcomed the Secretary, was an engineer with the Port Authority and is a survivor of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center where he was on the 74th Floor of Tower 1 at the time of the attack.

Secretary Napolitano, who noted that this meeting was her first since the death of Osama bin

Laden, commended the role of the military in the operation, and proceeded to present her quarterly report to the VSOs with whom the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is working closely. In addition to JWV National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth, attendees included executive directors or senior representatives from the National Guard Association, the VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, the Reserve Officers Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, Military Officers Association, and the Marine Corps League.

Secretary Napolitano's report

focused on four major efforts of DHS:

1. Hiring: DHS is actively involved in the veterans' hiring initiative. The goal is to hire 50,000 veterans by the end of 2012.
2. Contracting: DHS is actively involved in contracting with veteran-owned companies. DHS exceeded the SBA-mandated goal of 3% in 2010 and is pushing hard to meet the goal again in 2011.
3. Veterans' outreach: Regular meetings with VSOs. DHS

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Upcoming JWV Teleconferences

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- Tues - May 24..... Veterans Services and Hospitals
- Thurs - June 2..... The National Convention
- Tues - June 22 The Manual of Ceremonies
- Thurs - July 7 JWV in the Year 2020
- Wed - July 27..... The Jewish Veteran and Local PR
- Wed - Aug. 10 At the Convention: Committee Meetings, Business Sessions, Speeches, etc.
- Wed - Aug. 24 Convention Overview
- Tues - Sept. 13 Membership
- Wed - Oct. 26 Meeting Planning and Programming
- Wed - Nov. 16 Membership Drives, Veterans Shabbats, Poppy Drives and other Post Activities



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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Omaha Beach Cemetery

Several months ago now, my mother came to me with a copy of a letter that had been written in your magazine: It was a letter from a gentleman, one Nathan Dony, who had visited the Omaha Beach Cemetery and had taken pictures and said Kaddish at the gravestones of the Jewish soldiers who were buried there. He listed the names of the men, saying that he would be happy for contact from their families.

The last name on his list, Joseph Vill, was my grandfather. He was killed when my mother was a mere three months old; they had never met. His memory has lived on in our lives in many ways, not the least of which is that I am named for him. Many in the family, including me, have been to see his grave, and, even so, it was very meaningful to us all that a stranger honored him in the way that Mr. Dony did. When my mother brought the letter to me, she very much wanted to contact Mr. Dony, but felt that she didn't know quite how to go about it: I am writing in her place. If you could put me in touch with him, I would appreciate it.

Thank you for helping my family with this.

JoAnne Vill Robb

[Mr. Dony's Response]

I was very touched to receive this email. If you require a copy of the photograph I took of the headstone of Joseph L. Vill, this would be my pleasure.

I am only sorry now that I didn't spend more time, but I think to have photographed all 200 odd of the Jewish graves might have been more than I could have managed in the time we were there.

Let me say at the outset that this was a mitzvah. We Jews wherever we are in the World are bound together by an indissoluble bond. My own parents narrowly escaped the fate of the 6 million Jews from Europe. My Father was born in Poland, and as a young man was sent by his Mother from Lublin to Paris to seek his fortune and avoid conscription in the Polish army, which was usually a death sentence even in peace time. Whilst on holiday in Belgium he met my Mother who, whilst her parents who were Polish, were travelling throughout Europe, was born in London, and therefore had a British passport. They came to England as refugees in May of 1940 carrying with them only their marriage ketubah, their Shabbat candlesticks and my Father's talleth and tephillin, and I was born on 4th April 1941.

I have always been interested in the history

of the Second World War, particularly D-Day, and have visited the beaches and landing areas on several occasions. The village of St Mère Église and the Pegasus Bridge particularly are of great interest to me. I have also recently watched again that wonderful production, *The Band of Brothers*, and I have actually stood in the famous bunker at Point de Hoque.

My wife and I will please G-d visit France again some time in 2012, and I would like to take this opportunity to receive from any of the families of those brave men who gave their lives so that we might be free any request for a photograph of the graves of the Jewish heroes' who lie buried at the Omaha Beach cemetery. I will undertake to say Kaddish and photograph the grave and send it to whomever requests it - all I need is the exact name and location of the grave, and I will contact the authorities prior to my going to see what help I might need in visiting the graves if they are spaced far apart. Please note shown below are my contact details and I would be very happy to hear from any of the families, particularly with any stories they may have surrounding the death of their loved ones.

We Jews in Europe, particularly those in England who are fortunate enough to have the English Channel between us and the Nazis, should never forget that, but for America, we might have all suffered the same fate as the 6 million from so many of Europe's Jewish communities. I am sure many of the families have visited Europe and in particular Omaha Beach, and for those who have not or cannot, I will do whatever I can to help. I would also recommend that if any of them have the opportunity to visit Israel, particularly Yad Vashem, the holocaust memorial centre, they should do so.

If any of you are ever visiting England, please contact us. You would be more than welcome as a visitor to our home.

Nathan and Valerie Dony
nathan@donyconsultants.co.uk

A Knock on My Door

The world is a small place--something about 6 degrees of separation

Several days ago, there was a knock at my door. Mr. Andy Marchfeld, from the JWV New City, NY, Post, had a copy of the article about my book, *GOLDFISH--SILVER BOOT*, that appeared in the Winter edition of the JWV bulletin.

Andy lives in Rockland County and tracked me down when he saw the cities--Foggia, Fiume and Trieste, Italy--in the article.

His father, Adolph, now deceased, was a medical aid Corporal in WW II and was also in the 15th Air Force. He served with the 317th Fighter Squadron located first in Foggia and then in Lesina, north of Foggia. The 317th F. S. flew P38 Lightnings and P47 Thunderbolt fighter planes escorting the heavy bombers to the target cities and engaged the German Luftwaffe Messerschmitt 109's. I am sure they flew escort for my 463rd Bomber Group.

His mother, Magda Goldstein, an Italian Jew was born in Fiume and spent her early years in Trieste. She came to the United States in the late 1930's.

Thank you again for publishing my article. *GOLDFISH--SILVER BOOT* can be purchased from Amazon or Barnes and Noble and is for sale at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. A portion of the royalties from the sales of the book will be donated to the Jewish War Veterans.

Harvey Horn

Winter 2011 Issue

First I am not Jewish, but I am a Viet Nam veteran and a retired US Army Officer. Today, walking back from the mailbox, I noted some paper in my yard. It was one sheet, pages 9, 10, 15, and 16 of subject paper. Page nine is an article by Rabbi Irwin Wiener, subject, "A Debt that Cannot be Repaid," which is continued on page 22. Please, and I will be happy to pay postage or what ever it takes, send me. this, the Winter 2011 issue of *The Jewish Veteran*, so I can read the entire article. Our soldiers, and my son is prepping for his fourth combat tour with the 13th Cav, and our wounded veterans, are national treasures, and we need to support them with all the strength and power and majesty of our nation. Thanks.

Stephen Hethcote
Henderson, NV

[Editor's Note: The Jewish Veteran was honored to send Mr. Hethcote a copy of our Winter 2011 issue.]

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Stephen R. Zeitz

Since my last report I have been very busy on behalf of JWV.

I attended the NEC in Washington, and my time spent on Capitol Hill was fruitful.

I was honored to be able to present JWV's Medal of Merit to Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, the Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On March 16, 2011, I presented JWV's Annual Congressional Testimony to the Joint House and Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. You can find the text of my testimony on the home page of the JWV web site, www.jwv.org.

I traveled to the Departments of Massachusetts, Florida and California, and I want to thank everyone I was able to meet on these trips for the courtesies and hospitalities extended to me. Also in March I attended the JWV Department of Pennsylvania meeting in

Harrisburg, PA, along with JWVA President Pat Sawilowsky.

I am actively working with other Jewish organizations to have a memorial for the 13 Jewish Chaplains who died serving the United States



NC Stephen Zeitz presenting JWV's Legislative Priorities before a Joint House and Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

of America placed in Arlington Cemetery.

There is also in my opinion another Jewish patriot who deserves further recognition. I believe that that without Haym Solomon's contributions to the War of Independence we may not have had a country - The United States of America. We need to remember this Jewish patriot and recognize and honor him on January 6th.

The general population must be made aware that the Freedoms we enjoy today are due to our military. Congress should not penalize its Veterans or their families by reducing or taxing benefits received—after all Veterans paid a price higher than most to serve and protect us—the citizens of the United States.



NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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



I am very proud of the members of JWV's National Executive Committee for their outstanding performance on Capitol Hill Action Day and for making our Congressional Reception such a huge success! Our Congressional Reception included a number of Members of Congress, several admirals and generals, many

senior representatives from military associations, Congressional staff, our fellow VSOs and, of course, our own National Executive Committee members. Our members met with Senators and Representatives on behalf of issues of importance to veterans, active duty, and guard and reserve personnel.

The leadership of our Florida delegation proudly joined with our Reception honoree, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, the Chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.



Our Congressional Reception opening included a joint service color guard from the Military District of Washington and Boy Scouts Derek Lawrence and Mike Paladino from Post 150 in Annandale, Virginia.

PNC Ira Novoselsky led our Massachusetts delegation on several well organized meetings in both the House and Senate. The delegation is pictured here with Senator John Kerry, Chairman of the Senate Foreigns Relations Committee.



DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

By PNC Paul Bernstein, National Editor



Censorship

You know me--I speak my mind, and this really bugs me. A new edition of Mark Twain's classic novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* will censor the "N" word by replacing it with the word "slave." Enough is enough. Why are we changing history? The book was written during Mark Twain's time, and we have evolved since. How can we tell this if we don't have that period in history to point to? By the way the "N" word is live and kicking today, so go to the hallways in any high school in America; you hear the word used in Rap music. Of course the "N" word is only allowed in the Black community--for blacks only. I don't understand why the original book is unacceptable in school libraries. We must change the minds of ignorant groups that think that, if the word is removed, it does not exist. You must change the attitudes of the parents who cripple their kids like precious dolls. Wake up and smell reality. You can't change history, nor should you.

WE WILL NOT LIVE UNDER SHARIA LAW

And another thing--we don't want to live under Islamic Sharia Law. We are America and use the Constitution as a basis of our law. I didn't spend six years of my life in the defense of this Country to live under any other law. Our law is based on Judeo-Christian teaching, which includes existence of G-d. I know the concept of G-d that was forged in our Constitution is a problem to you, too bad. Our laws were founded way before any Muslim came to our shores. Muslims don't accept our vision of God. If God offends the Muslim community, live with it, because God is part our culture. It is stamped on the very money you use, and whether you like it or not, is part of our Pledge of Allegiance. If you can't handle this, I suggest you consider another country as your home. This is U.S., our Country, and we will allow you every opportunity to enjoy all the benefits this country has to offer, and, if you don't like what we do here, you can avail yourself of another freedom we have, the right to leave. We didn't force you to come here. You asked to be here. Love it or leave it, but don't think you can change us.

In addition, Sharia Law means Islamic gender apartheid. Gender apartheid is character-

ized by normalizing the battering of wives and daughters, forced veiling, female genital mutilation, and honor murder if they wish to divorce an abusive husband. Today, Islamic gender apartheid is characterized by acid attacks, public stoning, hanging and beheading of women. Feminists should be crying out from rooftops condemning this. But many Muslim men and women as well as progressive western folks are not. They are demanding or welcoming Sharia Law. By the way, while Hindus and Sikhs do honor murder, they mostly do it in India, not in the West.

RADICALIZED YOUNG MEN LIVING IN AMERICA

The latest attempt by a Muslim to do harm occurred in Texas, where a Saudi named Khalid Aldawari allegedly made chemical bombs and wanted to plant them at a nuclear power plant, hydroelectric dams and even at the home of former President George W. Bush. Mr. Aldawari was in the U.S. on a student visa. Remember the 11 young Muslims who were here on student visas learning how to fly large passenger planes-- I do. This is significant because it demonstrates that radicalized foreigners can live quietly in the U.S. without raising suspicions. He posted on Facebook that, "It is war--until the infidels leave defeated."

RADICALIZATION IN THE AMERICAN-MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Why do American-Muslims want to harm us? Why are they being radicalized and by whom? Why did Major Hasan kill his fellow soldiers? Why did Zazi want to bomb the NYC subway system? Why was Shahzad willing to set off a bomb in Times Square? Why is al-Qaeda turning these citizens into terrorists? I am not condemning the Muslim community as a whole. The FBI reports that 48 of 120 cases involving terrorists plots came from tips from the Muslim-American community, but this is still insufficient cooperation. But still, a small group is punishing the larger group with a bad repu-

tation. If people feel that we have Muslim phobia, I don't think so. Are Muslims unfairly treated? Let's look at the statistics--according to the FBI there were 101 anti-Muslim incidents in 2010 in a population of three million. In the same time period, there were 822 anti-Semitic incidents, a difference of 8 to 1. Who should be angry?

LET US LOOK INTO THEIR TEACHING

The Koran is the only religious prayer book that cites the killing of non-believers. If you don't believe me, let's look at some of their chapters. Chapter 9, verse 5 reads: "Fight and slay the unbelievers wherever ye find them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem of war." Chapter 9, verse 29 reads: "Fight those who believe not in



Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and PNC Paul Bernstein, Chairman of the Action/Homeland Security Committee discussed security issues facing the nation and the veterans' community.

Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Apostle....." Chapter 3, verse 28 introduces the doctrine that holds that Muslims should not be friends with infidels except as deception, always with the end goal of converting, subduing, or destroying them. I am not selectively picking unfairly those chapters that are the most violent; I am trying to understand Muslims as to why young men are being radicalized. The average American Muslim does not understand the Koran with the sense of true meaning, but al-Qaeda does. Most Muslims are not devoted Muslims, believing that they should obey a religious mandate to wage war against unbelievers.

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COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee

DEMONIZATION/DEMORALIZATION OF VALUE

The billionaire Osama bin Laden has gone to sea to be with his fellow sharks. He tried to destroy America's economy—but did not succeed—we were able to foul up the economy all by ourselves or, at least by those without need.

Now, we will have to look to reconstruct the fragility of our involvement in the Middle East with the end of Osama bin Laden, al Qaeda, and terrorism—all being our primary rationale for America's security. Our military adventurism in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, and Pakistan must be reevaluated with US troops withdrawn and eliminating having to spend billions of dollars weekly.

The Iraqis and Afghans have constantly and publicly demanded US withdrawal from their countries by year end 2011, but now they seem to be reconsidering—actually they prefer to see dead Americans rather than their own dead people.

If we are suckered by their entreaty—which they define as “Humanitarian”—you have to remember that the Libyans and Syrians are intentionally murdering their own people—one with oil requiring a fly-over and the other rejecting outside involvement, which is somehow acceptable to the world's protectors.

In my last column, I wrote about a line of attack called a “Global Marshall Plan” seeking a world rebuilding rather than one of a world military devastation. Some of you thought that it was a variety of Alice in Wonderland or Utopia. Based on how you look at things, it can be all things and yet it can be nothing. We already have an insecure world in place where it is always available to play geopolitics with the “Unimportant” and to avoid rebuilding in favor of financial shenanigans, thus making a viable economic world beyond consideration.

Now if you really want to analyze it—the saving of the financial segment of society has been the worldwide key to the preservation of capital for those who had it. Money is the driving force of technology, industry, agriculture, etc.—not money to save and build industry and growth; but solely for investment and making profits—screw the infrastructure and any global renewal.

The bail-outs saved the financial communities of banks, brokerage firms, insurance corporations and any other groups which know how to make election contributions.

When word came out for a bail-out of the automotive industry, all sorts of hell came from the acknowledged financial wizards who said

that we were destroying the economy. Lo and behold, with the infusion of bail-out monies, the industry became vibrant and showed a profit. Rather than merely creating bonuses, the automotive bail-out created jobs, created growth, and created a feeling of revitalization of a way of life.

Our Nation is “too big to fail”—that coined phrase which seems to only apply to financial institutions. The fault continues to be ours, especially when we erase our own assets in favor of nation building and nation ruin elsewhere. It's what happens when we allow the world to

ing out the big bad leader with our US blood and our funds—it's humanitarianism—it's the right thing to do. So being the good guys, we expend our selves to resolve the problems instead of wasting our “humanitarian” monies on Alabama's tornadoes or Katrina or the cresting of the Mississippi River or decreasing our own non-funded debt.

Seems as though we may default in interest payments if Congress doesn't raise the

debt limit. Just think of it—if our Budget Cutters refuse the increase, we may not have money to lay out, then our allies might have to lay out their own money or withdraw their troops and support—so, if China, Saudi Arabia, and other creditor nations who have been enjoying a free ride do not come forward—will the world come a-tumbling down?

Or are you ready for another fantasy? If you or I have more debts than assets, we look to negotiate a settlement or trot our little backsides down to Bankruptcy court. So, how about the US sitting down and offering a settlement of say 80% of the \$14 trillion on a pay out schedule [we have already spent between \$3 and

\$4 trillion in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan]. If that doesn't work, we can do what General Motors did and file a prepackaged bankruptcy plan without stock and without an open wallet approach to world affairs. Wouldn't that burn their backsides?

Well, there you have it. Based on all the facts, you can be assured that nothing positive is going to happen for you but rather happen to you. Just listen to the Budget Cutters who would eliminate your health, your education, your veteran entitlements, your development and all in favor of their greed and egos.

Ben Franklin said our concern was “death and taxes”—the Budget Cutters' only concern is no taxes—welcome to the real world.



PNC Zweiman spoke at JWV's Annual Congressional Reception which honored Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

consider the United States as the world's Piggy Bank.

Matter of fact, our Piggy Bank has made corrupt foreign officials able to feather their own bank accounts and grow with our money while their citizens are wanting. Sometimes I feel that we could get better control over the corrupt officials if we allowed for our direct deposit or debit cards so that we would be able to directly discuss policy and implementation with them, which might result in trickle up or down or wherever.

The financial geniuses say that the US should very carefully examine our budget and cut our useless spending so that there can be available funds to fly over Libya or whatever theatre someone thinks we should be at. No use forcing the rebels to fight since they are too busy putting their democracy in place and throw-

My Grandson, Daniel J. Agami—An American Hero



PFC Daniel J. Agami was killed in Iraq on June 21, 2007, at the age of 25. His grandmother, Sandra Becker, speaks to JWV posts and other Jewish organizations about this Jewish Fallen Hero. Below are excerpts from her recent presentation to JWV Post 819, Boynton Beach, FL.

When Daniel came home on his last visit with us, in April of 2007 for Passover, he was asked to give a speech at Chabad of Boynton Beach. I would like to read some of this speech to you because I feel that, through his speech, you can get a feel for some of what he endured:

“Thank you for allowing me to take this opportunity to speak about my experiences as a Jewish soldier in the U.S. Army. I am an infantry soldier in the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry. I didn’t really know what was ahead of me when I enlisted 2 years ago. When I arrived at Fort Benning, GA, for basic training, it was explained to me that in today’s Army, all religions and belief systems are respected and accepted. In fact, the Army encourages the practice of one’s particular faith. Now knowing this, I felt a sense of relief. Every Sunday at Ft. Benning, a Jewish service was held, and the weekly Parsha was read by Rabbi Lispkier of Chabad of Emory University in Atlanta, GA. He drives 2 hours each way to bring us bagels, lox, and Jewish comfort. It was surprising and comforting to see the number of Jewish service members at Fort Benning.

For Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur I was the only infantry soldier in basic training in my company that was granted leave from Fort Benning to attend a local synagogue for services in Columbus, GA.

During basic training, keeping kosher was extremely difficult, but to my surprise, my drill sergeant became very accommodating. Most, if not all meals served, had pork, meat and dairy mixtures, etc., just not kosher, and I couldn’t eat it. My drill sergeant saw me in the food line and asked why I wasn’t taking any. I replied, “Sir, the food is not kosher, Sir.” To my surprise, my drill sergeant went into the kitchen and with kitchen staff prepared a meal that I found acceptable, and I had exactly 3 minutes left to eat it.

After basic training, I was sent to my infantry unit in Schweinfurt, Germany. My

base was once a Nazi-occupied Army base where Nazi insignia can still be seen engraved into the buildings. When I first got there, I didn’t know whom I would meet and what to expect. I was introduced to my platoon and was accepted with open arms, until my first experience with anti-Semitism which occurred the first week. One soldier in particular made a derogatory comment about Jews that I found offensive. I knew to expect some form of anti-Semitism at some point, but not so soon after arriving. I approached the soldier and explained to him and everyone else at that point that, “Yes, I am Jewish, and, if I ever hear anyone, ever, say anything derogatory against Jews or the Jewish faith, I will take action, and it will hurt!”

They all got the message and there were no further incidents. I now feel I have no choice but to educate them just a little in Judaism 101...”

Daniel grew up with an Orthodox religious day school background and always had a strong Jewish identification and pride. He attended Shabbos services regularly and was involved in Jewish youth groups so I was not surprised when I recently received a call from a non-Jewish chaplain who knew Daniel, and he told me that Daniel was seriously considering becoming a Chaplain. I was so proud to hear that and not surprised if he made that his chosen Army profession.

Daniel had the opportunity and the means to do whatever he wanted in his life, but he felt an intense responsibility to enlist. He could have chosen any area of the Army, but he chose to be on the front lines. He was a 23-year-old adult, and the Army was his calling. He knew keeping

kosher and Jewish holidays would prove to be his most difficult challenges. We were told by BG Nolen Bivens, Chief of Staff, U.S. Southern Command, “Daniel proved to be one of our Army’s finest. Daniel distinguished himself as a model soldier who was physically and morally strong and devoted to his fellow soldiers. We mourn his loss, but take comfort that Daniel died proudly defending his belief that: America fights for the freedom and survival of the souls of the entire world. During his tour, Daniel was awarded the Bronze Star after chasing a sniper on foot to defend his convoy.

The U.S. Army bestowed upon our family the compassion sympathy, and kindness for our loss. We are deeply grateful to them for arranging a timely burial, which we later found is almost unheard of. Star of David Cemetery in North Lauderdale was overwhelmed with the largest funeral ever held. There were nearly 2,000 people in attendance from all lifestyles, religions, and backgrounds. At the funeral, the rifleman fired off eighteen volleys of shots, rather than the usual twenty-one, to signify “chai,” the Jewish symbol for Life. I was given



Sandra Becker recently spoke to JWV 819 in Boynton Beach, Florida, about her grandson, Daniel J. Agami, a Fallen Hero of the Iraq war. Department Commander Michael Corbett (at Mrs. Becker’s left) also attended the presentation.

the bullet shells from the rounds, and you can clearly see the top of the casing is in the shape of a Star of David. Rabbi Sholom Ciment of Boynton Beach commented Daniel will be forever remembered by that bullet, the greatest of his medals. This is G-d’s stamp of King David’s Star on his final tribute.

Rules of War—Rules of Engagement

By MG Sidney Shachnow, U.S. Army (Ret.)

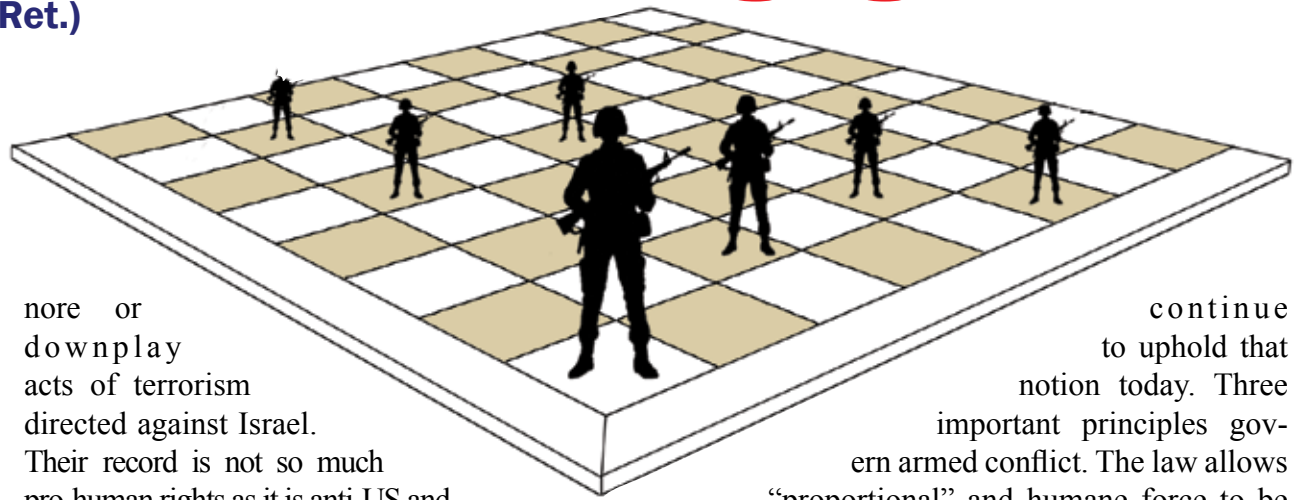
[Editor's Note: MG Shachnow made this presentation before the semiannual meeting of the NMAJMH Board of Directors' Meeting, Mar. 5, 2011. It had previously been presented at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv in Feb. 2010, and published in the *Journal of International Security Affairs*.]

I would like to take this opportunity and discuss with you my perspective on the current Rules of War and the Rules of Engagement.

Following the attack on 11 September 2001, President Bush declared a new war, the war on terror. To some of us it was unclear at the time what sort of war this would be. Was this a rhetorical device to rally support? Was he asking for a moral equivalent of war, such as the war on poverty, war on crime, war on drugs? Terror is a tactic; how do you identify the enemy? We can only defeat an enemy we can name, describe, and understand. As time went on, the war morphed from a conventional war to insurgency, civil, ethnic, religious, unconventional and irregular. Now it appears it is shaping into a war on crime. Units are incorporating law enforcement procedures into their combat operations. They are collecting biometric data, incriminating evidence and preserving combat objectives as a crime scene. Troops trained to kick down doors and use lethal weapons spend time bagging and tagging evidence, photographing raid scenes and grilling suspects.

Enemy personnel are no longer POWs; they are criminals potentially awaiting trial. Defense lawyers are assigned, making interrogations almost impossible unless there is a plea agreement. Failure to collect viable evidence can result in the release of enemy personnel, sometimes referred to as a "catch and release" program. Military lawyers are now assigned down to the lowest level of command to advise in the planning, targeting, and execution of military operations.

Wait, there is more. We have this ill-defined concept "Universal jurisdiction," a principle in international law claiming criminal jurisdiction over persons whose alleged crimes were committed outside the boundaries of the prosecuting state, regardless of nationality, country of residence, or any other relation with the prosecuting country. The risk is that it will be used in a politically motivated manner and can set a dangerous legal precedent. The NGOs leading these efforts, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, consider themselves protectors of human rights. But they employ a double standard. Their court filings consistently ig-



nore or
downplay
acts of terrorism
directed against Israel.
Their record is not so much
pro-human rights as it is anti-US and
Israel.

There is strong evidence that these practitioners may be dupes as well as inconsistent. A Hamas official boasted to the Times of London that his organization was behind the arrest warrants. All this is posing a challenge for leaders and commanders. Now with this as a backdrop, this brings me to the law of war.

People throughout the world obviously care about fundamental rules governing the conduct of war even if they differ on resorting to violence in the first place. None the less, there is profound disagreement over who has the authority to declare, interpret and enforce those rules; as well as who and what developments in the so-called art of war will shape them now and into the future. I say into the future, for the laws have historically been developed looking back at past experiences and failing to anticipate technological development and changes in warfare. In short, I am asking, "Who owns the law of war?"

For the past 20 years the center of gravity in establishing, interpreting, and shaping the law of war has gradually shifted away from the military establishments of leading states and toward more activist and publically aggressive NGOs (Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Red Cross, etc.). More broadly in recent years, the NGOs have been promoting an ever more utopian law of war, in keeping with absolutist human rights ideology. In practice, this utopianism is aimed only at one side in conflicts—the side that in fact tries to obey the law. At the same time the NGOs are indispensable in advancing the cause of humanitarianism in war. But the pendulum shift toward them has gone further than is useful. The ownership of the laws of war needs to give much greater weight to the state practices of leading countries. Democratic sovereigns that actually fight wars should be ascendant in shaping the law.

The laws of war...all tend to mitigate the cruelties and misery produced by war. Religious legal theorists first defined the notion of justice in war, and custom and international treaties

continue
to uphold that
notion today. Three
important principles gov-
ern armed conflict. The law allows
"proportional" and humane force to be
used only when it is "militarily necessary," and
it "distinguishes" between combatants and non-
combatants to mitigate unnecessary harm. The
law also guarantees the right to self-defense.

The problem with proportionality is three-fold. The theory is ambiguous, lacks useful precedence, and, as a practical matter, is nearly impossible to interpret and enforce. Some apparently think that a proportional response means the math must add up. If they only killed two or three, that's all you are allowed to kill in response. Of course, no civilians. Naturally the fact that the original two or three they killed were civilians always escapes notice. Or the math may limit the number of weapons used against the enemy. That most likely won't be used because I'm sure Israel's response is well behind the thousands of mortars and rockets that have rained down on them.

The US military should discard proportionality. US doctrine proscribes uses of force that is indiscriminate, wasteful, excessive, or not necessary to achieving military objectives.

Taking that position would not be a violation of existing law, as neither the Hague Convention nor the 1949 Geneva conventions specifically refer to "proportionality." The 1977 Geneva Protocol, to which neither the United States nor Israel is a signatory, does use the term.

So why did we not sign it? Our problem with the Protocol generally falls into three main categories:

1. It grants combatants rights, including treatment as POWs, on the basis of certain motives for fighting, referring specifically to those who fight against a "racist regime" or "alien occupation."
2. Certain provisions appear to restrict methods and means of warfare that are legitimate. For example, it contains no exceptions in its use for nuclear weapons, while at the same time it categorically prohibits reprisals against civilians, including use of nuclear weapons in reprisal for a nu-

clear attack, which is the basis for nuclear deterrence.

3. The last concern is about rules that are aimed at accommodating guerrillas, non-state actors and irregular fighters. The Protocol grants legal combatant status to those fighters who conceal themselves and their weapons among civilians, as long as they reveal themselves to the adversary “preceding the launching of an attack”—which is to say, often shortly before attacking from among the civilians who will, inevitably, be caught in the crossfire.

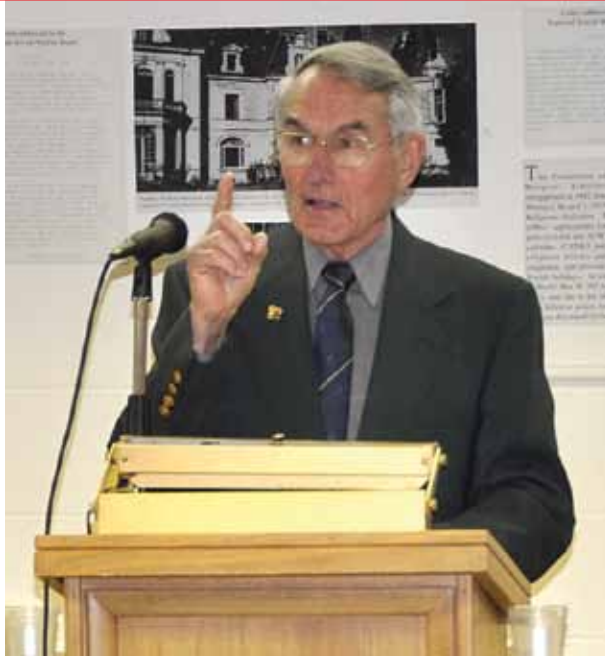
It is not my purpose here to dissect the rules of war, but to claim that it is high time to reexamine them and to make them relevant to new realities. At the same time I recognize that the prevailing political winds do not favor that.

Let me now turn to the Rules of Engagement (ROE). International law requires states to disseminate the law of war to their combatants, which is achieved in the United States through the issuance of ROE. The Joint Chiefs of Staff created uniform Standing ROE (SROE) that apply to all US forces, but lower-lever commanders may narrow and tailor the SROE to the individual circumstances of each military operation and mission. However, the ROE issued to the soldier must comply both with the SROE and the United States’ obligations under the law of war.

ROE answer the soldier’s timeless question, “When can I pull the trigger?” The ROE link the law of war to the battlefield. ROE may restrict or permit the use of force “to the full extent allowable under international law.” In some military engagements, ROE are more restrictive than the law requires in order to prevent the escalation of hostilities or serve some other strategic or political purpose. Such ROE are crafted to ensure that the military adheres to the executive branch’s policy for the war.

Some would argue that, although the law of war appropriately limits the use of force, the current ROE are an unfaithful legal interpretation because they unnecessarily restrict troops in a manner not required by law. In order to help explain ROE to the troops, commanders or lawyers frequently issue ROE cards that use acronyms or mnemonics. For example, some soldiers are instructed to use force only after satisfying a seven-step process:

- 1) You must feel a direct threat to you or your team.
- 2) You must clearly see a threat.



MG Sidney Shachnow, U.S. Army (Ret.)

- 3) That threat must be identified.
- 4) The team leader must concur that there is an identified threat.
- 5) The team leader must feel that the situation is one of life or death.
- 6) There must be minimal or no collateral risk.
- 7) Only then can the team leader clear the engagement.

This ROE model ingrains orderly checklists in the soldier’s mind in the hope that he will go through each step when presented with a potential threat. This approach is not effective in close-quarters combat because the delays caused by these models are both impractical and dangerous in insurgent warfare, where mere seconds make the difference between life and death. If our soldiers or Marines see someone about to level an AK47 in their direction or start to receive hostile fire from a rooftop or mosque, there is no time to go through a seven-point checklist before reacting. The soldier must react correctly, immediately.

Following a checklist increases a soldier’s response time, consequently endangering his life. The use of mnemonic devices, while purporting to make it easy to remember, results in guaranteed hesitation in the face of a threat. Furthermore, by delaying a soldier’s reactions, ROE checklists inhibit a soldier’s ability to defend himself. By requiring following a checklist there is a good probability we are diminishing the right to self-defense.

The ROE cards tell soldiers to shoot to wound, even though soldiers are not trained to do so, and only to “disable or destroy” as a last resort. These cards are often reused without being changed to address the concerns of a specific area or mission in which the soldiers are conducting operations.

Ultimately, what has occurred is a problem of legal interpretation. The ROE create a perverse incentive for an insurgent not to follow the law of war, because in violating the law he is more successful at defeating his enemies who are hampered by the law. And yet these individuals have no “regard for human life.” Their victims are looked upon as expendable. Such unfairness only frustrates those soldiers who follow the law and is inconsistent with the law’s intent.

The current ROE have a place in modern day warfare. They can be used when nation states engage in combat operations where troops prepare to take or defend an objective that is protected by another uniformed armed force. In those situations the problem of distinguishing civilians from combatants and insurgents is eliminated, or at least lessened. However, the ROE should differ when soldiers are engaged in police-type operations. These situations are intrinsically different from combat where the enemy’s identity is obvious.

The law of war never intended for war to be harmless; it only strives to mitigate unnecessary cruelty. The law has never diminished the right to self-defense. The current ROE, in interpreting the principles of the law of war, overemphasize proportionality while largely ignoring and thereby inhibiting the soldier’s right to self-defense.

DISPATCHES

Continued from page 8

But al-Qaeda does, and is turning these young men into radicalized soldiers.

A 2007 survey of American-Muslims, of all age groups, by the Pew Research Center, reported that 8 % of those who took part, believe that suicide bombing can be justified in the defense of Islam. This data predicts that 240,000 men, holding this same opinion, are living in this Country. Among American-Muslims polled in the 18-29 years old group, 15 percent do agree with suicide bombing and 5 percent have a favorable opinion of al-Qaeda. Yet even to raise the question of whether Islam presents a threat to our way of life is to invite charges of bigotry or worse. The truth is the truth. We should not be taken in by the theme that Islam is a religion of peace promoted by the Muslim Brotherhood, Council on American Islamic Relations, the Islamic Society of North America, and the various student associations. But the opposite is true. I will say again, I am not talking about the whole American Muslim community--I am talking about those willing to kill us.

Stars on My Wings



by Bruce H. Wolk

It was in the early spring of 2001 that I would pay him one last visit. He had been my childhood hero, and I owed him. Uncle Larry had always seemed fearless; a tough guy and often a wise-guy (and I will admit, sometimes a crazy guy). His discharge papers said he was 5' 5," but to me he had always been larger than life.

He was at the dining room table of his Florida condominium dying of lung cancer. The chemotherapy had made him bald, and the steroids had swollen him with his own fluids. His hands shook. Still, he smoked.

In front of him was a small, leather-bound photo album filled with snapshots taken in World War II. There were pictures of a crew posed by a B-24 Liberator named Heaven Can Wait, crew members horsing around in front of barracks, aerial shots of bombing raids and another of a young Scottish woman whose name I did not ask, and whose name was not given. Though he was happy to see me, it was clear that he was spending time with a family I would never meet.

SSGT Laurence Wolk was an Armorer Gunner, more specifically a Ball Turret Gunner.



Captain Robert Teitelbaum was an Army Liaison Pilot and spotted artillery targets. He served both in Europe and later in the Korean war. He was put up for the Silver Star during the Korean conflict. Mr. Teitelbaum was among those who contacted Mr. Wolk after seeing his ad in *The Jewish Veteran*.

He flew 30 combat missions in the European Theater of Operations. He was assigned to the 8th Air Force, 467th Bombardment Group and was stationed in Rack Heath, England. I believe he was involved with actions on D-Day, most probably around Cherbourg, France. At the end of his service, he would be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf clusters.

His crew was forced to make at least one

crash landing, and he was credited with knocking down enemy fighter aircraft. If last names are a reliable indicator, he would have been the only member of his crew who was Jewish.

There are dozens of questions I would like to ask my uncle, but it is more than a decade too late. He died in May of 2001. I could not know at the time of my last visit that my uncle was giving me one final gift.

About three years ago, relaxing after the completion of a book project, I decided to take a ride over to what remains of Lowry Air Force base, not more than a few miles from my home in Denver. Most of Lowry has been turned into suburban housing. Yet, there are original elements – cinder block buildings, a hangar or two and several brick gate posts with the “Air Corps Star.” If one can take the time to imagine, it is possible to feel the presence of tens of thousands of young airmen, to hear their marching and their cadence. As I passed an Air Corps Star on a pillar, I wondered if my uncle had passed the very same star and then strangely, in my mind’s eye, the star briefly changed to the Magen David, then back again. I am not a man given to hearing voices, but a voice, no make that many voices filled my soul saying “When? What are you waiting for?”

What Would I Find?

My goal was to detail the Jewish contribution to the air war of the Second World War. However, I wanted to do it in the first person asking the same types of questions I wished I had asked my uncle.

I wondered if anyone would be left. I was dealing with a small percentage within a small percentage – Jewish personnel within the various branches of the military who were involved with flight. Further, I came to realize that even if I did find a person here or there, what would they remember? Most of the men and women would be in their mid-late 80s. Then the true fears emerged: Why would they talk to me? Who am I to be writing this?

I first reached out to the Intermountain Jewish News here in Denver, where I received my first veteran referral, and then I allowed the “Jewish Referral Service” to take over as one veteran would refer me to the next. I placed ads in several Jewish publications. I called rabbis, Jewish research libraries, and most importantly, the Jewish War Veterans of America.

My inquiries eventually reached National Headquarters. Last year, in an act of kindness, a mention was placed in regard to my project in *The Jewish Veteran*. The mention resulted in many new responses.



Laurence Wolk, Mr. Wolk’s uncle and the inspiration for *Stars on My Wings*.

Who Did I Find?

To date, I have interviewed 75 Jewish veterans of the air war. They served in the Army, Army Air Corps, Navy, Marines, WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots) and nurse corps. They were pilots, navigators, bombardiers, flight engineers, radio operators, gunners, and an entire array of ground and air support troops.

They were in Europe, the Pacific, the CBI (China-Burma-India Theater), the Caribbean Command, Persian Gulf Command, and in domestic capacities.

What They Have Told Me

Despite the fact that the veterans served more than 65 years ago, their memories remain intact – and often quite emotional; traces of age and even disability disappeared.

They witnessed combat, death, serious injuries to themselves or to comrades in arms, and in some cases, imprisonment along with beatings and forced marches. Many experienced mild to severe anti-Semitism.

Stars on My Wings, the book’s title, is not a collection of over-sensationalized combat stories. The book strives to tell the story of the veterans from a Jewish as well as military perspective. The interviews are woven around themes. For example, not enough has been written about the childhoods of the Jewish veterans who grew up in the approximate period between 1918 and 1940. Therefore, I have written a chapter entitled Where We Came From.

Of course there are stories of combat and of incredible bravery and selflessness. Jewish War Veterans were in the air on D-Day; they were

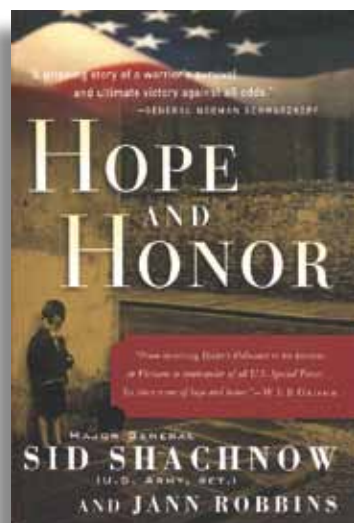
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RUNNING RINGS AROUND PATTON

Hope and Honor

By MG Sidney Shachnow, USA (Ret.),
and Jann Robbins

Reviewed by MG David R. Bockel, USA (Ret.)
ROA Executive Director



As a young lieutenant, I bought a copy of George Patton's biography *Ordeal and Triumph* by Ladislas Farago. I thought it would inspire me to be a great officer and leader some day. I became friendly with the Patton family and now know much more about the great general than I ever learned in his book.

But when a colleague from another association gave me the book *Hope and Honor* just before a recent trip to Israel with RADM Paul Kayye, MC, USNR (Ret.), ROA's past president, and the book's author, MG Sid Shachnow, USA (Ret.), I quickly realized MG Shachnow's ordeals and triumphs could run rings around Patton's.

The book is about MG Shachnow's experiences as a child in Lithuania, his capture and imprisonment by the Nazis, and a life that led him to become a successful general in the U.S. Army.

Hope and Honor not only inspires but could serve as a handbook for anyone to become a great officer and leader.

Born Schaja Shachnowski in Kaunas, Lithuania, in 1934, Sid was a child when the Nazis occupied his town and placed all the Jewish residents in a nearby concentration camp. His camp experiences foretell the resourceful person he was to become.

After three years, the Russians liberated the town and concentration camp. Sid's family--minus his grandmother who was executed--returned to their home in Kaunas, but they knew they would have to leave, as the Russians continued Jewish persecution long after the Nazi defeat.

His family ultimately escaped to West Germany and made its way to Salem, Mass., in 1950. Sid and his family could not speak English, and when Sid was 17 he enrolled in the 8th grade in public school. Before high school graduation his senior year, he dropped out and enlisted in the

U.S. Army.

Soon after, he married his high school sweetheart.

Sid does not leave out a single detail, including family difficulties before, during, and after his concentration camp experiences, and his immigration to the United States.

MG Shachnow's military career was exemplary. He displayed a calm, reasoned approach and surmounted each and every obstacle. His combat career in Vietnam as a Special Forces officer and later as an airborne soldier provide for even more interesting reading. He volunteered for special operations in the early 1960s—long before such missions were popular or considered a career-enhancer. Despite doubters he surmounted civilian education challenges, graduated from high school, and received promotion to captain.

MG Shachnow's diverse 40-year military career included numerous leadership challenges and assignments, along with some ordeals, but he always triumphed. And through perseverance and hope, he achieved all his glory.

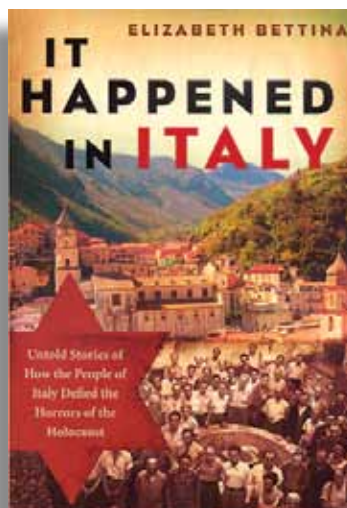
This true story of an American soldier, who rose from a young concentration camp survivor to the top general officer in Special Forces, should provide inspiration to all.

This review originally appeared in the March-April 2011 issue of The Officer, the journal of the Reserve Officers Association.

It Happened in Italy

by Elizabeth Bettina,

Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2011
\$16.99



In this important addition to the literature of the Holocaust, Elizabeth Bettina tells the stories of brave Italians who defied the horrors of the Holocaust and banded together to help save the overwhelming majority of the Jews of Italy and Jews from elsewhere who were fortunate enough to escape to Italy while fleeing the horrors of

Hitler.

While 80% of the Jews in the rest of Europe perished in the Holocaust, 80% of the Jews in Italy survived. This story of the bravery of everyday people is little known outside of Italy, even to the families of those who helped to save these lives.

In this book, Bettina takes a journey through this little-known story to discover that even her grandmother's village had a secret: over a half-century ago, many of its residents defied the Nazis and risked their lives to shelter and save hundreds of Jews during the Holocaust, yet Bettina and the other family members of her generation did not know of their family's bravery.

Bettina gives this story of common decency and goodness among the horrors of World War II the audience it deserves as she follows the stories of both those who were saved and those who worked to save their Jewish brethren.

This is not only an important contribution to the story of World War II but a rare story of goodness and survival.

Stars on My Wings

Continued from previous page

shot out of the sky in both the Pacific and in Europe; they saved fallen comrades, and most importantly, they did their part to help the Allies triumph over evil.

What They Taught Me

Unfortunately, many WWII Jewish veterans have been the subject of parody from two perspectives: outright anti-Semitism from "Haters," who claim preposterous things such as either Jews didn't serve, or that they were enlisted in some kind of "Jewish Quartermaster Corps." The second kind of parody was and is the "humor" of some Jewish comedians who are seemingly embarrassed at the image of the Jew in combat.

When my uncle and thousands of other Jewish airmen and women were called upon to serve, they did so with great courage. They served on an equal footing with every other American. They were tough when they had to be but they never forgot who they were. When they returned to civilian life, they did so with a sense of justice.

The veterans taught me that Jewish personnel were indeed involved in the air war and that they made their presence known. Yes, we were there too. I believe my uncle would have liked me knowing that. I believe Jewish generations to follow must know that as well.

To contact Bruce Wolk: E-mail:
bhwoik@q.com or telephone: 303-725-5864.

NJA Allen E. Falk Announces His Candidacy for National Commander



National Judge Advocate Allen E. Falk of New Jersey has announced his candidacy for JWV National Commander for 2011-2012. He is a member of LT Seth Dvorin Post 972.

Allen served as a Captain with the First Marine Division in Viet Nam. He is a graduate of the University of Buffalo and Rutgers Law School School and entered OCS at Quantico, VA, in September 1967 and spent one year as JAG Officer at Camp Pendleton. In July 1968 he was sent to Viet Nam where he served as trial counsel and investigating officer, and as defense counsel in two murder cases. Upon his return to the US, he was assigned to JAG Camp LeJeune as Chief of Defense Section.

He was the first Viet Nam veteran to serve as Commander of his post in New Jersey. He also served as Chairman of the Department of New Jersey Viet Nam Veterans Committee and a Department Chief of Staff. In 2005, Allen was appointed as National Judge Advocate, and he has been reappointed by every National Commander since. He also currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

Allen's contributions to the veterans' community include eight years as volunteer chairman of the New Jersey Agent Orange Commission. The results of the Commission's landmark "Pointman" research project were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association and helped Congress establish its "presumptive conditions" criteria for Agent Orange exposure. He was also appointed by former VA Secretary Derwinski to the VA's committee on the health-related effects of herbicides.

Recently, he was one of two JWV members invited to attend an educational seminar in Israel, known as the General and Flag Officer's program, sponsored by the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA).

After leaving the Marine Corps, Allen formed a law firm with Patrick Healy in 1972, The firm of Healy & Falk continues to operate today in Belford, NJ. In addition to the private practice of law, Allen has served as the part-time Prosecutor for numerous municipalities in Central New Jersey. Allen has still found time to serve his community as a volunteer fireman and as Township Department Fire Chief.

He and his wife Leah have five children and ten grandchildren.

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Partial Schedule of Events

(Subject to Change)

Daily • Aug 9-13

Morning Minyan - 8:00 AM

Monday • Aug 8

Half Day Tour of Amelia Island
and Kingsley Plantation

Wreath Laying Ceremony

Tuesday • Aug 9

Committee Meetings

NEC Meeting

Century Club Cruise

Wednesday • Aug 10

Joint Opening Session

Resolutions

1st JWV Business Session

Dinner Theatre Production of
Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

Thursday • Aug 11

2nd Business Session

**Presentation by
Secretary of the VA
General Shinseki**

Committee Meetings

Resolutions

National President's Banquet

Friday • Aug 12

3rd Business Session

Committee Meetings

National Commander Elections

Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday • Aug 13

NMAJMH Board Meeting

Commander's Banquet

Hotel reservations must be made through JWV, or the surcharge will be assessed and attendance at meetings will not be allowed.

\$150 Convention surcharge for those not staying at the Omni Jacksonville Hotel.

Local Members living within a 50 mile radius are exempt.

Name: _____ Post No. _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

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Room will be shared with: _____

Arriving at: _____ / _____ Departing: at _____ / _____ Total nights: _____

JWV 116 th Annual National Convention	Cost	How Many?	Amount
Convention Registration Fee	\$50.00 per member		
I prefer: <input type="checkbox"/> King (Single Room) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds (Double Room)	\$125.00 per night		
3rd Person in a room	\$55.00		
Minimum Deposit Only	\$125.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Omin Jacksonville Hotel	\$150.00		
Half-day Tour of Amelia Island and Kingsley Plantation • Monday, Aug. 8	\$17.50		
Century Club • Riverboat Cruise • Tuesday, Aug. 9	\$100.00 member \$45.00 spouse		
Trip to the Alhambra Dinner Theatre • Wednesday, Aug. 10 Buffet Dinner & an Exciting Production of <i>Dirty Rotten Scoundrels</i>	\$40.00		
Commander's Banquet • Saturday, Aug. 13 No. of: Beef _____ Salmon _____ Kosher _____ Sugar Free Dessert _____	\$40.00 per person		
You must include full payment for all event(s) that you plan on attending. Reservations for trips or activities will only be made if paid in full.			Total:

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JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Commander Zeitz with Sharon Hudson, Fisher House Manager, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. They are in front of the monument paying honor to the founders of all the Fisher Houses, Admiral Zachary Fisher and his wife, Elizabeth.



At Manhattan-Cooper-Epstein-Greenwald Post 1's 115th annual birthday dinner on May 8 in Manhattan, the candidate for American Legion National Commander Fang Wong [second from left] was the recipient of the Colonel Larry Epstein Award for support of veterans. In the picture from right are Post 1 Commander Jerry Alperstein, Department of New York Commander Sidney Goldberg and American Legion Department of New York Americanism Chair and JWV Patron Edward Mallicoat. Both Wong and Mallicoat have been participants in the JWV Allied Veterans Mission to Israel.



Lieutenant Commander Adam Goldberg, USN, an active duty member of Post 23, Department of Rhode Island Jewish War Veterans, recently returned to his Newport, Rhode Island, post at the Surface Warfare Officers School after taking part in operation JOINT WARRIOR, a NATO exercise. LCDR Goldberg visited Southwick House where General Eisenhower planned and executed the Normandy invasion in 1944.



Members of the Murray L. Rosen Post 64, Las Vegas, NV, marched in the Veterans Day parade. Shown from left are Suzanne Bar-Or, Sheila Epstein, Mark Bar-Or, Commander Louis Augenblick, Rick Houghtelling, Mort Friedlander, Steve Seiden, unidentified member, Mary Houghtelling, and Sandy Epstein. Photo by Mel Irwin Images.



The Department of Rhode Island conducted a dedication ceremony at the Jewish Community Center in Providence, RI, on Sunday, March 27, 2011. The Department acquired a new American Flag and a newly designed Rhode Island Department Flag, both of which had to be formally accepted and dedicated. Guests from other veteran organizations were invited and attended. Pictured here with the newly dedicated flags are, from left to right, Ira Fleisher, Senior vice-Commander; Sanford Gorodetsky, Commander; Michael Penn, Junior vice-Commander.

Wilfred Bank Orange County Post 413, Newburgh, NY, which has been re-organized for only one year, sponsored a Four Chaplains Memorial Service on Feb. 6, 2011, that was attended by 250 people. Shown presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Commander Ian M. Berkowitz (at left) are Orange County Legislators Mike Anagnostakis, Patrick Berardinelli, Jr., and Christopher Eachus.



JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Marvin W. Barrash, Department of Maryland adjutant and a member of the Maryland Free State Post, is the author of the recently published book, *U.S.S. Cyclops*. He recently made a presentation on the book to over 100 post members and guests. On July 12, 2011, he will be the guest lecturer at the NMAJMH.



Members of the Department of NJ met with most of the members of their Congressional delegation during JWV's annual Capitol Hill Action Days in March 2011. Shown with Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) are Harry Ettlinger Post 689, PDC Robert Jacobs Post 178, PDC COL Carl Singer Post 133, DC Irwin Gerechoff Post 125, Senator Menendez, Harvey Fox Post 657, Richard Berg - Commander Lt Seth Dvorin Post 972, Al Adler Post 657, and Sheldon Reinheimer Post 39



SGT Joe Feldstein Post 549, Stuart, Florida, the only JWV Post in Martin County, FL, is dedicated to supporting visually and physically impaired veterans by sponsoring for many years catered dinners for the blind veterans at the West Palm Beach VA Hospital and lunches for wheel-chair bound veterans at a local hotel. The Post has recently honored the memory of PC Clara Jones who initiated many of the programs the Post continues to this day. Post 549 also supports those currently serving and has recently donated funds to Rabbis in war zones to be used to help celebrate Jewish holidays. The Post is also very proud of its program to present a book detailing the acts of heroism of Jewish Americans serving in the military to all Bar and Bat Mitzvahs in Martin County.



Wisconsin Commander Sam Gingold and PDC Fred Chester met with many members of their Congressional delegation in Washington during Capitol Hill Action Days. In the photo above are from left: DC Gingold, Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) and PDC Chester.



For the past two years, the Major General Maurice Rose Post 51, Middletown, CT, has served coffee and Danish once a month to the patients of the Newington Veterans Hospital, Newington, CT. Shown from left are: Commander Norman Hanenbaum, Hospital Director of Services Joe Canzanella, and Senior Vice-Commander Morty Pear.

For the 65th consecutive year the Department of MI JWV and Ladies Auxiliary sponsored a Christmas Party for almost 300 patients at the Battle Creek, MI, VA Medical Facility. The event included a bingo party where items of clothing, bags of fruit, canteen books, and sundry items were given away to almost 300 patients. Shown sorting our clothing items are from left: Saul Arshat, unidentified member, Marty Levine, Phyllis Penn, Shelly Order, Stan Eisenberg, Harmon Tron, Commander Jerry Order and Dr. Ralph Sacks.



NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Peter W. Barber-100 • Khaya Dvorkina-100 • Miklos Ferber-100 • Ilan Henry Kaufman -100 • Matthew Kirsner-100 • Jacob E. Libaw-100 • Seth L. Pasternak-100 • Aaron Schilleci-100 • David Scott-100 • Robert M. Zinman-100 • Ilan Henry Kaufman, Post 100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

David Krauskopf-185 • Vicki D. Nenner-185 • Jerry L. Silverman-385 • John A. Hernandez-603

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Ronald H. Grossman-172 • Harold R. Lewis-172 • William Kahan-266 • Scott Steiman-440 • Harvey S. Lieberman-475 • Martin J. Margot-475 • Daniel Himmel-501 • William R. Margulies-501 • Emanuel Newmark-501 • Jack N. Kane-519 • Leonard Bell-631 • Martin N. Gerher-631 • Norman N. Hayon-698 • Marvin Newman-698 • Warren A. Shuman-698 • Gerald Mandell-819 • Frederick W. Levin, USN Ret.-999

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Mollie Schaffer-089 • Clarence Burgeman-153 • Leonard E. Lasker-407

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Henry A. Fanger-644 • Harry Lyons-644

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Paul Brooks-567 • Emanuel Horowitz-567 • Stanley M. Stoller-567

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Howard S. Cooper-140 • Sumner Sturman-211 • Mark A. Tolpin-220 • Rachele Toomey-220 • Shai Bardfield-302

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Herbert L. Cohen-135 • Stephan R. Morse-333 • Carl Hoff--510 • Walter A. Kaufman-510 • Kelly B. Miller-510

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Max Ross-21 • Lester S. Sherman-64 • Sam Aboulafia-65 • Jacob Grimberg-65 • John Ricci-65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

William Kurry-125 • Raymond Cooper-126 • Stanford A. Slovin-126 • Jordan Solkowitz-178 • Israel Stein-536 • Julian Orleans-740 • Jerry Enis-972

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Ruth L. Collins-25 • Seymour J. Baskin-41 • Ralph Carr-41 • Morrey Goldman-41 •

Gerald Rosen-41 • Meyer Smith-41 • Jerome Kanter-42 • Edward H. Neuburger-069 • Peter A. Sasko, Sr.-191 • Martin L. Ullman-336 • Martin Wiener-336 • Stephen S. Luloff-413 • Henry Stein-425 • Ernest A. Liss-625 • Marvin B. Skolnik-625 • Larry Spear-652 • Fred Diamond-717 • Seymour M. Warshaw-717 • Joseph L. Lieser-720 • Vincent J. Benedetti-764

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

David A. Farkas-44 • Elliot I. Herzog-44

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Erwin J. Lipsky-212 • Paul Cohen-215 • Irving Frankil-215 • Rebecca Short-215 • Brandon Weiss-215 • Herbert Pressman-305 • Bernard Dickter-499

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Rita A. Stolzenberg-201 • Robert S. Brooks-619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Richard M. Protas-256 • Gerald Carr-580 • William Cohen-580 • Aaron Aviv Davis-580 • Edmund Golden-580 • Russ Herman-580 • Justin Jacob-580 • Cynthia White-580 • Marc J. Ben-Meir-755 • Michael M. Hagin-755 • Terry G. Berke-757

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano

Continued from page 16

is planning a summit with VSO leaders to share information about their engagement programs. At the summit, our JWV leaders will learn more about DHS hiring and contracting programs benefiting veterans. In addition, FEMA will talk about ways our members can get engaged in promoting preparedness in our communities.

4. Internal coordination: DHS has formed a Veterans Steering Committee to coordinate all relevant components within the Department.

The Secretary's report was followed by a lively Q&A that covered many topics of interest to the veterans' community in regard to security matters.

- Among the issues covered was the use of National Guard troops at the border to supplement the border patrol agents. There are currently 1,200 National Guard troops at the border, and, since their deployment last summer, National Guard soldiers have assisted U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) with the seizure of more than 14,000 pounds of drugs and the identification of illegal border cross-

ers, leading to the apprehension of more than 7,000 illegal aliens by CBP.

- The possibility of using Reserve troops to supplement National Guard troops during disaster situations was brought up by the Reserve Officers Association representative.
- Secretary Napolitano feels that the wall at the border, which is done but for two miles, is not effective in deterring illegal border crossings in and of itself, but is one tool, along with technology and agents on the ground in effectively patrolling the border.

The DHS is encouraging all citizens to participate in the "See Something—Say Something" program to report any suspicious activity. PNC Bernstein noted that the program has been highlighted in an earlier issue of *The Jewish Veteran*. JWV offered to share the "See Something, Say Something" article with the VSOs in attendance. The program has already worked well. In the case of the Times Square bomber, a civilian who reported seeing the suspicious vehicle was responsible for the swift apprehension of the would-be perpetrator.

The Secretary also reported that the old color-coded alert system has been replaced by a new National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) that will more accurately communicate information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector.

After the meeting adjourned, the Secretary toured the Museum with PNC Bernstein.

The JWV looks forward to a continuing relationship with the DHS and Secretary Napolitano as we work together to ensure the continued security of our country.

Representatives from other VSOs who attended the breakfast were Michael Blum, Executive Director, Marine Corps League; Joe Davis, Director of Public Affairs, VFW; Jim King, National Executive Director, AMVETS; David Bockel, Executive Director, ROA; Garry Augustine, National Service Director, DAV; Jim Richards, Deputy National Service Director, MOPH; Bob Norton, Deputy Director for Community Relations, MOAA; Pete Duffy, Deputy Legislative Director, NGAUS; and Robert Madden, Assistant Director for the American Legions's Heroes to Hometown Program.

PEOPLE & PLACES

► The Sol Gothard Lifetime Achievement Award is presented by the National Organization of Forensic Social Work in recognition of an individual whose lifetime of service epitomizes the objective of the NOFSW: the advancement of the practice and education in forensic social work in all its aspects. The first recipient of this honor is the **Honorable Sol Gothard, JD, MSW, ACSW** who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in the advancement of our profession. The National Organization of Forensic Social Work held its Annual Convention in New Orleans, La. April 17-20, 2011, at which time the award was presented to Judge Sol Gothard, who is the Commander of **Jules Lazard Post 580** in New Orleans.

► A street is being named in honor of **Abe Kanter** on what would have been his 90th birthday, Saturday, May 21, 2011. Mr Kanter was Commander of **JWV Post 11** for 7 years; a member of the Bay Ridge Community Council, where he was Senior Affairs Chairperson, for

many years; an Auxiliary Police Officer, in the 68th Precinct, for 10 years, where he was awarded Auxiliary Police Officer, of the year; volunteered at the VA Hospital and spoke to Schools about his experiences, in World War II, among many other volunteer activities.

► **PNC Paul Bernstein** and **PCC Mel Saks** spoke at the Fourth Annual Veterans Day Program at Van Courtland Park Memorial Grove.

► **Abe Homar** of **JWV Post 45** in West Hartford, CT, was one of the Honorary Grand Marshals in the 2010 Connecticut Veterans Parade in Hartford. In the 80's he started a group for ex-POW's, where he still serves as Jewish Chaplain.

► The Hearing Research Institute and members of **JWV Post 243**, Miami, FL, delivered gifts during the holidays to every child hospitalized

at Miami Children's Hospital and Holtz Children's Hospital at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center. According to **Dr. Robert Pickard**, Medical Director of the Hearing Institute, representatives from the group have been visiting children hospitalized during the holidays for many years.

► **PNC Irv Steinberg Post 440**, Palm Beach County, FL, presented a Tree of Life Wall to the West Palm Beach VAMC. Co-Chairs **Don Barr** and **PDC Morris Fasberg** made the presentation to Charlene Szabo, Director of the facility.

► To celebrate the 115th Anniversary of JWV, members of **JWV Posts 385** and **680** made a presentation to the Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton for the hospitalized (wounded) veterans, their children and their families. It was received by the command and the chaplain's section of the Naval Hospital.

REUNIONS IN SEARCH OF

► US Navy Amphibious Force Veterans Association reunion will take place in Pigeon Forge, TN, Sept. 11-16, 2011. For information contact John J. Walsh, 732-367-6472 or apa224vp16@comcast.net.

► USS Warrington (DD843) reunion will take place in Nashville, TN, Sept. 21-25, 2011. For information contact Stan Prager at 916-791-6700 or Stashuman843@msn.com.

► Marine Air Groups (WWII to present) reunion will take place in Branson, MO, Oct. 19-22, 2011. For information contact James Jordan, 417-535-4945, or james.m.Jordan@hughes.net, or Bob Miller, 636-317-5854 or mbobsue13@yahoo.com.

► I'm looking for ANY Jewish War Veterans, of 72nd Airdrome Squadron, 1st Air Commando Group, 10th AAF, CBI, WW2 who served with my Dad CPL Outher F. Bowling (Ordinance)

under then LTC (now retired) MG Johnny R. Alison, Commanding. Please contact me at bowling.randy@yahoo.com, 501-679-4500 or, Randy O. Bowling, P.O. Box 711, Greenbrier, AR 72058-0711.

► On behalf of my father who wishes to stay in touch with fellow veterans, I am searching for contact information for American Jewish War Veterans who have relocated to Israel. Please contact Debbie Hazut at dhazut@yahoo.com.

Quite a Jewish Kid *By Harry Ettlinger*

There are some people among us, who, when we are touched by a brief synopsis of their life, make us realize that they have accomplished more in their lives than most of us. Retired U.S. Army Colonel Seymour J. Pomrenze is one of those. He lives in Riverdale, New York, with his wife and has reached his 94th year of life. He has devoted his life to his family, the United States, the Jewish faith, and the preservation of our civilization.

In his younger years, he served on the staff of General Dwight Eisenhower during WW II and then during the later part of the 1940's headed the Offenbach (Germany) Archival Depot, under the control of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section of the U.S. Army. Today, Seymour is one of the few living members of

that group, now known as the Monuments Men. He rose to the rank of Colonel and served as a records manager and archivist for the U.S. Army until 1976. During that time, he was a consultant to the National Archives. Since the conclusion of his military service, he has continued his involvement as a lecturer, teacher, consultant, and leader in record keeping and archives into his later years. His leadership in the Offenbach Collection Point had international implications. The contents of the former premier Jewish library in Europe, the Strashun Library in Vilna, were recovered and sent to Offenbach. There, Colonel Pomrenze arranged for their transfer to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York. Some 800 Torahs found their way to Offenbach. With the Colonel's help, most

of them were forwarded to Israeli houses of worship. This little-known event has never been publicized, unlike the disposition of 1100 Torahs assembled in Czechoslovakia.

Seymour Pomrenze holds degrees from the Illinois Institute of Technology, the University of Chicago, and the Spertus College of Jewish Studies. He has received numerous military awards, among them the Bronze Star medal for his service in Vietnam, Holland's Silver Medal of Honor and our President's highly regarded award for Art and Humanities, as a member of the Monuments Men Foundation.

Last, but perhaps not least, Seymour Pomrenze has been a member of JWV Neumann-Goldman Post 69 since leaving the military in 1976.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Homeless Committee

By Chairman PDC Maxwell S. Colon

More than 3,000 cities and counties reported 75,609 homeless Veterans on a single night in January of 2009. During a 12-month period in 2009, an estimated 136,000 Veterans spent at least one night in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program. 96 percent of sheltered homeless Veterans experienced homelessness alone, while a much smaller share of 4 percent were part of a family.

Sheltered homeless Veterans are most often individual white men between the ages of 31 and 50 and living with disability. Female Veterans are twice as likely to become homeless as women who never served in the military, according to the latest government data. Most Veterans who used emergency shelter stayed for only brief periods. 33% stayed in shelter for less than one week, 61% used a shelter for less than one month; and 84% stayed for less than three months.

Veterans remained in shelters longer than did non-Veterans. Nearly half of homeless Veterans were located in California, Texas, New York and Florida, while only 28% of all Veterans were located in those same four States. A report

found that most Veterans come from another homeless location, and few entered the sheltered system from their own housing or from housing provided by family or friends. Sheltered homeless Veterans are far more likely to be alone than part of a family household.

With all of the problems confronting homeless Veterans, making time for healthy habits such as exercise might seem trivial. But healthy habits are as important to the quality of their lives as they are to anyone else. Much of their diet consists of cheap, high calorie foods. The leading causes of premature death in homeless Veterans are chronic illnesses like diabetes and heart disease. It's not drugs, not suicide and it is not exposure to the elements or murder. In the next edition of our *Jewish Veteran*, I will try to further enlighten you on the homeless Veteran.

National Service Committee

By Chairman PDC Maxwell S. Colon

Peace Corps Assignments and Benefits

Where do Peace Corps volunteers go? The various places assigned to volunteers are the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, South America, North

Africa, the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Asia and the Pacific Islands.

What are some of the benefits involved in being a Peace Corps volunteer? The Peace Corps is a life-defining leadership experience you will draw upon throughout your life. The most significant accomplishment will be the contribution you make to improve the lives of others.

There are also tangible benefits for you personally and professionally which are as follows;

Student Loans: some are eligible for deferment and some for partial cancellation

Transition Funds: receive \$7,425 (pre-tax after you complete your

27 months of service)

Free Travel: expenses for travel to and from your country of service are paid for

Living Allowance: a monthly stipend to cover living and housing expenses

Vacation: earn two vacation days per month of service

Medical and Dental: receive complete medical and dental care while serving

Health Insurance: an affordable plan is available for up to 18 months following service

No Fee: unlike other international volunteer programs, there is no fee to participate in the Peace Corps.

Memo from the Chairman of Development, PNC Monroe Mayer

It should be evident to all that the most successful fund raising tool for charities, non-profits, and political campaigns is the direct mail message. We all receive them from these sources. Either we respond willingly, as it is a message we agree with and are aware the sender is raising money for its continued operation, or we simply toss it out. Even so, funds raised across the spectrum of senders are sufficient to warrant their continued use. The use of the names acquired over the years, itself, has become a huge business....i.e., the rental or exchange of the names utilized for their mailing lists.

In our case at JWV USA, we do not make available our Membership List to outside mailers. We do have a Donor List, of those outside supporters who send in contributions, which we make available, along with names we acquire from other lists. Naturally, we utilize our Membership List when we do our own mailing. However, it must be understood and recognized, that the premiums we send along with our request for funds, such as the Annual Calendar, Mailing Labels, and High Holiday cards, are not a reward for membership in JWV. They are a request for funds to support our organization, with the wish that the enclosed premium is appreciated, and we hope that you will reply to our request with a donation. If a party receives the mailing and fails to respond for a few years, we will not continue sending the premiums or the request. So, if you haven't received our beautiful Calendar or the special High Holiday Cards, and we have sent them in the past, you have probably failed to respond to our requests for financial assistance. A simple request to our office will place your name back on the list.

The basis of the stories we portray in the Calendar are the events that you, our Veterans, have experienced and shared with us. Please, send us your stories or those of a relative or friend so that we can continue to tell the story of the Jewish Veteran.

JWV Stamp Program

The JWV regrets to inform the membership that the long-time chairman of its stamp program, Eugene Moore, has died. His enthusiasm for the program and the many hours he has devoted to its implementation will be missed.

George Hoppen and Marvin Garfinkle have been named Joint Co-Chairmen of the stamp program.

For the immediate future, please continue to send stamps to:

JWV Stamp Program
5951 Regal Glen Drive
Apt. 107
Boynton Beach, FL 33437

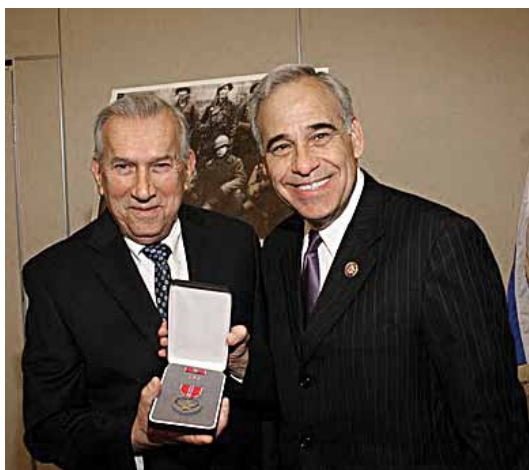
PRESENTATION OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL – 64 YEARS LATER

On Thursday, 29 May 2011, at Congregation Rodfei Sholom, San Antonio, TX., Ben Siegal, a member of Post 753, San Antonio, TX. accepted the Bronze Star Medal on behalf of his recently deceased brother, Sylvan Sasha Siegal. The medal was posthumously awarded 64 years after it was earned.

Ever since his return home after World War II, Sylvan was a recluse and would not talk about his war experiences, keeping them hidden even from family. In Europe he served in Rifle Company "B" of the 406th Regiment of the 102nd Infantry Division, the 'Ozark' Division, as it fought it way across, and helped in the defeat of, Nazi Germany. In addition to the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Sylvan was awarded the EAME Campaign ribbon, two Bronze Stars, the Victory Ribbon, the Army Occupation Ribbon – Germany, two Overseas Service Bars and the Good Conduct Medal.

Sylvan died 18 September 2010, on Yom Kippur morning, at the age of 84, apparently not knowing he had been awarded this Bronze Star Medal.

The Presentation was made by the Hon. Charles A. Gonzales, U.S. Congressional House of Representatives for the 20th District of Texas. Prior to the presentation Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg addressed the attendees. The subject was anti-



Ben Siegal (left) accepts the Bronze Star Medal on behalf of his brother, Sylvan Siegal, from the Hon. Charles A. Gonzales.

Semitism faced by Jewish military personnel. Presentation of the colors was by the Honor Guard from Randolph AFB, TX. Ben Siegal concluded the ceremony by thanking another Jewish veteran, Allan Smith, for organizing the affair.

In attendance were JWV Post 753 members Post Commander Ken Ashworth, Past Post Commander Jeff Hoffman, Chaplain Irwin Barath, Judge Advocate Herschel L. Sheiness, Post Representative to VA Audi Murphy Hospital Frank Aleman, Past Post Representative to the VA Hospital Leo Swindler and his wife Faye and Carol Key.

SUCCESSFUL MEMBERSHIP STRATEGIES

By Ed Kranson
Senior Vice Commander, Dept. of Nevada

1. Sponsor an Oneg at a Shul or Temple. Arrange with the Rabbi for JWV to be acknowledged from the Bima and be given a ten minute time frame to speak at which time you can invite the Congregation to be your guest at your next membership meeting. Suggest having flyers or some kind of printed information available.
2. Take out business card size ads in newsletters of Temples, Shuls and Jewish Community Centers.
3. Invite people to join JWV thru newspaper ads. We advertise in the Veterans Reporter and the Israelite newspaper here in Las Vegas and Henderson, Nevada
4. An effective way to bring in new members is to "INVITE A FRIEND" to be your guest at your next membership meeting. Everyone knows at least one person, and then, when that person joins, he or she also invites a friend.
5. In cities where you have Havurah (Hebrew word meaning fellowship or friends) groups, the members are potential JWV members. Just extend an invitation. Once you get one, others will follow.
6. In addition to your Jr. Vice Commander, who is responsible for membership, have your Post Commander appoint a membership chairman, co-chair and committee, which can report at your meetings on what your Post is doing to bring in new members.

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JWV RecoveryCare delivers up to an additional **\$6,000.00 a year** for home health care. (Up to \$3,000.00 a year for members age 80 and older.) So you can collect \$150.00 a day for:

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- ✓ Speech therapy
- ✓ Physical therapy
- ✓ And more . . .



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SADNESS AND PRIDE

As I conclude my final term as President of The National Museum of American Jewish Military History, there is a degree of sadness. We did not do enough! But there is also a great deal of pride.

Secretaries of Defense, Congress-people and celebrities have visited us. The Israeli Embassy, numerous Women's Groups and Universities have utilized our facilities.

We have had book presentations and signings, dedications, and shows on campus. Scholars use our facilities, and many of our

items are on display in major museums throughout the world.

On any given day school children, Jewish War Vets, and the general public are viewing our Exhibits and learning. Our story is always the same - Jewish men and women have honorably served in the military of the United States – both in peacetime and in time of war.

I especially “kvell” over two items. We are almost one-third of the way toward our goal of establishing a Permanent Exhibit which will, in modern terms, tell

the story of the Jewish experience and participation in the United States Military.

Also, we commenced the First Annual Memorial Day Services, throughout the Nation, honoring the Jewish Fallen Heroes of Iraq and Afghanistan. Who else better to lead this Mitzvah than the N.M.A.J.M.H?

Thank you Mary, Larry, Herb, Cheryl, Bob, Jeff Greenhut and all those who continue to support the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.



PNC DAVID L. MAGIDSON
President, NMAJMH

FROM OUR ARCHIVES By Pamela Elbe

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

Chaplain of the Burma Road

As a chaplain in the Army Air Force in World War II, Rabbi Morris Gordon served in the famed Flying Tigers unit under the command of Gen. Claire L. Chennault. Rabbi Gordon had hoped to be sent to the European Theater, where “his people were in grave danger,” but the Army instead chose to send him to the CBI (China-Burma-India Theater). He was flown into Burma expecting a hero's welcome but instead had to jump from a plane that barely stopped long enough for him to get off and had to share a tent with a cow.

The cow eventually moved on, leaving the rabbi to minister over a 75 square mile range. He conducted regular services in the camp for all faiths, but soon learned that it was more effective to go to the soldiers rather than expecting them to come to him. He had his own jeep and traveled throughout the area, conducting services in outlying encampments. He even accompanied aircrews on missions; he was their good luck charm.

When Gen. Chennault asked for a chaplain to volunteer to be the first to open the Burma Road, Rabbi Gordon raised his hand. He had no idea he had signed up for hazardous duty. He and another soldier, Eddie, had been on the road for only an hour when they came under fire. Between Japanese planes strafing them and the hairpin turns and sheer drops of the Himalayas,

their progress was very slow.

About six hundred miles into their eight hundred mile journey, they came across a washed out bridge over a river that their jeep could not ford. They decided that their only option was to build a raft and float the jeep across. As soon as they got into the middle of the river a bomb tore the jeep in two, killing Eddie and catapulting the rabbi into the river.

Rabbi Gordon grabbed his Torah and tried to swim for shore, but his waterlogged clothing and gear were dragging him under. Fortunately for the rabbi a Chinese officer heard the bomb and saw him go into the water. The Chinese officer was able to pull him to safety, saving his life.

During the rabbi's recovery the Chinese officer who saved him made an ark out of teak for his Torah. For the rest of his life Rabbi Gordon held that ark to be precious, giving it a prominent place in his home.

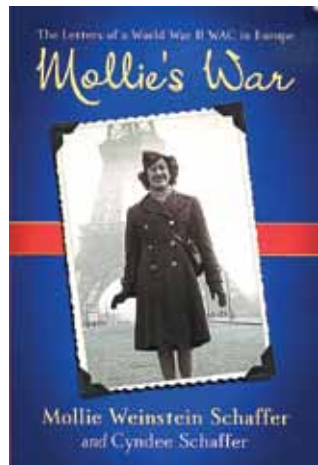
Following his death the rabbi's widow, Dr. Lori Heyman Gordon, donated the ark to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. We are pleased to have such an exceptional artifact as a part of our collection and to be able to preserve it and share his story with future generations.



Administratively Speaking **By Mary Westley, Asst. Administrator**

Mollie's War

Reviewed by *Marcie Waldstreicher*
NMAJMH Intern



Mollie's War, by Mollie Weinstein Schaffer and her daughter Cyndee Schaffer, is a book of collected letters written to and from Mollie during her time as a WAC during the Second World War. The letters provide a fascinating description

of Mollie's experiences stateside and abroad in Europe. We also get an excellent picture of what life was like for a woman in the military. Ms. Weinstein, a very self-sufficient woman, was so busy, both during the war and after, that it's not surprising she never got around to writ-

ing her book when she was young.

Writing to her younger brother back home in Detroit on May, 20, 1944, Mollie says, "I think when I get through with the service that I will have to sit down in a nice quiet room and pen my memoirs—something like this: 'G.I. Jane, Both Here and Abroad.'" Humorous and matter-of-fact, Ms. Weinstein's letters share with the reader stories about her life and living conditions at training camp and at postings in Los Angeles, England, France, and Germany. Luckily for the reader, Ms. Rebecca Winston, Mollie's older sister, kept approximately 350 of the letters her sister sent to her and other family members.

The letters in the book shared numerous funny stories including tales of mishaps as Mollie traveled with her fellow WACs. And there are other stories detailing her day-to-day life during the war: rationing, waiting for letters and care packages from home, military protocol, and her job as a medical stenog-

rapher. The authors often provide notes between the letters to help give context to the reader.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book as it was both informational and entertaining. Anyone with an interest in World War II and the lives of American women during this tumultuous period will find this book well worth their time.

Published in 2010 by McFarland & Company, this book is an easy read – 260 pages including several pictures from Mollie's service as a WAC from 1943 to 1945 in both the United States and Europe. Mollie's War can be purchased from the National Museum of American Jewish Military History—a \$5 donation will go to the Museum. Contact Mary Westley at (202) - 265-6280, Ex. 511.



From Our Archives **By Mike Rugel**

Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH

Dr. Charles Stein Trepanning Kit

On the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, it's a good time to look at Jewish contributors. One was Charles Stein, M.D., a German immigrant who served with New York 58th Infantry Regiment (known as the Polish Legion). To become a surgeon for a New York regiment, Stein had to undergo a test of the examining board of the New York State legislature regarding his knowledge of anatomy, surgery, and the principles of medicine. He passed on August 14, 1861, and was commissioned Assistant Surgeon on May 21, 1862.

In that role, he would have likely set up aid stations near battlefields. He would provide emergency care that would often place him in the line of fire. The amputations that are the common images of Civil War Medicine would have fallen to the Regimental Surgeon usually at a field hospital (with assistant surgeon's support), but the first treatments were from assistant surgeons like Stein. This would include use of his trepanning kit for head injuries.

The inner case is inscribed "C. Stein." It contains trephines, scalpels, lenticulars, and a

Hey's saw. The tools were used to bore holes in the skull, depress the brain tissue, and then elevate the skull to relieve pressure on the brain. The equipment looks brutal, but it was often lifesaving.

Stein had plenty of opportunity to ply his trade. The regiment saw action throughout the war, including the bloody three days of the Battle of Gettysburg. There, Stein was noted for restoring the breathing of his colonel, Wladimir Kryzanowski, after his chest was injured when a horse was shot from under him. Colonel Kryzanowski was able to return to lead his men on the battlefield after Stein's treat-



ment. Stein mustered out when his unit was dissolved in Nashville, Tennessee, after the war's end in 1865. In 1866, Stein continued in New York's National Guard as Surgeon of the 11th Regiment.



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Post 126 Dedicates Multi-Media Presentation Honoring American Jewish Military History

The members of Post 126, Cherry Hill, NJ, presented a multi-media display to the Katz JCC in that city. Among the attendees was Cherry Hill Mayor Bernie Platt, who briefly spoke of the important contributions JWV continues to make to the community.

The 15' x 81/2' wall, designed by PDC Bernie Epworth, was unveiled by the five members who revitalized the Post in 1995—Post Chaplain Jay Jaspan, PDC Robert Richter, PDC Arthur Seltzer, PPC Larry Altersitz, and PPC Ray Rubel.

The exhibit features pictures of more than 70 Post members who served from WWI through today and four key panels highlighting the accounts of PDC Arthur Seltzer's service as a liberator of Dachau and Sam Erlick's experiences during the Battle of the Bulge, Jewish recipients of the Medal of Honor, and the role of Jewish Chaplains on the battle front. There is also a monitor showing on a continuous loop the History of Jewish American military service.





Shavuot



Allan Abramson & Wife Sheila
Happy Days and Good Health

Jerry & Sara Alperstein

PCC Edward & PDP Louise Baraw
In Honor to all Veterans

Eugene Baraw • Post 776
Fair Winds & Calm Seas to All

Howard M. Barmad • Post 76-NJ
Chag Sameach

Howard A. & Dorothy G. Berger
Naples/Denver • USFA/USASETAF

Bless our Troops

PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749

Mr. & Mrs William J. Denton
Baltimore Jewish War Veterans

Marshall & Diane Duberstein

Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126
JWV Cherry Hill, NJ

Nat. Inspector Sidney & Fay Goldman

Al Gorman, Post 128, AZ • Canada WW2
A Happy & Healthy Holiday To All

PNC Sam & PNP Barb Greenberg
Happy Holidays to All

PNEC Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321
PCP Mildred Pitkowsky • Aux 3



Cmdr. Charles & Ilene Greinsky
Life Members, Post 80 • Staten Island, NY

Donald H. Haber, PDC NY, FL

Dr. Alvin & Carol Hollenberg

PNEC Jeannette Jacobson & Alan J. Fox
Life Members • Post 177 • FL

Jewish War Veterans USA Post 1
Our Original Post

Bob Kummins, Post 400 • Ft. Meyers, FL

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

Jack Kent (Kantrovitz) #62, Akron, OH

Best Wishes & Good Health to All

In Honor of Wanda - Post 400

Bob Kummins Post 400 • Ft. Myers, FL

Elaine & Sam Menszer
L'Chayim & Best Wishes

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

National JWV Committee on Scouting
Salutes our JWV Heroes

LT. J. I. Platt Post 651 • JWV
Melvin Kaplan, Commander

Ben Podgor • Post 112, Atlanta

Queens County Council
Queens, New York

Jerry & Lea Rosenberg • Post 740, NJ
Good Health & Happiness to All

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

Happy Holiday to all Comrades!
PDC Murray Runin, PNEC

Cmdr. Greinsky & Sr. Vice Cmdr. Satloff
Post 80, Staten Island, NY • 77 Years

Cliff & Zinita Sawyer • LA 113
Happy, Healthy Holidays

Stephen & Helen Sax

Irv Schildkraut PC JWV 440
May JWV last forever

Harriet & PDC Norman Schnitzer

PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All

To Friends in Indiana/Ark/Talo
"Gay/Kim Gazint" In Good Health

Mike & Gloria Shapiro
In Health - To Life

PPC Norman & Toby Smith • Post 129-NY

Hy Tuchman
Post 400 • Ft Meyer, FL

David Jonah Weiner, Post 239
In Honor of all Veterans

PNC Robert & Jeri Zweiman
To Life

David S. Zwerin
Post 652 • Merrick, NY



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JWV's Leadership Mission & Allied Veterans Mission to Israel February 18-28, 2012

Join us on this exciting trip to beautiful and historic Israel! Meet Israelis and their leaders. Get updated briefings. Visit places other groups do not visit. Enjoy comradeship with fellow veterans.

Day 1: Saturday evening, Feb. 18 • Overnight non stop flight to Israel from Newark, NJ. or JFK. Dinner, in-flight entertainment and breakfast on board.

Day 2, Sunday, Feb. 19 • Morning arrival at Ben Gurion airport. Transfer to our Tel Aviv hotel. Check in and relax. We meet for dinner at our hotel.

Day 3, Monday, Feb. 20 • A briefing by the U.S Military attaché. Panoramic tour of the city to see the site of assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the Kirya (housing the Ministry of Defense) and the IDF HQ. Visit the colorful Carmel Market to see how Israelis buy their fruits and vegetables. Nearby is Neve Zedek – an old part of Tel Aviv that has been renovated and has become a leisure place. It's highlight is the Tachana – the renovated first railway station built by the Turks in the 19 century. Upon return to our hotel you can enjoy a walk on the Tel Aviv board walk. Dinner on your own

Day 4, Tuesday, Feb. 21 • Briefing by Tzevet Chairman and an IDF guest speaker. Visit the Independence Hall where David Ben Gurion announced the independence of Israel in 1948. Visit the Rabin Center depicting Yitzhak Rabin's life alongside the story of the State of Israel. Possible meeting with his daughter Dalia Rabin. Afternoon rest at our hotel in Tel Aviv. Dinner at our hotel. In the evening, we stroll in Old Jaffa streets.

Day 5, Wednesday, Feb. 22 • Today we head north. Our first stop is the Malam Intelligence Center depicting the heritage of the intelligence community of The IDF and Mossad. Briefing by Brig General (Res.) Dudu Zur. Continue to Caesarea – the Roman port city built by King Herod. Continue to Haifa to see the magnificent Bahai Gardens and visit the Pnimiya Zvait – IDF "West Point". We shall meet cadets and their commander Lt. Col. Lior Gross. We reach our Tiberias hotel where we will spend the night. Dinner at the hotel. After dinner, enjoy a stroll on the Sea of Galilee board walk.

Day 6, Thursday, Feb. 23 • **Leadership Tour - Bus No. 1:** Travel to Golan Heights – Stop at Shalom Observation Point for a magnificent view of the Sea of Galilee, then visit Mt. Bental, an ex IDF post overlooking Syria. Visit an IDF unit (subject to IDF approval and conditions). Return to our hotel for rest. In the afternoon, visit the House of Dona Gracia – a unique story of the expulsion of Jews from Spain. **Allied Veterans - Bus No. 2:** Depart hotel, travel to Golan Heights – Stop at Shalom Observation Point for a magnificent view of the Sea of Galilee. Visit Mt. Bental, an ex IDF post overlooking Syria. Take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee (if weather permits). In the middle of the sea we shut the engines and read the scriptures (Mark 6:45 – 52). In this holy place we can visualize Him walking on the water. We dock near Capernaum to visit the synagogue where Jesus preached. Later, we will proceed to Tabgha – the site of the multiplication of the fish and bread and then Mount of Beatitudes. Afternoon trip to Nazareth, to visit the Church of Annunciation and Cana where the first miracle of water turning into wine took place. Couples who wish to renew their marriage vows can do so here. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

Day 7, Friday, Feb. 24 • Drive to Jerusalem. On the way visit the 2nd World War Jewish Warrior museum at Latroun. Proceed to Avalon Institute to see a hidden ammunition factory that was operated during the British Mandate and recently discovered. Check in and rest at our Jerusalem hotel. Erev Shabbat Dinner at our hotel.

Day 8, Saturday, Feb. 25 • Shabbat rest or join a tour to Massada and Dead Sea. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 9, Sunday, Feb. 26 • Visit the Western Wall and the Chain of Generations. Meet at the Perimeter Barrier around Jerusalem for a briefing. Enter the Old City and visit the Herodian Quarter (the underground section of the Jewish Quarter). Visit the Ammunition Hill – A national memorial site and a battle site from the 6 day war. This is also the World Center of Jewish War Veterans (possible event). Free evening and dinner on your own.

Day 10, Monday, Feb. 27 • Visit Yad Vashem – the new Holocaust Museum. Visit the new 9/11 Memorial site. Visit the Way of the Cross and the Holy Sepulcher Church. Visit to the Knesset and briefing by a Knesset Member. Farewell dinner and transfer to our night flight back home.

Day 11 Tuesday, Feb 28 • Flight home. Arrive same day. **Welcome home! You have just returned from a lifetime experience!**

If not now, when?

For more information, please contact
Christy Turner at JWV Headquarters:

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E-mail: cturner@jwv.org

You can also find more info on the JWV website:

http://www.jwv.org/events/international_assembly_of_jwv