



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Fall • 2011

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HOMECOMING FROM IRAQ



On October 21, 2011 the United States and Iraq affirmed that the US would withdraw all military forces by the end of 2011 – bringing a clear end to the US combat presence in Iraq after eight years of war.

As December 31st approaches, large numbers of troops are already being pulled out of Iraq. As of November 15th, only 24,000 troops remain in Iraq compared to 34,000 in October.

According to a recent Gallup poll, an overwhelming majority of Americans, 75 percent, support the President's decision to withdraw from Iraq by the end of 2011. However, questions still remain on whether the United States may negotiate a further presence in Iraq in 2012. And the US is not completely pulling out of the region - 40,000 troops located in Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar will still remain.



While political leaders argue about the end of the Iraq War, on the home front a different question looms, is the United States prepared for this next generation of combat veterans?

As Iraq War veterans begin to make the transition back to civilian life they face a number of unique challenges including difficulty re-adjusting to the pace of non-military work, long-term problems from combat injuries, and issues with post traumatic stress disorder.

The current deficit crisis has put the resources these returning veterans need at risk. While programs

administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs are exempt from the looming budget cuts, there are other programs Veterans rely on, like jobs and homeless programs, which are not protected.

In order to be successful, Iraq War veterans need the support of an understanding public and government. It is not enough for Americans to welcome Iraq War veterans home as heroes. Congressional and Administration leadership need to make it a priority to fund the programs and initiatives that will help these men and women ease back into civilian life.

Join us in Washington, DC for
Capitol Hill Action Day and NEC! March 6-10, 2012

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

- Tues. - Jan. 10 JWV Membership-Finding the Hidden, the Lost, and the Ignored Jewish veterans
- Wed. - Jan. 25 Commanders and Quartermasters-Obligations and Legal Issues
- Wed. - Feb. 15 NEC – Plans and Preparations
- Thur. - Mar. 22 National Museum-Funding for the Future
- Thur. - Apr. 19 Visions of the Future of JWV in the year 2015-What will we be doing?
- Thur. - Apr. 26 Membership-Knowing When to Hold 'Em-Retention when members want to quit
- Wed. - May 9 Information Technology-Getting your Post and Department on the Internet

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JWV is on Facebook, Twitter, and the JWV Online Forum! Use our social media to share pictures and keep in touch with JWV members and friends.

Join now for lively discussions on the topics that interest you!



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Twitter: [//twitter.com/JewishWarVets](http://twitter.com/JewishWarVets)

JWV Online Forum: jwvusa.ning.com



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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CORRECTION NOTED

There was an error in the SUMMER 2011 *The Jewish Veteran*, which arrived in November. "Ritchie Boys Reunion" by Guy Stern misstates they served at Fort Hunt in "Maryland." Fort Hunt is now a frequently visited park near Mount Vernon in Virginia.

It is directly across the Potomac from Fort Washington on the Maryland side. Those two forts, constructed after the fiasco of British troops sacking Washington in 1815, successfully protected the city from the Confederate Navy a half century later. They are important to the history of the city because of what did not happen there.

The *Washington Post* had a major article on the interrogators at Fort Hunt during their first reunion there about five years ago.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Hunt_Park

Best wishes on the new permanent exhibit.

*LTC Les Bergen, Ret
Arlington, VA*

APPRECIATION

Dear Editors:

For the last couple of issues I've been meaning to write you about my great pleasure in the new JWV periodical. The articles are fantastic. Informing, educating, stimulating pride and stimulating civic action. Thanks for keeping me on top of important matters that I wouldn't learn about anywhere else.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Leonard C. Hecht

WHAT HAPPENED?

Dear Sirs,

Today, Tuesday, November 8th 2011, I received *The Jewish Veteran* Summer 2011 issue. We are past the summer of 2011. What happened? I always get *The Jewish Veteran* very late.

Truly Yours,

*Mark I Koppelman
SVC Bell-Oak Post 648
Journal Chairman of the Queens County
Council*

A FATHER'S SERVICE

Dear Commander Rosenzweig:

Your recent newsletter, addressed to my father, John Levine, was forwarded to me, his son.

I am sorry to inform you that Dad passed

away on July 17th. It's difficult to convey because, if you didn't know my Dad, you might think I was making this up, but his passing just two months short of his 89th birthday was a shock to our family and his friends around the world, and just today I received another call from a friend in a distant State who just found out about his passing.

Dad believed that each day was a blessing and that it was his duty to do good deeds and spread cheer wherever he went. Although his Active Duty ended when WWII ended, his service continued. He traveled by himself throughout the United States and was always full of cheer and good spirit.

Wherever he traveled – actually, whenever he left the house – he wore his iconic WWII Veteran/China Burma hat. It was such an equalizer. Whether it was a conversation starter for other WWII vets he encountered...or an opportunity for an exchange of "thank you sir for your service" between him and a young soldier back from deployment overseas, his hat and what it represented was part of him and who he was.

Dad would not have met nor married my Mom in 1944 had he not been in the service.

He would not have honed his accounting skills had he not been part of the tactical Air Force Command.

He would not have been able to afford college or Law School had it not been for the GI Bill.

In short, his life's path and journey was affected by his service in the mid-1940's.

During his last trip to visit us in the Northeast, we had occasion to watch a parade together. Groups of local volunteer fire departments and antique fire engines were joined with a display of the Stars and Strips. Because of Dad's scoliosis and arthritis he endured constant pain in his hips. For that reason, we positioned him towards the front in a lawn chair facing the parade. As each Department passed by and with each Department's display of the Colors, he rose from the chair and saluted until it passed. Only then would he return to the chair...until the next one...and then the next one...over fourteen times during the day.

The Jewish War Veterans is the group that he supported all his life and which I remember as being in our home as a child. It was where I first learned about service to community and charitable giving.

With best regards and with thanks for your community service.

Sincerely,
*Fred and Ellen Levine
New York, NY*

Want to be featured in *The Jewish Veteran*?

Is your post doing interesting and innovative programming? Are you working on a project that could help other JWV Posts?

Contact us, and your post could be featured in the next issue of *The Jewish Veteran*!

Send your photos and stories to Nikki Salzman at: nsalzman@jwv.org.

Increase Event Attendance

Getting members to events can often be a struggle. Sometimes people are busy with their own lives. Others might mean to attend but then they forget. Email can be a great resource for event reminders, but some JWV members do not use the Internet or email. To make sure the word gets out to members, using a call service company like OneCallNow.com or CallMultiplier.com can be a great option.

As a non-profit organization, JWV is not bound by the regulations of the Do-Not-Call Implementation Act of 2003 as long as Posts are only calling individuals affiliated with the organization. It is important to note that these calls cannot be used for solicitation purposes. Calls must be limited to reminders about event meetings or notifications about important Post information.

For more information contact JWV National.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Allen E. Falk

October and November have been quite busy for me. I have been asked to attend a number of functions in Washington, DC representing JWV. Many of these events involve JWV's membership in The Military Coalition (TMC). This is an influential consortium of 34 military and veterans organizations. PNC Bob Zwieman is a founding member of the group.

Here is a brief sampling of the events I attended:

October 5 - Attended The Military Coalition Award Ceremony honoring Congressman Tim Walz. It was held at Reserve Officers Association offices on Capitol Hill.

October 11 - Along with Chief of Staff Mike Liebowitz and National Judge Advocate Alan Cornblatt, attended Congressional viewing of memorial plaque to Jewish Chaplains held in Senate Hart Building.

October 24 - Spoke at the dedication ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery for

the Jewish Chaplains' Memorial Plaque. Also, along with National Auxiliary President Elaine Bernstein, placed wreath at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

November 4 - Represented JWV at Annual Board of Directors meeting and regular monthly meeting of The Military Coalition held at offices of the Air Force Association in Arlington, Virginia. I had the honor of voting to reelect National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth as President of The Military Coalition Board of Directors. Also attended a luncheon at JWV National Headquarters with the office staff. Purpose was to thank staff for their great service at the Jacksonville Convention.

November 5 - Represented JWV at "Macks' Marines" USMC birthday luncheon held at The Marine Corps Barracks, 8th & I, Washington, DC.

November 11 - Served as a member of the Veterans Day National Committee 2011, repre-

senting JWV. Along with my wife Leah, attended White House breakfast hosted by the President and Mrs. Obama. Then, we were transported to Arlington National Cemetery to observe the President place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I then sat on the amphitheatre stage while President Obama addressed the assembly. We then attended a reception for the host organization at the Marriott Crystal Gateway.

The functions that I attended in DC have shown me how respected JWV is amongst the military and veterans communities in DC. One of the top reasons for this respect has been the effort of our National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth who works hard to ensure our interests are represented in our nation's capital.



NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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



VETERANS DAY

This past Veterans Day, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki directed changes and additions to the Veterans Day celebrations here in Washington to make this holiday more distinguishable from Memorial Day. Veterans Day is primarily intended to thank living veterans for their dedicated and loyal service. Memorial Day is the day set aside to honor America's war dead.

In 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day, and called upon all Americans to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace.

Eisenhower issued a Presidential Order directing the head of the Veterans Administration (now called the Department of Veterans Affairs), to form a Veterans Day National Committee to organize and oversee the national observance of Veterans Day. The National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA serves as a member of this committee which, in addition to planning and coordinating the National Veterans

Day Ceremony, supports a number of Veterans Day Regional sites.

Starting with this year's Veterans Day, Secretary Shinseki created a Veterans Day concert on the day before Veterans Day to further distinguish this holiday from Memorial Day.

National Commander Allen E. Falk represented JWV on the dais at the Arlington National Cemetery program. During this ceremony, our JWV Department of DC carried both the American flag and the JWV flag with the Star of David clearly visible against the blue sky.

In addition to representing JWV on the dais at Arlington National Cemetery, National Commander Allen Falk represented JWV at the reception hosted by the Military Order of the World Wars. National Commander Falk, who served as a Marine Corps Captain in Vietnam, was warmly greeted by several Marines who noticed his "Red One" lapel pin. I was extremely proud to escort National Commander



Photo by Herb Rosenbleeth

Falk and his lovely wife, Leah, at this reception. The President of our Ladies Auxiliary, Elaine Bernstein, and her husband, PNC Paul Bernstein, who is JWV's National Executive Committee Chairman, also participated at Arlington and at this reception. JWV was well represented in the Washington, DC, Veterans Day ceremonies.

DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

By PNC Paul Bernstein, National Editor



On this Veterans Day, I had the honor to be in the company of our National Commander, Allen Falk and our National Ladies Auxiliary President, Elaine Bernstein. It was a crisp, windy day in the 50's, but the warmth in the souls of every veteran there kept us comfortable, for this was our day to shine. We were proud to be a veteran and proud to be an American.

The principle speaker was President Obama



National Ladies Auxiliary President Elaine Bernstein and PNC Paul Bernstein at the Jewish Chaplains Memorial Dedication Ceremony on October 24, 2011.

who praised veterans, both past and present. He also mentioned that he would like to put 100,000 veterans back to work. He encouraged the private sector to hire veterans.

I also had the pleasure to sit in the JWV box with Leah Falk, wife of our National Commander, Herb Rosenbleeth, our Executive Director, and Herb's wife Francie. After the ceremonies at Arlington, JWV was invited to attend a reception given by the Military Order of the World Wars. We were treated by the appearance of General Eric Shinseki, Secretary of the US Department of Veterans Affairs. He spoke about the programs in the VA to help returning warriors adjust to civilian life.

During some quiet time between speeches at Arlington, I reflected on the meaning of Veterans Day. It seems to me that there has been a change in this holiday. Not to say, here at Arlington, but in the Nation. In fact, there is no holiday on our calendar that has been altered by time more than Veterans Day.

I remembered the time my father took me to the Grand Concourse in the Bronx to watch Veterans parade along the Concourse. The streets were packed with men, women and children cheering and waving small American flags.

It was like this in all cities across this great country. The parade was special to the Veterans who represented WWI and WWII. They were back from victorious wars. Patriotic speakers were the call of the day and there were plenty of tributes to this great Nation. All the speeches had one theme: a celebration of a triumphant America that couldn't be beaten.

We no longer are a Nation that shares the experience of those days. Instead, Veterans Day represents big sales, shopping, a day off, forgetting what sacrificing warriors did to make this country great. No thanks for the blood, sweat, and tears we gave so our country can have those big sales. The change in relevance in which our country celebrated Veterans Day is a reflection of that evolution.

How did this happen? It is because there is no longer that shared experience that once united a generation. I believe it to be because this Nation is not involved in our current conflicts. There are no universal attachments, and there is no stake in it for many. Once service was a responsibility that fell on all young men; it is now a matter of choice and not an obligation. This is not a reflection on our volunteer services. They deserve all the honor and respect this country can give. But at the same time, a whole generation of Americans has never been asked to serve or risk anything. Not every young person has skin in the game. Most are happy that a few are doing the duty all should. That's the sadness of today's mentality. Let the next guy do it. I believe it is this change that has momentarily altered the very essence of Veterans Day. There is no shared sacrifice among this generation. The sacrifice falls on those serving members and their families, too small a proportion of our general population. There is no universal crying. That's long gone.

The nature of the wars Americans have

fought in recent years has also changed the holiday. America in the 20th century fought in epic struggles in which the whole country's interest was at stake and the outcome, we hoped, was clearly defined. The current conflicts have been fought for their political ends in which the Nation's interests were not always so clear or defined. Technically, these conflicts have not even qualified as "wars," and the Nation as a whole was never 100 percent behind many of these conflicts.

As a result, the emotional attachment to the conflict was not there, and the connection to the home front that wars invoke has not defined our National interests. This, together with a lack of universal military service, has change Veterans Day to all but Veterans and their families. Those who have served and those who have family members who have served, know the meaning of true patriotism and honor. We gave without question and gain. We answered the call of duty and said "here I am." Be proud all you Veterans, you are special for what you did. Veterans Day is our holiday and no one will dilute its meaning or importance.

National Youth Achievement

Each year, National Headquarters recognizes three students entering their first year of college for their achievements at they enter their first year of collage. This opportunity is available to the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of JWV members.

Visit http://www.jwv.org/programs/service/awards/education_grants to learn more.

CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT

S. 1727 AND H.R. 1457

WILLIAM SHEMIN JEWISH WWI VETERANS ACT

Summary Of William Shemin Jewish WWI Veterans Act.

Directs the Secretaries of the Army and the Navy to: (1) review the service records of certain Jewish-American World War I veterans to determine whether that veteran should be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor; and (2) upon a positive determination, submit a recommendation to the President that the President make such award.

Makes eligible for such review and award each Jewish-American World War I veteran: (1) who was previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or other military decoration for service during World War I; or (2) whose name is submitted to either Secretary by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America within one year after the enactment of this Act.

COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee



"IF THEY ASKED ME, I COULD WRITE A BOOK"

The United States: a Superpower? Not if others have their way about it. The guy at the top of America is a target bombarded here and abroad by envy, greed, power, and whatever else can demean our nation in its projected decline.

Thirty-three Latin American countries have gotten together to economically challenge the United States globally. As long as they make it economic rather than political, they have a shot at becoming viable as a player, but not for the top spot.

There is Turkey and the Shiite Islamic nations which are developing through the Arab Spring and looking toward positioning themselves as a modern Ottoman Empire, to the dismay of other nations who view them with concern. We would have to look to our Sunni friends, who have taken advantage of us for so many decades with oil dominance – they may turn out to need us more than we need them in a new world market.

There is our old friend China and Southeast Asia. We could have a problem with India, although money always has a leveling property. Both of them already own large parts of United States properties and farms. They could even put together a NAFTA approach with Canada and Mexico. Canada is developing energy and Mexico is economically developing domestically – who knows we may someday find illegal immigrant Americans in Mexico.

There is our friend Russia, which used to be a superpower, and has become a big oil player and may move west. Right now they may also have our problem with their citizens looking at a looser government friendly to its people.

It is important to realize that all of the above nations had the ability to prevent the United States from being too big to fail, yet none of them came forward with offers of assistance – leaving us with stimulus packages of different dimensions to provide money to nourish Goldman Sucks and its vampire hordes.

So, the world looks to record the Rise and Fall of the American Superpower. America's decline is a reason for ecstasy (not the drug even though the effect may be similar); although if the past is any indication, our detractors will also suffer unless they form many consumer bases.

While the world glories in America's decline, the largest group of people consumed with promoting the philosophy of decline are the American people. Day in and day out the media, television, and politicians contaminate

American thinking – getting our citizens to debase themselves and our society. We are deluged with false economic teachings. We require our citizens to place blame upon themselves for our ills, and grind themselves into a flour of shame. If we don't respect ourselves who else is going to do so? No one - especially not our own children.

The latest slide into our political unreality is the elimination of all restraints in the existing child labor laws. While our children keep falling down the scales in educational standing, politicians want to make them into commodities instead of competitors. I'm convoluted enough to see some validity in their thinking. We can deport all our illegal immigrants, and then provide backup child workers for our farms (it may be hard labor, but they have to learn that life is not a pumpkin pie) and other places (school toilets, retail, and factories) where we are stuck having to pay lower than the so-called minimum wage. What kind of stupidity is the American citizen willing to accept and live by? How gullible has the American citizen become that we are willing to be motivated and governed by slogans?

Well, we have to wake up and understand and accept where we are and start to figure out how to change our declining future. Are we of the mind that we must immediately repair all financial and money markets with a lot of unneeded money and giving it to the people who put us where we are, or do we say that we do not consider money in any form the sole commodity of supply and demand? How many people does it require to run government money printing presses? First thing we have to do is to realize what our useable assets are and seek to develop them.

Probably the first asset, which we have ignored, is education – this requires an intense surge. Another asset is creative technology, which we are letting slip through our hands to outsourced countries whose people come here to our universities and by sending university units and colleges overseas.

What is interesting in this area is that companies, such as Pfizer, (they are not alone) have laid off 1,100 employees. They are not seeking to reduce costs of operations or increase profits, but solely to build up their cash resources to buy back an additional \$5 Billion worth of their own stock. What's even more fascinating is that the 1,100 people came out of the research and development labs who might have created medicines to contain or cure America's or the world's

illnesses. Now ain't that a kick in the teeth? But don't be concerned, Merck opened a new research and development headquarters in Beijing, China with 600 employees. This could make us a sick nation in decline.

When we started out as a nation, one of our primary assets was agriculture, much of which has now been sold or leased to multinational corporations who pushed out the old mom and pop farms and yet receive federal monies by way of subsidies and grants. Agriculture is an asset which can't be picked up and outsourced by acreage, shoveled into a ship, and sent overseas. So why not look at it as a resource for national development and employment? The produce is not merely food for consumption here and for export, but also through technological advances has been used in the creation of many products which can industrially be made in our own nation. Who knows? It might even reduce the number of food stamps.

It is obvious that any planning cannot be accomplished overnight, but that should not stop us from beginning. You can begin by laying aside all the political posturing. The mediocrity of those running and seeking to run the country, after a while, becomes nauseating and issues become without meaning or importance to a creative solution.

At one time we had a Depression, and we also had a CCC, WPA, TVA and other alphabetical agencies which provided for employment, infrastructure development, cultural advances, social security, etc. With World War II and war production most of them were gone.

Right now an opportunity may be presenting itself with the 40,000 or more veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan and the government program for retraining, education advancement and the like. It calls for legislative tools, so do not use the many for-profit schools who steal away the proceeds of GI Bill rights leaving the veteran without education, training, or the ability to function in our society.

The education retraining project is now fully in effect (I hope) and as it develops it can be expanded to the many unemployed, homeless, and others requiring retraining, new opportunity training, education and all of the creativity which we are able and qualified to bind together.

I know I have written a number of times about a National Service Plan. Each time it has been shot down with the misunderstanding that

ANNOUNCING JWV'S NEW ONLINE POST 77 AND A NEW ONLINE MEMBERSHIP FORM

This winter, JWV introduced two exciting new features to its online collection: Schulte-Bruckenthal Post 77 and an online membership form.

The online post makes it possible for people to be members of JWV from anywhere in the country or the world. Prospective members who were unable to join a post because they live in a remote area, will no longer face barriers to full membership in JWV. This is also an exciting opportunity for the men and women currently serving in the military. JWV membership is free

for active duty servicemen and women, and this online post will give those deployed abroad a way to immediately engage with JWV, which will make them more inclined to continue their membership when they return home.

The new online membership form serves as the perfect complement to JWV's enhanced presence on the Internet. The online form will allow prospective members to quickly and easily submit an application to JWV. Without having to rely on the post office, JWV will be able to approve new members in half the time.

Visit the Schulte-Bruckenthal Post 77 at: <http://onlinepost77.jwv.org>

To join online please go to: http://www.jwv.org/online_membership/users/membership

COMMENTARY

it is a replacement for the voluntary American military. NOT SO!

A National Service Plan can lead to a rebirth of our way of life. It entails exactly what we are doing with the returning veterans by integrating them into a society from which they were taken (many were pulled from their job ventures as reservists and the national guards).

Let's really be honest, to get ahead in this nation and the world you have to be smart and have money. A number of nations are ahead of us, mainly from commercial espionage and their own educational system. The most important ingredient to us is education, whether it relates to technology, health services, construction, infrastructure restoration, and even military, and a national system is the best tool for accomplishing this, and accomplishment does not mean national ownership.

Until we recognize that the guys with all the money are the smartest and most intelligent as to what we are and what we need, we will consistently be delusional that there is actually a middle class (not really just the upper strata of the poverty class).

The Arab Spring stimulated rallies against existing governments which had autocratic leaders denying popular participation. The results have been elections and so-called responsive governments. It has not necessarily turned out that way with Islamic majorities (who seek to delude the protesters with claims of open Turkish governments) taking over rather than secular regimes. In many cases social media has

driven the mission toward open discussion and implementation, but who is leading?

Social media has also driven a revolt of the mind to other nations with mixed results. The United States has also been touched in an unorganized manner. The demands are defused as to what the end result should be. Occupy Wall Street unfortunately targets an elusive group which constitutes 1% of America's wealthy – but, which ones?? This has resulted in a confusion of purpose. Our government is taking the approach of Arab Nations and has sent police in to remove the returning protestors. It becomes a crime to think about the present and the future.

Our government does this instead of recognizing that the protestors consist of students, unemployed, homeless, veterans, foreclosure evictees, and people who have a purpose, but no direction. The opportunity to mobilize and give direction to the protestors – by instead of paying money for police protection – to use some of the money to put some of them to work on roads, etc. and direct our government based on a positive growth and representation and rebuilding America (we claim to be big nation builders outside of America, we should try doing it at home) not solely for the money finding its way into the hands of non-producers who, with financial sophistication, drain purpose from a vitally complete end result.

I am definitely not calling for or seeking a rerun of the 1776 Revolution - or for a Facebook overthrow of our government. I seek a positive deployment of the energies and desires of the

Occupy Protestors across the country from New York to California.

We cannot afford another Tea Party (from either the right, the left, or from any fanatical groups) to undertake any single issues which deny our citizens the full enjoyment of our way of life.

A Turkish official at a public meeting commented on their economic growth vs. the United States' decline while Vice President Joe Biden was in the audience, and the official said "the fast fish, not the big fish eats the small fish." Our Vice President, never one with a lack of American pride, answered by saying, "**in a sea of young sharks, the United States was still the whale.**"

Joe Biden has a quality missing in most of those seeking political office, namely an American belief, real trust in his fellow American, and an ability to recognize our decline is of our own making and our ability to recover is within our own hands, minds, and desires. Superpower is a nice term, but meaningless if our citizens continue to suffer from our own misguided actions or inactions.

It's time for us to take the Occupy Movement out of the hands of any revolutionists and to make it a meaningful adventure in a populist and democratic capitalism, all built on respect and compassion. We really can't allow the political and greed vampires to control and direct our present and future.

10 Years Later—Bringing a Taste of Sweetness to Deployed Jewish Military for the New Year

By Michael Baum, Col, USAF (Ret)

Who would have thought that 10 years after 9/11 Austin Post 757 of the Jewish War Veterans of America would still be sending packages to deployed Jewish soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines in Iraq, Afghanistan and to other locations through the world?

Ten years ago, Barbara Golden, then the Austin Post 757 commander, initiated what Post 757 now calls the deployed soldier's project as the Iraqi package program. The first year, the post members all brought in socks, hygiene items, candy, and gum and packed them for one single shipment that year to 30 soldiers.

2011, ten years later, we still have an estimated 1000 Jewish deployed military forces in Afghanistan, over 500 Jewish military forces in Iraq, and an unknown number of other Jewish government workers from the State Department, USAID, Defense Intelligence Agency, and other U.S. governmental agencies in these combat theaters.

From one mailing per year to 30 soldiers, the Austin Post 757 program to support Jewish



JWV Austin Post 757 members, from left, Barry Mann, Fred Glosser, Jack Serif, Mel Bilich, and Shirley Berry assemble High Holiday packages for deployed Jewish Military personnel.

military personnel has grown to four shipments a year reaching over 800 deployed military members each year for the High Holidays, Chanukah, Purim, and Passover. The Austin JWV Post 757 Program is one of the few nationwide JWV Post programs that send personalized packages and holiday cards to Jewish deployed forces worldwide.

On Labor Day weekend the Post packaged honey cakes, honey, dried apples, granola bars, candy bars, cards and letters, copies of the Jewish Outlook for over 200 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines.

The program was generously supported by our local HEB Kosher store which supplied honey cakes, Manny's Uptown Kitchen which supplied individual honey packets, generous donations from members of Agudas Achim, Shir Amir, Tiferet Israel which allowed the post to purchase additional Kosher food items, handmade cards from Jewish Social Services, and High Holiday cards signed by members of the Jewish Community during the community's Israel Independence Day celebration in May.

For more information on JWV Post 757 Deployed Soldier Project, go to www.jwv.org.

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Rabbi Larry Bazer and service members celebrate Rosh Hashanah in Afghanistan

Dear Col. Baum and all the members Austin Post 757-JWV:

On behalf of all the Jewish service members of the Kabul Base Cluster(KBC), I want to personally thank you for all your wonderful High Holy Day gift boxes you sent us. As the Senior Jewish Chaplain in theater and as the Rabbi of the Kabul Base Cluster Jewish Community, we greatly appreciated your warmth and care during the holidays. You all helped bring "home" a bit closer here. Please also thank the many donations from congregations, businesses, and practices in the Austin area. All the items were put to great use.

Our KBC Jewish community had wonderful High Holy Day services. Although we didn't get the crowds that shuls in America

get for Yontiv, we had a very special time together creating our new family community. I'm enclosing a few photos for you to share with all the wonderful people that donated their time and effort.

May all the wonderful members of JWV Austin Post 757 have a joyous and sweet New Year. Keep

your prayers coming this way.

Shana Tova and Hag Sameach,

*Rabbi Larry Bazer
Kabul Base Cluster Jewish Chaplain and
Afghanistan Senior Theater
Chaplain and JWV Life Member, Post 157*

*Chaplain (LTC) Laurence Bazer
26th "Yankee" Brigade
KBC Command Chaplain
Camp Phoenix*

Col Baum:

Thank you to you, Post 757 of the JWV, and the Austin Jewish Community for sending care packages to deployed Jewish Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, and Marines. I re-

ceived mine today and was delighted to find so many goodies in the box. As I know you must know, it is especially hard to be away from home during the Jewish holidays. But, one of the nice things about this deployment is hearing from Jewish communities back in the US who want to support Jewish service members. It always makes things a bit easier. Thank you again. I hope you and yours have a happy and health new year.

L'shana tova.

*Richard A. Sugarman
MAJ, JA, USAR
Command Judge Advocate*

Sir;

Being the Jewish Lay Leader at KAF (KANDAHAR AIR FORCE) I cannot thank you enough for your overflowing RH care packages, We were down to our last few Kosher Meals and Manna came from Austin. We have a very active Jewish presence here-15 soldiers come to our Friday night service and Shabbat dinner. We have a strictly kosher kitchen and 5 of us are strictly kosher and Shomer Shabbat, to the best of our abilities. Please forward this email to all the organizations and individuals that contributed to the awesome kosher food. Thank you once again.

*Cpt. Warren K Gross
Shavua Tov and have a wonderful happy
and healthy Shana Tova.*

Jewish Chaplains Memorial Dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery

After years of hard work and dedication, members of the Jewish War Veterans witnessed the unveiling of the Jewish Chaplains Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery on October 24, 2011. Several hundred people attended the ceremony including 150 JWV members from the Departments of Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia.

The memorial, which honors the 14 Jewish Chaplains who have died in service, was an initiative spearheaded by Kenneth Kraetzer, the former vice commander of the Sons of the

American Legion for New York, who was surprised to discover in 2007 that there was no Jewish monument on Chaplains Hill. Kraetzer gained support from a number of Jewish groups, including JWV, and in May Congress approved the new monument.

In attendance at the memorial dedication were family members of the memorialized Rabbis including Alexander David Goode Fried, the grandson of Chaplain Alexander Goode one of the “Four Immortal Chaplains” who perished aboard the transport ship Dorchester after giving up his life jacket. Ernest Heaton, one of the last living Dorchester Survivors, was present at the memorial to see Chaplain Goode honored. He was acknowledged during the ceremony to rousing applause.

During the memorial dedication ceremony, National Commander Allen Falk had the opportunity to speak on how important this memorial is to the Jewish veteran community. His address included comments about his personal connection to Chaplain Morton Singer, who died in an aircraft crash in Vietnam while en route to arrange Chanukah services in isolated field units. Chaplain Singer’s daughters and grandchildren were in the audience, and they were deeply moved by Commander Falk’s words.

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz



National Commander Allen Falk speaks at the Jewish Chaplains Memorial Dedication Ceremony

(D-FL) also spoke and praised the work of Rabbi Simeon Kobrinetz, JWV’s National Chaplain, who passed away just prior to the dedication.

After the dedication ceremony, Commander Falk and National Ladies Auxiliary President Elaine Bernstein laid a wreath on behalf of JWV at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



PNC Norman Rosenshein; Elaine Bernstein, President of the National Ladies Auxiliary; National Commander Allen Falk; and Ernie Heaton, USAT Dorchester survivor



Wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



The memorial before the unveiling



JWV members came from all over the country to view the dedication.

A large crowd of people attended the the moving Jewish Chaplains Memorial Dedication ceremony.



Treatment for Traumatic Brain Injury



By **Jacob M. Romo, Ph.D.**,
Department Commander, MA

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), often called the signature wound of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, occurs when a sudden trauma or head injury disrupts the function of the brain. Common causes of TBI include damage caused by explosive devices, falls, and vehicle or motorcycle accidents. Most reported TBI among Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom service members and veterans has been traced back to Improvised Explosive Devices, or IEDs, used extensively against Coalition Forces.

Not all blows or jolts to the head result in a TBI. The severity of such an injury may range from “mild” (i.e., a brief change in mental status or consciousness) to “severe”, (i.e., an extended period of unconsciousness or amnesia after the injury). Each of the three forms of Traumatic Brain Injury display different symptoms.

Mild TBI, otherwise known as concussion, is more difficult to diagnose both in civilian life and on the military battlefield. With mild TBI patients, full recovery can be within minutes to hours; small percentages have symptoms that may persist months or years.

Moderate TBI patients have the most variability in the clinical presentation picture. There is usually a loss of consciousness, from an hour to a day; there can be confusion for days to weeks; and mental or physical deficits that can last months or be permanent. The vast majority of these service members are identified and evaluated at theater-level medical facilities, and are evacuated back to the United States for further evaluation.

Severe TBI usually results from a significant closed head injury, as in an automobile

accident or most open or penetrating injuries, where there may be considerable residual deficits of brain function. Depending on the injury, a severe TBI could impact speech, sensory, vision and cause cognitive deficits including difficulties with attention, memory, concentration, and impulsiveness. There is an aggressive initial treatment program in the theater with neurosurgical expertise.

Initial focus of treating a TBI is to stabilize the injured person in order to minimize secondary complications. After individuals with TBI have been stabilized, the treatment plan generally involves rehabilitation efforts to teach patients how to cope with their specific injury-related symptoms.

After a TBI, the body often begins a remarkable repair process. Unlike the skin, the brain does not heal by forming new cells. Instead, existing cells will change to make up for the lost cells. In most cases, brain swelling subsides within a few weeks and the pressure inside the skull stabilizes. This is the time when recovery is most rapid. The brain’s chemical balance returns to normal within several months. And while the damaged connections between nerve cells will not grow back, research has shown that some new connections may develop between these cells over an extended period of time.

Rehabilitation services are needed by individuals with TBI who continue to have medical and functional problems following injury and initial treatment. The need for rehabilitation crosses all age groups, but the type, intensity, and goals differ from person to person.

Early intervention is important to speed recovery and maximize functional outcome. Rehabilitation is begun as soon as individuals with TBI are medically stable. The degree and rate of recovery are difficult to accurately predict because TBI is experienced differently by each person depending upon several unique characteristics, such as the type of injury and an individual’s personal health and resilience. Where rehabilitation takes place depends on the person’s needs. Individuals with severe TBI’s may need inpatient care at a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), a VA Polytrauma hospital, or a civilian rehabilitation center. Individuals with a mild TBI (mTBI)/concussion may be treated at outpatient facilities.

Rehabilitation is most commonly provided by a team approach that may include a number of different therapies such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, nursing care, psychologists, social workers/case managers and other health care practitioners. Members of the team create a program based on each in-

dividual’s needs. For example:

- Occupational therapy is intended to enhance a person’s ability to do activities of daily living (ADLs), job-related tasks, improve fine motor coordination and maximize participation in leisure activities.
- Physical therapy involves exercising and moving the body to preserve, enhance or restore movement and impaired function utilizing therapeutic exercises, assistive devices and individual education and training.
- Speech and Cognitive therapies work with individuals with TBI who may have problems with attention and concentration, learning, problem solving, memory, and speech. The goals are to retrain the brain.
- Many other therapies may be used in TBI rehabilitation such as Vestibular (balance) therapy, Art therapy, Therapeutic Recreation, and Driver Rehabilitation.
- Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy shows some promise in helping patients with traumatic brain injury regain lost brain function, but there is not enough evidence to decide which types of these therapies work and which do not.

A report released by an Institute of Medicine Committee concluded there is “limited evidence” that some types of cognitive therapy – exercises and strategies taught to patients to recover brain function – work in the long term, especially therapies addressing deficits in memory, attention and communications.

Currently there are over 220,000 service members diagnosed with mild and severe brain injuries since 2001.

Traumatic Brain Injury Resources

- **America’s Heroes at Work** A US Department of Labor project that addresses the employment challenges of veterans with TBI and PTSD. www.americasheroesatwork.gov
- **Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury** Provides information and resources including a 24 hour outreach line at 1-866-966-1020. www.dcoe.health.mil/24-7help.aspx
- **Vet Success** Contains information on the services the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VRE) program provides to veterans with service-connected disabilities. www.vetsuccess.gov
- **Wounded Warrior Project** Provides programs and services to help severely injured service members. www.woundedwarriorproject.org

WHAT'S A DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE TO DO?

By PDC Harvey Weiner
Department of Massachusetts

Six years ago, when I finished my one-year term as Department Commander and became Department Judge Advocate, my "official" time involvement in JWV dropped dramatically. There was very little for the Department Judge Advocate to do except to respond to an occasional legal question, and this time reduction bothered me. I was determined to expand my role from one in which I helped the Department with its infrequent legal problems to one in which I also helped veterans with their many legal problems.

First, I assisted in launching and sustaining the nascent Massachusetts Bar Association's Veterans Dial-A-Lawyer program. A group of about a dozen lawyers met at the Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) offices for two hours to man (and woman) the phones and answer the general legal questions of veterans and their families. This service was advertised throughout the state in local newspapers and in flyers sent to veterans' organizations. We received assistance from the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services, the Massachusetts Bar Foundation (MBF) and the local veterans' agents. In the sessions we have had we received an average of almost 100 phone calls. I always wear my JWV cap.

Through this program we realized that most of the lawyers handling the calls could answer general legal questions or refer the caller to the correct legal services center, but they were not knowledgeable enough to answer veterans'

benefits questions, a frequent subject. Now, we refer the callers with veterans' benefits questions to a lawyer who concentrates in that area and who sits at the same MBA location for two hours each week. In Massachusetts, this is part of the Shelter Legal Services, a nonprofit organization, which is funded in part by various bar association foundations. One of the sources of funds is through IOLTA (an acronym for the interest on lawyers' trust accounts) funds, which the MBF distributes. As a life fellow of the MBF and a grant reviewer, I have been able to help direct funds for veterans' legal services, such as to Shelter Legal Services.

In addition, the MBA, with financial help from the MBF, has launched a "Serving our Veterans in the Law - Visiting Lawyer Program," whereby volunteer lawyers visit the local veterans' organization to assist veterans one-on-one with their legal questions. MBA lawyers appear on cable access shows, such as "Veterans Corner," to perform a similar function. Elder law lawyers now visit veterans' groups at the local Council of Aging.

To provide direct pro bono veterans' benefits legal services, an attorney needs to be accredited by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs. One can obtain this information online and fill out a VA Form 21a Application as a Claims Agent or Attorney to obtain the accreditation. Then, one needs to take three hours of qualifying continuing legal education (CLE) in veterans' benefits before being officially qualified to begin representation. Finally, for \$100, an attorney can become a member of the United



The Massachusetts Bar Association has held veterans-specific Dial-A-Lawyer events for more than three and a half years, helping hundreds of veterans in Massachusetts with legal questions and concerns. Photo credit: Bill Archambeault

States Circuit Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims. I look forward to receiving my first pro bono veteran's case.

I now feel that I am putting my legal skills and experience more fully to use by helping both the JWV and veterans. For further information on these programs, feel free to email me at HWeiner@peabodyarnold.com or call me at 617-951-2014.

New Online Tools for Veteran Job-Seekers

Veterans now have the ability to download official data about their military training and experience, which can be used to help them find jobs and continue their careers. Their service data can be uploaded to job search and networking sites to help identify employment opportunities.

Starting Dec. 3, veterans can use the VA's online My HealtheVet portal (www.myhealth.va.gov) to see official information about their military service, including deployment data, in-uniform experience, and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) codes which define the type of work performed and skills learned during their tour of duty. Veterans can electronically download that information to their personal computers by using an enhanced version of the Blue Button. This new capability is the latest addition to a growing suite of job-hunting tools for veterans.

Several industry partners have signed up to create -- or have even already implemented -- third-party applications that can read military specialties or classification codes in Blue Button format, automatically translate those codes into civilian descriptions, and

identify openings and other resources for veterans.

Military job information available to veterans under this program will depend on discharge or retirement date.

- All veterans discharged after 1980 will see military specialty or classification codes;
- Some veterans discharged between 1975-1980 will see military specialty or classification codes;
- Some Gulf War veterans may see combat pay and deployment periods;
- All Post-9/11 veterans will see combat pay and deployment periods

Veterans who have not yet signed up for My HealtheVet access can register for a My HealtheVet account at any VA medical center by completing a one-time identity-verification process to help assure their data privacy.

Membership

By PDC Michael Corbett

How many times has it been said, “Membership is the backbone of the organization!” Well, that may be true but, more importantly, “Membership IS the organization!” After all, without new members, the future of this, or any other organization, is in doubt. Without younger members, an organization cannot survive the present generation.

When we consider all the work we’ve done to keep the organization operating successfully – the investment of time, energy, and personal resources – we come to realize the level of effort put forth by all those who came before us over the many, many years the Jewish War Veterans of the USA has existed.

So long as we break faith with future generations of veterans eligible to join JWV and have nothing more to offer them but a cup of coffee and a piece of Danish at meetings, we will not have new members willing to work – to make the investment in this organization that our founders, and all our members since, have made over the years.

All our Departments and Posts need a minimum number of people immediately prepared to beat the bushes for new members throughout your service areas. Within each Post people must be actively engaged throughout the year, to concentrate on doing nothing but membership tasks. These tasks include preparing marketing programs attenuated to the Post and the community surrounding it; developing lists of businesses, government agencies, civilian organizations, and corporate partners through which membership solicitations may be accomplished; and spending time “on-the-street” locating potential members and signing them up.

Without the energetic, creative, and active help of all members of the Department and the Post we cannot succeed in filling JWV with members who are physically able to do the tasks necessary to carry our organization and gain even more new members. Enticing new, younger members requires a convincing repertoire from all members – something that may be developed at the Post level where existing members are best tuned into the local community – knowing where potential members may be found and having access to those areas.

For instance, a Post may sponsor an Oneg at one or more local synagogues; provide a speaker for Shabbat morning; place the National magazine or the local Post newsletter in Doctors’ offices; present a veterans’ benefits workshop at the local JCC; and inform the spouses of veterans who should know about such things as medical, educational, and burial benefits.

Identifying local Jewish-owned or operated businesses can provide a great resource for connecting with new members. Selling the owner or manager on the benefits to their business should be the first step in this process. For this, the Post should have a plan and discuss in detail what the members are to say – when everyone is saying the same thing, in their own voice, it is more convincing than reading a script in front of any audience. That is why each Post should have a central Membership Committee to develop and coordinate the plan to be presented throughout the community.

The active involvement of new members must be a consideration right on the heels of signing them up. Even the youngest members – individuals who may have a young family, be attending school and/or working a full-time job, may have an opportunity to attend JWV events if, on occasion, we open them up to the entire family. Posts can consider an annual family gathering wherein the Post provides food and beverages at a local park or the parking lot of the local JCC or synagogue; plan and schedule activities for children, offer benefits presentations for veterans and spouses; have the local VAMC or Clinic provide a speaker or give flu shots to qualified veterans. Any number of activities may be planned and executed with enough help from existing members.

What we need to do – what we must do – is make our organization so attractive to eligible members that they are coming to us rather than having our members look for them. JWV should be the default organization Jewish veterans turn to when they need counseling and guidance in dealing with the Veterans Administration, either for educational assistance, medical care, or submitting claims. Our Service Officers must be the de facto resource for these veterans when they return to civilian status. Finding a way to connect with these young veterans should be the number ‘1’ priority.

Let’s face it; the success of all veterans’ service organizations in getting our Government to attend to the needs of our veterans has been phenomenal. It is especially noteworthy that the media has spent so much time reporting these accomplishments that the general population, including many veterans, feels we no longer have a need for such organizations. Even the non-veteran public is beginning to feel our



commitment to veterans goes far beyond what many are willing to sacrifice. We veterans know the extraordinary sacrifices we made for our country – in the name of democracy; it is essential we keep up the pressure. We must continue to spread the word and ensure “no man – or woman – is left behind!”

We must clearly embrace the entire veterans’ community, whether or not they are eligible for membership in JWV. In other words, work for the betterment of all veterans, become and remain the focal point of such activities within your community and nationally; and work continuously and persistently on those issues that matter to all veterans. In that way we shall appeal to the veterans eligible for membership in JWV.

Our accomplishments have always addressed the needs of veterans of the past. Without attention to veterans of the future, there will always be a need for the vigorous work of service organizations with emphasis on the complete and proper treatment of the women and men who served in uniform during peace as well as during times of conflict. There will always be a need for advocacy on behalf of members of the armed forces of the United States of America and honorably discharged veterans. It will always be necessary to direct the nation’s attention and concern for veterans of our wars to the forefront in such a manner that VA budgets are determined years in advance, taking into account all the issues these VSO’s have worked so hard for over the years.

Let’s all commit to growing our organization. L’Dor V’Dor has to include the next generation of Jewish women and men who have stood the trials of military service over the past dozen or so years and are just now becoming VETERANS.

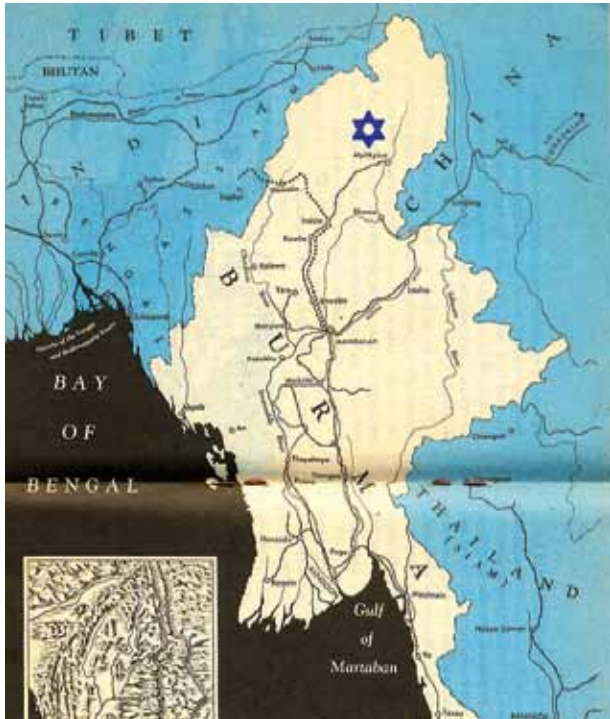
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE ON ACTIVE DUTY?

Membership in JWV is free for those men and women currently serving on active duty.

Call the JWV membership department at 202-265-6280 or send us an e-mail at: membership@jwv.org and give us their name and address.

BEING JEWISH IN MYITKYINA

By Sgt. David Macarov, WWII



I fought at Myitkyina. Well, fought, is not exactly correct because I never fired my rifle. On the other hand, I was fought at – if there is such a phrase. Shot at, bombed at, shelled at, and sniped at.

In 1943, after many experiences and travels, I found myself a long way from my hometown, Atlanta. I was on an airstrip named Dinjan, in Upper Assam, northeast India, where I was a USAF weather observer. I sent up balloons to map the speed, direction, and height of the winds; reported on the type of clouds above; noted the temperature; encoded all the results; and sent them out by wireless once an hour every hour. I had no chance to be a hero, nor was I

looking to be one, but after a few months I found Dinjan boring, boring, boring.

When our commanding officer called our entire unit together, we expected some excitement, such as moving to another base, or going back to the interior, or – no one even whispered this – going home. Instead, he announced that volunteers were needed to go into the Burmese jungle to serve as weather observers at a place called Myitkyina. This was an airstrip that our forces had pried out of Japanese hands in the middle of the Burmese jungle. It was completely surrounded by the enemy, and was important as a future supply point for the new Ledo road that was being built to replace the already-unusable Burma Road.

I felt boredom roll off my shoulders as though a cloud was being lifted, and I was the first (and only) soldier to raise a hand. The Captain was visibly surprised. Here was a small, thin, non-athletic, eye-glassed Jewish boy – who would have been more at home in a yeshiva – volunteering for jungle duty. I was not the image of a tall, rangy, dusty, devil-may-care jungle fighter he had in mind. He couldn't control his surprise, "Why? Mac, why? Why you?"

I gave him an honest answer: "Because I am bored to death, sir. Any change would be good, even if it's bad."

So a few days later I stepped down from a plane on the airstrip at Myitkyina. I was met by the weather observer who had preceded me. His name was Bruce, and he was a tall, rangy, dusty, devil-may-care jungle fighter. I asked Bruce why he had volunteered for jungle duty, and he

answered, "Because I can't take all that chicken-sh-t in normal army bases."

He showed me the hole in the ground covered with a tent in which we were to live and where the weather station was. He taught me to hang my helmet upside-down on a post outside, to catch the nightly rain; and to stop shaving to save water. Although he obviously was not Jewish, he was impressed by how I said the prayers before going to sleep, and how I put on tefillin in the morning. To my surprise he seemed interested, and did not say, "More chicken-sh-t."

While strolling around the airstrip, Bruce and I were standing next to a light spotter plane near the perimeter when I saw a hole suddenly appear in the plane's fabric. When another hole suddenly appeared next to the first, I called Bruce's attention to this interesting phenomenon. With lightening speed he pushed me to the ground and fell down. "Snipers," he explained to inexperienced me.

The Japanese soldiers surrounding the airstrip mortared the strip every night and the Chinese soldiers and Burmese civilians who were our support groups filled up the holes every morning.

Soon I met another Jewish airman. He was Lieutenant Bloom, from Denver, and he flew a spotter plane looking for Japanese forces around us. At one point General Stillwell, in charge of the entire Burma operation, ordered a bombing raid on the jungle between the Myitkyina airstrip and the nearby Irrawaddy River, to flush out the Japanese forces there. From his flights,

Continued on page 22

A VISIT TO NORMANDY, Nov. 9, 2011

By Dr. Julian Stuart Haber

My feelings waxed between sadness and grateful appreciation as I stood in the middle of the more than 9,000 crosses and stars of David that adorned the neatly cut grass at the American Cemetery in Normandy. Most listed the soldier's name, rank, unit and date of death. In one area the gravestones were marked with the words, "Here rests in honored glory, a comrade in arms, known but to God."

Earlier in the day I visited the beaches of the allied invasion. A 150-foot cliff that extruded into the English Channel called Pont du Hoc separated Utah and Omaha Beaches. Several large cannons in fortified bunkers were thought to be there, half aimed at Utah and half at Omaha. Two hundred and fifty five Rangers climbed the steep sheer rock faced bluff, some by ladder and others by mortar-propelled grappling hooks. Outnumbered three to one, they overcame stiff resistance only to find that the

guns had been moved inland. Their initial orders were to hold the land, destroy any cannons they found, and control a road leading to the beaches for 24 hours. Three days later, when relief columns reached them only 90 had survived

Utah Beach was taken with relatively low casualties and the soldiers and their equipment landed with unexpected ease and moved inland with less than anticipated resistance.

Omaha was different. For one thing, the ocean terrain sloped so that men and equipment were discharged in shoulder high water. Many who could not swim drowned. Twenty-eight DD special-flotation Sherman tanks disappeared under water with their crews trapped inside. Only two made it to shore safely.

I stood on the 100 foot ridge overlooking the beaches and wondered how anyone could have broken through the German lines. The in-

coming tide trapped the Americans between the ocean and hills above them. Nazi soldiers protected by a double concrete barrier and pillboxes had almost a turkey shoot down to the beach. Almost 4,000 souls lost their lives in the first 24 hours. A 20 mile an hour wind wisped through my hair and I could only stare and imagine the courage and suffering.

The British and Canadian Beaches: Gold, Juno and Sword went smoother as they did not contain the same topography that overlooked Omaha.

I stood in the middle of the graves at the cemetery, placed my JWV garrison cap on my head, came to attention and saluted. Tears came to my eyes, because without the sacrifice of these brave souls and others, Germany would have prevailed and certainly no Jew would have been around to appreciate the allied efforts.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Senior Vice Commanders Rudy Schwartz and Al Chanon of the Chwatsky-Farber Post 717 of Oceanside, NY shown with 250 cell phones they collected for "Cell Phones for Soldiers" who give servicemen 100 free minutes for each phone they receive.



September 11 Ceremony at Lubavicher Yeshiva Academy in Longmeadow, MA. Left to Right: Longmeadow Fire Chief Eric Madson, Muriel Orenstein, Past Post Commander Shirley Hersh, Longmeadow Police Chief Robert Siano, Post 26 Commander Stanley R. Light, Robert Goldman, Lia Goldman, and LYA Educational Director Dr. Mitch Kupperman.



Members of North Shore Post 220 and Ladies Auxiliary were the Host Organization in the Peabody Veterans Day Ceremonies for 2011. Left to Right: LCDR Eric Polonsky, U.S.Navy/JWV Member; Ray Silva, Commander Peabody Veterans Council; COL Retired Barry Lischinsky, Commander North Shore Post 220.



Commander of the Department of Nevada and Post Commanders of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA presented snack bags to USO Director, Doug Bradford. The presentation took place at the McCarran USO Center. These snack bags are given to active duty personnel going long distances after leaving the center. Left to Right: Stan Barbanell, Commander Post 711; Ed Kranson, Department of Nevada Commander; Herb Spiegel, Commander Post 64; Doug Bradford, Las Vegas USO Center Director; and George Barnett, Commander Post 65.



From left to right: Stan Shapiro, Jeanne Perkins, Bernie Tillis, and Howard Weiner of Post 125 NJ, manning their table during the Post's annual a fund raising poppy drive in November.

JWV Members Make a Difference at Walter Reed

By Bruce Bogner, Garr-Greenstein Post 39, New Jersey



Left to Right: Peter Karabashian, Margery Gross, Rabbi Aaron Krauss, Paul Stern, Herb Terris, David Guralnik, and our driver Earl Vaudren.

For the third consecutive year, members of the Garr-Greenstein Post 39 of the Jewish War Veterans traveled to Walter Reed Hospital to

distribute gifts to hospitalized veterans. This year the Post gave out 50 DVD players, purchased with the funds raised by selling poppies, and provided over 300 DVDs to stock the library at Walter Reed. Mr. James Cahill, librarian of the Margate library, on behalf of the library, donated over 250 of the DVDs. The Post members contributed the remainder from their personal collections.

The members of the Post that went to Walter Reed included Paul Stern, Post Commander; David Guralnik, who organized and arranged the trip; Margery Gross, Adjutant; Rabbi Aaron Krauss, Post Chaplain; Herb Terris, Junior Vice Commander; and Scout Master

Peter Karabashian. As the group went room to room meeting the wounded veterans and their families, they thanked the veteran for his/her service. It was not easy, emotionally, to meet the wounded service personnel since they consisted of amputees and burn victims, but it was rewarding to know that Post 39's program would bring comfort during their recovery.



DVDs and DVD players distributed to hospitalized veterans.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY

JWV Post 126 Hosts 8th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner Celebration

JWV Post 126 NJ, hosted approximately 270 soldiers scheduled for deployment overseas at the 8th Annual Feed the Troops Thanksgiving Day Dinner Celebration. The soldiers were treated to a surprise traditional Thanksgiving meal and entertainment.



Bernie Epworth; PDC, James Ewen, "8th & I" United States Marine Corps Veteran and founder of Jim's Jarhead Jerky; and John Covely; 89 year-old veteran of the US Army Air Corps; celebrated with troops at the 8th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner Celebration.

Servicemen and women lined up and were served by members of Post 126. Everyone enjoyed the food and the festive atmosphere.



National VAVS Representative and Certifier Jerry Berns was voted "Person of the Year" by his peers of the Combined Veterans Association of the State of Illinois (CVA). Jerry also became Commander of the CVA for the 2011-2012 term. There were about 200 people (Veterans and Friends) in attendance at the banquet held in Niles, Illinois honoring Jerry this past October.

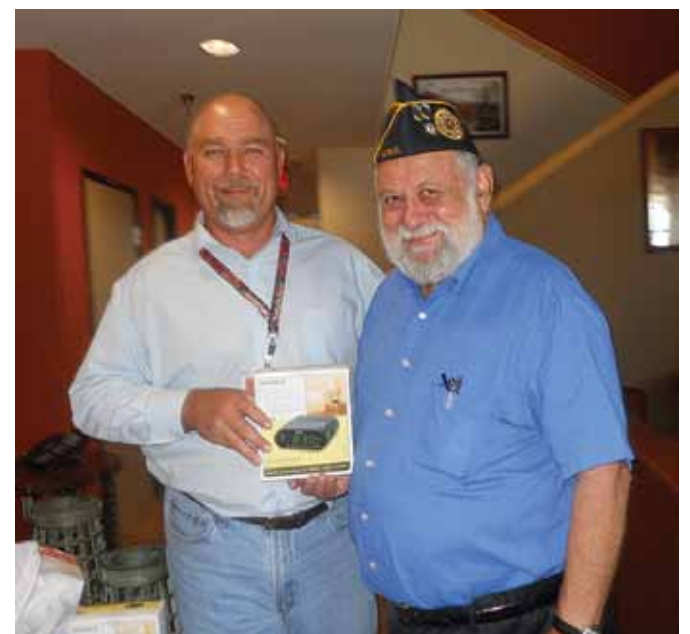


Pictured above are the Board of Directors of the Joseph Chimerine Post 819 of Boyton Beach FL who held a special memorial service at the home of Trustee Irwin Chimerine. The services included a salute to our flag, the playing of TAPS by Chaplain Eric Soroka, and special prayers by the Chaplain and Post Commander George Cohen at 11:00 AM on 11-11-11.



National Commander Allen Falk and his wife Leah attended a Veterans Day Breakfast at the White House.

Dr. Julian Haber, Post 755 TX, presents to the director of Liberty House one of thirty alarm clock/radios. Liberty House is a residential re-integration facility for homeless veterans who have suffered PTSD, other mental health problems, and addiction. Vets can stay up to two years with the goal of getting jobs and a residence at the end of that time. Earlier this fall Post 755 donated a large outside table and chairs for the same facility.



NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Alicia Cole-100 • Stephen Linsky-100 • Benjamin May-100 • Theodore Shultz-100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Aaron Avila-118 • Robert Padilla-118 • Jolie Grossman-185

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Cary M. Dash-26 • Benjamin Apkin-140 • Leland B. Goldberg- 211

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Max Fertel-135 • Calvin Lippitt-474 • Richard Luterman-474 • Norman Stern-474 • Robert Tam-474

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Kenneth Lee Kneitingner-21 • Alan H. Backman-64 • Barry Freedman-65 • William Hauser-65 • Arthur Kunis-65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Sol Bunin-125 • Bennie Boydman-536 • Sam Yablonsky-536 • Alvin Blumenfeld-609 • Woody Schlackman-609 • Frederick Sturim-651 • Robert Cohen-741 • Morton

Liner-741 • Herbert Schleifer-741 • Kalman William Stein-741

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Henry Shulman-41 • Jeffrey Elliot-425 • Jonathan Green-425 • Samuel Scherek-652 • Charles Krinitz-717 • Stanley R. Lieber-717 • Barnett Cohen-764 • Martin Hande-776

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Robert Lancz-44 • Harold Levine-44

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Lawrence Spiegel-575 • Robert Berezin-706 • Seymour Jacobs-706 • Herbert Katz-706 • Martha F. Maddox-706 • Arnold Turetzky-706 • William Forman-791 • Everett Leonard-791

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Michael S. Chambers-210 • Sidney Reiff-619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Jule Bovis-256 • Joe C. Chow-256 • Nolan Lasovich-256 • Allen Kenneth Pearlman-256 • Igor Cherepanov-753 • Stewart Million-Perez-753 • David Rubenstein-753 • Jonathan Levi Ben-Meir-755 • Jack Marsh-755

REUNIONS

▶ World War II Vets, the 494th Bombardment Group (H) is holding a reunion April 25-29, 2012 in Little Rock, Arkansas at the Holiday Inn; 501-375-2100. For more information, contact Marshall Keller at 248-626-3684.

▶ Navy NMCB 128 will hold its 45th reunion April 17-19, 2012 in Mobile, Alabama, at the Ashbury Hotel & Suites. Phone 1-800-752-0398. For more information, contact George McDanel, 618-259-4694 or email mcdanelgk@aol.com. This event is open to all MCB 128 Seabees.

▶ The USS Iwo Jima (LPH2/LHD7) Shipmates reunion is being held June 6-10, 2012 in McLean, VA at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Tysons Corner. For more information contact Robert G. McAnally, 757-723-0317 or email yujack@megalink.net. This event is open to all ships company and embarked Navy and Marine Corps personnel.

If you would like to receive this year's calendar: "**Patriots Yesterday, Patriots Today,**" please contact Ruby DesChamps, in the JWV Development Department. E-mail: rdeschamps@jwv.org P: 202-265-6280. EX. 401

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

PEOPLE & PLACES

▶ Nassau/Suffolk District Council Commander **Lew Wanderlich** and NY State Deputy Commander **David Zwern** presented the Brenner-Jaffe Memorial Award to Senior Vice Commander Buddy Epstein and Commander John Robbins of the **Chwatsky-Farber Post 717** NY for the most outstanding Newsletter/Bulletin.

▶ Retired Tech **Sgt Mervin Suskind** US Army and member of **Post 128** AZ received a medal from the French government for being part of the Normandy invasion of France in June 1944 during WWII.

▶ Lifetime member **Joseph Lubell, Post 239** PA, received the Human Relations Award from the City of Allentown, PA. He was commended by Congressman Charles Dent (R-PA) and Mayor Ed Pawlowski for his volunteer work in teaching the Holocaust at Cedar Crest College and Muhlenberg College.

▶ **Post 185** CA held a dedication ceremony for the JWV monument on the "Memorial Walkway" at Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego, CA. Attendees included Cantor Larry Kornit; Congresswoman Susan Davis. and post members **Howard Ruhm; Vicki Nenner**; former Air Force nurse; Rabbi **Ben**

Leinow; Allen Miliefsky, Lt/Col, USAF Ret., JWV Department of California Commander.

▶ A new flagpole and American flag were donated to the Talmud Torah day school in St. Paul, MN by **JWV Posts 162** and **354**. The dedication ceremony was held on Veterans Day and representatives from both Posts made presentations to the students.

▶ On Sunday, December 4th, 2011, Congregation Sons of Israel teamed with members of the Peabody Veterans Council and participated in a traditional Pearl Harbor Day Observance. This event was hosted by **Post 220** MA and the Ladies Auxiliary. **Bernie Horowitz** led the Service and explained to all in attendance the symbolic examples of our culture, while conducting a traditional Jewish Service. He also recognized the men and women who gave their lives on the morning of December 7th, 1941. Colonel **Barry Lischinsky** (Ret), Commander of Post 220 gave a brief history of the events surrounding that tragic morning on the island of Hawaii. The service concluded with the veterans and Congregation members reciting the Mourner's Kaddish in memory of the 2,400 military and civilians whose lives were lost on December 7th, 1941.

Social Security Benefit for Special Extra Earnings

Individuals who served in the military between Jan. 1, 1957 and Dec. 31, 2001 are eligible for a higher social security payment.

According to the Social Security Administration, special extra earnings from military service can be credited to an individual's social security record. These credits can increase the amount of social security benefit received up to \$1,200 per calendar year.

To learn more, visit: www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm.

Better Recruitment and Retention Using Social Media



By PDC Darin Selnick, NEC

The Jewish War Veterans, like all the other veteran service organizations, is struggling with how to attract new and younger members and retain existing members. The answer lies with being good at using social media. Increasingly younger and older active duty military and veterans are connecting, communicating, and supporting each other online. It is not enough to just have a web site or Facebook page or twitter account, as who will see it or find it?

Today, if you want to be successful and recruit new members you not only have to be on all of the social networking sites, you have to find a way for active duty military and veterans to find you. Then you have to be able to keep them engaged by developing an online presence of personal and group connections, products, and services. How do you do that and how do younger military and veterans find you?

My research shows there are approximately 26 major web sites that cater to the military and veteran community. Although many web sites offer some targeted engagement for our community, there is no one secure place that welcomes all members of the military community to interact socially and connect to benefits, programs, and local services. Today's younger veterans

want to find their peers and find opportunities such as jobs, benefits, and services. Social sites like Facebook and LinkedIn are clear leaders, but they do little for veterans and for outreach, since their focus is to remain broad and not focused on the military community.

How do you put this all together? The Department of California has decided to try a new path by teaming up with ArmedZilla. Through ArmedZilla.com, we look to improve our recruitment and retention by offering one stop shopping for all of our social media needs.

What is ArmedZilla.com? ArmedZilla is a social network connecting the military community and its supporters in one secure place. It is veteran-founded and designed to bring together veterans, service members, families, and supporters. It brings the military community together online and creates a support community to help ease the transition from the service, provide better access to veteran benefits, vso's, and other organizations that support them.

ArmedZilla.com does that by its tools. KeyPoints™, a visual military profile, lets members share their stories and life experiences. Channels allows groups, organizations, and businesses to create pages within specific categories to promote programs, products and services in the areas of employment; education;

health and wellness; housing; finance; life; veteran support; military; news; and entertainment.

At the Dept of California, we have created both a channel page and an offering page on ArmedZilla.com. We will be expanding our presence by creating additional offerings and group pages. Our current pages give us the ability to communicate, send out information, and share all of our information and events. New group pages will give us the ability to have a private group page for just our California JWV members and to have a hidden private page just for the Department staff and officers.

By being on ArmedZilla.com and by using all of the new internet social media tools in a coordinated effort, we hope to finally bring the Department of California up-to-date and to grow through new members and retention of existing members. As Steve Jobs said, "And no, we don't know where it will lead. We just know there's something much bigger than any of us here."



Military.com's Benefit Calculator is designed to connect you with military benefits information based on your service and status. The calculator can help you locate Federal benefits, State Benefits, National Guard State Benefits, and special military discounts.

**To learn more about this resource, visit:
<http://benefits.military.com/reg/Veterans-Benefits.do>**

VA's Veteran Canteen Service Helping Homeless Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs is reaching out to homeless Veterans by providing free meals and spending money to eligible homeless Veterans.

The free meals will be offered at Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) cafeterias to homeless Veterans attending their first VA medical appointment. New Veterans participating in the Housing and Urban Development and VA Supportive Housing program, who present signed leases will also receive a \$20 coupon to be used in VCS retail stores located at every VA medical center.

VCS also facilitates vendor donations to various homeless programs, including local VA stand downs and community organizations. VCS operates more than 170 retail stores and cafeterias at VA medical centers across the nation, providing competitively priced food and merchandise to VA patients, their families, caregivers, VA employees, volunteers and visitors.

Development Committee

By Chairman PNC Monte Mayer

At this point in time, most of you have received our 2012 calendar. We certainly trust that you have enjoyed reading the true to life stories of Jewish men and women in the armed forces of the USA. As we have mentioned before, the stories come directly from you and our friends who have served in the military. They are not from Facebook or YouTube, but from our people who have gone through their own archives and submitted them to us for publication.

We appreciate, and urge you all who are reading this, to look through your own memories and photographs, and share them with us for all who read our calendar. Please be sure the photos are clear and sharp and not newspaper pictures, as they do not reproduce well. You may send them to us by mail or e-mail. Everything submitted will be returned to you on your request.

In the event you have not received the calendar, but have received it in the past, it's possible you may have not sent in the much-needed donation. Feel free to call our office and ask for a copy of the calendar which we will be happy to mail to you, of course in return for your much-needed donation.

The premiums our Development Committee put together for our mailings are not a benefit of membership. Our function is the raising of money to maintain our organization into the future and your donations go to this end. We are all aware that these are difficult financial times, but the purpose of our organization cannot be overlooked and to maintain our mission, your help is absolutely required. We look forward to your continuous support, and we look forward to providing you with the memories of those who have served our nation.

Homeless/Stand Down Committee

By Chairman PDC Maxwell S. Colon

Women make up a growing number of homeless veterans and, as of this report, account for 3 percent to 4 percent of the national population of homeless veterans. Homelessness among female veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars has increased every year for the last six years according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and they are four times as likely as their civilian counterparts to be homeless.

Female veterans contend with the same stresses that can lead to homelessness among male veterans; brain injuries, drug and alcohol abuse, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Many women also contend with sexual trauma, domestic abuse, and pregnancy often while trying to raise children alone.

Women today make up 14.5 percent of active duty personnel and nearly 20 percent of the Reserve and National Guard. Researchers have found that at least half the of the homeless women veterans had troubled childhoods with a history of abuse, a traumatic experience or homelessness before they entered the military. Over 75 percent stated they'd been victimized or stigmatized while on active duty. More women have been appearing at the VA centers in recent times. Researchers have also shown that the female veterans are less likely to seek help.

In the next edition of *The Jewish Veteran*, I will further enlighten you on the homeless veteran.

Hospital Committee

By Chairman Jerry Blum

Dear Comrades,
This is the time of year when we have all, hopefully, been very involved with our hospitals. I hope that you and yours have had a healthy and happy holiday, but please remember, for our hospitalized veterans the need doesn't end when the holiday season ends.

Here in Connecticut we are involved with our three institutions. At West Haven Veterans Hospital we supply holiday chit books which the patients who are left at the hospital collect from many different groups and then spend in the canteen or hospital store. We have offered different gifts, but the men and women really like receiving the chits. Our Norwalk, CT post holds barbeques during nice weather, which is very much appreciated by the patients. At Newington CT Federal Veterans Hospital, which is an immediate service hospital rather than a long term hospital, the General Maurice Rose Post provides coffee once a month for people entering the facility. Rocky Hill Veterans Home is a State run facility where we are very involved. The Hartford-Laurel Post does a monthly bingo there as well as an annual barbeque. The Department of CT is also very involved in the yearly Stand Down during the summer. At Christmas/Chanukah time Post 45, along with the Department, provides a nice special gift to the Alzheimer's ward at the home. There are also other events in which we try to involve JWV during the year, but the bottom line is this: If there is anything that we as Jewish War Veterans can do for our veterans, Jewish and otherwise, we owe it to them to do it!

I am sure that many of us do similar or even more to help our hospitals... mazel tov and keep it up. We owe it to our veterans, and if we are going to grow our membership, we must be willing to help our needy veterans.

Holocaust Committee

By Chairman PDC Bernhard Storch

The purpose of the Holocaust Committee is to be up front on the issue of the Holocaust and the Liberation of Camps.

To this end, on October 19, 2011, I visited West Point and spoke to Dr. David Frey's "Modern East and Central Europe"

class. I spoke to an assembly of Academy faculty from variety of departments and distinguished visitors (including a retired general and a Medal of Honor winner). As a Polish-Jewish survivor and decorated war veteran, I told them about my experiences fighting across the Eastern Front as a volunteer in the Soviet-organized Polish Army and about liberating Sobibor, Majdanek, Chelmno, and Sachsenhausen between the years 1944 and April 1945.

I also discussed my pre-war life, wartime experiences, and post-war emigration to the US with both audiences. This was my second visit to Dr. Frey's class and the Department of History at West Point.

I first visited in 2009, and the story still reverberates among students and faculty.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

By Chairman PNC Lawrence Schulman

The volatile market has made investing an interesting time. We have two investment advisors that do our investing for the organization with our approval. We tend to lean towards being conservative with investments and have not tried to time the market.

A portion of our investments are in fixed income and a portion is invested in common stocks. This balance has served us well in the many years we have been investing.

This philosophy has helped us in not trying to reach for the highest yields or to try to time the market and not try to be active as a trader.

Since this is an institutional type of an account we have to tend towards the conservative side of investing.

If any of the membership wishes to donate appreciated securities to our organization, please contact our office for instructions on how to complete this very important gift.

National Stamp Program Update

By Joint-Chairmen Marvin Garfinkle and George Hoppen

To all JWV Posts – the Stamp Program is still one of the best there is! We're still accepting stamps, and we still want you to send them to us. Our stamps go to VA hospitals where they use them for therapy activities. The stamps give our injured soldiers something to focus on besides the television. We regularly receive letters from soldiers thanking us for providing this valuable service. It is our goal to continue to grow this program – but we need you to send us stamps! If you would like to make a donation, contact the national office at 202-265-6280 for more information.

VAVS Committee

By Chairman Jerry Berns

Whenever I receive kudos from a Chief of Voluntary Service about one of our persons who do an out-

standing job as a volunteer at a VA Medical Center, it makes me very happy and very proud of that person.

Who are these people you ask me? Monroe Mayer, Our Past National Commander is one of those people. Monte represents us at the White River Junction VA in Vermont. He was certified in December of 2001. Betty Acheson, Chief of Voluntary Services, calls him their ear in Washington and serves as Master of Ceremonies for yearly activities. The big thing is he's there for veterans that need help or a friend. Monte, we're proud of you!

At the other end of the country in the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in Tuscon, we can also be proud of our volunteers, Saul Stolz, Murray Baker, and Norman Bass (R), who passed away just recently. Chief of Voluntary Service Debra Brookshire has great praise for the 16 JWV volunteers who collectively put in over 1000 hours yearly.

We are proud of all our vol-

IRS Automatic Revocation of Tax Exemption

The IRS has recently revoked the tax exemptions of thousands of non-profits, including some JWV echelons, for failure to file a Form 990-N (or 990 or 990-EZ) for three consecutive years. Organizations that have lost their exemption can no longer accept tax-deductible contributions and may be required to pay income tax.

JWV National Headquarters has been contacting echelons that we have identified on the IRS revocation list, however new organizations are being added to this list as they lose their exemptions. All JWV echelons are encouraged to view the revocation list at www.irs.gov/eo to see if their tax exemption has been revoked.

Any echelon that has lost its tax exemption must immediately re-apply to the IRS. Instructions are available at www.jwv.org or by contacting Greg Byrne at 202-265-6280 ext. 413 or gbyrne@jwv.org.

Remember that you can avoid this situation by filing an annual Form 990-N (or 990 or 990-EZ), which is a requirement of both the IRS and JWV.

unteers and are grateful for their contributions.

As your National Rep and Certifier, I will be at the 66th Annual VAVS Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee Meeting in Charleston, SC this

coming March. I look forward to learning more ways to help our organization bring together volunteers in serving our veterans who really need our help now.

Generous Benefit Amounts

Guaranteed Acceptance* For JWV Members & Spouses age 65 and older.

Short Term Recovery Insurance (RecoveryCare) steps in with up to **\$1,450.00** in cash benefits for each Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility stay.

JWV RecoveryCare delivers up to an additional **\$8,000.00 a year** for home health care. (Up to \$4,000.00 a year for members age 80 and older.) So you can collect \$200.00 a day for:

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- ✓ Nurse visits
- ✓ Speech therapy
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d/b/a in CA Seabury & Smith Insurance Program Management

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sitting in the heart of Washington, DC, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History often pulls in tourists who have come to see what our Nation's capital offers. Among our visitors are veterans and civilians, Jews and non-Jews, young and old – all drawn to learning more about the story of Jewish Americans in our military.

For many prospective visitors, though, a trip to our museum may be months, or even years, away. That's why the NMAJMH is working to bring the museum to you! Recently, we've expanded our on-line presence by adding Facebook

(Facebook.com/NMAJMH) and Twitter (twitter.com/NMAJMH) to our arsenal.

On Facebook and Twitter, the NMAJMH discusses important moments in American Jewish military history, interesting new acquisitions, and fun museum happenings. These online tools will give you a window into the NMAJMH no matter where you are in the world. It is our hope that these resources will help you feel connected to us all year round.

This move into social media brings to mind our new exhibit Past, Present, and Future. As we work to raise the funds necessary

to complete this exhibit, we will continue to look to the future of online communication to help us reach our goals. It is our belief at the NMAJMH that the Internet will allow us to reach out and find new individuals who are interested in helping us preserve American Jewish military history for the next generation.

Connect with the NMAJMH Online!



www.nmajmh.org

www.facebook.com/NMAJMH

www.twitter.com/NMAJMH



**PNC Norman Rosenshein
President, NMAJMH**

FROM OUR ARCHIVES By Pamela Elbe

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

A New Way to View Items from Our Collection

After much preparation, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History is proud to announce that we have made a portion of our collection available online. It has long been a goal of the museum to make our collection more accessible to the public, especially since only a small percentage of artifacts can be on exhibition at a time. Publishing our database online is another means by which the NMAJMH can educate the public about Jewish service in the American military, in addition to our in-house exhibits and traveling displays.

For the past eight years, the museum staff has been cataloging and photographing every item in the collection, and while this project is still not fully complete, we are at the stage where we are finally able to share the fruits of our labor. The collection online features a searchable database of selected items from the NMAJMH's permanent collection.

Now donors and researchers will be able to search our collection and view objects and photographs online. The database can be browsed by item type, event, or person, or searched by keyword. The site currently contains roughly 2000 objects, photographs, and archival items. These highlights are designed to reflect the breadth, diversity, and tenor of the museum's sizeable collection.

We are continually expanding the selection

to include a larger representation of the museum's collection as well as selected recent acquisitions. Please visit the site often to browse the latest additions.

To view the collection online please visit the Collections and Research section of the NMAJMH's web site (www.nmajmh.org). You can also go directly to the database by visiting <http://nmajmh.pastperfect-online>.



P002.030.003 - I Corps Chaplain's Jeep - "Rough Riden' Rabbi." Donated by Milton Walzer.

P002.018.001 -- Boxing trophy made from an airplane dashboard clock mounted in wood. Reads "Fort Lauderdale Naval Invitational Boxing Tourn, Jack Golomb, 118 lb champion." Donated by Jack Golomb.



USAF cold weather flight jacket with Major rank insignia on shoulders, 469th Tactical Fighter Squadron patch (F-4E). Donated by Fred Zedeck.



Administratively Speaking By Mary Westley, Asst. Administrator

Stitches for Soldiers

During the months of November through February, The National Museum of American Jewish Military History, located at 1811 R Street NW, Washington, DC, is hosting a Stitching Bee every Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 2pm to help keep our soldiers warm this winter! We've asked crafters to bring their lunch and their projects for sweaters, gloves, hats (yes, even Yarmulkes) socks, and small blankets and sit and stitch. Participants can provide a name and address of an active duty friend or family member, and we will pick the name of a military service personnel each session to receive something warm from the Noontime Stitchers. For each package sent from the Noontime Stitchers, we will include a Museum and JWV membership brochure and a note of good cheer and thanks. If you are interested in participating, contact Mary Westley at 202-265-6280 x511.

Finding Peace from Pieces

Robert Fried didn't know much about his uncle, Maurice Wolfson, who was killed-in-action during WWII. Robert knew Maurice enlisted and

was "assigned" to be a gunner in the Air Corps. He knew his mother never felt at peace over his induction and ultimately what happened. Robert never saw anything that belonged to Milton; only his picture in a high school yearbook. The year book was subsequently destroyed, his mother's pain too much.

That was over 30 years ago. Recently, Robert felt the need to see what he could find out about his uncle. He used tools not available back then; he began with Ancestry.com and found Wolfson's enlistment record, date of death, and burial in Italy. What he found out next through Google astounded him. He learned of the fateful Mission 139 of the 485th Bomb Group, and he learned of Wayne B. Whiting, a gunner of the 485th Bomb Group who had written scores of letters home, some of which had become a book (*I'm Off to War, Mother, But I'll be Back*), where Wolfson was mentioned. Robert also learned about Enzo Vinci who with two other researchers had written about Mission 139. Finally, Robert found some pieces for peace. Robert Fried has presented a tribute to Maurice Wolfson to the National Museum of American

Jewish Military History.

"I never knew. I never knew the meaning and importance of the 485th Bomb Group. I never knew what kind of plane my uncle was on, the crew size or that this was one of many missions. I never knew where he was when he died or how he died or that others died with him. I never knew how those who lived in a small village in Italy were affected on that fateful day. I never knew...."

To read the full memorial tribute to Maurice Wolfson, visit our web site at www.nmajmh.org and click on Collections and Research, then Search the Collection and tap into Search the Collection Online.

For more information on our Yahrzeit program click on the Star of David graphic on our web site.



From Our Collection By Mike Rugel

Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH

German Propaganda "Dollar Bill" from the Albert Wenger Collection

Nazis were masters of propaganda. Much of it was designed to spread their anti-Jewish ideology. The ideas expressed in the propaganda materials were appalling and frightening when spread by the Third Reich. However, the significance and meaning of these materials change in new hands. When Sgt. Albert Wenger found these "American dollar bills" at Kaufberen Air Base, the German propaganda, now owned by a Jewish American G.I., became a symbol of Allied victory and of understanding what that victory meant to the world.

The Germans dropped these leaflets over France beginning in 1943. Presumably German planes left from Kaufberen for Paris and other French cities to flood the air with the anti-American anti-Jewish message in the form of a well-disguised U.S. dollar. The bill unfolds to reveal a message in French with that old stereotype about Jews and money. The text explains that the "American Minister of Finance is the Jew Morgenthau jr." and that the dollar bill is loaded with Jewish symbols. The mes-

sage finishes by blaming the Jew for war: "Will this dollar be enough to compensate us for the sorrows caused by the Jewish war? Money has no smell ... but the Jew has one!"

Wenger found this leaflet when the U.S. was occupying Germany. With the material in the hands of a Jewish American who had exhibited great character as Allied Forces won the war, the absurdity of the materials becomes clear, the anti-Semitism almost laughable. German propaganda attempted to reinforce stereotypes while Wenger and hundreds of thousands of his fellow Jewish Americans in the military were defying them.

The permanent collection at the NMAJMH is filled with German propaganda, much of it



Germans printed counterfeit "dollar bills" on one side, and on the other, anti-Semitic propaganda messages. These bills were then folded and dropped over French cities. From the Albert Wenger Collection.

anti-Semitic. This includes Der Stürmer newspapers with hideous depictions of Jews, portraits and glossy photo books glorifying Hitler and his racial philosophies, and films proclaiming Nazi triumphs. These souvenirs brought home by Jewish Americans in the military are no longer a symbol of Nazism, but of pride at proving the anti-Semitic canards false through military service.

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Morris Abramovitz-100 • Allan Gewirtz-100
• Ruth R. Landau-100 • Stanley Lapidow-100
• Jack Otis-100 • Marvin Snyder-100 • Irving
Pastrich-673

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Herbert Ratet- 60 • Paul Lichtman- 152 • David
M. Tamarin-595 • David A. Bronsen-603 •
Hyman D. Burstein-603 • Kurt Forst-603 •
Oscar Haimowitz-603 • Philip Leviton-603 •
Paul R. Miller-603 • Miriam Shor-603 • Norman
E. Agron-617 • Chuck Chazen-617 • Charles H.
Dengrove-680 • Joseph B. Mohr-750

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Saul Coleman-45 • Samuel Gold-45 • Abraham
Liverant-45 • Theodore Shaker-45 • David
H. Weinstein-45 • Leo H. Kestenbaum-141 •
Harry Mansfield-204

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Joseph Corben- 172 • Joseph Achtman-223
• Morris Morry Zalmanovich-223 • John
Levine-265 • Jack Gordon-266 • Julian
Kalotkin-266 • John Burson-300 • Erwin A.
Ladau-300 • Marshall J. Deutsch-409 • Simeon
Kobrinetz-440 • Nathaniel Rothstein-475 •
Edward Shatz-520 • Norman Eisenberg-613 •
Charlotte Chaney-682 • Irving Schwartz-730
• Irwin Koved-819 • Daniel Roseman-819 •
Ralph Yachnin- 819 • Bernard M. Zitomer-819

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Leonard Stern- 328 • Theodore Zimmerman-328

• Bernard D. Norinsky-398 • Jerome J. Elrod-800

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Sydney M. Cohen-167 • William J.
Denton-167 • Samuel Grosshandler-167 •
Bernard Swerbilow-380 • Jay Graber-567 •
Jerome T. Kurman-567 • Sherman Shapiro-567
• Charlene L. Cohen-692 • Walter Kaplan- 692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Arthur H. Petlock-26 • Sidney Epstein-74
• Israel W. Malkin-74 • Nathan Mass-74 •
Elihu Pearlman-74 • Donald Zeman-154 •
Milton Slate-211 • Edward Kaden-220 • Sam
Lodgen-302 • John Rimer-656 • Morris Levine-
735 • Robert Zeitsiff-735

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Irving Yura-474 • Maurice Bloch- 510 • Walter
Fischel-530

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BEING JEWISH IN MYITKYINA

Continued from page 13

Lieutenant Bloom knew that there were also American soldiers in the same area, and he knew that such a raid would result in American losses.

I saw him the next morning, and he laughingly said, "I won't be here much longer." He showed me two teletyped messages:

"Bomb the jungle". (Signed, General Stillwell).

"Order countermanded." (Signed, Lieutenant Bloom).

I never saw him again.

One day we were joined by a new group of GIs. They were shocked to find themselves in the infantry, overseas, in the Burmese jungle, and expected to fight. It seems they had all been members of the Army Specialist Training Program (ASTP) at various universities in the States, deferred from military service until they completed courses and became experts in areas the army felt it would need in the future – physics, mathematics, languages, etc. But at some point the army decided they needed riflemen on the ground now

more than academics in the future, and within a month the program was scrapped, the students were sent for two weeks basic training, and shipped overseas.

I met one dazed, open-mouthed soldier, whom I suspected was Jewish, and as I tried to befriend him he turned on me:

"Oy! Vas meir! What am I doing here? Where am I? Three weeks ago I was studying engineering at CCNY, and look at me now!"

He showed me his rifle, which he held awkwardly, and said, "What is this thing? I don't even know how to use it. They explained it to me in two minutes. I'll probably shoot myself instead of the enemy."

I tried to soothe him as best I could but it was of little use.

As his luck would have it, we were called out that night to man the perimeter in anticipation of a Japanese attack. We were stooped down behind a dirt rampart when I realized that he was next to me. He was hysterical.

"We are all going to get killed! The Japs are going to murder us! Where can we go? Where can we hide?"

His hysteria was beginning to affect others, so I actually put my arms around him and said, "It's going to be all right. We are much stronger than the Japs. The war will be over soon, and you'll be back at CCNY as a hero. Calm down – this is probably just an exercise."

The attack was evidently pushed back (though not by us) and the next morning the ASTP group was taken away for a bit more training. I never saw that soldier again, but I hope he became a famous engineer.

A few weeks later another weather observer flew in to take my place, and I returned to the boredom of Dinjan. Bruce refused to be replaced, still preferring the jungle to camp.

By the way, I am sure you have never heard of Mitkinya and can't pronounce it correctly, but if you ever get there, remember-there were Jews there before you.



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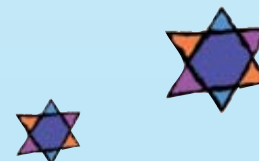
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