



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Fall • 2012

Capitol Hill Action Day and NEC

February 13-17, 2013



**JWV
Congressional
Reception
February 13**

**Capitol Hill Action Days
February 13-14**

**Briefing and Lunch
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of Foreign Affairs
February 14**

**NEC Meeting
February 15**

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Board of Directors
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First Us Army Cantor Spreads Faith on Deployment

By Spc. Alexander Neely
12th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – First Lt. David Frommer lit candles as he led a small group of service members and civilians in the chanting of the Torah. A chaplain of four years, Frommer has conducted several celebrations of the biblical holiday Sukkot (Feast of Booths, Feast of Tabernacles), but this was his first in the Middle East.

The U.S. Army's first-ever cantor (a cantor is the person who leads the congregation in prayer along with the rabbi), Frommer, a Third Army/ARCENT chaplain, explained that despite prior enlistment in the Israel Defense Forces and U.S. Army, his toughest battle may have been getting on a deployment.

"With the reduction of troop



levels in Afghanistan and the closure of combat operations in Iraq, units for the military were shrinking in the mission," said Frommer, a Manhattan, N.Y. native. "The

state of New York really got behind me so I owe them a big 'thank you' for even getting out here."

Frommer, who is a member of the New York National Guard's 27th Brigade Combat Team, said the push to serve overseas has led to "a once in a lifetime opportunity."

"As a national guardsmen, having the opportunity to work in a three-star general's command has been an eye-opening experience. We don't have three-star generals in the entire National Guard," said Frommer. Additionally, Chaplain Frommer felt that this has been a chance to administer to service members overseas, "getting to see how they live, what their challenges are and how a chaplain can best help them."

Continued on page 22

Military Suicides: A Major Unresolved Problem

By Jacob M. Romo, Ph.D., LTC, USA MSC (Ret), and Commander, Dept. of MA

Suicide has been a significant concern to the US military since rates began to rise sharply in 2004. Suicides among active-duty troops have soared in recent years, from less than 200 in 2005 to 309 in 2009, 295 in 2010, and 290 in 2011. A spike in investigated and confirmed suicides among active-duty service members has put 2012 on track to set a new record high.

Suicide is a worldwide problem, and in the US, over 30,000 people commit suicide each year. Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death for all ages in the US and the 2nd leading cause of death in 25-34 year olds in the country. It is the 3rd leading cause of death in 15-24

year olds in the US, occurring in every ethnic group, gender, occupation, geographic area, and socioeconomic status.

It is difficult to say exactly how many suicides occur annually. It is estimated that every 18 minutes a suicide occurs in the US and that firearms are used in 57 percent of suicides.

Often suicides are not reported. For a suicide to be declared, examiners must be able to say that the deceased meant to die. Notwithstanding this caveat, it is estimated that in the US approximately 734,000 suicide attempts take place every year and the military estimates that



there are 800 suicide attempts annually among active-duty military personnel. In the US, females at-

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Upcoming JWV Teleconferences

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

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

2013 Schedule

Wed. Jan. 9	NEC Plans and Preparations
Wed. Mar. 6	Responsibility of Post Officers
Wed. Apr. 10	Helping Our Museum
Wed. May 8	What is New with Information Technology?
Wed. June 19	Volunteering to Help Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families
Tues. July 2	Preparing for the National Convention
Wed. Aug. 28	Reviewing the National Convention
Wed. Oct. 23	Preparing for Veterans Week
Wed. Nov. 20	Growing JWV Membership



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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Congratulations

Dear Commander Ohren:

Congratulations on your election to the post of National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

The faith and confidence placed in your leadership is well deserved as you ensure the high standards of service, patriotism, and devotion to America's Veterans.

Please accept my best wishes as you carry on your duties and responsibilities. I look forward to working with you on our shared mission – to care for those who have served this great nation in uniform.

Best wishes for a successful and productive year.

Sincerely,

Eric K. Shinseki

Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Care Packages to Our Troops

Greetings,

I was searching the web for an e-mail address for the Rockland-Orange District Council of the JWV and stumbled upon your e-mail address on a flyer for an event by your JWV chapter. Amazingly active!

I recently joined my local chapter in Springfield MA, having just retired from 24 years with the National Guard and being deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan. I currently am back to Kabul serving as a DOD civilian advisor to the Afghan National Security Forces Health System. All told I've been here since 2009 and have been the Jewish Lay leader to our troops since that time. It is an honor and privilege and one that I am sure you are all very familiar with.

Just recently we received an incredibly generous supply of care packages from your chapter of the JWV. No question that it was packed and organized by a group of veterans...everything was spot on and just what is needed by the troops. Nothing will go to waste. Unfortunately, our numbers are not very high right now, so I will be re-gifting some of these items through MWR to our non-Jewish troops. I trust that that will meet with your approval. If we keep it just for the Jews...pretty soon we won't be able to fit into our IBA from all of the goodies!

All arrived before Yontif. Very well appreciated.

In the future I can provide you with specific names of individuals to whom you can send your packages for better distribution if that is your interest.

Otherwise; please only send one package

for us here in Kabul as we are the beneficiaries of the well wishes and support of many different organizations and it is always best to provide for those without and in more need than we have. In terms of our requirements, we have few. But, coming up on Chanukah and Pesach we will certainly appreciate a little something if that is in alignment with your objectives as an organization. Typically we will have a large Chanukah party and two great Seders.

Please contact me before these events if you are interested and I can let you know how large our active community is...it varies greatly with the large number of our troops deployment/re-deployment schedules.

Again, thank you very much for your tremendous generosity and kindness. The most important point for all of us is that you are thinking about us and not forgetting that we are here.

Best to you and your entire organization.
B'Shalom and with great respect

Robert J. Engell

MoDA Advisor

NTMA/CSTCA

Command Surgeon's Office

Thank You for a Job Well Done

Via this correspondence, I want to offer my sincere thank you for a 95-year-old Past National Commander and his 85-year-old sidekick putting on bingo for patients at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center...thank you very much for a job very well done. Your Post's kindness to this Vietnam Veteran chips away at the chip on my shoulder about serving (for 26 years in the infantry) a very ungrateful nation!

Sincerely yours,

Roger F. Kelmén

Thank You

To the XX Olympiad Memorial Award Committee,

I would like to thank you for awarding me the XX Olympiad Memorial Award and am honored to have received this scholarship. I truly appreciate this award, and I know the scholarship will be of good use as I continue my academic path and athletic career at the University of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Shannon McCarthy

Partnerships

*By PAP Iris Goldwasser
Development Chair, NMAJMH*

Webster and other dictionaries define a partner or partnership as a relationship between two or more people for either legal, romantic, business purposes, or for a common goal. Our common goal is our museum and our pride in Jewish service.

In the past, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History has always been supported by you, our members, and we are very grateful for your generosity (past, present and future). We know that when we request your help in fundraising, you always come through.

Now we ask you to partner with our museum and take your efforts one step further. Won't you please promote NMAJMH outside the JWV/JWVA community and help us spread the word of Jewish service to this country?

You have friends, family, business acquaintances, synagogues (men's club and sisterhood), and vendors with whom you connect. Encourage the people you know to make contributions to our museum – explain the purpose of NMAJMH, and stress its importance as a museum which preserves the legacy of Jewish servicemen and women throughout our history from colonial times to the present.

Remember, this is both a FUNDRAISER and public relations endeavor, the purpose of which is to reach individuals and/or businesses outside the JWV/JWVA family. All contributions will be acknowledged: donations of \$25.00 or more will receive a Museum Certificate of Appreciation to display; donations of \$500.00 or more will have a personally engraved leaf placed on our Tree of Honor and will be viewed by all who tour our museum; donations of \$1,000 or more will be honored with a personally inscribed 4"x 8" paver placed at the entrance of our museum building.

The success of your efforts on behalf of our museum will be your reward, and will enable us to further our objectives and goals as we continue to promote the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in the future. Your commitment is the key to our success, as we continue our mission to spread Jewish pride throughout our nation.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Sheldon Ohren

I have just returned from Washington, DC where I had the honor of representing JWV at the annual Veterans Day breakfast at the White House. I was joined at this event by the National Commanders of the other veterans' service organizations. After breakfast, we had the honor of meeting the President and Mrs. Obama as well as Vice-President and Mrs. Biden. We then boarded buses and traveled to Arlington National Cemetery and participated in the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. After the ceremony, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki and President Obama delivered their respective Veterans Day addresses.

Veterans have entered a new phase in terms of public interest in the military. The Iraq War ended a year ago. The Afghanistan War, if judged by the lack of mention on the campaign trail and the tiny percentage of people that see it as important when polled, may as well be.

Much has been said about the disconnect between the public and the small percent of

Americans working for its defense. I have made this issue the theme of my term in office. When the draft ended, people lost interest in the military. One might say, once the potential for actually serving no longer existed, there was no reason to take an interest in our military. We at JWV must, therefore, impress on those we meet at meetings and events that we should not forget our fighting men and women, their families, and all veterans.

Another issue of great concern is the impact of Hurricane Sandy. There are many people, including a number of our comrades, who have lost their homes and possessions. We have a National Disaster Relief Fund available. I urge anyone needing assistance to contact PNC Nathan Goldberg at 518-446-0104 or PNC Sam Greenberg at 570-288-2252. Funds are in short supply. For our members who are able, I strongly recommend making a contribution to this fund. Those wishing to make a contribution may do so either online or by mailing a check to

1811 R Street NW,
Washington, DC
20009.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the Posts for their generous donations in response to the JWV Veterans Week Fundraiser. These donations help support our programs and will allow us to continue our important work, which includes partnering with other national veterans organizations to secure and maintain the benefits we earned in-service, and providing National Service Officers who can guide veterans through the process of obtaining benefits from the VA.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and I wish you all a Happy Chanukah. As we reflect on the end of 2012, I trust that all of you will give thanks for the men and women, past and present, who serve in our nation's military.



NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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

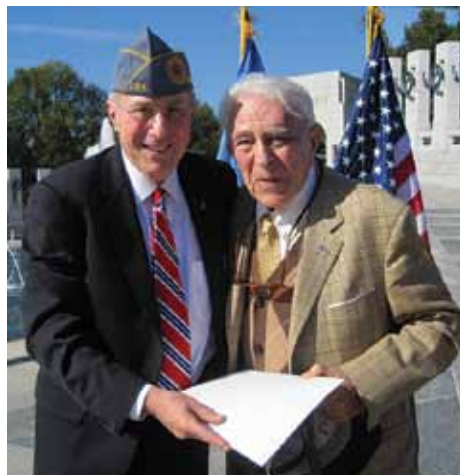


A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

On October 24, I had the honor and the privilege of representing the Jewish War Veterans at an extremely moving ceremony at the National World War II Memorial honoring Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman.

Ben Gilman, a former Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and a proud member of JWV, accepted the Greatest Generation Award on behalf of American WWII veterans.

During the Second World War, Staff Sergeant Ben Gilman served in the Army Air Corps with the 28th Bomb Squadron of the 19th Bomb Group. SSgt Gilman, who served from 1942 to 1945, was primarily stationed in the Mariana Islands and flew 35 combat missions over Japan. Gilman earned the Distinguished Flying Cross which is given for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight. Ben Gilman was also awarded the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, a medal given for single acts of merit or heroism with



NED Herb Rosenbleeth and Congressman Benjamin Gilman.

the Oak Leaf Clusters denoting additional such acts.

Congressman Gilman was elected to Congress in 1972 and served until 2003, at which time he was the Chairman of the

House Committee on International Relations. Throughout his 20 years in Congress, he was a member of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee and also was closely identified with the issue of Prisoners of War and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia.

Ben Gilman retired from the Congress in 2003, after New York's 20th Congressional district, which he had represented, was broken up in a redistricting that followed the 2000 census and reassignment. At the time of his retirement, Congressman Gilman was the oldest sitting representative in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman Gilman has been JWV's National Legislative Officer for many years. His knowledge of the Congress is unsurpassed and his legislative expertise is outstanding in every respect. Congress Gilman has introduced many of our National Commanders as they presented testimony to joint sessions of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.



The Day that Changed the World

December 7, 1941, “a date which will live in infamy,” changed the geopolitical map of the world. The attack came as a profound surprise and shock, and led to America’s entry into World War II. America’s war started with a bombing, and it ended with the nuclear bombings of two Japanese cities.

The aftermath of this war is often referred to as the start of a new era. The post-World War II period is defined by a mixture of international cooperation, including establishing the United Nations, and the rebuilding of Europe and Japan through the Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine. Not to mention the beginning of the Cold War and the race to the moon. During this time, American allies became enemies with the descent of the Iron Curtain, and former enemies of America, like Japan, Italy, and West Germany, became friends. NATO was formed to combat the new Eastern Bloc and resulted in a military buildup, which eventually led to the nuclear arms race.

Each country was affected differently by the war:

England’s economy was exhausted, and more than a quarter of its natural resources were used during the war.

The Soviet Union suffered great losses in the fight against the Germans. The population decreased by 40 million, of these 8.7 million died by combat. There were 19 million non-combat deaths during the war. After the end of the conflict, the Soviets added several new satellite states: Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Albania, and East Germany.

Germany lost Alsace-Lorraine and the Sunderland. The country paid reparations to England, France, and the Soviet Union. Germany was forced to reduce its standard of living to levels seen during its Great Depression. Most of its major cities were in ruins, and its industrial might was either severely damaged or destroyed.

Italy lost all of its colonial empire, and the country paid reparations to Greece, the Soviet Union, Ethiopia, Albania, and Yugoslavia.

Japan returned Manchuria and Korea. Okinawa became a main US staging point. The US took large portions of the country’s land for its military bases. At the end of the war, Japan had to de-industrialize; although, to a lesser degree than its ally Germany. The Allies collected reparation from Japan, and General MacArthur became the country’s Military Governor.

French Indochina was abandoned by the French and was partitioned into Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

The United States developed into a world power. It lost many a good soldier, sailor, Marine, coast guardsman, merchant marine, and airman fighting a two ocean war. The United States, under a program called Operation Paperclip, imported German scientists and technicians to the US to develop our nuclear and long-range rocket technology.

And lastly, the most heinous event of the war was the loss of 6 million Jews during the Holocaust. In addition, if you account for the murder of the handicapped, Gypsies, homosexuals, communists, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Polish and Soviet civilians, and political opponents,

the actual number of those lost in the Holocaust is between 11 and 17 million people. The fact is, we Jews are here today, and this nothing and his Party are not.

I would like to end with the following poem written by a young student, Lillian Rovner:

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR

It was a beautiful Sunday morning
When the planes flew overhead
And suddenly the Hawaiian paradise
Became a place of dread

The bombs came raining down
On ships anchored at the peaceful shore
And soon innocent lives, serenity
And quiet were no more

The enemy was cruel
And caught us unaware
It became “a day to live in infamy”
For the tragedy that struck there

We rose up as one people
To avenge this act of war
We fought on two fronts
Until the enemy was no more

On every December seventh
We salute Pearl Harbor Day
And pledge, we will remember
Every life lost “in harm’s way”

Army Launches “Hire a Veteran” Campaign to Debunk Myths

By Emily Anderson,
Warrior Transition Command

With more than 80,000 disabled veterans expected to enter the workforce over the next five years, the US Army Warrior Transition Command (WTC) launched a national education campaign to address employers’ concerns that currently impede the hiring of wounded, injured, and ill veterans. During a press conference at the National Press Club on November 19, 2012, WTC launched “Hire a Veteran” to debunk the myths around Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, reasonable accommodations, and transferability of military skills.

“Our goal for this campaign is for employers to gain clarity on how well military skills

translate to civilian employment; post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)/traumatic brain injury (TBI), and reasonable accommodations—which will result in the employment of more wounded warriors,” said Brig. Gen. David J. Bishop, Assistant Surgeon General for Warrior Care and Commander, U.S. Army Warrior Transition Command. “We hope to illuminate the fact that PTSD and TBI are treatable conditions which are not unique to the military and that most individuals affected go on to have productive, successful lives.”

The campaign includes a 10 minute educational video providing solutions to the three obstacles, a two-minute “trailer” video, radio spot, and online employer toolkit. View the materials

at www.WTC.army.mil or engage online with #hireaveteran.

The campaign was built on research conducted by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the world’s largest association devoted to human resource management.

“I’ll admit that our members are telling us there are challenges when it comes to recruiting, hiring and retaining veterans,” said Jeff Pon, Ph.D., SHRM Chief Human Resources and Strategy Officer. “The good news is this: employers want to hire veterans, and they are actively interested in hiring veterans.”

Staff Sgt. (ret.) Paul “Rob” Roberts shared how the support he received from the Army

Continued on page 23

Military Coalition Honors Legislative Champions

The Military Coalition (TMC), a group of 34 military associations and veterans' organizations, including JWV, held its annual award ceremony honoring legislative champions on October 3, 2012.



Left to right: Master Chief Joseph L. Barnes, National Executive Director of the Fleet Reserve Association and TMC Co-Chair; Bob Simmons, House Armed Services Committee Chief of Staff; NED Herb Rosenbleeth; Col Steven P. Strobridge, Military Officers Association of America and TMC Co-Chair.

TMC represents approximately 5.5 million current and former members of America's uniformed services. PNC Bob Zweiman is a longtime member of TMC's Board of Directors. National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth, who was reelected to an additional two years as TMC President in November, presided over the ceremony.

National Commander Sheldon Ohren participated in this grand event, which honored

two legislators and two congressional staffers for their roles aiding the military and veteran communities.

"I'm extremely proud of JWV's association with TMC," said Ohren. "When we join our voice with these 33 other veterans' and military organizations, we become a greater force for advocating on behalf of our members and all veterans across the country."

The award recipients included Senate Veteran Affairs Committee Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and House Armed Services Committee Chairman Howard "Buck" McKeon (D-CA) for their outstanding work protecting and promoting the interests of service members, veterans, survivors and their families.

TMC also recognized Carrie Woffard of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee staff for her work creating legisla-



VADM Norbert Ryan, MOAA President, greets National Commander Sheldon Ohren.



National Commander Sheldon Ohren and Michael Blum, Executive Director of the Marine Corps League and member of JWV Post 167 MD.

tion to protect GI Bill benefits and Jeanette James of the House Armed Services Committee Staff for her efforts on health care programs.

"The legislators are the champions," said Rosenbleeth, "and their staffs expend huge amounts of effort in crafting legislation, working with military associations to fill in the details, and coordinating our mutual efforts to get other legislators and the public on board. Carrie Woffard and Jeanette James have shown extraordinary dedication and professionalism in ensuring the government and beneficiaries alike get the biggest possible return on every federal dollar. Their innovative work will save billions of dollars for the government and for beneficiaries in terms of GI Bill and health benefits alone."

The Department of California Partners with VSOs to Achieve Legislative Victories

In California, JWV is a founding member of the California State Commander Veterans Council (CSCVC). Through CSCVC, the State Commanders of CA veteran service organizations meet quarterly to put forth a united front and advance legislative priorities.

This year, CSCVC was able to get over 70 pieces of legislation introduced in the state legislature. California Governor Jerry Brown ended up enacting 54 pieces including:

- Granting California veterans the priority for college enrollment
- Allowing California veterans to transfer military experience into college credit
- Giving California veterans the right to be adjudicated in Veterans Courts

These successes show that sometimes JWV's voice is stronger when it works with other VSOs.



California State Commander Veterans Council members and guests at the October 23, 2012 meeting. Seated (left to right): Sherman Tucker, Paralyzed Veterans of America; a CSCVC member; Greg Lee, Dept of CA Commander, Jewish War Veterans. Standing (left to right): Doc, Vietnam Veterans of America; Kenneth Kramlich, American Legion; Joe Wright, Association of County Veteran Service Officers; Bev Houghton, Reserve Officers Association; Gen. Peter Gravitt, California Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Jerry Guevara, AmVets; Jim Rowoldt, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Pete Connetty, Lobbyist.

Sometimes Our Kids Make a Point We Didn't Think of First

By Michal Kohane

"You don't mind me applying to West Point Military Academy, Mom, do you?"

"West Point?" I thought, surprised.

But it was fall. Graduation seemed like light years away. "Go ahead," I said, trying to sound casual. "Let me know if you need anything," I added on automatic pilot, not having a clue what might be needed.

My son Ohr thanked me politely and told me he wanted to do this by himself.

Some 1,000 candidates are accepted out of more than 15,000 applicants nationally, I told myself, perhaps as consolation. I backed off and watched Ohr fill out long applications, write essays, get recommendations and train regularly. He watched me trying to deal with the idea.

Hesitating, I asked if he was sure about all this.

"Everyone should serve their country," he said. "You did that, Mom, didn't you?"

Growing up in Israel, like everybody else around me, I was drafted into the Israel Defense Forces when I was 18 and served in an elite intelligence unit. My mom was a medic in the same army 30 years earlier during the War of Independence. Thirty years before that, her father was an officer in Europe during World War I. Others in our family have done the same, and yet ... this was mandatory in countries far away. And none of them were my kid.

Ohr plodded along. He got the highly sought-after commendation letter from Congresswoman Doris Matsui, and sometime later, the letter of appointment accepting him into West Point arrived. The title read, "On behalf of the President of the United States..." It started to feel more real: College admittance notices don't quite look like this. Neither did my own flimsy handwritten IDF draft notice, sent on a 3x5 card.

Our family overseas told us they knew all about West Point: "'Top Gun,' isn't it? Anyway, if he is already thinking army, why not come to Israel?" They reminded me there are great programs for lone soldiers, and I should know: The

headquarters for Garin Tzabar, which supports lone soldiers during their aliyah process and IDF army service, is right next to my office at the S.F.-based Jewish Community Federation's Israel Center. And what if one day Israel and the U.S. aren't on the same side? Did I think about that?

Some of my friends told me to be proud. Others rolled their eyes in dismay. I shrugged, with a sort of half smile. We had things to do, like book our tickets for R Day — that's Army shorthand for Reception Day. And go to Travis Air Force Base to get some gear, like "low quarters" (Army for "shiny Shabbos shoes") and heavy boots he should break in before basic training. He tried them on in the store — all this for the cute little toes I tickled when my baby nursed, not that long ago.

Images of my own military service came back to me as we sat there. Smells of sweaty uniform, shoes, oily machinery, food in the mess hall. Relief at seeing the sunrise after a long night duty. Missing one vacation after another over a heated situation at the border. Coding phone calls, dealing with a harsh commander, losing a dear friend, hitchhiking home.

I must admit, throughout the process I had moments of "What's gotten into him?" and "Where on earth did he get that idea from?"

But then came awards night at his high school. A colonel from West Point attended especially to congratulate Ohr as the crowd gave him a standing ovation. His classmates cheered, moms wiped away tears. One of the parents tapped my shoulder. "Great accomplishment," he said, shaking my hand. "He tells me you're his inspiration."

I swallowed hard, caught off guard: all these things we teach our kids when we have no idea we're even getting through to them, while in return, they stretch who we are beyond what we ever imagined when they set out on their own journey!

In early July, we headed to the academy in upstate New York. While Ohr was called to start his "processing including receiving the first free



haircut," I walked around the grounds and remembered another, earlier visit, when I dragged my mom to see this grand institution during our trip to the U.S. just before my own service.

I found the Jewish chapel, where the Torah in a glass display was open to Ohr's bar mitzvah portion. I wiped salty fluids off my eyes and face. The weather started feeling just like a bad summer day in Tel Aviv. I realized, maybe this isn't as far away as I initially thought.

This essay originally appeared in j., the Jewish week of Northern California (www.jweekly.com).

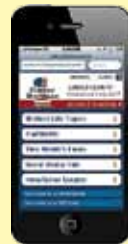
Michal Kohane is director of the Israel Center at the S.F.-based Jewish Community Federation, and a Torah columnist for j. This piece originally aired on KQED Radio's "Perspectives."

Do You Know A High Achieving High School Senior?

Applications for the JWV National Youth Achievement Program are now available. Applicants must be a direct descendant of a member in good standing, accepted by an accredited college or university, in the upper 25 percent of their class, and active in extra curricular activities at school, as well as the Jewish community.

- The deadline to apply is May 1, 2013.

To print an application or learn more about the National Youth Achievement Program, visit http://www.jwv.org/programs/service/awards/national_youth_achievement_program.



Military OneSource, a service from the Department of Defense providing comprehensive information on deployment, reunion, relationships, grief, spouse employment and education, and more, is now available on your mobile phone.

Military OneSource features great resources like an installation locator to find local programs and services; highlights of the latest news and information affecting the military community; and a social media hub with access to Military OneSource's blogs and podcasts.

To get started, visit m.militaryonesource.mil on your mobile phone.

From Devastation to Renewal: A City, a Synagogue, and a JWV Post

By Judge Sol Gothard

Among the many stories of progress and renewal in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 has been that of Congregation Beth Israel, culminating in the August 26, 2012 dedication of a new synagogue building. Another story is the renewal of the Jules Lazard Post 580, New Orleans, Jewish War Veterans of America, and its particular association with Beth Israel.

A few months after the storm, I wrote an article for the JWV national publication, in which I said “Our JWV Post has also suffered drastically, but my city, my synagogue and my JWV Post will survive. We will do more than survive, we will persevere.”

In May 2009, a new slate of officers was elected for the Post, with me as Commander. At that time, the Post had no patrons and was down to 13 paid members on its roster. TALO Department Commander Mike London came to New Orleans several times and was immensely helpful in many ways. The commander of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma told



Post 580 TALO has received a number of awards in recognition of its success recruiting and retaining members.

me that veterans were really out there, all they needed was to be approached, advice for which the Post is deeply indebted to him. “A few good men” vigorously went to work, recruiting new members and patrons.

As luck would have it, just three months after the election of the new officers, the annual JWV convention was held in New Orleans on August 17, 2009. Our Post sponsored a program at the National World War II Museum and I gave a talk with the same title as this article. I was thinking of calling it “from devastation to resurrection,” but this wasn’t the right crowd! At that time, we had recruited 38 new members, and went on to become the fastest growing Post in the country for 2009 and 2010. We now have a dynamic Post, including many younger members, and about 50 patrons, for a total of about 165 members. How we did it would require a separate article.

In 2009, Beth Israel began the long process of building a new Shul. There were five major



Sol Gothard and Ben Katz with guest speaker at a 1992 program.

events as the new Beth Israel Synagogue was dedicated this past August. The morning program on August 26 began with a JWV Color Guard, as requested by the congregation’s president, my son, Eddie Gothard, who is also a patron in the Post. It was only “natural” for there to be a JWV Color Guard at the dedication of this particular synagogue. I wonder how often, if ever, that this has happened elsewhere at the dedication of a new synagogue.

Jules Lazard Post 580 is currently stronger, larger and more relevant to the community than ever before. Beth Israel is also more viable and dynamic than it has been for many years. Beth Israel and Post 580 have had a unique relationship for the past 25 years or so, since Ben Katz became Commander. On this page is a picture of Ben and myself, with a Navy Captain that was the speaker. This program was a Shabbat program at Beth Israel in 1992. Ben is a ded-

icated member of Beth Israel, worshipping there every Shabbat and all holidays, and usually was honored with the Kohane Aliyah. As a result, there were many JWV Shabbat services at Beth Israel; more than at any other congregation. When I became Commander, I continued the tradition, especially since my wife is a 5th generation member and Beth Israel has been my Shul since we married there 55 years ago.

Our Post does not have meetings in the traditional sense; we have programs or “events,” as I call them, at the three Reform Temples, the Conservative congregation, Beth Israel and other venues — especially at the World War II Museum, where we have been six times. However, we have had more events at Beth Israel than elsewhere.

For instance, when the Department of TALO had their winter meeting in New Orleans in 2010, Beth Israel hosted their meetings and had Shabbat Services in honor of JWV.

Since our Post’s American and Israeli flags were destroyed in the 2005 flood, the replacement flags have been on permanent loan to Beth Israel. Our Quartermaster and Vice Commander are also Beth Israel members. The new synagogue has been our meeting place for executive meetings, preparing reports, and other business. Therefore, the special relationship between the congregation and the Post continues to grow.

This great city, synagogue and JWV Post are all doing fine, and the best is yet to come!

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MyMilitaryLife App for Smart Phones

Kids, careers, deployments, and moves are often a big part of military life. It can be a challenge managing everything to keep a military family moving in the right direction. **MyMilitaryLife** is a new app created by the National Military Family Association to help military spouses navigate the many adventures of military life. Download the app, fill out a brief questionnaire, and receive personalized to-do lists to get to your goal and resources to use along the way.

With **MyMilitaryLife** you’ll be guided through:

- Going back to school
- Managing a deployment
- Transitioning out of the military

By the end of this year, eight more life paths of the military will be added. These include:

- The basics of military life
- Managing a PCS move
- Employment
- Having children, both for the expecting and the adopting family
- Raising your children
- Reintegrating with your service member
- Resources and guidance for a caregiver

- Benefits and resources for a survivor

App features include:

- Customized to-do lists
- Tailored suggestions for your Service branch, location, and needs
- Due date reminders
- Notices of new programs
- Emergency phone numbers for military families

Whatever life path you may travel, **MyMilitaryLife** helps you make this the easiest journey yet. Available for download on the iPhone and Android phones through Google Play and iTunes. It’s free to download and use. Visit the online portal, www.mymilitarylife.org, to view the app through your computer.

Post 717 NY Provides More Than 300,000 Minutes of Free Talk Time to Troops

Post 717 NY and Cell Phones for Soldiers are proud to announce that Post 717 members' collection efforts have resulted in more than 300,000 minutes of free talk time for troops overseas. Since 2010, Post members have collected gently-used cellular phones on behalf of Cell Phones for Soldiers. Although the military landscape is ever changing, as many as 290,000 troops are serving in the US military around the world.

These efforts have been led by long-time post member Alvin Chanon. Chanon serves as Vice-Commander and works with seven local high schools and eight public libraries to collect phones throughout the year. The 83-year-old veteran divides his time between Coconut Creek, FL and Oceanside, NY, and has been instrumental in starting cell phone drives in both states.

"The JWV not only supports older veterans but also our troops that are currently in harm's way doing noble work and risking their lives defending this nation. It is an honor and privilege to be part of this program," said Chanon.

Cell Phones for Soldiers was founded by teenagers Robbie and Brittany Bergquist at the ages of 12 and 13. The charity has since pro-



Post 717 NY members with 254 collected phones. Left to right: Rudy Schwartz, Alvin Chanon, Jan Gurau, and Jack Gurau.

vided more than 168 million minutes of free talk time to service men and women stationed around the world. Funds raised from the recycling of cellular phones are used to purchase prepaid international calling cards. On average, Cell Phones for Soldiers distributes 12,000 calling cards each week to bases around the world, care package programs, deployment ceremonies, and VA hospitals.

"Each year we have been humbled by the

amount of people and organizations like the Jewish War Veterans Post 717 and Alvin Chanon that take the initiative to support our troops," said co-founder Brittany Bergquist. "It is inspiring to see veterans continuing to give back to their fellow military members."

Donated phones are sent to Michigan-based ReCellular for recycling. For every donated phone valued at \$5, Cell Phones for Soldiers is able to provide two and a half hours of free talk time to deployed troops.

Approximately half of the phones ReCellular processes are reconditioned and reused. Phones and components that cannot be refurbished are dismantled and responsibly recycled to reclaim materials, including:

- Gold, silver, and platinum from circuit boards
- Copper wiring from phone chargers
- Nickel, iron, cadmium, and lead from battery packs
- Plastic from phone cases and accessories

For more information about Cell Phones for Soldiers, and to find out how your Post can get involved, visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com.

Doing Your Homework

By PDC Michael Corbett

Targeting population segments for the purpose of fundraising can be easier than one may think; but certainly, the first step is gathering information and resources. Whether you're a committee of one or one hundred, starting on the road to a successful fundraising effort requires doing your homework.

One of the first steps in effective fundraising is identifying the target market – that segment of the population you intend to solicit to support your cause. After all, chewing off more than you can handle will doom your program before you start. The target market is the finite group toward which you will direct your attention rather than the entire population of your Post's service area.

Breaking-down the population into manageable portions will allow your Post to focus its resources on the best group, which will hopefully result in the greatest return. A smaller group within your service area, for example, may be a particular synagogue where there might be people who are members of both JWV and the synagogue. Having a common interest will pro-

vide the opening for communications with this group.

The next step is to determine the strategy that will best communicate your objective – to gain the membership and financial support of those within the target group. Your Post's fundraising committee should conduct a "shotgun" session wherein everyone states exactly what they may know about the target, with one member recording all the information. At the end of this session, which should include the listing of the names of anyone within the target group who may be known to your committee, the list of these inputs will be shared among all the committee members.

Once the list of items is complete, it is suggested that it be printed-up and shared with all members of the committee. The committee should then go home and ruminate over it for a day before returning to make a new list of the latest information everyone has generated out of the original listing. This kind of homework is vitally necessary to ensure your fundraising campaign is successful with the least expenditure of the Post's existing resources. Out of these two

lists will come the definitive strategy: the preparation for the solicitation, the solicitation, the response, the follow-up, and the closure of your solicitation campaign.

For now, it is suggested that time be attributed to defining the smallest possible market while considering what distinguishes this group from others. Then, prepare or obtain a mailing list; or, alternatively, perform a personalized "group" solicitation by making a presentation in front of the entire group (the synagogue). Decisions will ultimately be made about such details as what to include in a solicitation letter; whether to provide a self-addressed stamped envelope; responding to inquiries from the public; and other concerns of both the organization and your market. In following issues we will cover these and many other issues of fundraising. Remember, doing the homework will lead directly to success.

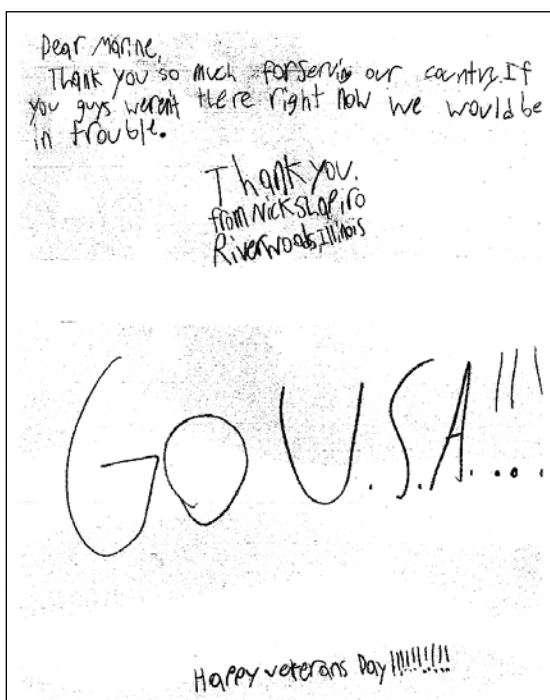


JWV CARE Packages for US Troops in the Field

By Michael Zimmerman
Senior Vice-Commander, JWV Post 29 IL

Every few months for the past several years, Post 29 IL, drawing members from Chicago's North Shore, has worked with students and parents at local synagogues and public schools to prepare CARE packages for US troops serving in combat zones. The packages provide items useful for soldiers at the front, but the packages and their preparation have additional good effects. This service program draws the community into a bonded connection with its defenders.

The packages include such items as white socks, wipe-all, playing cards, beef jerky,

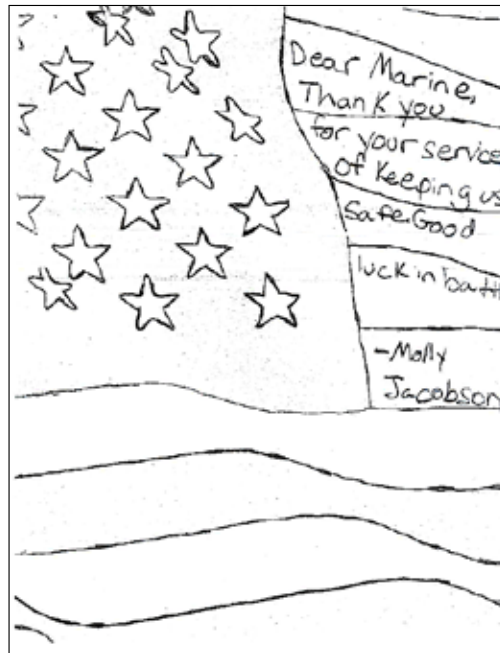


canned food, Q-tips, lens cleaner, granola bars, books of crossword puzzles, and so on. These are all practical things that often are unavailable to the men and women. The military units chosen to receive the packages are in Afghanistan, and are serving in field positions, not base camps.

Post 29 IL, which meets at a synagogue – Congregation Solel in Highland Park, Illinois – gathers donations from members and local businesses to purchase the items and packaging supplies, and pays the shipping costs. Kids at local elementary school and synagogue Sunday school classes provide the people-power to pack up the cartons.

The letters that go into the cartons are written spontaneously at the packing sessions and often are particularly moving. They are written by the students, some quite young, and some by teachers and parents. I recently attended a packing session at Congregation B'nai Torah in Highland Park, Illinois.

William "Joe" Wallace, commander of Post 29 IL and a member of the synagogue, orga-

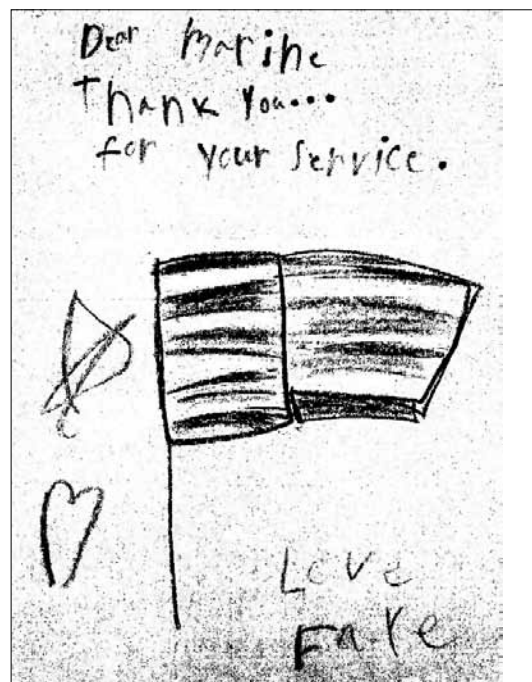


nized the goods and packaging materials on classroom tables that Sunday morning. He introduced the program to a group of students and parents.

Joe arranged the event and proceedings. He works full-time as a third grade school teacher in a nearby public school. Back in the 1970s, he served two tours of duty in the US Marines including a tour in Southeast Asia.

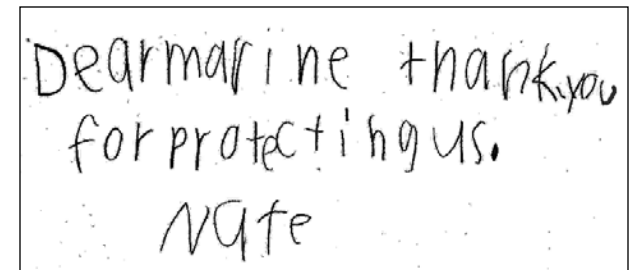
On the Sunday I assisted in autumn 2012, Joe called the assembled to order and introduced us. He explained the program's purpose – to send useful items to US troops on the firing line abroad. He then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Joe and I formally faced and saluted the flag in the room, as did an attending rabbi who served in the US Army.

We had a POW-MIA cloth draped over a chair at the front of the class and Joe explained its meaning to the audience: that Americans endeavor to bring home missing soldiers from past military campaigns for proper burial. The



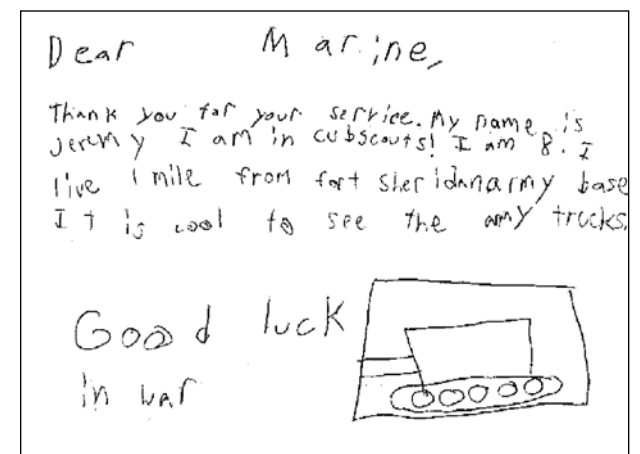
ritual of the marked empty chair reminds us of those who paid the price as prisoners-of-war and missing-in-action, and whose bodies are not yet home.

Joe then explained how we collect the items



for the CARE packages – receiving them as donations or buying them, and now would be assembling the cartons, packing, and mailing them.

After Joe's moving words, we got to work. The students taped up the bottoms of shipping cartons, picked items from stacks and placed them in the cartons. Paper, pens, and markers were provided so that the participants (students and some attending parents and teachers) could write and enclose messages to the servicemen who would receive the packages. In this case



the packages were going to a US Marine infantry company deployed in Afghanistan. Each student prepared a letter, as did many of the parents in the room.

All of the cartons were being sent to enlisted men, not officers. Joe had overseas mailing addresses of several Marines who grew up in northeast Illinois, our area. He had been in touch with them by email, and arranged for the goods to be distributed upon arrival.

I glanced at several letters as we collected them, and realized with appreciation that they were quite moving in their poignancy and emotion. And so, I asked a rabbi of the synagogue who was in the room if I might photocopy a few of the letters to share with all of you across the country. Rabbi Michael Sommer, who himself had enlisted in the military, smiled approvingly, and immediately agreed.



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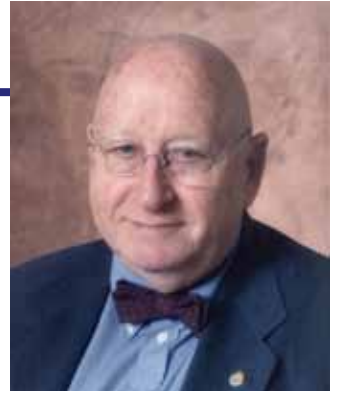
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¹Offer subject to approval. As of 11/1/2012, regular APRs on purchases, cash advances and balance transfers are 10.9% to 25.9%, depending on your credit history and other factors. APRs will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. There is a transaction fee of 3% on cash advances (\$200 maximum on balance transfers and convenience checks) and 1% on foreign transactions. Rates and fees subject to change. Please contact us for the most current information. If your credit history and other factors qualify you for a credit limit under \$5,000, you will receive a USAA Platinum MasterCard with the same rates and fees. ²Rewards points terminate if account is closed, delinquent or program ends. Earn 1 point for every \$1 in credit card purchases. Other restrictions apply. USAA Rewards Program terms and conditions will be provided with your card. Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any legal, eligibility or ownership rights. Availability restrictions apply. Purchase of a bank product does not establish eligibility for, or membership in, USAA property and casualty insurance companies. Credit cards provided by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. Jewish War Veterans of the United States receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2012 USAA. 139484-1212

COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee



What are Your Thoughts?

The last time we did a survey, there was Sy Weissman (JWV Guru), Mrs. Bailor (a JWV Institution), and me (the Odd Man Out). We were looking to the future and, guess what, the future is here. We really don't differ from many other organizations – membership is down; finances are down; member participation is down due to age and interest; returning vets need jobs; homelessness is rampant; and suicide is a condition of life. The American way of life is in deep need of help. This is where you come in with your thinking and, ultimately, with your participation.

Please answer the questions asked. YOU NEED NOT SIGN YOUR NAME. Your thinking and suggestions are what are vitally important. Your joining in accomplishing the work which is required is the bottom line – so please help us. Feel free to use extra paper if you need it. Mail your response to PNC Bob Zweiman, c/o Jewish War Veterans, 1811 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. You can also access this survey online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JWVMembership>.

Gender: Female Male Age: _____

Marital Status: _____ Number of Children: _____ Number of Grandchildren: _____

JWV Member: Yes No JWV Patron: Yes No Donor: Yes No

Year of First Affiliation with JWV: _____

Branch of Service:

Army Navy Air Force USMC Coast Guard National Guard Reserve Merchant Marine

War:

WWII Korea Vietnam Cold War Era Gulf I Iraq Afghanistan Other: _____

Rank: _____ Number of Combat Tours: _____

Jewish: Yes No

If Yes:

Orthodox Conservative Reform Reconstructionist Secular Other: _____

Synagogue Attendance: Regularly Shabbat Friday Nights Holy Days Only Yizkor Only

Do You Use: Computer/Internet Smart Phone Tablet Other: _____

If You Use Social Media, Which Platforms?: Facebook Twitter YouTube Blogs LinkedIn

Flickr Other: _____

1. What do you conceive to be JWV's mission on the American scene?

2. Does JWV's present programming fulfill that mission?

3. What do you think should be the order of JWV's priorities in our present and future planning of programs?
4. Does JWV programming reflect the creativity and values which you feel are necessary to the development of these planned goals?
5. If not, what operational or policy limitations exist within JWV, and how do you feel such limitations can be reduced to make us more effective?
6. How do you rate JWV's effectiveness?
7. What approaches should be used to best develop leadership within JWV at all levels?
8. What other recommendations do you have?
9. Considering the aging of membership, the economy, the health problems of returning veterans, the migration of members to retirement areas, natural disasters, etc., how would you propose stimulating member motivation both locally and nationally?
10. How would you suggest we use social media and other procedures to enhance JWV, spreading Jewish pride throughout the country to both Jews and non-Jews?
11. The current disasters have shown us how important it is to have another member call us to ask how we are and how they might be able to help. Knowing this, how would you suggest we improve our communication both locally and nationally?
12. Well over 95% of JWV's policies match the rest of the Jewish community, yet there are some Jewish veterans who do not join because of disagreement with some of our policies. Would you be willing to consider the formation of an affiliated organization, such as Jewish Ex-Servicemembers, in order to expand the recorded number of Jewish veterans and Jewish in-service members?
13. Are you willing to carry out JWV programs and procedures at the National level? Do you have specialties that might benefit the National organization?

YOU DO NOT NEED TO GO ANY FURTHER IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO SIGN ON

Name: _____ Post No.: _____ Title: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____ Fax: _____

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Jacob Gold of Post 717 NY assesses the damage in Long Beach, NY after Hurricane Sandy. The Jewish War Veterans Plaza sign was washed several blocks away from its original location during the storm.



While Hurricane Sandy may have shut down the Manhattan VA Medical Center (VAMC), it did not deter Post 1 NY from holding its Veterans Day observance on November 11 at the World War I monument on the grounds of the VAMC. Post 1 Commander Mort Weinstein believes this event will be the last one at the VAMC for a number of months until the facility reopens. Left to right (standing): Sara Alperstein, Marge Wiener, Harold Schaeffer, Gerard Petite, Jerry Alperstein, Max Alperstein, Mort Weinstein, Victor Struber, Arthur Sellner. (Kneeling): Jerry Gill and Janet Alperstein.



On September 21, 2012, CT Stand Down, an annual event for homeless or needy veterans, was held on the grounds of the State Veterans Home in Rocky Hill, CT. Stand Down is an opportunity for veterans to come to a safe location to obtain healthcare, legal aide, clothing, food, and other needed services. This year's event served approximately 1,400 veterans. Left to right: PDC Jerry Blum and Department Commander of CT Norman Hanenbaum run the JWV table at CT Stand Down.

Since 1995, the members of Post 549 FL have been volunteering their time and funds to help physically and visually impaired veterans at the VA Hospital in West Palm Beach, FL. According to Vice-Commander Jerry Shapiro, "it is a right and an obligation for those of us who have returned home from military services unscathed, to render care to the needy." One of the greatest contributions they have made to the VA Hospital is a special bus designed to transport veterans in wheelchairs.



Recently, Mark Tolpin of Post 220 MA noticed something just did not seem right at the Pride of Lynn Cemetery, a Jewish cemetery in Lynn, MA. The individual graves of deceased Jewish Veterans were not being honored. Bothered by the lack of recognition, Mark and his granddaughters, Sara and Meghan, placed over 300 flags beside the headstone of Jewish veterans. With each flag there is a prayer, a thought, and a little bit of history. All of the flags were placed in time for Veterans Day.



On November 4, 2012, Post 45 CT and its Auxiliary marched in the Veterans Day Parade in Hartford, CT. Left to right (Front): Co-Commanders Marvin Goldfarb and Joseph Fleischmann. (Color Guard): Marty Levitz, Bob Kennedy, Jerry Blum, and Jerry Baggish. (Rear): Roz Speigelman, Harry Davidson, Gordon Coleman, Ernest Gelb, Rabbi Kessler, Elliott Donn, Marshall Elman, and Elissa Donn.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Members of the Department of New Jersey met with Governor Chris Christie in Sea Girt, NJ on September 30, 2012. Left to right: Bill Millington, member of Post 657 NJ; Post Commander Al Adler, Post 657 NJ; Governor Christie; Department Commander Nelson Mellitz; and NEC Robert Richter.



On October 4th, during Sukkot, the Fort Hamilton Chaplaincy Corp, Installation Chaplain CH (MAJ) Bowman (not pictured) along with NY Army National Guard Chaplain Candidate LT Mark Getman of the 3-142nd AHB and member of Post 655 NY (pictured in ACU's), and CH (CPT) Raziel Amar, (on LT Getman's left in photo) Brigade Chaplain from the 369th Sustainment Brigade, joined together with Fort Hamilton employees and members of the Chabad of Bay Ridge to celebrate the holiday with pizza and music. The Fort Hamilton Chaplaincy provided the Sukkah, which was erected in front of the Fort Hamilton Chapel by members of Chabad and Post Chaplain assistants.



National Chaplain Bill Singer served as the Master of Ceremonies at Queens County Council's Memorial Service held October 14, 2012. Photo by Mark I. Koppelman.



Members of Post 80 NY visited the West Point Jewish Chapel during their trip to the Military Academy.



Members of JWV and JWVA's official delegation at the National Veterans Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery. Left to right: PDC Steve Lodgen, Francie Rosenbleeth, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki, National President Arlene Lodgen, Judy Ohren, and National Commander Sheldon Ohren. Photo by NED Herb Rosenbleeth.



Post 58 DC and JWVA Post 381 DC at the Arlington Women's Memorial Reception on Veterans Day. Left to right: Shelley Stahl, Junior Vice-President Harriet Epstein, Department Commander of DC Jack Macfadden, Lou Baron, Senior Vice-President Evelyn Macfadden, and Sylvia Herman.

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

David Cohen-77 • Jason Lee-77 • Ronni A. Connelly-99 • Michael A. Kulper-100 • Solomon Lirtzman-100 • Carolina Nisenoff-100 • Teri Reid-100 • Edward Salzman-100 • Morris Schwartz-108 • Daniel Perry-686

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Adam Parker-185 • William P. Rivera-185 • Theodore Feinberg-385 • Leo Adelman-603 • Charles Gore-603 • Stanley Salmore-603 • Saul B. Yochelson-603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Harvey Glassman-45

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Stephen Jockers-243 • Jack Swirsky-682

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Steve Friedlander-29 • Anthony Keel-29 • Lee Redman -29 • Sheldon Rosenstein-029 • Barney Zaffron -29 • Phillip Engelberg-407 • Gerald Cole-710

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Wayne Kaufman-644

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Daniel A. Botkiss-692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Richard Hopp-140 • Jack Dunkless-211 • Bennett Heffron-211 • Thomas Jacoby-211

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Jack Driker-333 • Russell M. Dallen-474 • Ted Gittleman-474 • Morrey Katz-474 • Louis Linden-474 • Philip OLeary-474 • Richard Roble-474 • John Zimmer-474

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Herbert Cohen-64 • Larry Mayer-65 • Jerome Roth-65 • Louis Rothenstein-65 • Irwin Wolf-65 • Rivka Wolf-65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY,

Marwin Meller-125 • Newton Beron-133 • Bernard Chayut-609 • Jerome Grossfield-609 • Donald Hoffman-609 • Bernard Margolis-609 •

George M. Rainer-609 • Richard Schwartz-609 • David Sinder-609 • Stanley Sanders-651 • Irwin M. Wendruff-657

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Bernard A. Skopinsky-41 • Alex Fuchs-50 • Enid M. Samuels-413 • Barry Becker-717

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Melvyn Diamond-44 • Beverle Gelb-222 • Nathaniel Goldwasser-587 • Samuel Lauber-587 • Alex M. Pearl-587 • David Selnick-587

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Howard Goodman-98 • Lewis Greenberg-98 • Julius Silverstein-98 • Robert Steinberg-98 • Stanley L. Strause-239 • Raymond Schwartz-575

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Wallace Cohen-608

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Karyn Beth Berger-256 • Bernard Rosenberg-256 • Gerd Oppenheim-580 • Jonathan Weintraub-749 • Joshua Szafran-753

PEOPLE & PLACES

► **Post 51 CT** participated in the Hartford, CT Veterans Day Parade on November 4, 2012. Department Commander **Norman Hanenbaum** played the keyboard with **Gail Lumpkin** signing patriotic songs.

► **Mort Schecter** of **Post 603 CA** was named Veteran of the Year by the County of Los Angeles Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on November 3 during UCLA's game at the Rose Bowl.

► **Post 29 IL** Commander **William "Joe" Wallace** spoke about the bravery and sacrifice of veterans during the Veterans Day observance in Highland Park, IL.

► **Sam Fierstein** of **Post 619 AZ** was honored as one of the Parade Marshals for the Phoenix, AZ Veterans Day Parade.

► **Post 619 AZ** dedicated three refurbished rooms at the Arizona State Veterans Home in Phoenix.

► **Post 126 NJ** sponsored a Veterans Day Medal Ceremony with the Camden County Freeholders and the Camden County Veterans Affairs Office on November 8. More than 25 veterans received special medals during the ceremony.

► **The Rockland/Orange District Council** held its annual "Salute to Our Veterans" concert on November 11. Approximately 250 people attended the event, which is co-sponsored by the town of Ramapo, NY. Wounded warriors were bussed in from local rehabilitation centers, so they could take part in the festivities.

► **Post 697 PA** joined students at Charles Boehm Middle School in Makefield, PA on November 9 for a special luncheon where they shared stories of their time in the armed forces.

► **LTC George H. Heart, Ret.** of **Post 215 PA** was invited by the Parlamentarische Staatssekretär der Verteidigung (German equivalent to the US Secretary of the Army) to attend the official book presentation of the book he co-authored, *Jüdische Soldaten – Jüdischer Widerstand in Deutschland und Frankreich* (Jewish Soldiers – Jewish Resistance in Germany and France), at the Bundesministerium der Verteidigung (the German "Pentagon") in Berlin, Germany on April 24, 2012. The book deals with the history of Jewish soldiers serving in the German and Austrian military from the 1700s until today. It also covers the experiences of German and Austrian/Czech Jews who fled to the United States prior to WWII and then returned as members of the US Armed Forces to help liberate Europe from the Nazis. The book also specifically mentions JWV.

IN SEARCH OF

► I am seeking contact with veterans who were in WWII in the CBI and were members of AACS. The 4th AACS Wing, commanded by Col. A.J. Mandelbaum, was awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque in Sept or Oct 1945. When the award was given, I was in the AACS unit outside of Dum Dum Air Base in Calcutta, India. My official Air Force listings have omitted the award. I did have the original certificate awarded to all AACS members, but unfortunately have lost it. Please contact Edward Penzer at 212-537-6670 or edwardspenzer@yahoo.com.

► Allgenerations, an organization of Holocaust survivors, their children, and grandchildren, is seeking Jerome Rosenthal, who was in the 11th Armored Division during WWII and was a Liberator of Mauthausen on behalf of a Hungarian Holocaust survivor. The survivor met Mr. Rosenthal after being liberated by him at Mauthausen. It is believed that Mr. Rosenthal was from Chicago. If you have any information, contact Serena Woolrich at allgenerations@aol.com.

REUNION

► The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the 11th Airborne Division Association, the former members of the 11th Air Assault Division, and the 187th ARCT will meet in Myrtle Beach, SC on February 24-26, 2013. For more information, contact Herb Shapiro at 410-827-6410 or HLSHAP@atlanticbb.net.

Military Suicides

Continued from page 1

tempt suicide 3 times more often than males, but males die by suicide 4 times more often than females.

Experts agree that suicide is not a normal response to stress. Suicide is defined as the conscious and deliberate act of killing oneself and suicide comes about when people are in an intensely painful emotional state. They lose hope and see no resolution to their difficulties, and suicide may appear to them to be the only way out of their perceived overwhelming pain and frustration.

The US Army studied the suicide attempts and completed suicides in 2010. In 2010, of the 295 active-duty personnel who died by suicide, 50 percent had a failed spousal or other intimate relationship; 52 percent sought inpatient or outpatient behavioral health services before their deaths; and most significantly, 54 percent had not deployed to a combat zone. This is a significant finding, since one of the prevailing assumptions regarding active-duty suicides is that combat and resulting stressors (repeated deployments, family separations, witnessing or experiencing traumatic events such as being wounded or seeing others wounded or killed) precipitated suicide attempts or completed suicides.

Studies show that between 37 and 50 percent of OEF and OIF veterans in the VA healthcare system have received a mental disorder diagnosis, such as PTSD, or depression. It is generally estimated that about one in four OEF and OIF veterans return from their deployments with a diagnosis of PTSD. In the general US population, suicide completion risk factors include being male, having access to and knowledge of firearms, and having co-occurring medical conditions and behavioral health problems. This profile describes many OEF and OIF veterans, making suicide risk management particularly challenging for this group.

Specific suicide risk factors for active-duty service members and veterans include frequent deployments, experiencing traumatic events while deployed, and experiencing a service-related injury. Behavioral health issues, such

as depression, PTSD, and traumatic brain injury also increase the likelihood of attempted suicide. One study showed that veterans with PTSD were more than four times as likely to report thoughts of suicide, a strong predictor of a suicide attempt, than those without PTSD.

A study of suicide attempts by 72 active-duty troops who had engaged in a combined 136 suicide attempts revealed that they attempted suicide to stop intensely painful feelings; to stop feeling sad; to get away or escape from painful thoughts or memories; to communicate or let others know their desperation; and to get away or escape from feelings.

It is difficult to directly compare and contrast the military's suicide rate to the general (national) population due to differences in: reporting timelines and procedures, investigative protocols, manner of death determination, economic stressors, and access to healthcare and behavioral healthcare. While the civilian suicide rate has remained relatively stable through 2007, the Army rate has increased steadily through 2011 with the rate for 2012 expected to increase significantly and resulting in more deaths by suicide than by enemy action in Afghanistan.

It has already been mentioned that well over 30,000 persons in the US successfully commit suicide each year. Tens of thousands more think about or may even plan to commit suicide. Military veterans who have traumatic reactions to war experiences can lead some of them to think about killing themselves. Common suicide warning signs include threatening to, or talking about wanting to, hurt or kill oneself, feeling hopeless, feeling uncontrolled anger or rage, and feeling trapped.

What is important to realize is that it is estimated that when an individual successfully commits suicide, an average of six other persons are impacted by that event. We need to be aware of what to look for when someone we know may be contemplating taking their own life. A list of warning signs is available at the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline website: <http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/GetHelp>

VA Expands Women's Health Practitioner Trainings

VA has trained nearly 1,500 providers through its flagship National Women's Health Mini-Residency Program, one of many training opportunities for VA clinicians to sharpen their women's health skills.

VA is offering a number of education opportunities to its health care providers interested in women's health care. The training ranges from traditional lectures with direct instruction to on-line courses. VA's Employee Education System and VHA's Simulation Learning Education and Research Network partnered closely with Women's Health Education to develop the courses.

Training programs include:

- ♦ Mini-Residency Program on Primary Health Care for Women Veterans, which has educated nearly 1,500 VA primary care providers using techniques like first-hand practice and case discussions. This year, an online version of the mini-residency has been released as well as a mini-residency program for nurses.
- ♦ Monthly Women's Health Provider Audioconferences, which are designed to complement the mini-residency program by supplying providers with up-to-date information about women's health topics.
- ♦ Women's Health Emergency Medicine Course, a series of 10 online modules using virtual patient scenarios, interactive content delivery, and videos to educate emergency care providers about common women's health issues in emergency rooms.
- ♦ Women's Health Simulation Equipment and Videos, which enables health care providers at VA facilities to get hands-on training in breast and gynecologic examinations.

To reach VA's remote locations, Women's Health Services recently partnered with VA's Office of Rural Health to sponsor 15 Women's Health Education Innovation Grants. These grants provide resources to produce creative ideas for women's health education training at 15 VA locations nationwide. Lessons learned from this program will be used to shape future national training initiatives.

Additionally, the VA Women's Health Advanced Fellowship Program, which provides stipends to trainees in health care professions, has expanded from seven to eight sites. Previously available only to physician trainees, the program has begun an inter-professional approach incorporating training of associated health and nursing professionals.

For more about VA programs and services for women veterans, please visit: www.va.gov/womenvet and www.womenshealth.va.gov.

Some of the many suicide prevention sites available to learn more about how to be aware of and help prevent the suicide of family members, friends, or neighbors are:

- **US Army (www.preventsuicide.army.mil)**
- **SAMHSA News (www.SAMHSA.Gov/samhsanewsletter)**
- **Suicide Prevention Information Resources (www.preventsuicidepa.org)**
- **Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (www.SPRC.com)**
- **American Association of Suicidology (www.helpstartshere.org)**
- **Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-TALK (8255) (www.veteranscrisisline.net)**

Development Committee

By PNC Monroe Mayer, Chairman

For those of you who may be unaware, development means the raising of funds for the maintenance of the organization by direct mail, email, or any method that improves our fiscal picture. As we are all aware today, every veteran or social organization, male or female, is having trouble sustaining membership levels once easily reached in the past. It seems that the need to come together as a social organization is now fading as new technology replaces what we once found within these groups. This certainly is having an effect on our JWV USA, as declining membership reflects in our declining income. Obviously, this becomes a major problem. We also depend on our donor list, which is made up of those who are friends of our organization by virtue of a relationship, knowledge, history, or some connection with us in the past. We also acquire fresh names from other Jewish organizations in the hope that we can strike a responsive chord within the individual who receives our communication, and hopefully responds with a check. We trust that the premiums we enclose with each mailing will enable us to continue our efforts and sustain our organization for as long as possible.

We hope that the 2013 calendar you recently received will help our situation, and we ask that you show your friends and relatives our calendar, with the hope that they will like it, and perhaps seek us out and order for themselves in the future.

If you haven't received our calendar, sadly, this indicates that on prior occasions, when you did receive it, there was no donation forthcoming. It is not an inexpensive production, and it is not a benefit of your membership dues. Thus sadly, as they say, "we need the money."

If you or a family member have a story to tell, share it with us, since that is the purpose of the calendar. Please send us your pic-

tures and an outline of your story, and we will make sure you have a place in our history as a "Patriot Yesterday and Patriot Today."

Holocaust Committee

By Bernhard Storch, Chairman

During the long months between summer and fall, as the Holocaust Chair, I continued with lectures and presentations to students and adults, as I had promised when nominated to this position as chairman.

The presentations took me to the local Holocaust center to lecture to students and adults. During these sessions, I have noticed how little knowledge the attendees have of the Holocaust era.

To help the teachers out during the preparation prior to my visit, I present them with the GI's Remember catalog, which details the liberating of concentration camps during WWII and is printed by the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

My personal observations are that the majority of students, regardless of whether they are Christian or Jewish, have no idea what I'm talking about. I'm very careful with the horrific descriptions unless they directly ask.

I recently returned from the "March of the Living," which took place on April 16, 2012 in Krakow, Poland and included representatives from various US units involved in liberating concentration camps. For me, it was a very emotional return to the land of my birth. This time I revisited my city for the first time since my discharge in September 1945.

We must continue to educate the public about the facts of this era. Locally, I will address members and guests of Temple Beth Torah on Friday, November 9 as a witness to Kristallnacht and as part of the Veterans' Shabbat service. Prior to that event, I will address the patients at the Esplanade of Palisades, NY, a retirement community with a large veteran population.

Homeless/Stand Down Committee

By PDC Maxwell S. Colón, Chairman

Stand Down is an annual encampment that gives hundreds of homeless veterans a three-day respite from life on the streets. The word Stand Down is a military term for battle weary troops sent from the front lines for rest and recovery. What Stand Down really wants is to give homeless veterans a starting point into a different lifestyle away from a grim existence and onto a better future. The main thought or fuel is HOPE. Stand Down tries to put the homeless veteran in a new state of awareness where they believe they themselves can finally do it.

It is estimated that close to 110,000 veterans are homeless on any given night in America with a large amount battling mental illness or substance abuse. Many of the homeless veterans are from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. Stand Down tries to instill in homeless veterans that they are part of something bigger than themselves and part of their community. It reminds them of when they were younger and believed anything was possible. Stand Down looks for the best in people and tries to strengthen the healthy parts of them.

Stand Down works. Many homeless veterans have turned their lives around and now have returned to be role models as volunteers at the Stand Down camp sites and share their stories. They are the real heroes of our communities.

After the three days of Stand Down operations, there is a swirl of emotion for many of the men and women. The music plays and the graduates of this program stand taller because they are different people. There also is sadness when the weekend is over and all the veterans go back to life on the streets. This is their first step to reconnecting with someone, a step towards sobriety and a final step towards a possible job.

In our next issue of *The Jewish Veteran*, I will go further into elab-

orating on our homeless veterans.

Women in the Military

By PDC E.G. Farris, Vice-Chairman

Last time, I spoke of women's services as they pertain to OB/GYN issues. This time, I would like to address some of the other services available to women through the Veterans Health Administration hospitals and clinics throughout the United States.

One cannot merely walk into any VA Clinic or hospital and demand to be seen or treated. There are steps to acquiring healthcare through the VA system. One must fill out the appropriate paperwork, present their DD-214, and, if not service-connected, pass a means test (financial need for care). After eligibility is established, they will be assigned a primary physician and care of the veteran begins.

If a VA patient presents with a condition not treatable at the VA (for example, pregnancy), they first go to a basic primary care physician where the condition (not service-connected) is documented. They, or any non-service connected veteran, must go through fee services first, to be sure that all referrals to an outside physician are approved. The actual coordination of the process and the paperwork must go through Benefits and Eligibility. It's the same with mammographies or any fee service; enabling the VA to maintain coordination of care.

The VA also has long-term care, community living centers, geriatric care, palliative care, hospice services, etc. The staff is able to help in terms of advanced directives, or anything else the patient may need. Today, the VA is more aware of the aging female population. In terms of the female veteran population, there are three groups: the young veterans in their 20's and 30's, Vietnam era veterans, and aging female veterans coming in for long-term care. The VA is now looking at all female veterans who have served to make certain they are being taken care of in the ways they need to be cared for properly.

JROTC

By PDC Michael Corbett, Chairman

As we all know there is much work to be accomplished at the National Convention, and this year was no different. While we all enjoyed the social aspect of gathering with the hundreds of our counterparts in the JWV and our Auxiliary in the port city of Norfolk, VA, much work was accomplished in the short time we had together.

With a backdrop of Naval vessels of all categories floating like 'rubber duckies' in the James River, your JROTC committee met to discuss the future of the program with an eye toward motivating all Departments to become involved and they, in turn, to work with all their Posts to 'adopt' one or more JROTC Detachments in their respective service areas. The award of the National 'Americanism' medal to a special Cadet shall continue to be made as worked-out among the Post and the High School Detachment Commander;

a certificate shall also be provided.

However, management of the JROTC program is to be scoped-out to the Departments to operate. It is anticipated the Department will provide more personal connectivity with the state's Superintendent of Schools to open the door for all Posts in that state to gain approval from the local school board to work with JROTC Detachment Commanders to make the presentation to a worthy student Cadet; the presentation will include the award of the JWV "Americanism" medal and a certificate of recognition. Departments and Posts may include a nominal monetary award to the student selected as the JWV "JROTC Cadet of-the-Year" for that school.

Moving management of the program to the Departments in concert with their Posts is, on one level, intended to allow for greater local media coverage of the presentation of the award of the "Americanism" medal and certificate. It is also intended that with more personal

contact among Departments/Posts and school boards will come additional opportunities for JWV within local communities. Too, we expect closer ties among JWV and the communities we serve through the efforts of our Posts; and, to implement deserved recognition of JWV Post JROTC programs and the members who work so hard to make them successful.

In order to keep the program and the award uniform throughout the country, Departments and Posts will purchase the JWV "Americanism" Medal via the national supplier; the certificate will be provided free of charge via the National website for all to copy. All that remains is to have the Cadet's name printed on the certificate, ideally by lining it up and typing-in the name with a distinctive font.

The first step in the process is to have all our Department Commanders assign their Program Chair for the JROTC program. Once the Department Program

Chair is selected, a committee of all of them with the National Program Director will further define and refine the program for uniform operation and, especially, to initiate the recognition by the Jewish War Veterans of the USA of the National "Program of-the-Year," and the National "JROTC Program Manager of-the-Year."

Department Commanders are asked to submit the name, e-mail address, and telephone number of their Department JROTC Program Chair to the National JROTC Program Director, Michael Corbett, at: ocusmc@gmail.com not later than 31 January 2013. Thereafter, the committee will discuss JROTC program issues with the goal of implementing the revised program in the 2014 JWV year.

Freda Rosenshein, JWVA Post 273 NJ, would like to thank everyone who sent her well wishes following her recent surgery.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to offer my well wishes to all of you who endured Hurricane Sandy. I know that some of you suffered extensive damage during the storm, and I want you to know that you are in our prayers.

National Commander Sheldon



Left to right: Wreaths Across America Chairman Wayne Hanson, Ann Hanson, NED Herb Rosenbleeth, NC Sheldon Ohren, President Norman Rosenshein, Wreaths Across America Executive Director Karen Worcester, and Morrill Worcester.

Ohren and I recently had the honor of meeting with Executive Director of Wreaths Across America, Karen Worcester; Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Wayne Hanson; and their families. While leading them through NMAJMH's exhibits, we had a meaningful conversation about the work Wreaths Across America does to educate, honor, and remember veterans who have given their lives for our freedom.

By respecting the faith traditions of all veterans who have passed, Wreaths

Across America distinguishes itself as a leader among organizations who seek to honor the service of our veterans. I look forward to continuing our relationship with this organization. If you would like to learn more about Wreaths Across America, visit their website at www.wreathsassamerica.org.

Partnering with 3GDC, a group for the grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, their friends, and supporters, the museum held one of its most successful events to date on November 8. Arthur Seltzer, a member of Post 126 NJ, spoke about his experiences in the military, fighting during D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge, and liberating Dachau concentration camp.



**PNC Norman Rosenshein
President, NMAJMH**

Arthur spoke candidly about the importance of reminding people, Jewish and non-Jewish, veteran and civilian, that Jews serve and serve with honor – something we strive to do at NMAJMH every day.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES **By Pamela Elbe**

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

World War II Hero and Dachau Liberator Morris Eisenstein

Morris Eisenstein, a World War II veteran and Jewish War Veterans member, passed away on October 20, 2012 at the age of 94. Born in Poland, Morris Eisenstein grew up in Chicago. He served in the 42nd (Rainbow) Division first as a corporal, then as a sergeant in charge of a heavy weapons platoon. He fought in Southern France, Germany, and Austria.

When Morris Eisenstein's unit took part in the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp, a child he encountered wanted desperately to thank him. The boy had nothing to give but the Star of David he'd been forced to wear. He recounted the story of this meeting for the museum:

"In April we were ordered to go to Dachau. Something terrible was happening there. We had no idea. When we entered the camp, the first thing we saw was a railroad siding with 36 box cars loaded with bodies in various stages of decomposition, both living and dying. What struck me was the bleakness of everything and the grotesque uniforms of the survivors milling around.

That's when I saw a little Jewish fellow in a corner weeping and wailing. I told him, 'I am an American Jewish soldier! I tried to calm him; I didn't know what to do. I had a pile of money in my pocket captured from the SS two days before, about 15-20,000



marks in a large wad and I handed it to him. He grabbed my hand and said in Yiddish: 'I have nothing to give you but my yellow Jewish star.' I was so overwhelmed I almost cried...I only hope that somehow he was able to use the money to get to Israel or do something with it...I never heard from him again. But I still have the yellow star."

Eisenstein saved the star, nearly blackened by dirt, and donated it to the NMAJMH. It is on display at the museum in our *Rescue and Renewal: GIs and Displaced Persons* exhibition.

Morris Eisenstein was awarded two Silver Stars and three Bronze Stars for heroism in battle. He received the Silver Stars for actions occurring nine days apart, the first when his battalion was

pinned down during the drive against Dachau. The citation states that then-corporal Eisenstein, "with utter disregard for the hail of enemy machine gun fire falling around him, mounted a jeep and attempted to put the vehicle's machine gun into action." The weapon malfunctioned, so he made his way through enemy fire to an abandoned truck and opened fire on the enemy with the truck's anti-aircraft machine gun. When he ran out of ammunition, he again exposed himself to enemy fire and climbed to the rear of the truck for more ammunition and reloaded the machine gun. He is credited with "[providing] covering fire which enabled our troops to successfully flank the hostile positions, and capture 150 of the enemy, eliminating a strong obstacle from the Division's route of advance." The second citation credits his "outstanding resourcefulness and gallant determination" as playing "a major role in the successful capitulation of the city of Furth."

After the war Mr. Eisenstein became active in Jewish causes. He helped send guns to Israel in 1948, served on the Board of Governors of Israel Bonds, and held leadership positions with the Jewish War Veterans.

You can view items from the Morris Eisenstein collection online by visiting <http://nmajmh.pastperfect-online.com> and searching "Morris Eisenstein."

Administratively Speaking By Mary Westley, Asst. Administrator

A Timely Question

“Why did you think that it was important to tell the men in your squad that you were Jewish?”

The question came from a young woman during our Veterans Day program, which we co-hosted with 3GDC, a group for the grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, their friends, and supporters.

Our speaker, Arthur Seltzer, a WWII veteran, liberator of Dachau concentration camp, and member of Post 126 NJ, replied wryly, “Jews served in the war?”

There was a heavy pause that settled over the room after Arthur’s statement. Members of the audience looked at each other, confused over Arthur’s words.

Finally, there was an ‘Aha!’ moment as Arthur continued with, “I am a member of the Jewish War Veterans because there were so many out there who said Jews never served.”

Like JWV, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History also carries these same goals. Our mission is to educate the public about the courage, heroism, and sacrifices made by the Jewish men and women who have served in America’s armed forces.

We try to facilitate this educational objec-



3GDC Board members with Arthur Seltzer at the Veterans Day program. Left to right: Brant Levine, Sharon Shoham, Arthur Seltzer, Elana Eckhouse, and Jason Harris.

tive every day through special events, classes, book signings, and tours.

I am also proud to announce that Arthur, a longtime JWV and museum member, finally got his long awaited Bronze Star on Thanksgiving Day – 67 years after he should have received it. On that day he, along with our members across the country, gave back to the local incoming



military personnel who are a generation (or two!) younger. His Post sponsored a Thanksgiving dinner event, complete with all the bells and whistles, for the ninth consecutive year.

All of us at NMAJMH would like to thank each and every one of you for your service. Please continue to support your museum, and don’t forget to visit us online at www.nmajmh.org or [facebook.com/nmajmh](https://www.facebook.com/nmajmh).

continue to support your museum, and don’t forget to visit us online at www.nmajmh.org or [facebook.com/nmajmh](https://www.facebook.com/nmajmh).

“We loved the tour and learned so much. Happily we had a WWII vet, Jerry Wolf and his wife Doris with us. He was a prisoner of war survivor. Our guide, Marcie, was great!”

*Wakefield Center Senior Group
Springfield, Virginia*

From Our Collection By Mike Rugel

Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH

Typhoon Louise



US Naval Jack donated by Murray L. Cole.

Most sailors in the Pacific probably thought they were relatively safe after the Japanese surrendered. But in the fall of 1945, Lt. Murray Cole was commanding a patrol vessel traveling south to occupy the Japanese island of Kyushu when danger came in a different form: Typhoon Louise, which wreaked havoc with the ships off the coast of Japan.

While Louise raged, twelve ships were sunk and hundreds more were damaged off the coast of Japan. There were countless rescue efforts at sea. Accounts from other sailors show how frightening it was. Men who had been facing the Japanese in brutal combat a few months earlier feared for their lives again. Ships’ decks were underwater as the waves tossed smaller vessels around. Men were thrown overboard into the sea. The typhoon then turned toward Okinawa and caused mass destruction on that island. Quonset huts and other buildings that had been set up by the US military were torn apart.

Thankfully, there were relatively few casualties. The Pacific Fleet report to the Department of the Navy on the typhoon stated: “This was very largely due to the active and well directed efforts of all hands in assisting one another, particularly in evacuation of grounded and sinking ships. By 18 October, reports had been sifted and it was found that there were 36 dead and

47 missing, with approximately 100 receiving fairly serious injuries.”

Along with Lt. Cole, this tattered Naval Jack (also known as a Union Jack or the Jack of the United States) survived Louise. It’s a 48-star flag typically flown from the bow of an anchored ship. The similarly tattered US Naval Ensign that flew from the stern was also saved by Cole and is a part of the collection at NMAJMH. The tears in the flag show the ferocity of the typhoon winds. It also reminds us of how great the damage to the entire fleet might have been if the Japanese had not surrendered and a full-scale invasion was underway when the typhoon struck. The tattered flags testify to the dangers of life at sea even after wartime has passed.

Murray Cole continued to serve in the Naval Reserve until 1982. Over the course of his career, he had to contend with three typhoons in the Pacific and a hurricane in the Atlantic.

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First Us Army Cantor

Continued from page 1

When Frommer is not directing services, the Yale University graduate with Third Army/ARCENT's assistance has been able to administer religious support to Soldiers throughout Kuwait and Afghanistan, as well as have service members transported to Camp Arifjan for spiritual guidance.

"The whole chaplain team here in Third Army seems to be on one sheet of music with one mission in mind, to provide that support the best they can," said Frommer.

Frommer grew up on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, in what he called "a bubble of privilege." In an experience that admittedly "broke that bubble," Frommer, in 2004, moved to Israel for three years, where he joined the Israel Defense Forces.

"I felt like as a Jewish-American it was wrong to stand by and let the Israelis fight their own battle," said Frommer. "In the synagogue, we say that we are one people with them."

After a 15-month stint as an infantryman participating in security operations in the West Bank, Frommer arrived back in the United States to join the seminary. After several months of study, a fellow student introduced him to an opportunity that would strengthen his symbiotic bond with religion and the armed forces.

"At my seminary there was a student a few years ahead of me that was doing Air Force chaplaincy, and it opened my eyes to the idea of chaplaincy," said Frommer.

So as Frommer had done four years earlier in Israel, he enlisted in the military; however, this time, as a chaplain in the U.S. Army.

"I felt like I had no compelling reason to stand by while other Americans went and served, and in some cases died, for a country that I felt privileged to live in," said Frommer.

Under the guidance of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps, he enlisted in a program that allows seminary students to join the military. Although the balance between his studies and drill became difficult, he said the cadre at U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School were an overwhelming source of motivation.

"The chaplains and the cadre that worked at the school house were extremely influential," said Frommer. "Most of them were active-duty. Most of them had done multiple tours. They were extremely inspirational in their stories and knowledge."

With his completion of the program he not only became an official military chaplain but made history as the first ever cantor in the U.S. Army; an honor Frommer said means "more than words

can describe." Frommer, who currently resides in San Francisco, has used this very unique skill to enlighten those of the Jewish faith not only in the U.S. but on deployment.

"He has been a wonderful chaplain both in terms of leading religious services and outside of services," said Navy Cmdr. Alexander Levy, Transportation Branch chief of U.S. Central Command Deployment Distribution Operations Center. "Not only does he have a wonderful voice, he also has a good heart."

As Frommer's deployment is scheduled to end in the next few months, he reflected over the time by highlighting the importance of faith.

"Faith can be an incredible source of strength for all soldiers; a source of comfort; a source of peace, and a source of optimism during a deployment," said Frommer. "After spending this time, I have realized that the biggest threat toward our soldiers has nothing to do with the enemy – we know how to fight the enemy; we're trained to do that – the biggest threat has to do with our own minds. When we start to feel depressed, when we start to feel like our mission has no value or our place here is not appreciated, faith in those moments has an incredible ability to provide us with a different perspective."

NMAJMH Happenings

► New Light on an Old Tradition Thursday, Dec. 13, 6:30-8:00pm

Come to NMAJMH for a special celebration of the 6th night of Chanukah. Festivities include: noshing, schmoozing, singing, storytelling, and exploring the great collection at NMAJMH.

Admission is free.

RSVP by Monday, December 10 to: mwestley@jwv.org or call (202) 265-6280 x511.

Sponsored by JWV, NMAJMH, and the Jewish Study Center

► Meet the Author Event with Holocaust Survivor Estelle Laughlin Sunday, Dec. 16, 10:30am - 2pm

Holocaust survivor Estelle Laughlin, author of the new book, *Transcending Darkness: A Girl's Journey out of the Holocaust*, will be speaking on her experiences during and after the Holocaust.

Admission is free.

RSVP to mwestley@nmajmh.org or call (202) 265-6280 x511.

Sponsored by NMAJMH and Post 692 MD

► Tuesdays with NMAJMH and The Jewish Study Center

Join NMAJMH and the Jewish Study Center for a fabulous series of Tuesday classes this winter. For a full class schedule, visit: www.jewishstudycenter.org.

"Hire a Veteran"

Continued from page 5

while recovering at a Warrior Transition Unit for third-degree burns, PTSD, and TBI helped him secure a position with the Federal Bureau of Investigations. During his recovery, he worked with occupational therapists and transition coordinators to identify a new career path. "When I took my oath, raised my hand, and swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic—I meant it. So if I couldn't serve in the Army any more, I knew I wanted to serve my country by working for the federal government whether it was for the CIA, DEA, or FBI."

Through an Operation Warfighter internship at the Drug Enforcement Agency, and then support at a job fair at Fort Belvoir working on his resume and interview skills, he received a job with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). "They treat me just like the Army did – like I'm family. They never leave anyone behind. I miss the Army, but I love my job."

Happy Chanukah!

Allan Abramson & Wife Sheila
Happy Days and Good Health

Jerry & Sara Alperstein

PCC Edward & PDP Louise Baraw
In Honor to all Veterans

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

Howard M. Barmad • Post 76-NJ
Chag Sameach

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

Bless our Troops

PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749

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

Harold Englemann Exec. Dir. K.C.C.

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

Sidney M. Gluck • Mesa, AZ

PNC Nathan & Selma Goldberg

Nat. Inspector Sidney & Fay Goldman

PDC Herb & Beth Gopman • Dept. of FL

PNC Sam & PNP Barb Greenberg
Happy Holidays to All

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

Happy & Healthy Wishes to All!

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

Donald H. Haber, PDC NY, FL

PDP Susan (Schneider) Helsinger
In Memory of PNP Jeanette Schneider

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

Jewish War Veterans USA Post 1
Our Original Post

PPC Norm & Marylin Kailo • Post 695-NJ

Bob Kummins, Post 400 • Ft. Meyers, FL

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

Jack Kent (Kantrovitz) #62, Akron, OH
Best Wishes & Good Health to All

In Honor of Wanda - Post 400

Bob Kummins Post 400 • Ft. Myers, FL

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

National JWV Committee on Scouting
Salutes our JWV Heroes

NC Sheldon & Judy Ohren
To Life!

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

Ben Podgor • Post 112, Atlanta

Queens County Council
Queens, New York

Judge Harold & Maggie Rosenbaum
L'Chayim - All Veterans JWV & IDF

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

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

PDC Murray Runin, PNEC N.Y.

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

Cliff & Zinita Sawyer • LA 113
Happy, Healthy Holidays

Stephen & Helen Sax

Harriet & PDC Norman Schnitzer

PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All

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

Mike & Gloria Shapiro
Peace & Good Health

PPC Norman & Toby Smith • Post 129-NY

Greta & Jerry Stoliar • 346 St. Louis, MO
Toda Shalom & Good Health to all JWV

David Jonah Weiner, Post 239
Allentown, PA - Happiness in 2012

PNC Robert & Jeri Zweiman
To Life

David S. Zwerin
Post 652 • Merrick, NY

To all our Troops
Be safe, be well!

Send a greeting or message to family and friends in the next issue of *The Jewish Veteran!* Only \$30.00 per 1 line, or \$50.00 for 2 lines, you can purchase a one year subscription which includes greetings for 4 issues! Names and greetings can be submitted anytime. Please fill out the form and send it along with your payment to : Jewish War Veterans • 1811 R Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009.

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If not now, when?



Jewish War Veterans of the USA

27th Annual Mission to Beautiful and Historic Israel! • February 24-March 6, 2013

Join us on our 27th annual mission to Israel! This year we're visiting new sites in addition to the places you want to experience again. Meet Israelis and their leaders, and enjoy the fun & comradeship that our trips are known for.

HOTELS

CROWNE PLAZA TEL AVIV • CROWNE PLAZA JLM • LEONARDO DEAD SEA • CROWNE PLAZA EILAT

Day 1-Sun, FEB 24: Flights from JFK, NEWARK, LOS ANGELES

Day 2-Mon, FEB 25: Arrival at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport to be met and assisted by aviatours staff. Transfer to our hotel. Check in and rest. We meet for dinner.

Day 3-Tues, FEB 26: After breakfast we will have a meeting with the US Military Attaché or his representative for a briefing, to be followed by a presentation by General Baruch Levy – Chairman of Tzevet (the Israeli organization of retired IDF personnel). Panoramic city tour of Tel Aviv – Jaffa and a visit to the Palmach Museum (The pre IDF Military organization). Free afternoon for relaxation. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 4-Wed, FEB 27: After breakfast we check out of our hotel and head to the Ayalon Institute (A pre independence hidden ammunition factory). We continue to Jerusalem and visit Mt. Herzl and Yad Vashem (the Holocaust Museum). Check in and dinner at our Jerusalem hotel.

Day 5-Thur, FEB 28: After breakfast, we start our tour at Mt of Olives for a magnificent panoramic view of Jerusalem. We visit the Shrine of the Book where the original Dead Sea Scrolls are exhibited. We continue to the Holy Sepulcher church (the empty tomb). Nearby is the colorful market of the old city where we enjoy a Falafel. Afternoon visit to Ammunition Hill. Here we can see how the city was liberated in the Six Day war in 1967. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 6-Fri, Mar 1: We start the day at the 9/11 site where we will have a little memorial ceremony. Continue to the Kotel (the Wailing Wall) and the nearby Generations Chain. We cross over to visit the Jewish Quarter of the old city. In Machne Yehuda Market we see how last minute shopping is done before Shabbat. Here too we can enjoy a great Falafel. Kabbalt Shabbat and dinner at our hotel in Jerusalem.

Day 7-Sat, Mar 2: Shabbat rest or join our Qumran, Massada and

Dead Sea tour. Return to our Jerusalem hotel. If you stay at the hotel for rest, you are free to enjoy lunch on your own in any of the fine local restaurants or the hotel.

Day 8-Sun, Mar 3: We check out and depart Jerusalem towards Beit Guvrin - hiding caves of the Macabeans. Continue to Shderot the town that was attacked by thousands of rockets and mortar bombs. We will visit a Kipat Barzel (Iron Cast - the new anti rocket defense system) if around and subject to IDF approval. We reach Hazerim AF base and visit the AF Museum. Dinner and overnight in nearby Beer Sheva. Possible meeting with mayor.

Day 9-Mon, Mar 4: After breakfast we head south to Sde Boker (Ben Gurion desert residence). Here we can understand the greatness of this leader and his modesty. Continue to Mitzpeh Ramon - world's largest crater. A visit to IDF Officers School or an armored corps training base (subject to IDF approval). If time permits we visit King Solomon mines in Timna. Dinner and overnight in Eilat on the shores of the Red Sea.

Day 10-Tues, Mar 5: Free to enjoy Eilat on the Red Sea and depart in the evening with a domestic flight to connect to their USA night flight from Ben Gurion airport, arriving home on the morning of the 6th.

Welcome home! You have just returned from a lifetime experience.

If you would like to extend your stay in Israel, or take optional extensions to Petra (Jordan) or other side trips, please contact Aviatours directly.

David or Mary at Aviatours:
(800) 950-0747 • (516) 867-2200 • info@aviatours.net

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

Phone: (202) 265-6280 • Fax: (202) 234-5662

E-mail: cturner@jwv.org

You can also find more info on the JWV website:
http://www.jwv.org/events/international_assembly_of_jwv