



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Spring • 2012

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Our Veterans Deserve Better: What is the Responsibility of Veterans for Veterans?

By Colonel Nelson L. Mellitz, USAF, Ret.

As a student of history, I read that in the summer of 1932, during the Great Depression, thousands of veterans from World War I gathered in Washington, D.C. to express their discontent with the U.S. government. In particular, the veterans came to D.C. to protest the failure of Congress and the president to pass legislation to provide veterans with emergency relief. This "Bonus Army" camped in D.C. for 10 weeks, growing to 24,000 strong before it was evicted by federal troops led by General Douglas MacArthur and "possibly" ordered to action by President Hoover.

Nearly 80 years later, the United States is encountering a similar level of discontent. What the general public does not recognize is that the value of military service is not matched by other

jobs in society or the conditions our military forces face while in service. When the Occupy Wall Street movement was still a major news story, did you notice the military veterans that joined the ranks of the "99 percent" and exercised their rights to speak out and show their concerns?

In January 2012, senior U.S. government officials announced cuts in the Army and Marine Corps personnel of approximately 100,000 over the next five years; however, looking at the projected five year budget plans, the end strength will be reduced by up to 200,000 military, primarily from the Army lower level enlisted and officers.

Veterans at Risk

Clearly, our society should hold those who have served in uniform in high esteem. Yet returning vet-



erans are at greater risk than their non-serving counterparts for unemployment, homelessness, and suicide. For some, the hope of the American dream has become a nightmare.

There is a recent peer reviewed study that shows 44 percent of post-9/11 era veterans are reporting difficulty readjusting to civilian life as compared with 25 percent

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Mission Impossible Becomes Mission Accomplished

By Commander Herb Spiegel, Post 64 NV

In 1993, WWII veteran Ed Kline, one of the original founders of Post 64 NV, had a vision to provide housing for homeless veterans in Las Vegas. Ed recruited another member of the Post, WWII veteran Abe Efros, to help him achieve his dream. With passion and determination shown by both of these members, the Post authorized them to start this program and provided the needed funds.

In the beginning, one room at a motel in downtown Las Vegas was rented on a monthly basis



Post 64 members Abe Efros, left and Sr. Vice Commander Steve Seiden inspecting one of the rooms the Post makes available to homeless veterans.

by the Post. Eventually, when funds

became available, the Post authorized the rental of two rooms, meals, and monthly bus passes for these veterans in need.

In 2002, Ed and Abe began keeping track of how many veterans were going through this program. They counted the veterans that initially were housed in the downtown motel and later at the home of a local preacher who got involved in the program and accommodated six homeless veterans at a time.

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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 EDT

Wed. June 13	The National Convention
Tues. June 26	Honoring Our Ailing and Deceased JWV Comrades
Mod. July 9	Addressing Challenges to JWV's Survival
Tues. July 26	The Jewish Veteran and Local PR
Wed. Aug. 22	Review of the Annual Convention
Wed. Sept. 12	Veterans Day Activities/Planning for New Members
Wed. Oct. 24	Energizing Membership through Planning and Involvement
Wed. Nov. 14	Finding and Recruiting New Members

Coming to an Inbox near You: The National eNewsletter

Check your email inbox, because the new bi-weekly JWV eNewsletter will be bringing you all of the major headlines from the National Headquarters.

Delivered on Friday afternoons, the eNewsletter is designed to connect you with National and keep you up to speed on all things JWV!



Not on our email distribution list?
Contact Iryna Apple at iapple@jwv.org.

Get Social with JWV Online!



Facebook: facebook.com/JewishWarVeterans
Twitter: twitter.com/JewishWarVets
JWV Online Forum: jwvusa.ning.com

Our Online Store is your one-stop shop!



You will find a full range of everything you need from pins, poppies, and decals to a large selection of JWV wearables, including baseball caps, shirts and jackets.

Access the shop directly from the home page of the JWV web site, www.jwv.org, or you can contact our vendor directly at (703) 753-3733 or patrick.ennis@comcast.net.

For JWV caps, call **Keystone Uniform Cap Corporation**
Phone: (215) 821-3434 • Fax: (215) 821-3438
www.keystoneuniformcap.com/Jewish-War-Veteran-Caps



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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YOUR LETTERS

Omaha Beach

My wife and I recently returned from a trip to France. Part of the trip was spent going to Normandy where we visited the D-Day Museum, the Normandy American Cemetery, and Omaha Beach. I brought back some sand from Omaha Beach and, along with a photo at the cemetery, I would like to donate it to either a WWII survivor or D-Day Survivor as I believe it would have more meaning to that person. Perhaps you can be of assistance with this?

*Sincerely,
Dr. Jacky Aron*

[Editor's note: If you, or someone you know, are interested in receiving a photo of the cemetery or some sand from Omaha Beach, please contact Dr. Aron at longhorn8359@yahoo.com].

Programming

Earlier this month, after three years, I stepped down as Commander of Post 549. My wife

and I found that my JWV duties interfered with my obligations as a grandparent and I needed a breather.

I will continue to direct Post 549's B'nai Mitzvah program of presenting a book from the NMAJMH to each Bar and Bat Mitzvah. It is a very time consuming project for me, I do make a personal financial contribution and my wife wraps the books, adds a bow and a personalized gift card for a gift presentation during each Mitzvah service.

I am disappointed that other JWV posts have not independently initiated such a program, or even copied ours. JWV and NMAJMH both work to present the American-Jewish contributions to our Country and our freedoms. Considering the potential benefits, perhaps you can suggest that similar programs be promoted by our national organizations.

*Regards,
Ralph A. Milliken, M.D.
Immediate Past Commander,
Post 549 FL*

Message from the Editor:

In addition to thank yous, the editorial office for *The Jewish Veteran* has received photos from some of the many JROTC programs we support throughout the country. If you would like to learn more about how to get involved with the JROTC program, see this issue's message from Chairman Michael Corbett on page 18.



Cadet Dylan Hodges receives the JWV Americanism Award from MAJ Roy Waldhoff (Ret.) at East Richland High School's JROTC Awards Ceremony on April 19, 2012 in Olney, IL.



Cadet Souza receives the JWV Americanism Award from Major Victor Aguilar, USA (Ret.) at Waimea High School in Waimea, HI.



Cadet Cody Jones receives the JWV Americanism Award from Chief Bruce Catlett on April 26, 2012 at the Alvin C. York Institute in Jamestown, TN.

Membership Department News

• Membership Refund Payments

Dues refund payments to all echelons will now be distributed quarterly instead of monthly. This change was adopted as a cost-saving measure due to the increasing cost of postage and processing.

The next dues refund is scheduled to be mailed in early June.

• Filing IRS Form 990-N

All echelons are reminded that they are required to file IRS Form 990-N (or 990 or 990-EZ) annually. If your echelon fails to file, you risk losing your tax-exemption and charter. Form 990-N can be completed online at www.epostcard.form990.org.

If you need help filing, contact Greg Byrne at 202-265-6285 or gbyrne@jwv.org.

• Delegate Forms

Convention delegate forms have been sent to all Posts. Each Post is entitled to one delegate and one alternate for the first ten members, and one delegate and one alternate for each additional ten members, or major fraction thereof (six or more constitutes a major fraction). Please return your completed delegate form to National Headquarters no later than July 23.

If you have any questions about your membership status, or need additional membership information, please contact Greg Byrne at: gbyrne@jwv.org or 202-265-6280 ext. 413.

Do You Know Someone On Active Duty?

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

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

Corrections

Mr. Joseph Lieberman was incorrectly identified in the Letters section as Joseph Liberman. We apologize for the error.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Allen E. Falk

The national staff at JWV and I have been closely following the continuing budget battle in Congress. Our concern has been to ensure that all our military personnel (active duty, veterans, retired, reserve, and National Guard) are protected against unreasonable cuts and sacrifices.

Our nation's economic problems are severe. We accept the inevitability that there must be both cuts in spending and increases in revenue to avoid financial disaster. We also believe that a true resolution of these matters will require bipartisan support and sacrifice. We have seen the ability to obtain such consensus in bipartisan study such as the 9/11 Commission and the Bowles-Simpson Commission.

We also appreciate the bipartisan cooperation and support we have observed on the Congressional Veterans Affairs Committees chaired by Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL) in the House and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) in the Senate.

While we accept the concept that all must sacrifice some, we will strongly oppose any attempts to place greater sacrifices on those in the military community who have already sacrificed so much more than the civilian community to protect and defend our nation.

We are only now learning of serious long-term physical and mental disabilities that may be affecting our returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.

If Congress does not reach an agreement soon on next year's budget, a process known as "sequestration" will take effect in January 2013. Under this process, preordained deep cuts totaling \$105 billion (18 percent) will be made in the Department of Defense budget. These cuts will seriously affect both our nation's security and the medical care provided to our retired personnel.

In addition, all our nation's veterans would be negatively affected by any cuts in the budget of the VA. There have been statements from the

Administration and Congressional leaders that the VA's budget will not be affected by sequestration. However, the legal issue remains.

JWV fully supports the Protect VA Healthcare Act of 2012 (H.R. 3895), which would assure that VA Healthcare is exempt from sequestration. JWV is a proud member of the Military Coalition (TMC). The 5.5 million member organization represents the interests of all members of the military community. The current president of the organization is JWV National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth.

I am urging all JWV members to join with TMC and let your Congressional Representative know that military veterans will not accept greater sacrifices than the general population in these budget battles.



NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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



JWV STORMS THE HILL



New Jersey delegation, led by NC Allen Falk, met with Congressman Rush Holt. Photo by Ed Hornichter.

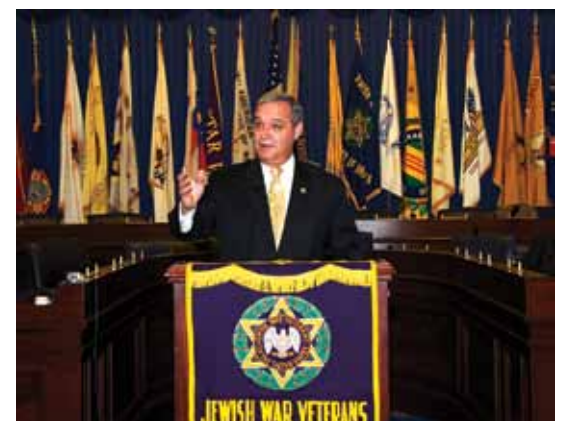
On March 6, 7, and 8, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA stormed Capitol Hill. Led by National Commander Allen E. Falk and Chief of Staff Michael Leibowitz, JWV Departments met with their Senators and Representatives to discuss key legislative priorities such as mandatory funding for the VA, issues concerning returning veterans, especially those with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury

(TBI), the backlogged VA claims system, and of course, the alarming threats from Iran. JWV caps were seen throughout the halls of Congress. JWV made its presence known to the members of the House and Senate.

At our annual Congressional Reception,



Marine Corps Color Guard, provided specifically to honor NC Allen Falk, who served in Vietnam as a Marine Corps Captain, and fifes and drummer from the Military District of Washington (MDW) provided a patriotic opening.



Chairman Miller addressing the crowd.

held Wednesday evening, March 7th, in the Cannon House Office Building, NC Falk presented the prestigious JWV Medal of Merit to the Honorable Jeff Miller, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Chairman Miller has been one of the leading congressional voices concerning sequestration of VA funds should government seques-

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DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

By PNC Paul Bernstein, National Editor



During the NEC, I had the opportunity to be part of a teleconference regarding the Hezbollah organization. Several members of JWV joined me that afternoon in the conference room. I would like to share some of conversation we heard.

Hezbollah's beginning and ideology comes straight out of the Iranian Revolution, which calls for a religious Muslim government. Hezbollah believes the United States is to blame for many of Iran's problems. Israel is seen as an extension of the United States and a foreign power in Lebanon. Since 1997, Hezbollah has been labeled as a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. Department of State.

It is believed that Hezbollah has at least 10,000 Katyusha and other short to medium-range rockets facing Israel today. It is also believed that they have long-range surface to air missile capacity and Russian made air defense units. They also have large numbers of shoulder launched anti-air missile capability.

Hezbollah was the first to introduce the use of suicide bombers in the Middle East. They use these human weapons to create mental and physical suffering for Israel. In addition, Asia has been a key target for Hezbollah, which has been pulling Malaysians and Indonesians into

their organization to help expand operations and terrorism.

Hezbollah receives financial aid, training, weapons, and explosives from Iran. They also have a number of illicit fundraising rings here in the U.S. They have organized drug smuggling operations that funnel money to them from Chicago and Detroit, and they have a multi-million dollar cigarette smuggling ring in North Carolina.

In South America, Hezbollah has been involved in the cocaine trade and has the resources to move its ill-gotten cash trade around the world. Brazil, Paraguay, Mexico, Angola, South Africa, and the United States are locations where large numbers of Hezbollah supporters have settled, providing additional money tunnels to the organization.

Hezbollah does not just target Israeli interests; they were responsible for the suicide truck bombing of the United States Embassy and the United States Marine barracks in Beirut in October 1983.

What about their network here in the United States? A recent report by the House Committee on Homeland Security states that there are thousands of Iranian Hezbollah operatives here

in the United States. They have been conducting surveillance missions at sensitive targets such as New York City's subways and bridges and at nuclear power plants and tunnels elsewhere in the U.S. throughout the past ten years.

A law enforcement official in the New York Police counter-terrorist unit who monitors Muslim communities believes that 200 to 300 Hezbollah sympathizers live in the New York City area. Besides being operatives, they are donors to Hezbollah's cause. U.S. counter-terrorism agencies regard Hezbollah as the most potent and disciplined of all Islamic radical militant groups, even more than al-Qaeda.

It has been said that these agents in the United States would rather raise funds for Hezbollah than plot against United States targets. The risk of these potential funding sources is the main reason why Hezbollah has avoided striking American interests. However, we must remain vigilant to protect our country from this terrorist organization.

JWV NATIONAL BOARD OF INQUIRY

By PNC Michael Berman, National Board of Inquiry Chairman

The National Board of Inquiry is created by and operates pursuant to the Constitution and By-laws of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. Article IV of the By-laws defines the National Board of Inquiry, which is tasked to, "consider all charges and specifications against any Echelon of this Organization, or against a person holding the rank of Post Commander or higher, or against a Subsidiary Organization." It is the role of the National Board of Inquiry to determine if there is probable cause to refer a disciplinary matter to the National Court for action, which may include any action from a letter of sanction to a court-martial from the Jewish War Veterans.

Article X, Section 3 (b) expands on Article IV explaining the duties of the Chairman of the Board. The Chairman, in the first instance, must determine if the matter is one of National interest or, more properly, at a lower echelon. If it is properly a question that should be brought to the National Board, the Chairman must investigate the matter. The Chairman must attempt to mediate the matter if the matter is susceptible to mediation. If the matter is either not susceptible to mediation

or the mediation fails, the Chairman then convenes the National Board of Inquiry.

The Board holds its meetings telephonically. The Board calls witnesses and reviews evidence submitted. The Board discusses everything before it and then votes on whether there is probable cause to refer the matter to the National Court. The Chairman conducts the meeting but only votes if there is a tie among the members.

Unfortunately, the National Board of Inquiry has been required to investigate several instances where Posts have dissolved and failed to turn over their funds to the Jewish War Veterans of the USA National Building Fund, as they are required to do under the provisions of the Constitution and By-laws of the JWV. The Board by telephonic conference calls has voted unanimously to court-martial the Post Commanders and sanction the Posts involved.

In another matter, a Post permitted unqualified individuals to join as active members knowing that the individuals did not meet the criteria for membership. The Post, in addition, contributed to an organization but

failed to pay its matching funds to National. Pursuant to the By-laws, the Chairman offered to mediate. Neither party responded to the Chairman's offer. The Department Commander brought charges against the Post Commander and the Post. After hearing the Department Commander and reviewing the documents he submitted, the Board voted that the charges be forwarded to the National Court for action.

The vast majority of cases coming before the Board are instances where a Post simply fails to file its annual report with the National Finance Board. Those cases simply result in a recommendation for action by the National Court.

It is rather easy to avoid facing an investigation by the National Board of Inquiry. File the Post's Annual Report with the National Finance Board. Pay assessments if the Post donates money to a non-exempt charity. If the Post dissolves for any reason, turn over the Post treasury to the Jewish War Veterans National Building Fund for the benefit of the Jewish War Veterans, U.S.A., National Memorial, Incorporated.

COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee



Reality?

Social guiding principles have become significantly integrated in a very great number of issues confronting our nation – mainly without any reference to the logic of the situation, but intentionally done because it fulfills some political or religious target.

The more immutable the issue, the more useable it is in creating a pathway to control opinion or direction.

Politics doesn't require logic. Nor does being guided by puritanical concepts require the listener to realize that he or she is being used as a tool – the principle or policy doesn't really matter, it's developed to be followed even though in practice it is not necessarily adhered to.

The vast majority ignore it, but not as a social and religious issue. It is just recognition that those who seek to control the issue do so to accomplish their own purpose, both political and financial. The followers sloganeer without realizing that their belief and response goes to their own detriment in the real world.

You may have noticed that the key to America constantly regurgitated by the politicians is the "family." Have you also noticed that they constantly say that the failure of America is the rejection or ignoring of the "family?" They have created their own little playground for the rest of us to play in, but only if it's their game...

American politics is thus predicated on saving the family – the total illusive unit not necessarily the individual. As a matter of fact, not even every individual – only those worth saving. Those who can produce are a budgetary plus – those who cannot are a budgetary minus.

Lately, the key word has become "budget"

in place of the word "family." Financial policy supersedes humanitarian or national security policy of our citizens. If you have to cut, then cut from the bottom up – sequester automatically without concern of the effect.

Now there has to be some mode of analysis as to the amounts and the effects which will result from merely cutting budgetary items without determining citizenry suffering. Indifference has become a basic determiner of quality of life. It is the quantity of the cut that controls—the more the better. The intended consequences are all that counts. The wrongs are the milk or lemon in the tea to be accepted without question; and accepted they are in the quest for control of the budget.

In the veterans community, we have fought very hard to assure that the returning veterans are properly received and cared for. We have attained a certain degree of protection (not really what is justly required), but not enough funding.

For example, PTSD affects the individual, but its greater effects ultimately are on the family: the spouse, the children, the parents. Are we dealing with a complete unit with the ability to come together as an emotionally stable group?

Can we treat the veteran in the same way we did before he or she went away? Can they return with a glimmer of normality? Not really, because even in normality there is no consistency. There is no singular design, plan, or way of life.

We have produced and implemented programs to reintroduce veterans returning home with or without injuries, amputations, PTSD, TBI, family, employment, etc.; but we ignore similar programs for those who are at home to

receive them. What reactions can those at home expect from the returning veteran? The responses have been telling in finding their rejections of common acts of life with the acceptance of erosions of daily movements. Responses have been very telling both physically and mentally with escapes through suicide.

Do we save money by cutting out food stamps needed to feed a veteran's children? By reducing housing necessary to help some who have been living in the back seats of an automobile? By providing limited education for the veteran's children? By pursuing a Kevorkian approach to emergency healthcare? By sequestering the funding of all family benefits that the veterans were told they were fighting to preserve? That they were lied to? That the loss of two to three billion dollars by a hedge fund was more important than the loss of their lives, their injuries, and their return to a normal life?

So we are basically left with a family unit with all of its inconsistencies – inconsistencies which are outside the norm. We seek maximum assistance for our veterans. Such assistance must include the veterans' families.

We must not ignore the needs and requirements of the veteran's family. Such ignorance will create a universal deficit in the American Way of Life – not just in dollars, but in real living humans. Without the viability of a real and supportive family grouping, the individual is left alone to become the unthinking foil and slave of the controller – who doesn't give a damn.

JWV URGES SUPPORT FOR H.R. 3895, THE PROTECT VA HEALTHCARE ACT OF 2012

To protect VA Healthcare from cuts in 2013, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV) encourages its members to call and email their Congressional representatives in support of the passage of H.R. 3895, the Protect VA Healthcare Act of 2012.

As a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011, VA healthcare could be subject to sequestration – an automatic Federal spending cut. These cuts could amount to a 2 percent drop in VA healthcare funding in 2013. Although the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced that VA health-

care is exempt from sequestration, it left open legal avenues in which the VA could be subject to cuts.

The Protect VA Healthcare Act of 2012 would prevent sequestration from affecting VA healthcare and would ensure that veterans continue to receive the healthcare benefits that they have earned.

JWV urges all of its members to immediately reach out to their Congressional representatives in support of the Protect VA Healthcare Act of 2012.

How to contact your Senators and Representatives

Senate

Senate Switchboard - (202) 224-3121
http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

House

House Switchboard - (202) 225-3121
<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

Running Successful JWV Post Programs

By Mike Zimmerman,
Program Director Post 29

More than a decade ago I attended two JWV Post meetings and found tight knit groups of men, apparently long-time friends, playing cards. There was no programming or outreach. They seemed like good men, but the meeting format and activity did not draw me.

Reading a notice in the local newspaper two years ago about the local Post in the area where I had moved, I decided to give JWV another try. I found a group of some 20 men discussing with great seriousness how they might assist the local police department - news stories had just reported that anti-Semitic graffiti had been drawn on the door of a local synagogue.

In the first months of meetings I attended, a typical program consisted of one member telling his military and life story to the group. It was a great way to get acquainted, and most of the presentations were moving.

A year or so in, because I had expressed some interest, I was appointed program director.

Ours is a successful Post. One reason is the programming, which I will describe in this article. It may serve as a model or source of ideas from which others may draw. First, we have a monthly program meeting for all members and guests. Separately there is a monthly executive board meeting that Post officers attend and other members are invited if they wish to bring up business or suggest a programming idea.

We have found that discussing business at our regular meetings takes a great deal of time, leaving little time to present programs. And so we have shortened the business portion of the regular program meetings to announcements and short discussions. Longer discussions are held at executive board meetings. The program meetings focus on an educational presentation or a life story, and many programs draw speak-

ers from the broader community.

The program meetings are at a local synagogue which allows use of a meeting room free of charge along with coffee and tea. Meetings are in the evening. When we have a program scheduled that seems suitable for non-veterans, we inform the synagogue and they publish an announcement of the event in their bulletin inviting shul members to attend. We also encourage JWV members to invite non-veteran family members, friends, and acquaintances.

Our members are reminded of meetings and made aware of programs through email broadcasts and a monthly postcard. In addition, one of our newer members recently took the initiative and created a website for JWV Post 29 (www.jwvpost29.org), which features news about our purpose, our programs, and activities.

We regularly discuss the sort of programs that will be most interesting to our members, and come up with new ideas. The categories of programs include:

- Personal stories of military and life experience
- Veterans affairs of relevance
- Community and Jewish security issues
- Assisting servicemen and veterans in need
- American military history
- Israel-related themes
- Outings
- Luncheons, including families

To help you think of ideas for your Post, I've outlined some of the programming that has been successful for us.

The personal stories of individual members focus on military experience, sometimes on growing up, careers since military service, and special interests. Members' stories have included stories of service as a Navy helicopter pilot

during Desert Storm, service as a USAF pilot in Southeast Asia and during the 1973 supply airlift to Israel, the experiences of a Huey helicopter gunner in Vietnam, and accounts from several B-17 and B-24 bombardiers and navigators who flew missions in Europe. Among these are incredible tales of service, adventure, and courage.

We also provide programs dealing with issues relevant to veterans, like post-traumatic stress, and how to utilize VA medical and other assistance.

To deal with issues of anti-Semitism, we have had speakers from the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, with more such organization presentations in the queue.

Regarding our local community, we have had the local police department's chief detective make a presentation on crime issues and what we should know and do as citizens. A tour of the local police station is in the works. Several members of our Post are members of CERTS, Community Emergency Response Teams, and have explained their role and training.

We have annual briefings by staff of the nearest Consulate General of Israel on issues related to security and the US-Israel relationship, as well as annual presentations by a media-watch group (Honest Reporting) regarding media coverage of Israel-related news.

Related to historical events, we scheduled a group visit to the Illinois Holocaust Museum. Once there, we broke into small groups, each with a knowledgeable guide from the museum. One JWV member wrote an article about the excursion for the local newspaper which published it. This publicity drew us several inquiries which resulted in new members for the Post.

Continued on page 13



Members of Post 29 Commander Joe Wallace's 2010-11 fifth grade class at North Elementary School, North Chicago, IL. His class has packed many of the Post's CARE packages.



Marine Sergeant Luis Garcia's platoon in Afghanistan. Members of Sergeant Garcia's platoon have been recipients of the Post 29 IL CARE package program.



PDC Sheldon Ohren Announces His Candidacy for National Commander

Sheldon Ohren of Monsey, NY, has announced his candidacy for the office of National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. He is a life member of PFC Fred Hecht Post 425.

Having served his Post in all capacities, culminating in the position of Commander, he subsequently was elected Commander of the Rockland/Orange District Council. He currently represents JWV on the Rockland County Veterans Coordinating Council.

Mr. Ohren was elected Jr. Vice Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, and ultimately Commander of the Department of New York in 2008. He is currently a member of the National Executive Committee, the National Court, the Convention Committee, as well as a Special Assistant to the President of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. He also serves as Vice-Chairman of the West Point Liaison Committee and attends Oneg Shabbats sponsored by JWV at the Academy. He has represented National at the USMA by presenting Kiddush Cups and Shabbat Candlesticks to the Jewish graduates. In addition, he represents JWV at local Naturalization ceremonies and presents a copy of the Bill of Rights to the new citizens. Mr.

Ohren participates at various JWV sponsored functions at the VA Hospital in Montrose, NY, and has served as a Docent at the Camp Shanks Museum, the Port of Embarkation during World War II.

Mr. Ohren served in the United States Air Force from April 1952 through January 1956. As an Airman First Class, he was assigned to the 6910th Security Group Headquarters in Landsberg am Lech, Germany, where he served as a cryptographic communications specialist.

After leaving the service, he enrolled at New York University from which he graduated with a BS Degree in Industrial and Labor Relations; subsequently he finished his accounting credits at the City College of New York. In 1965 he joined the Internal Revenue Service and retired in 2000 as an Appeals Team Chief. During that period he earned a Master of Science Degree from Pace University and taught at Long Island University.

In addition to JWV, he has been President and Treasurer of his B'nai B'rith Lodge for 10 years and has been a member of Congregation Shaarey Israel for the past 19 years. He is also a Charter Member of the United States Holocaust Museum, a member of the NMAJMH, and a



member of the Holocaust Museum and Study Center in Spring Valley, NY.

A Brooklyn native, he is married to Judy (née Bearman) who is a Life Member of the Ladies Auxiliary of Post 425. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Voting Eligibility at the National Convention

To be in good standing and eligible to vote at the National Convention, all Posts must have complied with the following items:

- Complete IRS Form 990-N (or 990 or 990-EZ) and submit a copy to National Headquarters.
- Submit a completed Installation Form to National Headquarters.
- Submit a completed Financial Report, which must then be approved by the Finance Board Chairman.
- Purchase Fidelity Bond insurance.

If you have any questions about your Post's voting eligibility status, or need additional information, please contact Greg Byrne at: gbyrne@jwv.org or 202-265-6280 ext. 413.

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JEWISH WAR VETERANS **117**th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

AUGUST 5-12, 2012 • NORFOLK, VA



Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel
777 Waterside Drive • Norfolk, VA
Phone: (757) 622-6664

Hotel Registration deadline is Wednesday, June 27.
A one night (\$140/single or double) deposit is required for all hotel registrations. A 3-night minimum stay is required.

Fax: (757) 625-8271

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

There is a \$150 Convention surcharge for those not staying at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel.
Local Members living within a 50 mile radius are exempt.

Partial Schedule of Events

(Subject to Change)

Daily • Aug 7-12

Morning Minyan

Monday • Aug 6

Tour of
Norfolk Naval Station
and Historic Sites
Museum Event

Tuesday • Aug 7

Wreath Laying Ceremony
NEC Meeting
Committee Meetings

Wednesday • Aug 8

Joint Opening Session
Resolutions
1st JWV Business Session
Century Club Cruise

Thursday • Aug 9

2nd Business Session
Committee Meetings
Resolutions
National President's
Banquet

Friday • Aug 10

3rd Business Session
Committee Meetings
National Commander
Elections
Shabbat Evening
Services

Saturday • Aug 11

Shabbat Services
NMAJMH
Board Meeting
Commander's
Banquet

Name: _____ Post No: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Room will be shared with: _____

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

JWV 117 th Annual National Convention	Cost	How Many?	Amount
Convention Registration Fee	\$50.00 per member		
I prefer: <input type="checkbox"/> King (Single Room) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds (Double Room)	\$140.00 per night		
3rd Person in a room	\$76.00		
Minimum Deposit Only	\$140.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel	\$150.00		
Tour of Norfolk Naval Base + Historic Sites	\$27.50 per person		
Century Club • Dinner Cruise • Wednesday, Aug. 8	\$100.00 member \$ 55.00 spouse		
Commander's Banquet • Saturday, Aug. 11 No. of: London Broil _____ Baked Flounder _____ Kosher _____ Sugar Free Dessert _____	\$40.00 per person		
Raffle Tickets	\$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00		
You must include full payment for all event(s) that you plan on attending. Reservations for trips or activities will only be made if paid in full.	Total:		
I am paying by <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card:			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No.	Exp.	/	
Signature			
Sign and mail this completed form, along with your payment to: Jewish War Veterans • 1811 R Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009 • Attn: Convention Dept.			

Airport Shuttles - The Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel works with several Airport Shuttle services that will take you from the airport to the hotel. If you need transportation for a wheelchair or a scooter, you will need to contact the shuttle service in advance. Transportation costs approximately \$25.

- Carey Limousines of Norfolk, Williamsburg & Richmond - Taxis & Car Services • 757-853-5466
- Orange Peel Transportation - <http://orangepeeltransportation.com> • 757-463-7500

Parking - Self-parking at the hotel will be a special rate of \$5 for JWV and JWVA convention delegates.

For Heroism in Combat While Paying Claims: The Story of the Only Army Lawyer to be Decorated for Gallantry in Vietnam

By Fred L. Borch III Regimental Historian & Archivist

In May 1968, Major General (MG) John J. Tolson, the Commanding General, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), awarded the Bronze Star Medal with “V” for valor device to his Staff Judge Advocate (SJA), then Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Zane E. Finkelstein. Finkelstein is the only Army lawyer to be decorated for gallantry in action in Vietnam—and almost certainly will be the only judge advocate (JA) in history to be awarded a decoration for combat heroism while investigating and paying claims.

On 14 December 1967, Finkelstein travelled by helicopter to a Vietnamese village that had been mistakenly bombed by the U.S. Air Force in order to investigate and pay claims to civilians who had been injured or whose property had been damaged in the attack. While the JAG Corps had centralized claims processing in Saigon, Finkelstein decided he would have more flexibility in the field if he were able to pay foreign claims. As a result, he obtained an appointment as a one-man Foreign Claims Commission, and, since the bombed village was not too far from Finkelstein’s location near Camp Evans, South Vietnam, he decided to organize an expedition to investigate, adjudicate, and pay these foreign claims on his own.

Accompanying Finkelstein that day was a warrant officer from the Finance Corps. This individual was the Class B agent who would pay substantiated claims in Vietnamese piasters after Finkelstein investigated and approved them. A platoon of infantry also went with them—to provide security.

After dropping the Americans off at the village, the three UH-1H helicopters departed. The infantrymen then set up a defensive perimeter, and Finkelstein began investigating and pro-

cessing claims from the Vietnamese civilians.¹

The Americans believed there were no Viet Cong in the area but, unbeknownst to them, the guerillas were not only still in the village, but were, in fact, inside the perimeter. After the Viet Cong “popped out of the holes in the ground in which they had been hiding,” a furious firefight erupted. Finkelstein stopped his legal work and, using both his .38 caliber revolver and M-16 rifle, joined the infantrymen in repelling the attack.² He also called in air support on the radio—but got artillery fire instead.

After a brief engagement, the Viet Cong fled and Finkelstein returned to his claims work. The helicopters arrived sometime later and the Americans departed for the trip back to Camp Evans—and relative safety. As the official citation for his Bronze Star Medal for Valor explains, Finkelstein was recognized for a “display of personal bravery and devotion to duty” in “continually exposing himself to enemy fire” and having “efficiently investigated, processed and paid 51 claims.”³

Born in Knoxville, Tennessee, on 24 June 1929, Finkelstein received both his A.B. (May 1950) and LL.B. (December 1952) from the University of Tennessee. He excelled in law school, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the law review and was inducted into the Order of the Coif.

Finkelstein was drafted into the Army in April 1953 and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. After receiving word that he had passed the Tennessee bar examination, then Private Finkelstein transferred to the JAG Corps that same year. In addition to serving in Vietnam as the SJA, 1st Cavalry Division (1967–68), Finkelstein also served as the SJA, Eighth U.S. Army Korea (1975–77). He also saw overseas duty as an Army lawyer in Berlin,

Federal Republic of Germany, (1954–57) and Taipei, Taiwan, (1961–63). Then-LTC Finkelstein also served as the Chief, Military Justice Division at The Judge Advocate General’s School, U.S. Army (the forerunner of today’s Criminal Law Division) (1968–71). Perhaps his most noteworthy assignment was as the first Army Legal Advisor and Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1971–75). Finkelstein retired as a colonel in 1983 and lives today in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.



1. David S. Franke, Finkelstein Oral History, April 1989, 168–71 (on file with The Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School (TJAGLCS) Library).

2. Telephone Interview with Zane E. Finkelstein (Mar. 15, 2010) (on file with author).

3. Headquarters, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Gen. Orders No. 2780 (3 May 1968).

While a number of Soldiers who later served as JAs were decorated for combat heroism in Vietnam—for example, both MG (Ret.) Michael Nardotti and Colonel (Ret.) John Bozeman were awarded Silver Stars—Finkelstein is the only JA to have been decorated for gallantry in action while serving as an Army lawyer in Vietnam.

More historical information can be found at The Judge Advocate General’s Corps Regimental History Website

Dedicated to the brave men and women who have served our Corps with honor, dedication, and distinction. <https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/8525736A005BE1BE>

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NEWS FROM CAPITOL HILL

Continued from page 10

tration occur. We at JWV admire and applaud Chairman Miller for his strong leadership on this important issue.

Also, this past year Chairman Miller’s active support of legislation to enable the Jewish Chaplains’ Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery to be constructed was most appreciated by JWV.

Our Congressional Reception was very well attended by Members of Congress, military associations and veterans organizations, by senior active duty and retired military personnel in-

cluding three three star generals, senior VA personnel, congressional staff, as well as our own JWV and JWVA members. The reception, held in the Cannon House Office Building, placed JWV front and center in the eyes of many influential people!

Our annual Capitol Hill Action Days put JWV on the record as our legislative priorities are presented in face to face meetings with congressional policy makers.

By storming the Hill, the Jewish War Veterans gain national recognition in the Congress and in Washington, DC.



Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, US Army, and Jacob Romo, Ph.D., JWV Massachusetts Department Commander enjoying the reception.

The Liberation of Luxembourg

By Lara L. Center

This year marks the 68th anniversary of the Liberation of Luxembourg and the Battle of the Bulge. On September 10, 1944, “Letzebuerg ass frei- di ésicht Amerikaner sinn do” made the headlines of local Luxembourg papers. The English translation reads “Luxembourg is free – the first Americans are here.”



September 10, 1944, Luxembourg is liberated. HRH Prince Felix and an American general are cheered by the people of Luxembourg.

In a matter of three days, the First US Army liberated the country of Luxembourg which had been under German occupation since 1940. There was a sense of optimism that the war would be over soon; perhaps as early as Christmas. Unfortunately, that was not the case.

In the early morning hours of December 16, 1944, the Germans staged a massive last gamble surprise attack on the quiet sector of the Belgian



The Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial in Hamm, Luxembourg is the final resting place for 118 American Jewish soldiers.

and Luxembourg Ardennes to regain the offensive. This marked the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge, which took a tremendous toll in human lives and destruction.

Outnumbered and partially overrun in

some areas, the Allied Forces offered a stubborn resistance, hampering and slowing down the Germans’ drive through the heart of the Ardennes. Bloody fighting took place under the most hostile weather conditions and it was not until the New Year that the Allied counterattack gained momentum.

Thanks to the leadership of General George S. Patton, Jr., the Third US Army succeeded in stopping the advance of the German Army and gradually pushed them back. By the end of January 1945, the majority of the Belgian and Luxembourg Ardennes were re-liberated.

Today, there are over 120 memorials, commemorative plaques, streets and squares dedicated to the United States Army units that fought in Luxembourg during 1944 and 1945. In addition, there are several museums, historical battlefield trails, and the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial. Veterans, families, and military buffs can immerse themselves in Luxembourg’s recent past by visiting any of these points of interest.

One such memorial is located in Pétange, a town in the southeastern part of Luxembourg. The memorial, formerly honoring the unknown American soldier, is now dedicated to Second Lieutenant Hyman Josefson, an American Jewish soldier, of the 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron of the 5th US Armored Division. On September 9, 1944 reconnaissance and advance units of the 5th US Armored Division were the first US and Allied troops to cross from France into Luxembourg. Josefson was commander of an M-8 “Greyhound” armored car when a 75 mm German anti-tank gun hit the vehicle near the mill of Pétange. Three of the four American soldiers were able to escape; unfortunately, Josefson was too badly injured.

Josefson is the first recorded American soldier killed in action on Luxembourg soil. Local boy scouts erected a very simple marker near the burned-out remains of the M-8 armored vehicle not long after the incident, and the people of Pétange laid flowers there in honor of the soldiers.

In 1946 Camille Snel, a Pétange town councilor, proposed the building of a monument in honor of the American who died in the fall of 1944. In 1947, the stele was inaugurated and the citizens of Pétange have held a ceremony on September 9 annually to honor the sacrifice of the unknown American soldier.

During the 1980’s the names of the four soldiers, including Hyman Josefson were finally discovered by Camille Kohn, a member of Cercle d’Etudes sur la Bataille des Ardennes (CEBA), a Battle of the Bulge study group in

Luxembourg. Luxembourgers researching this particular incident had difficulty learning the names of the soldiers because US Army records reflected the death one kilometer away in Belgium, not Luxembourg. For the 50th anniversary of the Liberation of Luxembourg, family members of Hyman Josefson attended the ceremony for the first time alongside then Grand Duke Jean. A native of Orange County, New York, Josefson is buried at the Long Island National Cemetery.

The Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial in Hamm, Luxembourg is the final resting place of 5,076 American soldiers; 118 are of Jewish faith noted by headstones with the Star of David. The cemetery was first established on December 29, 1944 during the early days of the Battle of the Bulge. Over the next two decades, the American Battle Monuments



Memorial in Pétange, Luxembourg honoring Hyman Josefson, the first American soldier killed in action on the country’s soil.

Commission worked with the governments of the United States and Luxembourg to complete the grounds. The formal dedication of the Cemetery and Memorial took place July 4, 1960 in a ceremony attended by the late Grand Duchess Charlotte and her consort, Prince Felix of Luxembourg. The 118 American Jewish soldiers from Allinson to Zozofsky, represent eastern states such as Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania; held the ranks of Private, Sergeant, and Lieutenant; are recipients of the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Silver Star and Air Medal; and gave the ultimate sacrifice in between September 1944 and March 1945.

The long-lasting friendship between the United States and Luxembourg, which was cemented on the fields of the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge, has only grown stronger in the 68 years since that momentous history-turning battle. Both Americans and Luxembourgers played a key role in this crucial moment, without which liberation was uncertain.

Lara L. Center is a museum education and outreach professional who worked most recently at the National Museum of Military History in Luxembourg.

World War II's "Greatest Forgotten Commander" Remembered In Hometown

By Arthur S. Meyers, Adjutant, Post 51 CT

Andy Rooney, World War II war correspondent and later "60 Minutes" commentator, wrote that Major General Maurice Rose, Commander of the 3rd Armored Division, "...may have been the best tank commander of the war. He was a leader down where they fight. Not all great generals were recognized. Maurice Rose was a great one and had a good reputation among the people who knew what was going on, but his name was not in the headlines as Patton's so often was. Rose led from the front of his armored division."

The 3rd Armored Division history notes that, "He was firm and prompt of decision, brooking no interference by man, events or conditions in order to destroy the enemy... Military historians argue whether a general's proper place is normally at the front or the rear of his troops. If action reflects opinion, there can be no doubt what General Rose thought. He led from the front so consistently that his troops used to call him the Division point."

Rose was the highest-ranking Jew to serve in the US military during WWII. He was shot by a German tank gunner on March 30, 1945, five weeks before the end of the war, becoming the highest-ranking American killed by enemy fire in the European Theater of Operations. He was buried beside the men he commanded.

On December 10, 2011, he was posthumously acknowledged in the town of his birth, Middletown, CT, with the naming of the new Major General Maurice Rose Armed Forces Reserve Center. It was a special moment for Post 51 CT, named in his honor, and other veterans and community leaders.

Rose was born in Middletown in 1899, the son of a rabbi who immigrated to America in 1893. The family later relocated to Denver, CO. Rose's military career began when he enlisted in the Army in 1917. As a first lieutenant during WWI, he fought in France, where he received the Purple Heart. After the war, he worked for a short time as a traveling salesman before



Local veteran service organization leaders at the dedication of the Major General Maurice Rose Armed Forces Reserve Center. Left to right: Commander Larry Riley, Veterans of the Vietnam War, Middletown, CT; Commander Norman Hanenbaum, JWV Department of Connecticut; Commander Morty Pear, JWV Post 51 CT; Commander Phil Cacciola, Milardo-Wilcox Post 75, American Legion, Middletown, CT (who served in the 3rd Armored Division after World War II).

later re-enlisting as a captain. He continued his career during the interwar period, gaining experience in armored warfare. During WWII, Rose served in three armored divisions. In North Africa, he was with the 1st Armored Division. During the campaign in Tunisia, he was the first officer to accept the unconditional surrender of a large German unit.

He was later the Chief of Staff of the 2nd Armored Division. In August 1944, he was assigned command of the 3rd Armored Division and promoted to Major General. He became known for his aggressive leadership, directing the Division from the front lines, not far from his forward elements. Under his command, the "Spearhead Division" drove over 100 miles in a single day, a record march for modern warfare, and played a key role in several campaigns. The Division was the first to penetrate the Siegfried Line. He was a much-decorated hero, eventually receiving the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest military decoration for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force.

Rose kept his Jewish identity hidden. According to Department of Connecticut Commander Norman Hanenbaum, "during the '20s and '30s, there was an awful lot of anti-Semitism in the military, and he knew he would never move up the ranks, so he kept his Jewishness from everyone." He was initially buried in the Ittenbach Cemetery in Germany under a cross. Upon learning of his death, Rose's parents held a memorial service at the Conservative synagogue in Denver where he had celebrated his bar mitzvah. Army Chaplain Rabbi Abraham Elefant lobbied the US Army to replace Rose's grave marker with a Star of David. The grave was later moved to the Netherlands

American Cemetery in Margraten in August 1945, but the cross remained.

In 2002, Middletown erected a plaque at his birthplace, and two years later, Post 51 CT was formed and named in his honor.

The 168,000 square-foot Reserve Center and a vehicle maintenance shop and storage building will serve several Army Reserve and National Guard units, replacing other buildings in the state. In remarks at the dedication, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, who was instrumental in the naming, said, "A son and grandson of rabbis who grew up to become the highest ranking Jew in the United States Army... it is only fitting we honor this Middletown hero." Rev. Walter Stitt, who served with Rose during the war, also spoke.

The dedication ceremony was initially planned for Saturday afternoon, December 10. With the urging of Commander Hanenbaum, the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut, and a Jewish military chaplain, the ceremony was moved to 6 p.m. so it would not be held on Shabbat.

Mission Accomplished

Continued from page 1

The Post was also able to establish an arrangement with the local McDonalds who, for \$1 paid by the Post, provided meals for these veterans.

In 2006, Ed and Abe contacted the Salvation Army which agreed to provide one room each month. Eventually the need became so great that the Post rented and now pays \$2,100 plus living expenses for three rooms, with three veterans per room, at the Salvation Army. Funds for the costs of continuing this program come from

poppy drives and a few private donations.

Participants for the program are first screened by the Salvation Army's Outreach Clinic to confirm their service and honorable discharge. They are given psycho-social assessments to determine their needs for getting off the street and finding employment. If they are recommended for help, Post 64 steps in with the Homeless Veterans Program and provides room and board for up to ten days. Past experience indicates that some of these veterans go home after the program, while others find a job in Las Vegas after getting a fresh start from the VA and our Post.

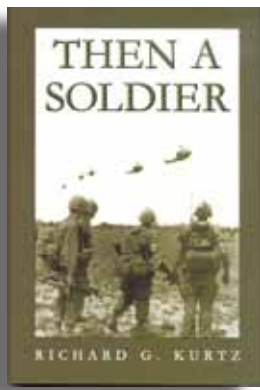
As of February 1, 2012, 1,837 homeless veterans have been taken off the streets of Las Vegas through our program. Hopefully, if employment is obtained, the veterans will regain their monetary independence and will be capable of standing on their own two feet – never again referred to as "homeless."

This past year the Post established the Edward Kline Memorial Foundation in honor of the memory of our founding member who was so instrumental in starting this program. For more information about the foundation, contact Abe Efros at 8169 Colchester, Las Vegas, NV 89117.

A Young Man Tests Himself

Then a Soldier

By Colonel Richard Kurtz, USA (Ret.)



Outnumbered and provoked by a group of Irish teenagers in the Bronx, young Richard Kurtz was confronted with a decision many Jewish children

in his neighborhood had been faced with before: fight or flight? Incidents like this and the histories of Jewish men and women murdered at the hands of the Nazis during the Second World War, struck a chord with Kurtz at any early age and shaped his future.

Kurtz was determined to escape the societal and political barriers that restricted many Jewish Americans in the Bronx, and saw the United States military as a great opportunity to both open the doors of his future by breaking these restraints and conquer the ghosts of his past.

In *Then a Soldier*, Richard Kurtz recounts the pivotal moments in his life growing up in the Bronx that influenced his decision to become a career Army officer through the ROTC program at

the City College of New York. His brings the reader along on his journey as he recounts his first tour of duty in Vietnam as an artillery forward observer in an infantry rifle company. The meticulous detail in which Mr. Kurtz describes military history, tactics, and lingo provides a rich insight into the day-to-day lives of soldiers serving in Vietnam.

Then a Soldier is highly recommended to all readers of military history as well as those interested in the stories of Jewish Americans serving in the United States military.

Then a Soldier is available at the museum and online (www.nmajmh.org/museumStore/). Portions of book sales go to museum programming.

Review by Brian Ahern, NMAJMH volunteer.

Our Veterans Deserve Better

Continued from page 1

of veterans who served in previous wars and eras. In 2011, the employment rate for former junior enlisted soldiers (Army and Marines) is reported at 36 percent. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 21 percent of all veterans under the age of 24 are unemployed.

The suicide statistics may be the most alarming. In 2010, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimated that 20 percent of suicide victims in the United States are former service members. Post-9/11 Army veterans were 21 percent more likely to die from suicide than the general population.

What Should the Jewish War Veterans do to Help Our Veterans?

Veterans must know that they can trust the Jewish War Veterans to be the “Voice of the Veteran” with local, state, and national community leaders. JWV takes on responsibility for

veterans when they are still in the military, but more so as soon as they leave and transition to civilian life. There is much that can be done and much that must be done to help our fellow veterans.

I take pride, and so do you or you would not be a member of JWV, in being part of the 1 percent of the U.S. public who has served in the military. But in May 2011, then Joint Chiefs Chairman Admiral Mike Mullen stated in a speech to West Point cadets that there is a lack of engagement between the U.S. public and its military/veteran members. Our military members have isolated themselves from the larger society. We in the JWV must use this opportunity to be the voice of the military member and veteran by forming alliances with local civic and Jewish organizations like the Rotary, Masons, Yellow Ribbon, Blue Star Mothers, Jewish Welfare Board, local Rabbi Councils, Men's Clubs, Brotherhoods, etc. to pass on the

word that JWV is the “Voice of the Veteran” and is here to serve you.

An Opportunity

JWV is an organization with a lot of potential for giving back to the community. The end of the war in Iraq and return to civilian life for military members means a potential influx of younger members to our ranks. But many of these younger members will only join us if we can ease their struggles with reintegration, joblessness, homelessness, and hopelessness.

Say and repeat to veterans that the Jewish War Veterans Cares for You and will be a partner in making sure that the local, state, and national community are aware and support your needs.

Over the next few months you will read and hopefully participate in JWV's plans and efforts to continue as the “Voice of the Veteran” and, in particular, the Jewish veteran.

Running Successful JWV Post Programs

Continued from page 7

We run an active CARE package program for troops in combat zones. We focus on local reserve units deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan, and send packages of useful items to personnel from this area. Recently we began supervising the youth at a local synagogue to help with the packaging as Bar/Bat Mitzvah projects or otherwise as volunteer helpers.

We collect contributions for the CARE package program. A year and a half ago we had a very successful golf outing, luncheon, and dinner at a local country club. It earned us several thousand

dollars, most of the income coming from non-member donations.

Our members look forward to meetings. We usually have coffee and pastries available, and fellows get a chance to meet up and socialize as well as learn from and enjoy the presentations and discussions.

My hope is that publicizing the sorts of programs that our Post schedules, as related above, will prove valuable to other JWV Posts. And it may open up a sharing of ideas. I welcome suggestions and feedback by email: maz439@gmail.com.

Mike Zimmerman was a U.S. Army Ordnance Corps officer who served in Korea during the Cold War as a platoon leader and company commander in the 7th Infantry Division. He was a captain when completing his active duty. Later he worked as a political analyst, a journalist, and a business executive, and now lectures, writes, and leads discussion groups on topics related to international security affairs. At JWV Post 29, he is First Junior Vice Commander and Program Director.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Left to right: Elias Calva, a Jewish resident of Stuttgart, Germany; Sgt. Major Luis F. Bispo; Colonel Carl Bird, Stuttgart Garrison Commander; Colonel Randall C. Dolinger, Stuttgart Garrison Command Chaplain; and Lt. Commander Adam Goldberg, USN, member of Post 23 RI at the Yom Ha'Shoah commemoration held at the Stuttgart Army Airfield in Germany. The pictured grave site was recently discovered to house the remains of 28 forced laborers that were imprisoned to clear debris at the Luftwaffe Field during WWII. Every Yom Ha'Shoah the Jewish community of Stuttgart says Kaddish at the grave site.



JWV members in New Jersey participated in a program honoring American and Russian liberators of concentration camps. Left to right: Paul Seres (Ebensee; liberator of Mauthausen); Sidney Parmet (POW at Stalag 7B, from 45th Division); Commander Arthur Seltzer, Post 126 NJ; Frank Hartzell (11th Armored Div.; liberator of Mauthausen); Alexandra Bucharova (Russian Army, 16th Army, liberator of Majdanek). Photo by Richard Chaitt.



Members of JWV and JWVA Post 21 NV hosted a special program on patriotism and military service for the 5th grade students at William Lummis Elementary School in Las Vegas. At the end of the program, the students were presented with a copy of the Constitution donated by Congresswoman Shelley Berkley (D-NV), a booklet from the State Legislature, and a pamphlet on the 13 folds of the American Flag. Ruth Weintrott (left) and Selma Portnoy present an award to Lisa Donahoe, winner of an essay contest on Americanism.



CAPT. Kenneth Iverson, Commander, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, presents The President's Volunteer Service Award and the Camp Pendleton Volunteers Inspire By Example Naval Hospital Award to COL. Maxwell & Linda Colón representing the Jewish War Veterans and the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary.



May 15, US Coast Guard Academy cadet 1/c Alex Berg received gifts from the Jewish War Veterans and the Jewish Welfare Board Chaplains Council to recognize his upcoming graduation and commissioning as an Ensign in the US Coast Guard. The Jewish War Veterans provided an engraved Kiddush cup and the Jewish Welfare Board provided a copy of Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's Jewish Literacy with personalized bookplate. Left to right: USCGA Command Chaplain Bryan Finch, Professor Ron Adrezin, 1/c Alex Berg, Professor Ian Frommer, Connecticut Department Commander Norman Hanenbaum, National JWVA Junior Vice President Joanne Blum, and Connecticut PDC Jerry Blum.

Bernhard Storch, National Holocaust Committee Chairman, was one of 16 Liberators present at the March of the Living on April 19. He had the honor of reciting the Kaddish during a special ceremony to acknowledge the Liberators and remember those who were murdered during the Holocaust. Present at the ceremony were the Chief Rabbi of Israel, who was a child survivor of Buchenwald; the Ambassador of Israel; and young and old from throughout the world.



JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Post 619 AZ makes a financial contribution to the Arizona Veterans Home in Phoenix, AZ. The Home is remodeling and redecorating a room for palliative care for veterans and their families. Left to right: Kristen Fray, therapist; Senior-Vice Commander Bob Cantor; Post Commander Clyde Schachner; Coleen Rundell, Home director; and PDC Jesse Gersten.



Jules Golombik, Chief of Staff Post 631 FL, and Annette Rose, President of JWVA Post 631 FL, presented a check to Mary C. Phillips, Chief of Voluntary/Recreation Therapy Service for the hospital's Homeless Program. In addition, chemo caps and lap robes knitted by the Post's "Knitting Angles" were donated. Left to right: President Annette Rose, Mary C. Phillips, and Chief of Staff Jules Golombik.



Midshipman Elizabeth Decker (prior to her commissioning as an ensign in the U.S. Navy) at the Oneg Shabbat following the Jewish Baccalaureate Service on May 25 at the Commodore Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel at the U.S. Naval Academy. Col. Erwin Burtnick, Commander of the Department of Maryland, presented JWV Kiddush cups to the 13 Jewish graduating midshipmen at the service. Post 117 MD sponsored the Oneg Shabbat.



Jewish service members celebrate Passover at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. Photo by Chaplain Michael Bram, Post 753 TX.



At the Sunset Parade on May 27 aboard the USS WASP [LHD-1] during Fleet Week New York. Left to right: WASP Captain Gary Boardman; Department of New York Senior-Vice Commander Gerald Alperstein; Department of New York Commander David Zwerin; and Rear Admiral Herman Shelanski, Commander Carrier Strike Group Ten and JWV member.



Members of Post 343 CO put on a model Seder for Fort Carson soldiers, their families, and the Fort Carson community on April 3, 2012. This was the Post's first project at Fort Carson, and after the positive feedback from attendees, it won't be the last. Left to right: Chaplain LTC Hanoch Fields, Post member MAJ Jim Burns, Post Commander Abe Braverman, Post Project Officer Steve Edelman, and Post Vice-Commander Mel Fahrenbruch.

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Kimberly Prasker-77 • Brett Sander-77 • Lee A. Casper-100 • Daniel Lee Dorchinsky-100 • Michael Gonen-100 • Adam Jonasz-100 • Joshua Kessler-100 • Brian B. Parker, USMC-100 • Irving Schoenberg, USAF Ret.-100 • Herman Shelanski-100 • David Wucher-100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

William Goldenberg-66 • Daniel Beren-603 • Michael R. Pick-760

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Calvin Aarons-51 • Gary Ross-45

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Stuart Warshauer-202 • Brenda Rosales-223 • Josh Simon-243 • Bernard Nachimson-266 • Norman Goldberg-321 • Harvey E. Berman-373 • Howard Siegel-400 • Jay F. Hersch-440 • William I. Honig-459 • Gerardo Rodriguez-698

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Kathy S. Lamorte-29 • Stanton Miller-29 • Milton Becker-328 • Matt Marcus-710

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Edward Rothstein-167 • Todd Fautleroy-692 • Julian Kramer-692 • Herbert White-888

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Brian Bluestein-40 • Daniel C. Leavitt-220

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

George Weiner-133 • Sydney Krupnick-178 • Dennis Haber-741

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Eugene Gross-1 • Victor Struber-1 • David Paintner-69 • Herbert Margolin-488 • Lawrence Adler-648 • Gerald Rosenweig-648 • Brian Field-709 • Joel Ross-709 • Barry Goldstein-717 • Charles Heichman-717 • Harold Landau-724

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

William Levin-21

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Frank Brodsky-305 • Richard Shapiro-706

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Kenneth Chanin-320

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Ronald Brenners-256 • Joel Presser-256 • Warren Gottsegen-580 • Michael Raff-580 • Denis Brewster Ricou-580 • Jonathan Cates-749 • Adam Jonasz-753

PEOPLE & PLACES

► **PNC David Hymes** spoke on April 26, 2012 at the Pritzker Military Library as part of their Profiles of Courage program.

► **Post 1 NY** presented the 2012 Colonel Larry Epstein Award to JWV Ladies Auxiliary National Chaplain **Petra Kaatz** on April 29. She received the annual award for her outstanding work as Secretary-Treasurer of the Department of New York Convention Corporation.

► **Post 639 FL** participated in a wreath laying ceremony during the opening day of the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall at Wickham Park in Melbourne, FL. A wreath was presented by **Paul Licker** and **Scott Wilson** both retired US Army veterans. This is an annual event for the Post which joins other civic and veteran organizations to honor their fallen comrades. According to Mr. Licker, "it is important for all to know that Jewish Men and Women have honorably served and continue to serve this country during times of peace and war."

► Members of the **JWV Department of Connecticut** attended a Seder at the Coast Guard Academy Officers' Club on April 4, 2012. Douglas Davidson, the US State Department

Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, made remarks.

► More than 120 veterans, clergy, community members and elected officials came together to remember the selfless service of the Four Chaplains and join **Post 105 NY** in presenting the annual Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award to Barbara Zaron at the Stratton VA Medical Center Chapel in Albany, NY on February 26, 2012. Zaron was honored for her lifetime of selfless service and commitment to social action and social justice.

► A Memorial service was conducted at Temple Beth El Cemetery in Whitehall, PA on May 13th. The students from Temple Beth El Religious School, their parents, and other veterans met and attended Minyan. Three veterans told the attendees about their experiences during their time in service from WWII to Vietnam. The worn flags on 180 graves were replaced and then everyone gathered for a memorial service led by JWV member **Jerry Farris**.

► **Post 735 MA** collected \$1700 for the disabled veterans at the VA Hospital in Brockton, MA. This money will be used to defray the costs of

REUNIONS

► The USS Boston CA-69, CAG-1, and SSN-703 will be holding its reunion in Buffalo, NY on July 12-15, 2012. For details, contact USS Boston Shipmates, Inc. Arthur L. Hebert, Secretary, PO Box 816, Amherst, NH 03031-0816, call 603-672-USSBoston, or go online to www.ussboston.org.

► The 35th Infantry Division Association will hold its annual reunion September 6-9, 2012 at the Kansas City Hilton Airport Hotel located at 8801 NW 112th Street in Kansas City, MO; 816-893-8900. For more information contact Col. Robert Dalton at 785-267-3295 or visit www.35thInfDivAssoc.com.

► The 9th reunion of the USS Plymouth Rock LSD-29 will be held September 20-25, 2012 at the Dolce Valley Forge Hotel in King of Prussia, PA 19406, 877-851-5551. For more information, visit www.ussplymouthrock.com or contact David Dortch at tazrhondave@yahoo.com, 870-236-3725 or Harry T. Anderson at htajma@comcast.net, 847-336-2151.

► USS Cascade AD-16 is holding its reunion October 2-7, 2012 at the Buena Vista Hotel Suites located at 8203 World Center Drive, Orlando, FL. For more information, contact Bob Croghan at bobsr@croghancpa.com, 314-954-7801 or Leonard Goeke at 319-653-3904.

► The USS Warrington (DD843) Alumni Organization is holding its reunion October 3-7, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Charleston, SC. Contact Stan Prager at 916-791-6700 or stashuman843@msn.com for more information.

► The Marine Air Groups reunion (WWII-Present) will be held in Branson, MO October 17-21, 2012. For more information, contact James Jordan at james.m.jordan@hughes.net, 417-535-4945 or Bob Miller at mbobsue13@yahoo.com, 636-327-5854.

amenities that are not covered by the VA.

► Senior-Vice Commander **Buddy Epstein** of **Post 717 NY** visited the Northport, NY VA Hospital where he distributed 20 handmade wool lap blankets, made by Mrs. A. Greefield, to the patients at the hospice facility.

► **Post 300 FL** presented a blanket made by Mrs. Evelyn Izzo, a member of the Palm Coast Blanketeers. The blanket was made in honor of her brother-in-law, Robert Lax, a Korean War veteran.

My First Yarmulke Was Made of Steel

As terrible as war can be, there are situations that bring forth the humor that is natural to us all.

By Corporal Roy A. Elsner, USMCR; Post 256 TX

I was an infantryman during WWII, a member of the 27th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division. Our unit was one of the many that initiated the invasion of Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. The Japanese enemy's defense of their island was fierce, and the loss of life on both sides was horrible. This battle cost America almost 6,900 of its young men and 23,000 wounded. Our job was to find and destroy the enemy.

After a few days, our platoon of 40 men was ordered to halt and told we would continue our mission in the morning. We set up a perimeter to protect ourselves from the enemy attacking us during the night. My buddy Jay Young and I were preparing to eat one of our meager K- rations, while hunkered down in a fox hole. A messenger came crawling up to our place of seclusion with the information that Jewish Sabbath services were taking place in an area about 75 yards away.

Jay wasn't Jewish and stayed behind, but I put on my metal helmet, gathered my rifle and a bandolier of ammunition, and began to slowly and carefully crawl to the area that the runner indicated.

Let me pause here to explain the helmet. Our headgear in WWII consisted of a hard fiber liner that could be worn alone when protection was not required. In training and combat situations a steel bucket was worn over the liner. One could write an entire book on the green metal hat. It was the most utilitarian piece of equipment ever issued to a member of the armed forces. We used it as a wash basin, a food container, and a bathroom.

As there had been enemy snipers shoot-

ing at us from secluded hiding places nearby, I was careful to keep my head and body down and be as small a target as possible. I soon came to a large crater, hollowed out by one of the thousands of bombs fired from the 450 American ships in the harbor and the American planes attempting to destroy the enemy before we landed. I rolled my body down into the shell hole and stood up.

Our pastor, Holy Joe in Marine parlance, was a young rabbi, Navy Lieutenant Commander Roland Gittelsohn. He joined the 5th Marine division as its Jewish chaplain in early 1944 and served us well, enticing us into participating in Jewish observances. In Hawaii, where we received intense training before sailing to invade Iwo Jima, he commandeered the mess hall. The rabbi was well liked and respected by all the Marines in our division because of his easy manner and straight forward way of speaking. When we had a problem, Chaplain Gittelsohn was easy to talk to.

When I arrived, he had already donned his tallit and prepared to begin the Sabbath service. I joined the group of about fifteen Marines and dutifully removed my metal helmet. You see, I was raised in a very liberal Reform temple in Chicago and we never prayed wearing yarmulke or cap. Our weekend services were on Sunday morning not Friday or Saturday.

The rabbi looked at me for a moment and ordered me to put my helmet on. I responded that I had grown up not wearing a head cover when praying and wasn't about to start now. A small grin crept over his face and his words were, "Elsner, I am a Reform rabbi and am also unaccustomed to a head cover during a religious service, but people out here are shooting at us. Put



on your helmet." Obediently, I donned my helmet and the service continued.

Chaplain Gittelsohn was made famous by the sermon he preached while conducting the Jewish service at the Iwo Jima cemetery at the conclusion of the vicious battle, a speech which was clouded in controversy because of prejudice shown by some of the Christian chaplains. That sermon, however, continues to be repeated and reprinted by Marines to this day.

I was wounded 14 days later by a bomb burst which injured my head, destroyed the tricep in one arm, and blew a large hole in the very helmet the rabbi had cautioned me to wear. He went on to great success in the rabbinate, gaining respect as one of the most learned scholars and authors of his day.

A couple of years before his death, just for old times' sake, I phoned him at his home where he lived in retirement. I taught kids in synagogue religious school from one of the many text books he had written. We had a delightful chat and he graciously agreed to autograph my copy of his book, "Little Lower than the Angels," one which I treasure to this day. And now you know why "my first yarmulke was made of steel."

Attention All Marines!

We are forming a program for all Marines within the Jewish War Veterans. Send Morry Goldfarb, JVC Department of Florida, your name, address, city, state, and zip code plus your dates of service with your rank at the time of discharge.

Please notify him if you plan to be at the National Convention in Norfolk, VA. If you do not plan on being at the Convention in August, we would greatly appreciate having your name and address, so we may be in touch for future information and events.

please send your information to:

Morry Goldfarb
JVC Department of Florida
5981 Los Alamos Lane
Delray Beach, FL 33484



SEMPER FI



Starting May 15, unemployed veterans between the ages of 35 and 60 can apply for new benefits to cover education costs for up to one year through a joint Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Labor (DOL) program. The Veteran Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) allows qualifying veterans to receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the full-time Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty rate, currently \$1,473 per month.

Veterans can apply on a first-come, first-serve basis for VRAP beginning on May 15, 2012, for programs that begin on or after July 1, 2012. Assistance under this benefit program ends on March 31, 2014. Visit www.benefits.va.gov/VOW to learn more.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Development Committee

By PNC Monroe Mayer, Chairman

Back in 1896, a group of middle aged Jewish veterans of the Civil War era decided that they had heard often enough that Jews had not served during the war. From their own experiences they all knew it was totally untrue, but what was to be done about it? Well, today we know what they did, and your JWV USA was formed to tell that story. From reading newspapers or keeping up with cable TV, we must realize that our story must not only be told...but told again and again. That's our job and here is how you can help. As you read this, every one of you has had an experience when you were a member of the Armed Forces, and that story has to be told. If it is not told, it will disappear in the dust bin of history and our children and grandchildren will have to live through the turmoil created, because our story wasn't told. The Jewish contribution to the history of the United States is known, but sadly, only primarily amongst ourselves.

While reading this, consider where those old photos taken when you were in service are located. Dig them out, write a memo of what occurred, and send it to us at National HQ. We would like to publish those stories in our Annual JWV USA Calendar or here in *The Jewish Veteran*. If we don't tell the story...who will?

Things haven't changed much, from then until now. And as the world looks at the turmoil in the Middle East, many voices are heard that if Israel didn't exist, all would be quiet in that arena. We, as Jews, know that's not true, which means we have to pick up the story, and direct our influence to telling where the truth lies. Part of that detail must be the portion of our participation in the growth of the United States, along with the actual danger that is arising in the Middle East.

In the past, your support has been sincerely appreciated, and continues to support the JWV mis-

sion. We still want the stories of your family or friends whose heroics need to be told and retold. If you and other members of your family have served over the years, we want to know. Go through those old pictures, go back through time, and let us tell a story. Please remember, the stories we want to tell can only come from you. There is nowhere else we can go to get these events and record them for posterity.

As members and friends you receive the various items we produce for the direct mail effort. Our calendar, address labels, note pads, and High Holidays cards are sent to those of you who contribute to the effort that supports JWV USA. You will continue to receive these items as long as a donation is made to your organization. By enjoying and supporting our efforts, JWV USA will be here for a long time while telling the story of the men and women who contributed to the growth of this great nation.

Homeless/Stand Down Committee

By PDC Maxwell S. Colón, Chairman

According to the Economic Roundtable, an organization based in California, it costs between \$35,000 and \$150,000 in public services for a homeless veteran to be on the streets. In contrast, it costs between \$13,000 and \$25,000 to end that person's homelessness. That is an alarming figure!

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, more than 1/5 of homeless Americans live in the streets, parks, and shelters of California with the 2011 statewide total estimated at 135,928. In order to end homelessness in San Diego, CA, a downtown center allows homeless people to store their belongings in storage bins so as to permit some individuals the opportunity to job hunt without having to bring suitcases, trash bags, or shopping carts along for the interview.

In 2009 the VA announced

an initiative to end homelessness among veterans by 2015. In California, the VA and other agencies are collaborating on 'veterans only' housing developments scattered across the state to end homelessness.

It has been found that the number of unsheltered homeless veterans has increased 4 percent in the last two years in California. This lack of shelters can have grave consequences upon our society. Let us recognize that the homeless are migrant, workers, families, men and women with mental health or substance abuse issues, VETERANS, and that not all of them can exist in the same type of shelter. Homelessness is not a seasonal or nighttime problem. Shelters should be an entry point to programs.

Hospital Committee

By PDC Jerome Blum, Chairman

Yom Ha'Shoah, Shavuot, Memorial Day, Mother's and Father's Day

What do all of these days have in common? They are special days that we put aside to remember special people.

Yom Hashoah: We remember people who died and/or suffered in Concentration Camps. Many survivors made their way to America and led fruitful but tainted lives, thanks to Hitler. These survivors need special attention as they age.

Shavuot: We honor our deceased loved ones – enough said!

Memorial Day: We honor our fallen comrade warriors, of all nationalities, and of all wars. We especially honor our fallen Jewish comrades at their gravesites.

Mother's and Father's Day: We honor Moms, Dads, Bubbes, and Zaydes. Without them, we would not even be a thought.

But how many of us take the time to go to a hospital or nursing home and visit with our aged and/or infirm comrades? Many of us do this mitzvah. However, many of these hospitalized folks sit and wait for company that never comes. Would you want this for

your family member?

Please take some time during these periods to remember our hospitalized veterans.

Resolutions Committee

By PNC Mike Berman, Chairman

The Resolutions Committee meets once each year during the Annual Convention. The purpose of the Committee is to recommend to the Convention matters of policy and positions on issues, which come before the Convention for further discussion and debate. The Committee often tackles difficult issues and the discussions are heated. Ultimately, the Committee is able to make its recommendations to the Convention. The Committee meets three to four days during the Convention for a total of 10-12 hours. The Committee has some 50 members and is the largest committee at the Convention. The doors are open to anyone attending the Convention to speak, but only Committee members may vote on final Resolution language. We hope to see you at Convention and invite you to drop in at our meeting.

JROTC Committee

By PDC Michael Corbett, Chairman

Unlike other JWV committees that are focused on the heroic veteran of America's military service, the Junior ROTC committee has the unique function of addressing the "pre-" veteran; that is, those youngsters still in secondary educational institutions who are yet making-up their minds about the future, including whether to go on to college, to work of a civilian nature, to perform domestic service work, or to enter the military.

These young Americans are in a very special position at this time in our history in that our nation's recent drawdown of combat activities provides an opportunity for an entirely domestic tour of duty provided, of course, "Spring" visits many more countries than just the

Arab ones. Still, with fewer conflicts comes the opportunity for many young Americans to build a cache of experience, and to learn a trade without bankrupting their families over the expense of a higher education.

But, for any of these future taxpayers and upstanding citizens of their communities who are presently participating in the JROTC program at their high school, exposure to the Jewish War Veterans of the USA offers them, and our organization, opportunities we are ill-advised to ignore.

For the minor percentage of Jewish students involved with JROTC, our involvement offers them a connection to the military they would rarely find; that of having an advisor - a mentor, if you will, to ease their transition into military service. With the proper nurturing, JWV may become a major source of support to the Jewish service man or woman; and their organization of choice upon transitioning back to civilian status. All

that depends on today's JWV Post members - to build the necessary relationships, offering a meaningful connection to the outside world while they serve.

And, for non-Jewish students, understanding the role Jews have played in America's military and its defense of our democratic way of life may be the sole inkling of such they ever have. The key is a commitment by our Posts to become involved with, and remain a vital source of support for the JROTC program in your neighborhood high school.

For further information and assistance with making the all important first connection to the JROTC Detachment in your area, contact JWV National JROTC Program Chair, Michael Corbett at: ocusmc@gmail.com

NMI Certificate Program

By *Hannah Deutch, Chairman*

The Museum is starting a new mini-campaign within the Certificate

Program. From now until February 28, 2013, NMAJMH will provide ONE free certificate for every four blank certificates ordered. That's FIVE 6"x9" blank certificates for only \$40.00 instead of \$50.00! Certificates have to be ordered at the same time.

These certificates are a great way to honor birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations, or even to send a friend a get well wish.

Today, a nice all occasion card can be hard to find. If you participate in the mini certificate campaign, not only will your card say what you want it to say, but you will be supporting the museum's programs! And if you buy them in bulk, you will always have a certificate on hand.

Please send in your \$40 check, made payable to NMAJMH, and request five blank certificate cards with envelopes. For more information about these new certificates, contact Mary Westley at 202-265-6280 or mwestley@nmajmh.org.

Women in the Military Committee

By *E.G. Jerry Farris, Vice-Chairman*

Recently, I went to the VA Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA, to visit with Vincent Riccardo, Jr., Public Affairs Officer; Pat Conroy, LCSW, Women Veterans Program Manager; Dr. Samia Bouleghlem, who works in the women's clinical area; and Dr. Bina Ahmed, Chief of Primary Care.

It is important to note that today women veterans are a priority at the VA. In medical centers and clinics around the country, a program has been instituted in which providers, both female and male, are trained to provide comprehensive women's healthcare, which means taking care of acute or chronic medical problems as well as gender specific care.

Providers who are trained in women's comprehensive health will do things like the basic breast exam

Continued on page 22

Valuable Benefit Amounts

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

Short Term Recovery Insurance (RecoveryCare) steps in with between **\$750 and \$1,450.00** in cash benefits for each Hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility stay.

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

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

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Help protect your savings from the cost of today's home health care
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1-800-503-9230
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*This policy is guaranteed acceptance, but it does contain a Pre-Existing Conditions Limitation. Please refer to the Certificate of Insurance for more information on exclusions and limitations, such as Pre-Existing Conditions. Any current health conditions are covered after 6 months.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this period between Memorial Day and Independence Day, I always reflect on what it means to be both a veteran and a Jew in this great country. For many of our families, coming to America was an opportunity to flee the oppression and danger they faced in Europe. The United States was a beacon of hope – the first place in the world where Jews were free to live their lives in peace as Jews.

In return for the freedoms afforded to us in this country, we have worked to protect it from our enemies. From Asher Levy, who demanded and secured the right to stand guard at the stockade in 1654, to Iraq and Afghanistan today, Jews have served in an unending line in defense of this great nation.

At the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, we strive to document the history of American Jews in the military for

future generations. It is our greatest wish that our descendants will look at the museum and reflect with pride on contributions of the Jews that have come before them.

When the Jewish War Veterans of the USA was founded in 1896, it was in response to accusations that Jews did not do their part during the Civil War. I can say with pride that through the tireless efforts of NMAJMH's volunteers and staff, no one can question the fact that Jews have shared in the burden of defending our country.

With the new permanent exhibit planned for the first floor of our museum, we hope to highlight the 358-year history of Jews in America's military and JWV's 116 years of service to our veterans. However, to make this vision a reality, we need your help. Please consider making a donation and aiding us in preserving this important history for future generations.



**PNC Norman Rosenshein
President, NMAJMH**

Comments from our Visitors

"I was very proud to be here today – being a vet of WWII it was a thrill to see this museum. It brings back many memories of my past. It was a wonderful afternoon." *Dorothy (Rosenholtz) Wapner*

"As a mother of two sons 23 and 27, I am moved by the Mother's Exhibit. I cannot imagine."
Cindy Guterman, Tulsa, OK

FROM OUR ARCHIVES By Pamela Elbe

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

Donating Memorabilia to the NMAJMH

The collections and archives of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History have been built on the donations of JWV members. Nearly all of the objects in the Museum's collection have been acquired through the generosity of individuals such as yourself, making our collection one that truly reflects the diverse experiences of Jewish Americans in the US Armed Forces.

Because the NMAJMH needs your help to fully document Jewish service in the American military, below you will find the steps to offer items for donation to the Museum/Archives.

All collection offers must be made in writing. Do not send items to the Museum without first consulting the collections manager. We cannot accept actual artifacts for review without prior consultation. Via snail mail or email please describe each item, attaching a list if necessary. If possible, also include photographs of objects. Since the background of the item is as important as the item itself, provide as much detail as possible. Also be sure to include information regarding the military service of the person involved. The information provided will be reviewed and you will be contacted with a response.

Please remember:

- ♦ Only the legal owners of an item (or their legally designated representative) can donate

(transfer title to) items.

- ♦ The Museum cannot guarantee that donated items will be exhibited.
- ♦ The Museum does not have the capacity to accept all items offered for donation due to a variety of limitations (space, duplication of items already in the collections, lack of provenance, etc.).

The mission of the NMAJMH is to collect and preserve, for future generations, memorabilia, and written and oral records of the patriotic contributions of Jewish Americans who served in the armed forces of the United States from the time of the founding of this country to the present. While the Museum currently has a sizable collection of materials relating to both World Wars and other earlier conflicts, more recent service is not well represented within the Museum's collections. We need your help to fix that. The Museum is actively seeking to preserve the stories and experiences of our nation's newest veterans. If you served in Iraq or Afghanistan, please consider donating items that document your personal experiences for future generations.

Items of interest to the Museum include, but are not limited to: letters, photographs, military equipment and uniforms, and memoirs. If you have material that you are willing to donate to

the NMAJMH, please contact Pamela Elbe, Collections Manager at pelbe@nmajmh.org. For more information about donating to the Museum and how our collection is used, visit our web site: <http://www.nmajmh.org/collectionsAndResearch/collectionAndArchives.php>.



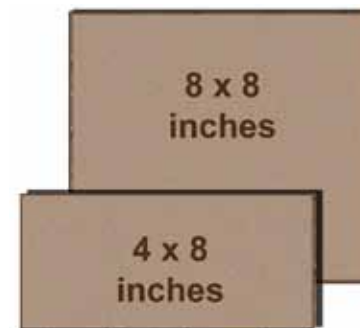
A drawing in a letter from father to daughter in WWII (Samuel Hanik collection).



A patch from an Air Force medic who served in Iraq and Afghanistan (Seth Pasternak collection).

WALK THE WALK WITH US By Iris Goldwasser, Development Chair

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History invites you to Walk the Walk with us and participate in our REMEMBRANCE WALK, our new pavers program. This new venture places engraved pavers on the steps and landing entrance at our Museum building in Washington, DC. This space will accommodate approximately 500 pavers, etched with your personal inscription on a 4"x8" or 8"x8" paver. Your participation in our REMEMBRANCE WALK will make you a permanent part of our NMAJMH, and it will ensure that all who enter our building will realize your commitment and dedication. Pavers make a wonderful gift, memorial, tribute, commemoration, or recognition for someone special in your life. **Walk the Walk With Us Today!**



Complete the form below with your preferred inscription. If you have any questions feel free to contact Mary Westley at 202-265-6280 or mwestley@nmajmh.org. Please send your completed form to: NMAJMH Pavers Program, 1811 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Check Paver size, # of lines				Name:		
	4" x 8"	2 lines of inscription	\$200	Address:		
	4" x 8"	3 lines of inscription	\$250	City:	State:	Zip:
	8" x 8"	8 lines of inscription	\$500	Phone: _____ E-mail: _____		
Total Amount:				<input type="checkbox"/> My check in the amount of \$ _____ Payable to NMAJMH		
Check Characters to use for inscription (includes all spaces)				<input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover		
	ALL UPPER CASE.....		16 Maximum	Card # _____ EX. Date _____		
	Mixed Upper + Lower Case.....		20 Maximum	Signature _____		
Inscription (please note number of characters includes all spaces)						
1.				5.		
2.				6.		
3.				7.		
4.				8.		

From Our Collection By Mike Rugel

Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH

Milton Gaman's Eyeglasses

There's no shortage of negative Jewish stereotypes. The Museum works to defy these, particularly the idea of the Jew as nebbish—geeky, ineffectual, and weak. Perhaps nothing symbolizes this stereotype better than a pair of eyeglasses. We can all picture the skinny kid in his glasses. Smart, maybe, but he's the butt of jokes and victim of bullies, too feeble to stand up for himself. It's the opposite of what we think of as a soldier.

If you were only to look at photos of Milton Gaman, in many ways he fit that stereotype. Look beyond the surface and you'll see the opposite was true. The skinny kid with the glasses was one of four brothers serving in World War II. In 1944, he wore those eyeglasses to fight in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations with the 351st Infantry Regiment of the 88th Infantry Division--the "Blue Devils." The regiment saw serious combat, Gaman's battalion earned the



Milton Gaman

on October 14th in the Gesso region in the area of Bologna, Gaman was wearing these eyeglasses. He was guarding an enemy prisoner amidst fierce artillery counterattacks from the Germans. Gaman was hit by shrapnel, receiving serious

Distinguished Unit Citation for action from July 9 - 13 in Lajatico, Italy where they captured hundreds of German prisoners and took an important position along the Arno River after particularly tough fighting.

In later action

wounds to his chest, arms, and shoulder.

Gaman sent his Purple Heart medal home to his parents in Chelsea, Massachusetts. He was honored by the hometown newspaper, the chamber of commerce, and a flood of letters to the Gamans. He had become the epitome of a soldier and the pride of his community. The story of Milton Gaman's experience in war shatters the nebbish stereotype. The shattered eyeglasses are a symbol of the bravery and sacrifice for country made by a decorated soldier.



Milton Gaman's glasses.

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COMMITTEES

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and pap screens. They are educated and very much aware of needs like birth control, screening for osteoporosis, and menopausal issues. There is also provision made for necessities like prenatal vitamins. Among other options offered for our female veteran population are wellness and healthy living programs where groups for pain and stress management are available along with stop smoking groups.

The VA is looking at women's heart disease, high blood pressure, LDL, and diabetes screening, prevention, and treatment. It's creating more management and emotional support options in order to evaluate how the health of female veterans is affected by environmental, social, and age factors. By doing this, they may be able to better

treat our women veterans.

There is a nutritional program which is involved in the women's program. There is also the MOVE program, which has exercise as well as nutritional guidance. In combination with keeping people healthier and not just treating illnesses, the VA hopes to help in the prevention of disease.

Holocaust Committee

By Bernhard Storch, Chairman

On Thursday, April 19, we arrived at Auschwitz, the largest death factory in the world, where over 2,500,000 lives were lost in the cruelest way ever witnessed. I did not count the buildings where the evidence was on display, I could not tolerate that, as I still remember the date of July 23, 1944 when I entered a former

Polish Military Base called Majdanek in Lublin, Poland. From the outside it did not look sinister until the sign in one building proclaimed "Bad und Disinfection." They were gas chambers where over 800,000 lives were lost including Russian Prisoners of War and Polish Jewish Soldiers.

The viewing took place over two hours and then the 3km silent march began. Out of the 16 veterans only 3 were able to walk the distance. I had the honor to display our beautiful USA flag to the end, and along the way we received rousing applause from the thousands of people present from around the world.

During the day, the names of the 1,500,00 Jewish children who died in the Holocaust were read, among them my three brothers ages 8,11, and 14 plus all my schoolmates and cousins who were lost.



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Happy Days and Good Health

Jerry & Sara Alperstein

PCC Edward & PDP Louise Baraw
In Honor to all Veterans

Eugene Baraw • Post 776
Greetings & Best Wishes

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Chag Sameach

Howard A. & Dorothy G. Berger
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A Happy & Healthy Holiday To All

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Happy & Healthy Wishes to All!

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Jack Kent (Kantrovitz) #62, Akron, OH

Best Wishes & Good Health to All

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Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

Happy Holiday to all Comrades!

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