



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Winter • 2013

Memorial Day 2013

As Memorial Day 2013 approaches, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History and the Jewish War Veterans list at present 50 Jews who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There are no other organizations better suited to remember these Fallen Heroes than JWV, the nation's oldest active veterans' service organization, and NMAJMH, established to document the courage, heroism, and sacrifices made by Jewish Americans in the armed forces.

Remember their lives and their sacrifice by reading their names at your echelon's meeting closest to Memorial Day, asking your Rabbi and other Jewish community leaders to read the names at services on the Shabbat of Memorial Day weekend, and including the reading of the names at all Memorial Day events.

JWV is also participating in the Third Annual Shabbat Service Honoring the Jewish Fallen Heroes of Iraq and Afghanistan in Washington, DC at the 6th and I Historic Synagogue on Friday, May 24, 2013.

May their names and their memories be a blessing to us all.

Remembrance Walk Dedicated at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History

Members of JWV, JWVA, and the National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) gathered on February 16, 2013 for a special dedication of the new Remembrance Walk located in front of the museum and the national headquarters of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV).

The Remembrance Walk program was established at the 116th Annual National Convention in August 2011 and was made possible by a generous donation of \$15,000 in startup funds from the Department of NY. The first pavers were installed in early fall 2012. Each paver is inscribed with a personalized message chosen by the donor and offers a permanent record of support to NMAJMH in

the nation's capital.

Members and supporters from across the country have stepped up and purchased a paver, leaving their permanent mark on the museum. The messages on the 185 pavers already placed on the Remembrance Walk recognize Posts, partnerships, loved ones, and those who have passed.

Despite the frigid February temperatures, the crowd stood in rapt attention throughout the dedication ceremony. Norman Rosenshein, NMAJMH



Admiral Harold Robinson, JWV National Chaplain, addresses the crowd at the Remembrance Walk dedication ceremony.

President and JWV Past National Commander, introduced the distinguished guests, which included JWV National Commander

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Senator Sanders Receives JWV Medal of Merit



PNC Monte Mayer, Senator Bernie Sanders, and NC Sheldon Ohren with the 2013 JWV Medal of Merit. Photo by Gerald Alperstein.

On February 13, 2013, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) was honored by the Jewish War Veterans of the USA with the JWV Medal of Merit in recognition of his tireless efforts

supporting America's veterans. Sanders was named Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs in December after serving on the committee for six years.

Over 100 JWV and JWVA members gathered with leadership from other veterans' service organizations and JWV supporters to see Sanders receive the JWV Medal of Merit.

This event was a capstone for many members who were in Washington, DC meeting with their Congressional representatives about the current issues and concerns facing the nation's veterans.

National Commander Sheldon Ohren and Past National Commander Monte Mayer introduced Sanders to the crowd. Mayer, one of Sanders' constituents in Vermont, spoke passionately about the positive strides the Senator has made for veterans and the residents of Vermont.

Sanders graciously thanked JWV members for the award and acknowledged the work done by them throughout the country, particularly the many hours spent in VA facilities aiding fellow veterans. He also candidly addressed many of JWV's current legislative concerns, including the effect of sequestration on programs like the HUD VASH vouchers that veterans on the verge of homelessness use to obtain afford-

Continued on page 7

Upcoming JWV Teleconferences

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

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

2013 Schedule

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

National Youth Achievement Program

Do you know an accomplished high school senior? Applications for the 2012-13 National Youth Achievement Program are now available! Applicants must be the direct descendant of members in good standing. The deadline for the program is May 1, 2013.

Visit our website www.jwv.org or contact Nikki Salzman at nsalzman@jwv.org, 202-265-6280 for more information.

Get Social with JWV Online!



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JWV Online Forum:
jwvusa.ning.com

Want your Post featured in the next issue of *The Jewish Veteran*? Send your story or photos to Nikki Salzman at nsalzman@jwv.org.



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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YOUR LETTERS

Thank You

Dear Herb,

I write to personally thank you for your support for the US ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It truly is in America's interest to ratify the treaty and continue to lead the world in the treatment of people with disabilities. Though we did not get it through the Senate in December, I am confident it will be back in 2013 and I am counting on Jewish War Veterans of the USA to again be an important voice in the effort.

God Bless America,

Bob Dole

Senator for Kansas, 1969-1996

Hurricane Sandy Assistance

Dear Mr. Sheldon Ohren and Mr. Herb Rosenbleeth:

Thank you so much for the donation to me and my family. We live on the South Shore of Long Island in East Rockaway. Our town, residences, and schools have been hit badly and are slowly recovering.

My home was damaged and we have just moved back after being gone for two months. The money that JWV has given me and my family is greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for thinking of us.

Sincerely,

Teena Ben-Ari

National Disaster Relief Fund Recipient

Attention on Deck! Blue Water Veterans and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Dear Editor:

Any Blue Water Veteran suffering from non-

Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) who has been denied a NHL disability by the Veterans Administration (VA) because of the boots-on-ground requirement – the VA was wrong!

As reported by the American Legion Magazine in the March 2011 article, "Still Adrift," by Ken Olsen: "By 1990, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that a greater percentage of Vietnam War sailors [and Fleet Marines] developed non-Hodgkin's lymphoma than veterans who served with ground forces. A year later, Congress authorized Agent Orange benefits [1991 Agent Orange Equity Act] and directed the national Academy of Sciences to come up with a list of diseases connected to toxic exposure. VA restricted the type of service members who could qualify for Agent Orange coverage in the years after the 1991 legislation passed, says Jeff Davis founder of VASVW [Veterans Association of Sailors of the Vietnam War] the [G.W.] Bush administration quietly implemented rules that require veterans to prove they had stepped foot in Vietnam, the boots-on-ground requirement, to qualify for Agent Orange benefits."

VA has established one ruling, 38CFR3.313, for all Vietnam Sailors and Fleet Marines suffering from NHL. But under the boots-on-ground ruling, a Blue Water Veteran is denied NHL compensation and medical treatment.

How do I know this? I am the only sailor from the USS Newport News CA-148 (Tonkin Gulf service 67-69) to receive four Agent Orange Disabilities, a Hepatitis C disability, and 100 percent VA disability over a protracted period of nine years. During that time, I appeared on the front page of the Columbus Dispatch and was on NBC4 News concerning my battle for myself and all Blue Water Veterans. Some of my endeavors were brought to the attention of two of my shipmates who were suffering

from NHL and had been turned down by their respective VA regional offices for their respective NHL disability applications. With the assistance of the Blue Water Navy Association, it was determined that the wrong form had been used by their VA offices in the application process. I personally assisted both of my shipmates in correcting this egregious error and they subsequently received a NHL disability.

Any Vietnam Blue Water Veteran suffering from non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and presently being denied treatment and compensation from the VA for NHL, please feel free to contact me as I may be able to assist you.

Dr. Dennis M. Agin, LCDR, USN (Ret.)

Post 100

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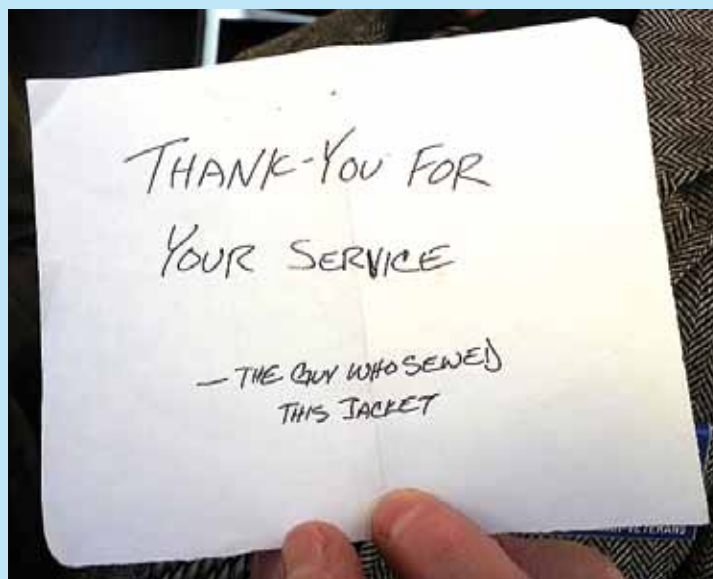
Marie Loprestie of Breezy Point, NY lost the home she lived in for 34 years to Hurricane Sandy. Her home was one of 100 in her community that caught fire during the storm. Among the items she lost was the US flag given to her at her husband Anthony's funeral. With the help of JWV and Dignity Memorial, Sol Moglen of Post 695 NJ was able to present Loprestie with a replacement flag in a presidential case.

We Regret The Error

"Military Suicides," which appeared in the Fall 2012 issue, inadvertently ran without the byline. The piece was graciously written for *The Jewish Veteran* by guest contributor, Jacob M. Romo, Ph.D., LTC, (Ret), USA MSC, and Commander, Dept. of MA.

On page 15, a caption erroneously identified the 73rd Annual Pinelawn Memorial Service as a Post 1 NY event. This service was held by the Queens County Council.

When Alec Pandaleon, a JWV National Service Officer and Post 625 NY Patron, received his new jacket from the JWV supply store, he found a surprise note left in one of the pockets.



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Sheldon Ohren



This December, I had the honor of representing JWV at the annual White House Chanukah Party. As my wife, Judy, and I visited parts of the White House, we were impressed by the many menorahs we saw. We Jews have come a long way in this country!

As we close the first quarter of 2013, there are many issues which have to be addressed:

- ♦ **Mandatory Funding:** it is our position that VA funding must be guaranteed by Congress.
- ♦ **Sequestration:** This is the mandatory spending cuts that will happen in the Federal budget if the cost of running the government exceeds either an arbitrary amount or the gross revenue it brings during the fiscal year. Simply put, sequestration is the employment of automatic across the board spending cuts in the face of annual budget deficits. VA funding is exempt from the sequestration cuts, but veterans could still be hurt by spending reductions. The budget cuts could hit military transition programs or service member retrain-

ing efforts. These programs are key to ensuring a progression back to civilian life, and cuts could have wide-ranging effects.

- ♦ **VA Backlog of Claims:** These claims have increased to over 900,000 at the end of last year. This number must be reduced.
- ♦ **Mental Health in the Military:** DoD figures show that more soldiers took their own lives than died in combat in 2012. The Army suicide rate has climbed by 9 percent since it launched its suicide prevention program. More needs to be done.
- ♦ **Iran's Nuclear Capability:** JWV urges Congress to strongly oppose Iran's continuing development of nuclear power. There is great concern that Iran will attempt to use this power against both Israel and the United States.

I have often mentioned in my talks that over the past decade there has been a disconnection between the public and the less than one percent of Americans burdened with its defense. Veterans are a distinct minority in American

society. The 23 million veterans in this country make up only 3.3 percent of the adult population. When the draft was eliminated 40 years ago, so was the average family's incentive for staying tuned to the armed forces. Once the potential for actually serving themselves no longer existed, there was no reason for the typical American to take a genuine interest in our military.

During the recent confirmation hearing for Secretary of Defense, there was little focus on the issues affecting active duty personnel including the welfare of military families and the high rates of suicide. We should make sure that our Representatives and Senators are kept more aware of these issues.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all those who participated in Capitol Hill Action Day and let us look forward to some positive results in the weeks and months ahead.

I wish you all a happy Passover.

NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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



The Honorable Bernie Sanders Chairman, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

On January 3, 2013, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont officially became the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Chairman Sanders is a strong supporter of veterans, senior citizens, labor, and the disabled. JWV can count on Senator Sanders to help preserve our benefits!

Bernie Sanders was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2006 after serving 16 years in the House of Representatives. He is the longest serving independent member of Congress in American history. Born in Brooklyn, Sanders graduated from the University of Chicago, then moved to Vermont. Senator Sanders believes that the needs of our nation's veterans have been shortchanged and neglected by our government for far too long, and he has been a leader in

the effort to ensure that Congress reverses that trend and improves the care and benefits that veterans receive. Senator Sanders believes it is crucial to have the best services in the world for our veterans. He further believes it is highly important that veterans know about the available VA services and be able to access them.

PNC Monte Mayer is the leader of JWV in Vermont, and he is regularly invited to be the key speaker at the White River Junction VA Medical Center, a facility of very special interest to Chairman Sanders.

On February 13, Chairman Sanders was honored at the JWV Congressional Reception and received the JWV Medal of Merit for his outstanding support of veterans.



Chairman Bernie Sanders and Colonel Herb Rosenbleeth following a news conference to announce a growing coalition of seniors, veterans, and others to protect benefits for Social Security and disabled veterans.

DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

By PNC Paul Bernstein, National Editor



In last summer's edition of *The Jewish Veteran*, I wrote a piece about protecting yourself and your family against natural disasters. Little did I know that in October, when super storm Sandy slammed into the northeast, I would be living the words I wrote.

Everything listed in the article was part of my survival plan, which I put into action before the storm hit. The main thing was to ensure that each car had a full tank of gas because, without power, no gas could be pumped at the gas station unless it had a generator. The gas stations that were open for business after the storm were listed on social networking sites, which were the best place to get current information out to the public in our area. Despite the long lines at open stations, this access to information was a blessing.

In addition to information about gas stations, social networks kept us informed about restaurants that were open. A hot meal went a long way to preserving one's sanity in an insane situation. People waited for hours for food, but believe me, it was worth it.

The other vital item was batteries for flashlights and radios. Every type of battery was scarce. As soon as they were delivered to the store, they left the shelves. Sayreville, New

Jersey, my hometown, was without electricity for ten days. Needless to say, we used many batteries. "D" batteries were the most treasured for it fit the lanterns that provide light for the whole room. There were none in Southern New Jersey and none in New York City, so I called my sister-in-law in Florida, and she sent some up. It was hard to live by flashlights alone. Simple tasks like shaving were difficult with a flashlight, and I felt sorry for my wife who had to put on her makeup using a flashlight before she went to work.

Food in our household consisted of tuna, peanut butter, mac and cheese, soup, and bread. We bought powdered milk and instant coffee. The one saving grace was that we had gas for our stove, so we could make coffee and have warm soup. Even though we had a gas stove and furnace, there was no electricity to pump heat, so I boiled pots of water to raise the house temperature to 52 degrees. We had hot water throughout the house, and we had enough water pressure to get the hot water upstairs. You don't know what a hot shower means when you are living in a darkened house.

One of the most important commodities after the storm was water. Our town provided bottles of water and ice. This was great. Even though we had

water from the sink, bottled water was a delicious luxury.

Ice is important to preserve food when you lose power. In our house, we took out the meat in the freezer and placed it in an ice chest, where we were able to safely preserve it for several days. If you are able to following a disaster, get ice as soon as possible, it went very quickly after the storm.

The bottom line is preparation. Preparation is the key to survival. Many communities were hit hard including 250 homes in Sayreville, NJ. We were lucky, but Queens, Staten Island, and the New Jersey Shore did not fair very well during Hurricane Sandy. It will take months before things come back to normal in those areas.

For those of you who own smartphones, FEMA now has an app designed to aid you and your family in the event of a disaster. The app contains maps that indicate open shelters in your area, survival tips, and more. The app is free to download and available for iPhones, Android devices, and Blackberries. You can download it at: www.fema.gov/smartphone-app.

Be safe out there.



Representatives of some of the many Posts and Departments that participated in the JWV Veterans Week Fundraiser were present to receive certificates of appreciation at the NEC meeting in February. Left to right: Morris Goldman, Commander, Dept of IL; Erwin Burtnick, Commander, Dept of MD; PNC David Hymes, Dept of IL; Jeffrey Sacks, Dept of IL; Jack Romo, Commander, Dept of MA; Jerry Berns, Dept of IL; NC Sheldon Ohren, Dept of NY; Jon Zak, Dept of NY; Helene Van Clief, Dept of NY; Norman Schnitzer, Dept of PA; Stanton Bilker, Dept. of PA; Dr. Barry Schneider, Commander, Dept of TALO; Peter Nickitas, Commander, Dept of MN.

Thank you to all the members who made this year's fundraiser a success!

COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee

The Throwaways – A National Disgrace

Throwaways are sometimes called disposables or expendables. They include razors, toothbrushes, underwear, clothing, and other products; and now, we can add military personnel, their family, and their dependents.

If you follow political campaigns, advertisements, and TV, you will understand and determine that the most important thing in American life is the balanced budget and then possibly the family, but what the family politicians talk about is solely their own family – forget about yours.

The budget cutters have specifically programmed your (not their) obligation which demands from you the right for you to sacrifice yourself for the well being of military personnel. The obligation for budgetary cash savings has been imposed on you – the usual political “not me” syndrome.

The budget cutters have created and imposed on you a fear of national financial failure by which they have been able to control your way of life. Thus, they have forced you to accept the responsibility for the nation’s financial failures rather than to place the responsibility where it belongs, on the creators of the continuing national financial failure.

The pettiness of the methodology is demonstrated when the proposed pay increase of 1.8 percent for military personnel is reduced to 1 percent while the politicians, at the same time, push for the purchase of more tanks while thousands of tanks already exist and lay fallow in fields available for use. Does paying off political donors or self gratification constitute a moral basis for denying a modest pay increase for the personnel we rely on to protect our nation?

For many years, we have raised questions as to the inadequacy (read miserable) of housing for the military and their families. There has always been a national responsibility for creating the atmosphere for a healthy and normal lifestyle.

This budgetary failure has existed for many years without a national leadership (read both Executive and Congressional) acceptance of their moral obligation. The quality of life for military families has become budget-wise, a meaningless quality, essential for a loving and happy home.

Now here comes the new budgetary cost reduction approaches to further disrespect the military and their dependents. Just imagine that for your family breakfast you need to buy some juice, cereal, and milk. First you must get onto a bus, taxi, or your car to go to a nearby town to buy the food. Then you would pay more for the food than you might have to pay on the base plus add the transportation costs and the inconvenience of lost time and waste of effort.

Well, that is the budgetary red tape being forced upon us by the removal and the elimination of PX’s, commissaries, and exchanges from our bases. You must recognize that not only do these units provide food, but they also provide clothing, medications, and all the needs and requirements of the shopper to be able to make purchases at reasonable prices. This applies not only to the military and their families but also to retired veterans.

Many of the families also depend on the discounted product coupons found in newspapers which people like my wife, Jeri, send overseas to various APOs where the coupon expiration dates are then extended for six months while those coupons are not time extended at the local stores.

Irrationality is the best indication of the proposal to eliminate and close base schools and require military children to be transported to local town schools. We constantly talk about the need for educational advancement and the requirement for global leadership based on educational skills. Here, we intentionally devalue that goal.

So now we will have to bus the children to local schools where the local students will consider

the military students to be “outsiders” and where our children may be unable to participate in after-school activities, sports, and school clubs. They will probably not expect to graduate with their class unless their parent remains on that base. The psychological affect on these children cannot be quantified. The effect on their future lives cannot be projected or protected. And, don’t expect the locals to do this out of the goodness of their heart by raising their own local property taxes to pay for it.

The budget cutters are morally indefensible and corrupt. Their actions can result in some of the families returning home, financially unable to live together on base. The budget cutters, by their actions and without respecting human decency, have taken a path intended to disrupt and disable the family unit and weaken our military personnel.

The budget cutters are responsible for the current and the future of those of our military personnel (and don’t forget the family members) who may end up with PTSD, homeless, family dysfunction, and other ailments. It would have a clear impact on our society as we have learned from today’s life.

You may consider that I am being overly frustrated and overly downcast, but I do realize that common sense tells me that to nickel and dime those who sacrifice themselves on the front lines and define our national security is a national disgrace. To treat our troops as though they are robots entitled only to a little oiling is not merely a dishonor but a serious disease in the soul of America and its citizens.

We all deserve better than having our military personnel and their families being considered a throwaway – especially in one of the wealthiest countries in the world.



Jewish War Veterans Join Efforts to Save Our Benefit

JWV has joined The Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits as a Valued Associate member.

Save Our Benefit Valued Associates work to preserve commissary and exchange benefits, which millions of veterans, service members, and their families rely on to stretch their household budgets. For those stationed in remote, overseas, or metropolitan areas, commissaries and exchanges are often the only affordable shopping opportunities available.

Sequestration has already affected the Department of Defense’s ability to fund

Commissaries and Exchanges, as well as Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) programs.

Starting in April through September 21st, the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) will:

- Furlough every DeCA employee on Wednesdays for up to 22 days.
- Close all commissaries on Wednesdays – with limited exceptions at select overseas locations.

Sequestration will also impact Exchanges which provide a share of their earnings to support MWR programs. These budget cuts will:

- Reduce base operations and maintenance

funding.

- Increase pressure on the Exchanges to provide more of their earnings for MWR programs, retaining less for investment in facilities and other capital programs.

Many military families rely on these benefits to help make ends meet, and the military resale system helps save money by lowering the cost of living allowances in high cost areas, including overseas.

What Can You Do to Help Protect Your Benefits? Join the Coalition and visit www.saveourbenefit.org for more information.

National Executive Committee/Capitol Hill Action Days, February 13-17, 2013

JWV members from across the country met in Washington, DC for the annual National Executive Committee meeting and Capitol Hill Action Days



Senator Bernie Sanders greets JWV member Helene Van Clief, Post 3 NY, at the Congressional reception. Photo by Greg Byrne.



PNC David Hymes, Jerry Berns, and Master Chief Michael P. Leavitt, USCG at the Congressional Reception. Photo by Gerald Alperstein.



Brig. Gen. Allison Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits at VA, answers members' questions about the Veterans Benefits Administration at the annual Policy Committee meeting. Photo by Gerald Alperstein.



National JWV leadership prepares for the Policy Committee meeting. Speakers included Under Secretary Allison Hickey and Major John Brooker of the Army JAG school. Photo by Gerald Alperstein.



The Department of New Jersey's delegation met with congressional representatives on Capitol Hill. Left to right: Col Nelson L. Mellitz, Department Commander of NJ; SFC Larry Rosenthal, Junior-Vice Commander of the Department of NJ; Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ); Richard Berg, Department of NJ Chaplain; Harry Ettliger, Senior-Vice Commander of the Department of NJ; Irwin Gerechoff, Past Department Commander; and Col Carl Singer, Past Department Commander.

Senator Sanders

Continued from page 1

able housing.

He also frankly commented on the Veterans Benefit Administration, referring to the current claims processing system as "broken," and not able to adequately meet the demands of the over 1 million claims it receives each year. He assured the audience that the VA is making steps to meet VA Secretary Eric Shinseki's goal of adjudicating claims in 125 days with 98 percent accuracy.

Sanders stated in his closing remarks, "It is my vision that no veteran should ever be turned away from a VA medical facility."

This is a sentiment that resonated with the JWV members present, many of whom were actively working to ensure that all veterans receive the benefits they earned serving this country.



Jerome Benjamin, Past Department Commander of TALO, and Gerald Alperstein, Department Commander of NY, take a break between meetings. Photo courtesy of Gerald Alperstein.



IDF Col. Eyal Rozen and Noam Katz, Minister of Public Diplomacy, speak about the current issues facing Israel during a special briefing for JWV members at the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Photo by Nikki Salzman.

US Military Personnel and Musculoskeletal Injuries



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

After reading and hearing so much about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) being the signature injuries of our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, it was surprising to read in the *Army Times*, February 4, 2013 that “musculoskeletal injuries are the leading cause of disability among US troops.”

The number of musculoskeletal injuries of military personnel is greatly underestimated when only acute combat injuries are considered. Problems resulting from training incidents, accidents, sports injuries, and the carrying of heavy loads in job or combat missions greatly contribute to the magnitude of musculoskeletal difficulties for this population.

During the course of combat operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and more recently in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan, US and allied military orthopedic surgeons have studied and written about the nature of combat operations in those theaters. Some of their findings form the basis of what is presented here.

In OIF and OEF, the US has primarily been conducting what is now referred to as “counterinsurgency operations” in which the enemy combatants are using unconventional tactics such as terrorism, insurgency, and guerrilla warfare which

have had significant impacts upon the means and types of combat casualties inflicted upon US and allied troops.

It has been noted that most combat casualties are from ambush or improvised explosive devices (IEDs) which are designed to injure, disfigure, or destroy combatants and typically include buried artillery rounds, antipersonnel mines, and “car bombs.”

It is estimated that IEDs are responsible for 63 percent of the deaths resulting from combat operations in OIF and now increasingly in OEF. The volume of casualties from OIF and OEF is now the highest since the Vietnam War, with many of the injuries and deaths resulting from use of the relatively common 155-mm artillery shell that is hidden under asphalt or rubbish and triggered by pressure or a cell phone. The round may also be combined with improvised shrapnel such as steel nuts and nails that cause ultra-high velocity fragmentation injuries, often to the extremities. It has been estimated that 60-70 percent of the wounds from IEDs and other engagements such as ambushes or small unit clashes, are musculoskeletal in nature.

In addition to IEDs, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, and landmines are the other primary causes of musculoskeletal combat injuries in OIF and OEF. Because of troop use of individual body armor and Kevlar helmets, and the introduction and use of heavily armored and mine-resistant vehicles with “V” shaped hulls (that deflect explosive forces originating below the vehicle and away from the passengers), reports showed a significant reduction in fatalities.

Additionally, according to military orthopedic surgeons, more injuries are occurring in the unprotected regions of the body. The wounding patterns observed in OIF and OEF (from 2005 to 2009) differ from other US military conflicts in that explosive devices accounted for 74 percent of all combat casualties. This is a much higher percentage than in other US conflicts where gunshot wounds were the primary causes of injury and death. In OIF and OEF, gunshot wounds were found to be only 19 percent during that same period of time.

Surprising, however, are the data about evacuations from the combat zone. According to a 2010 Johns Hopkins study, the most common reasons for medical evacuation of military personnel from OIF and OEF in recent years have been “fractures, tendonitis and other musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders.” In that study of more than 34,000 members of the military who were sent to the military’s medical center in Landstuhl, Germany from 2004-2007, the top three grounds

for medical evacuation were musculoskeletal or connective tissue disorders (24 percent) combat injuries (14 percent) and neurological disorders (10 percent). Another study of just over 6,000 musculoskeletal injuries in the period 2005-2009 found that amputations represented only about 6 percent of all combat wounds, with most of them caused by explosive blasts.

Finally, there has been an increased awareness that other problems related to serving in OIF and OEF have emerged that lead to musculoskeletal problems for service members while on active duty and after their return to the US or discharge from the military. The problem is that combat soldiers are carrying too much weight.

An Army Science Board study in 2001 recommended that no soldier carry more than 50 pounds. Yet a 2003 US Army study found that soldiers on extensive foot patrols carry an average load ranging from 87 to 127 pounds. The Army has developed programs to create lighter gear, but at the same time it beefed up body armor and other protective measures, often increasing the load carried by soldiers. According to orthopedists, these have also led to an increase in musculoskeletal injuries.

Soldiers’ main complaints upon returning from deployments were joint pain (neck, back, hips, and knees) all consistent with the kinds of injuries expected among soldiers with heavy packs and protective gear.

In conclusion: advances in medical care and improvements in body and vehicle armor have combined to increase wounded soldiers’ survival (from 76 percent during the Vietnam War to 90 percent in OIF and OEF), yet this increased survival rate comes with a price. Many survivors have sustained orthopedic injuries and many of those survivors have resultant psychological distress as well. Approximately 70 percent of war wounds are musculoskeletal injuries and 55 percent are extremity wounds; 26 percent of combat injuries are fractures (and 82 percent of all fractures are open fractures) according to another report by orthopedic surgeons.

The Spine Journal’s September 2012 issue, which was devoted to the casualties of war, noted that the number of personnel evacuated from OIF and OEF has been as high as 60 percent of the wounded. Additionally, there has been 10 times as many long-term spinal pain casualties unrelated to combat injuries among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans compared with blast injuries.

To learn more about the public health issues facing our military, visit <http://phc.amedd.army.mil>

Veterans Day Program Honoring African American Liberators of the Concentration Camps and the Special Unit Called “The Red Ball Express”

By Lee Bender

It was an amazing contrast: a beautiful, mild Sunday afternoon outside on Veterans Day, November 11, 2012. But inside Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, Wynnewood, PA, was honoring some special heroes of World War II who liberated concentration camps in Europe and witnessed some of the most heinous crimes in human his-



Alexandra Bochova, who liberated concentration camps with the Red Army, tells her story with the help of a translator. Photo by Richard Chaitt.

tory. In an incredibly moving program, before an audience of 225, including many students and scouts, tribute was paid to the African American soldiers of the US Army who liberated the camps, many of whom were members of a segregated unit known as The Red Ball Express. This program, as in past years, was the brainchild of Ed “The Sage” Snyder, and co-sponsored with the Israel Advocacy Committee and Men’s Club. Special guests in attendance were from the neighboring Zion Baptist Church of Ardmore, and many survivors, liberators and prisoner of war, war veterans, Jewish war veterans and American Legion.

The program began with Cantor Eugene Rosner leading the audience in the National Anthem. The Zion Baptist Church Choir then led a soulful rendering of the America The Beautiful.

Acting as M.C., Ed began by remarking how important it was that the students and youth, especially, learn and appreciate this important history - which is not being taught and has all but been forgotten. He also stated, almost incredibly, how much resistance he received from various groups and organizations in trying to put this program together.

Rabbi Neil Cooper next gave warm welcoming remarks to the veterans, liberators and the sizeable audience from the African American community, stressing the historic relationship and kinship with the Jewish community, both of whom emerged from slavery into freedom.

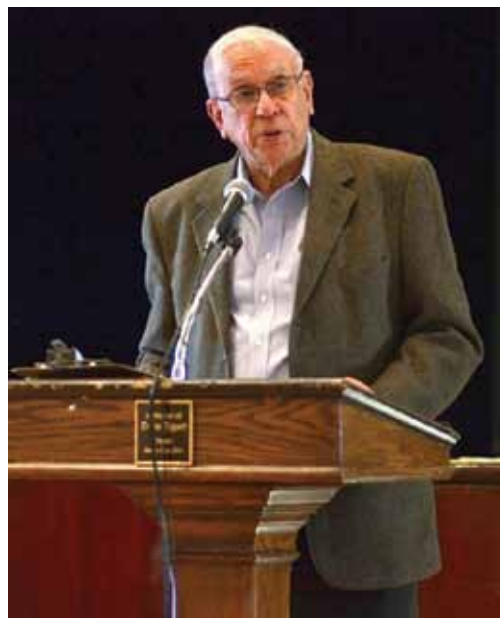
Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El President Pam Feld Randel then thanked the community for coming together at the synagogue to celebrate this special occasion.

The first guest speaker was Alexandra Bochova, who joined the Russian Army at age 15, fighting through Eastern Europe and eventually liberating concentration camps with the Red Army. Her story was fascinating, and she wished she had more time to tell it. She came dressed in her splendid army uniform chocked full of medals. She spoke in Russian, which was translated by Marina Furman, a former refusenik and the current director of the Jewish National Fund in Philadelphia.

The Reverend James Pollard of Zion Baptist Church then spoke grandly and eloquently about honor and duty, and that this history is not only not being forgotten, but in fact his church has established a library and resource center about it. He also praised the connection and shared history of the Jewish and African American communities.

A short section of the film, *Red Ball Express* was then shown and introduced by Dan Benau, the son of a survivor. Dan is a movie and history buff on the Holocaust.

Arthur Seltzer, a veteran with the US Army, who received innumerable medals and awards,



Ed Snyder, Post 215 PA, addresses the audience. He organized the program as part of his efforts to have Liberators share their experiences with younger generations. Photo by Richard Chaitt.

and fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was a liberator who spoke at last year’s program, introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Leon Bass, a robust man of 87. It was very clear when Dr. Bass spoke that the audience was enraptured, by his cadence, confidence, and message. He was



Dr. Leon Bass speaks about his experiences as an African American soldier and Liberator during WWII. Photo by Richard Chaitt.

a young man from West Philadelphia, enlisted in the army, went down south for training and was shocked at the segregation and disdain of the African American soldiers, but he stood tall. He came to realize that his superiors and the culture deemed that he, an African American, was “not good enough” but yet expendable to fight for America.

He was sent to Europe and told his story of fighting his way in the segregated African American units, and surviving while seeing death and destruction all around him. One day while they were in Germany, he was suddenly told by a superior officer to come with him to a concentration camp. He had never heard of such a thing, and was wholly unprepared for what they were to all see when they arrived to open Buchenwald. The most horrendous scene he could ever have imagined, he was an eyewitness to it all: the decrepit camp, the stench, the “walking dead”- nothing but skin and bones in pajamas, people who were barely alive, the crematoriums and gas chambers. It occurred to him that these innocent people were considered by the Germans to also “not be good enough to live.” It haunts him to this very day. Ultimately, he came home, finished his education, and became a principal of Benjamin Franklin High School. One day in the early 1970s, a woman survivor came to school, and he was encouraged and inspired from then on to speak, speak out, and tell his story, which he has been doing ever since and vows to continue until his last days. The audience was spellbound. He is a real treasure.

Reprinted courtesy of the Philadelphia Jewish Voice: <http://blog.pjvoice.com/diary/2740>

Ed Snyder of Post 215 PA is actively looking for Liberators willing to speak about their experiences. For more information contact him at 610-896-1844, essnyder100r@msn.com.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Bob Richter, National Membership Chairman & Greg Byrne, JWV Staff

There is reason for cautious optimism in membership. The membership decline, which has been going on for a number of years, has on average been abating. We have also seen increased interest in starting new Posts and reviving inactive ones.

Judith A. Resnik Post 352 in The Villages, FL, which was just chartered last year, has grown to close to forty members, with the majority being new members to JWV. The Post holds regular meetings and activities, and members recently completed a color guard training class given by the Department of Florida. I anticipate that this Post will grow even further in the coming months thanks to strong Post and Department leadership.

There has also been increased involvement by younger veterans and in-service members. **Old Dominion Post 158** in Norfolk, VA, which had been inactive for the last few years, is being revived by Adam Goldberg, an active duty Naval Officer. The Post has been holding regular meetings since November, and recently held its first installation of officers in several years. Martin Dubroff, an Iraq veteran, is taking the lead in establishing **Schulte-Bruckenthal**

Online Post 77, which has grown by about twenty members in just a few months.

While the interest in these Posts is an encouraging sign, much work remains to ensure JWV's future. The main topic discussed at the Membership Committee meeting at the NEC was how to recruit and retain younger veterans. Several members of the committee backed the idea of encouraging Iraq/Afghanistan era veterans to establish their own Posts. This idea, which is being considered in South Jersey, would allow younger veterans to immediately be involved in Post leadership and organize Post activities that would be of interest to their generation.

It was also suggested that Posts maintain close contact with chaplains at nearby military installations, local synagogues, and veterans' coordinators at area colleges and universities. Make sure these people know your Post is there to help veterans. This can be an effective way of locating potential members.



Members of the new Post 352 FL Color Guard practice for upcoming events. The Color Guard was recently trained by representatives of the Department of FL who passed their vast experience on to the newest Post in the region. Left to right: Ed Margolis, Stu Lesser, Dave Ross, Bob Pokost, and Mark Azia.



If you were unable to participate in person at the Membership Committee meeting, we would like your input. What strategies does your Post use to recruit and retain members? Do you have any ideas that you would like to share with other Posts? You can write us at membership@jwv.org, or mail your suggestions to:

Jewish War Veterans
Attn: Membership Committee
1811 R St. NW
Washington, DC 20009

Post 158 VA, which was inactive for several years, is now being revived by dedicated JWV members. In March it held its first installation of officers. Left to right: Rabbi Sender Haber, LTC Ken Wilson, SPC Aaron Cohen, AT1 Norman Cohen, AT2 Yehudah Griffin, BMC Harvey Hyman, CAPT Jim Eilberg, LCDR Adam Goldberg, CAPT Marilyn McKay, SM3 Mike Ash, S 1/c Ben Moskowitz.

Membership Qualification

“Can a person who was born Jewish, but has converted to another religion, be eligible for membership in the Jewish War Veterans?” This was a question posed recently to National Headquarters. In response, Rabbi Harold Robinson, JWV National Chaplain, has issued the following ruling:

“Jewish tradition is clear on this matter. Moreover, so are the secular courts of Israel as decided famously in the case of Fr. Joseph, a born Jew who converted to Roman Catholicism,

became a priest, and then moved to Israel and claimed the right of return. The court correctly quoted Jewish tradition that while one can be a member of a Jewish community without believing in or practicing Judaism, one puts oneself outside the community by explicitly adopting another faith.

So the short answer accepted by all movements in Judaism today is No! No, because by his conversion to Christianity he has taken clear actions that put himself outside the commu-

nity. The non-practicing or non-believing Jew is seen as failing to do anything positive about being Jewish he is essentially passive about it while the convert has taken and acted on his rejection of the faith by actively joining another community. He has gone from being a non-participating member of our community to being an avowed member of another community.

As our grandparents used to say, you can only dance at one wedding at a time and he can be a member of only one community at a time.”



Fundraising: *The Solicitation*

By Michael Corbett, PDC

for the Post or Auxiliary?

The particular demographic makeup of the group you intend to solicit should be the first consideration. Is it an older generation of predominantly widows of Jewish veterans? Is it the entire membership of a synagogue in your community? Could it be a mostly non-Jewish group interested in the story of Jews who have served our country in uniform? Do you anticipate a gathering of people representing many of these groups and organizations? Knowing your audience will give you an advantage when communicating with them about meeting or even exceeding your fundraising goals.

Too often we communicate a message without being explicit about what we want the audience to do. So, after making the pitch that will endear your audience to your Post or Auxiliary, it's time to actually ask for what you want. "We hope you might find it convenient today, to take a leadership role with a generous donation to our Jewish War Veterans Post."

Explaining the cause and asking for a donation at the same time is appropriate, "We conduct an annual fundraising program to support the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in our nation's capital, which tells the world the story of American Jewish service. Your donation today will go toward improving our facilities, and to accomplish the much needed research that supports our educational programming."

The form of your request, whether oral or in writing, must always include a reference to the 'tax exempt' status provided by the cause to

which donations are being made. It is necessary that everyone doing the fundraising know the law and can accurately repeat the legal citation. Even better is to write it out and include it with any handout you might provide to potential donors. In this manner, fewer mistakes will lead to less trouble when an individual who has made a donation is seeking IRS recognition for it.

And, one more thing, you have the administrative responsibility of documenting each and every contribution. This will be of enormous advantage for following-up with recognition to those who have contributed. Know the legal requirements and insist on compliance from every member of your committee. Organizational leaders must insist that only those authorized to solicit on behalf of the Post, the Auxiliary, or any echelon of JWV are permitted to do so in order to control the message going out and the funds coming in.

In summary, keep a tight rein on the committee and the message, always document your plan, and record the actions taken. Regularly communicate with committee members. Know as much about your audience as possible before making the plea for their support. Make a plea for financial support that will build a solid relationship among potential donors and the cause – make perspective donors want to give and give often. Always let your audience know precisely what you want them to do – without seeming desperate or overly demanding. And, writing it out reduces the chance for errors or misleading information.

Good luck!

It's time to put the proverbial pen to paper and prepare the solicitation – the actual letter that will express your desire that the recipient/reader fulfill the need of the Post, Council, or Department. That 'need' will almost always refer to cash; however, we should never overlook an opportunity that an 'in-kind' contribution may make. When an individual, or an organization, wishes to provide you with some product, we must see this as an opportunity to turn it into 'gold.'

For instance, a friend of the Post would like to offer a family heirloom – a painting or a "tchotchke" – the Post should consider the effort it will take to turn this item into cash. Let's face it, everyone has something they want to give away. Why not conduct a "white elephant" sale event on behalf of the Post. Everything must be viewed as a fundraising opportunity.

Now, back to that letter, what does it need to contain to be most effective. Perhaps your group has decided to make a verbal pitch to another group; what should the gist of an oral communication be to result in the greatest possible gain

Remembrance Walk

Continued from page 1

Sheldon Ohren and NMAJMH's Development Chair, PAP Iris Goldwasser. Keynote speaker and JWV National Chaplain, Admiral Harold Robinson, CHC USN (Ret), led the ceremony.

Standing over the 50 pavers donated by the Department of NJ and dedicated to the Jewish men and women who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, Robinson spoke at length about their sacrifice and the importance of continuing to honor them in the Jewish and military communities. He also acknowledged the personal relationship he had with several of the Fallen who he met through his work as a Navy Chaplain and in his current position as Director of the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council.

As the audience reflected on the legacy of service and sacrifice shared by all Jewish

American military personnel, passersby from the local Washington, DC community stopped and joined the crowd, drawn to the museum by Admiral Robinson's passionate words.

At the conclusion of the dedication ceremony, these individuals stayed to read the inscriptions on the Remembrance Walk and ultimately came inside to view the museum's collection.

To learn more about the Remembrance Walk program or to purchase a paver, visit www.nmajmh.org or contact Mary Westley at 202-265-6280 x511, mwestley@nmajmh.org.

NMAJMH leadership unveil the museum's new exterior at the dedication ceremony for the Remembrance Walk. With 185 pavers currently in place on the Remembrance Walk, the appearance of the museum's entrance has been transformed.





Dr. Robert Pickard Announces His Candidacy for National Commander

Dr. Robert Pickard of Miami, FL has announced his candidacy for the office of National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. He is a Life Member of Post 243 FL.

Pickard received his Bachelor's and his M.D. from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. He interned at the University of Miami at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, FL. Pickard served in active duty from 1966-68 during the Vietnam War and was stationed at RAF Chicksands Dispensary in the midlands of England as the Medical Officer for that AF Security Service base. After being discharged as a Captain from the USAF, Pickard returned to the University of Miami Medical School for a residency in general surgery, later specializing in ear, nose, and throat surgery. He began his practice of medicine and surgery in South Miami and Coral Gables in 1972. Pickard joined the Florida National Guard and served a total of 28 years in active National Guard service retiring as a Colonel 06 in 2000. He is married to Susan Lemkin Pickard and has four daughters: Gabrielle, Annie, Teddi, and Beke.

Pickard comes from a JWV family. His father, Ted, was Department Commander of Illinois and a member of the NEC, and his mother, Lena, was President of the JWVA in IL. The Upton Edgewater-Pickard Post, which was located in IL, was named for them after their deaths. Pickard and his family were closely connected with Past National Commander, General Julius Klein, and Ted Pickard was legal counsel for the General near the end of his career.

When the Nazis threatened to march in Skokie, IL in 1978, Pickard went to Chicago to face them. Meeting with PNCs Herman Moses and Ainslee Ferdie in General Klein's apartment, they discussed what JWV

should do about the Nazis' threat to march in Skokie, a predominantly Jewish suburb of Chicago.

Under pressure from JWV and other organizations, the Nazis ultimately decided not to march in Skokie. As a counter to the Nazis, Pickard and Ferdie decided to hold their own JWV demonstration. Pickard drove with Ferdie to the National Socialist Party of America Headquarters in Marquette Park, Chicago where they staged their own march across the street. The police wouldn't let Pickard and Ferdie cross the street to confront the Nazis, but they wore their JWV caps and were recognized as Jewish War Veterans leading a counter-protest.

Like all members of JWV, Pickard devotes a great deal of energy, caring, and passion to his community. He has served as Commander of Post 243 in Coral Gables, FL; and at the National Level as National Adjutant, Chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Committee, a member of the National Executive Committee, and Past Editor of *The Jewish Veteran*.



Voting Eligibility at the 2013 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.



Place Your Ad or Message in the 2013 Convention Journal!

Inside Front Cover	\$750.00
Inside Back Cover.....	\$500.00
Full Page	7.5 x 10 inches..\$375.00
Half Page.....	7.5 x 5 inches....\$200.00
1/3 Page	7.5 x 3 inches....\$150.00
1/4 Page	3.25 x 5 inches..\$120.00
1/6 Page	3.25 x 3 inches....\$75.00
1/10 Page	2 x 3.5 inches.....\$50.00

- Deadline submission is July 14th
- B+W ads only.
- All ads must be accompanied with payment at time of submission.
- Ads submitted without payment will not be included.

Contact Christy Turner for more information:
P: 202-265-6280 • E-mail: cturner@jwv.org

Please print or type your ad copy. You may also email it to: cturner@jwv.org

Name of Individual or Echelon Submitting Ad

Address

City

State

Zipcode

Post/Auxiliary Name and Number

Department

Authorized by: (Signature)



JEWISH WAR VETERANS of the USA

118th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

AUGUST 18-25, 2013 • RICHMOND, VA

Omni Richmond Hotel 100 South 12th Street • Richmond, Virginia 23219
 Phone: (804) 344-7000 • Fax: (804) 648-6704

Hotel Registration deadline is Monday, July 15. A one night (\$140/single or double) deposit is required for all hotel registrations. A 3-night minimum stay is required.

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 Omni Richmond Hotel. Local Members living within a 50 mile radius are exempt.

Partial Schedule of Events

(Subject to Change)

Daily • Aug 20-23

Morning Minyan

Monday • Aug 19

Tour of Richmond
 & Wreath Laying Ceremony
 Museum Event

Tuesday • Aug 20

NEC Meeting
 Committee Meetings

Wednesday • Aug 21

Joint Opening Session
 Resolutions
 1st JWV Business Session
 Century Club Event
 & Kosher Dinner at the
 Virginia Holocaust Museum

Thursday • Aug 22

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

Friday • Aug 23

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

Saturday • Aug 24

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 118 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 Hotel	\$150.00		
Tour of Richmond and Memorial Wreath Laying, Monday, Aug. 19	\$45.00 per person		
Open to All Convention Attendees! Century Club Event & Kosher Dinner at the Virginia Holocaust Museum, Wednesday, Aug. 21	\$50 per person		
Commander's Banquet, Saturday, Aug. 24 No. of: London Broil _____ Grilled Salmon _____ Kosher _____ Sugar Free Dessert _____	\$42.50 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.			

Transportation from the airport: Cabs are available at the airport. If you would like to schedule a ride in advance, contact James River Transportation at 804-342-7300. Visit them online at <http://jamesrivertrans.com/>

Parking: Valet parking is available for JWV members at a special \$17 per day rate with unlimited in/out privileges.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Past Department of CA Commander Allen Miliefsky, Commander of Post 66 CA Dr. Louis Towne, Commander of Post 185 CA Richard Nathenson, and Sheldon Margolis carried JWV's flag in a Veterans Day Parade in CA.



Members of the Department of FL and their supporters gathered for the annual Four Chaplains Tribute to the Military Celebration at Temple Beth David in Miami, FL held February 3, 2013. Left to right: Robert E. Pickard, M.D., COL (r); Pastor Gordon Pike, Poinciana United Methodist Church; Rabbi Solomon Schiff, Director, The Jewish Chaplaincy Program of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation Emeritus; Father Roberto Cid, St. Patrick's Church; Past National Commander Ainslee R. Ferdie; Thomas J. Walcott, CDR, CHC, USN; and Reverend David McCloud of Granada Presbyterian Church.



Post 76 NJ recognized former local resident, Maj. Elizabeth Casely, a West Point graduate, for her service to the country. Maj. Casely has served in a number of Posts including the Pentagon, Germany, Bosnia, Korea, and two tours in Iraq. Left to right: Maj. Casely and Post Commander David Kronick.

Nominated for the Bronze Star in 1966 for action in the Battle of the Bulge, Past Department of NJ Commander Arthur Seltzer did not receive his medal until November 22, 2012 at Post 126 NJ's 9th Annual Feed the Troops Thanksgiving Day Dinner Celebration. The medal was presented to him by Col Jeffrey Doll, Commander US Army, Support Activity - Fort Dix. Left to right: Col Doll, Arthur Seltzer, and Command Sergeant Maj. Steven Whittaker.



Members of Post 46 NY proudly march in a Veterans Day Parade in Somers, NY.



Rabbi Irving Elson, a Post 385 CA member and one of eight Rabbis currently serving in the Navy Chaplain Corps, recently climbed Mt. Annapurna in Nepal with his son, Jacob. They dedicated their climb to Wounded Warriors. Reprinted with permission from the Friends of the Jewish Chapel at the US Naval Academy.

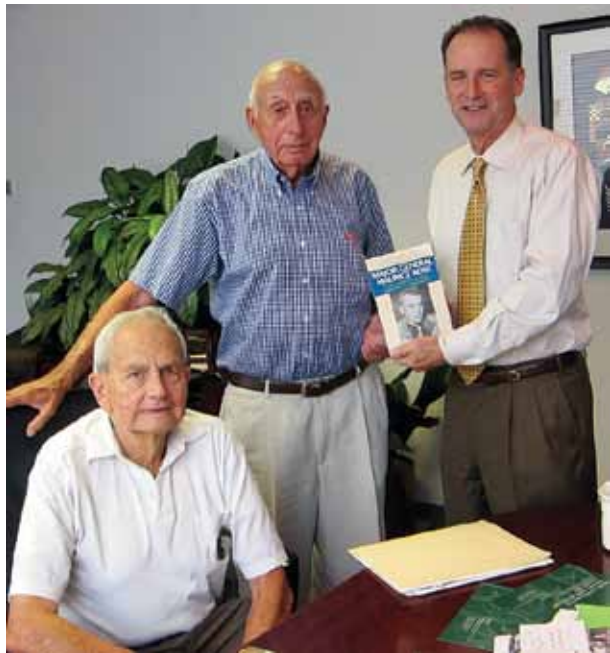
JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



National Commander Sheldon Ohren meets with President Barack Obama on Veterans Day 2012.



During the Peabody, MA Veterans Day Breakfast, the Mayor of the City of Peabody thanked JWV Post 220 MA members for their military service. Left to right (Seated): Mark Tolpin, Elliot Hershoff, Doris Hershoff, Ethel Babner, Mel Babner. (Standing): Arthur Suckney, Department of MA Commander Jacob Romo, Peabody Mayor Edward Bettencourt, Jr., Post 220 MA Commander Barry Lischinsky.



Left to right: Arthur Diamond, Dr. Ervin Moss, and Rose Medical Center CEO Ken Feiler meet to discuss honoring Jewish Major General Maurice Rose, who died during WWII, at the hospital named for him. Dr. Moss and Mr. Diamond, members of Post 344 CO, are on a mission to ensure that General Rose's memory is not forgotten. They are also heading an effort to have a permanent exhibit about the General at History Colorado, the state's historic preservation office. Photo courtesy of Rose Community Foundation.

Members of Post and Auxiliary 648 NY volunteered at the St. Albans VA Community Living Center's Christmas/Chanukah Party. Left to right: Past Department President Linda P. Singer, PDP/National Junior-Vice President Petra C. Kaatz, a volunteer from a partner Auxiliary, and Auxiliary 648 President Virginia R. Peters.



Paul Schreiman of Post 65 NV sold poppies to a supporter during an annual drive in November 2012.



On January 20, the Department of CT commemorated the Four Chaplains. Donations received from this program were presented to the CT State Veterans Home and Memorial Candles depicting the chaplains were donated to their chapel. Left to right: Department Commander Norman Hanenbaum; National Ladies Auxiliary Senior-Vice President Joanne Blum; Linda Schwartz, CT State Commissioner of Veterans Affairs; and Past Department Commander Jerry Blum.



COL. Maxwell S. Colón presented certificates to several new Post 385 CA Life Members. Left to right: Daniel Green, Dr. Jerry Silverman, COL. Colón, and Art Markovitz.

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Ariel N. Cohen-77 • Robert Young-77 • David Benedek-100 • Andrea Goldstein-100 • Edward Levy-100 • Jason Lundy-100 • Alex Plotkin-100 • Stuart Wetterschneider-100 • Jerald M. Goldstein-552 • Leon Moises-686

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Arthur Mintz-123 • Joshua Burrows-385 • Jerome Goldblatt-603 • Harvey Kasser-680

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Alan M. Goodman-45 • Jack Rubin-45 • Dick Feingold-204 • Elliot Fleischer-204

DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

John Jenkins-58 • Sol Safran-589 • Todd Levine-676

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

John Lampel-172 • Stan R. Levinson-172 • Edward J. Cohen-202 • Theodore Goldberg-202 • Will Garnitz-243 • Richard R. Torrens-243 • Murray Berns-300 • Gerald Kunes-300 • Warren B. Zundell-300 • Samuel Adler-352 • Gerald R. Dornfeld-352 • Sheldon I. Freedman-352 • Bruce J. Frimet-352 • Jerry B. Gallin-352 • Lonnie E. Haywood-352 • Joel H. Kaplan-352 • David Kleiner-352 • Stuart J. Lesser-352 • Robert D. Lewis-352 • Dennis A. Platt-352 • Robert B. Pokost-352 • Fredric B. Ratner-352 • Stephen L. Richter-352 • Samuel H. Rittberg-352 • David Bruce Ross-352 • Alan M. Schrager-352 • Sherman Stein-352 • Harold Mayer Wieselthier-352 • Jerry Kaplan-409 • Stanly I. Resnick-440 • Leon Schnur-440 • Andrew Blum-549 • Reuben Spector-631 •

Hilton Soba-639 • Paul Morris-819 • Howard Weiss-819

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Alvin Richman-029 • Erwin W. Zalon-029 • Lisa Wolkow-407

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Nathan Gorn-605 • Dan Jolly-644 • Karsten Kessler-644

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Allen Rosen-117 • Irvin Zeigenfuse-167 • Morton A. Davis-567 • Stuart Gold-692 • Diane Maisel-692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Bruce Simons-32 • Addy Holland-157 • Samuel Holland-157 • Manuel Weinstein-211 • Jason S. Silber-220 • Jordan H. Robbins-638

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Benjamin Korn-135 • Marc A. Front-333 • Paul A. Goodman-333 • William Margolin-333 • Roger L. Daniels-474 • Bertram Edelstein-474 • Robert A. Krause-474 • Rolland Walt-474 • Sheldon Kaye-510

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Sam Chinkes-21 • W. Perlmutter-65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Gene E. Schamach-039 • Jay Horn-273 • David Hirsch-609 • Monroe R. Berkowitz-651 • Melvyn Yabkow-651 • Andrew R. Cossen-657

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Norman Morse-025 • Jay S. Lerman-042 • Stanley D. Patchen-042 • Edgar Tobachnik-068

• Erwin Jacobson-206 • Kevin Candiotti-251 • Willard L. Closter-425 • Chelsea Egenberg-425 • David A. Cohen-625 • Burt Siegel-648 • Norman Levy-652 • Sam Esquenazi-717 • George Israel-717

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Jack Davidson-044 • Sidney Lefton-122 • George W. Sheppard-122 • Felix Garfunkel-587 • Lynn C. Roberts-587

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Syman N. Hirsch-239 • Ralph Miller-575

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Scott Turbiner-111 • Robert Goldstein-112

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

David Hall-210 • Steven Troy-210 • Herb Paule-619 • Stanley A. Pinkus-619 • Steven Weintraub-619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Charles Silver-256 • Jack H. Alter-574 • Justin Perryman-574 • Evan Davenport-580 • Forest McNeir-580 • Jerome Paul Cohen-753 • Dan Chaim Cohen-757 • Bennet Luckens-757 • Mark Robert Osman-757

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Slick Katz-95 • Murry Moskowitz-95 • Frank M. Rubinstein-95 • Nossem Brinn-158 • Aaron B. Cohen-158 • Norman V. Cohen-158 • Stephen Deutsch-158 • Yehudah L. Griffin-158 • Kenneth G. Wilson-158

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Rodney S. Ugent-701

Post 605 MW Distributes Holiday Gifts to Hospitalized Veterans

Post 605 MW sponsors a yearly Holiday Gifts for Vets (HGV) Program, which provides about 400 gift bags to hospitalized veterans at the VA facilities in Kansas City, MO and Leavenworth, KS. The HGV Program is funded by cash and in-kind donations from individuals and Post 605 MW fundraising. Each bag contains about 18 items including sweatshirt, T-shirt, woolen cap, 2 pairs of socks, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, shaving

cream, tissues, water bottle, backpack, drink coozie, paperback book, and handmade Christmas and thank you cards from a 4th grade class. The Post assembles and delivers these bags to the VA facilities on Dec. 14th and 21st, and the VA staff immediately distributes these to the patients and residents. Post 605 has been running the HGV Program since 2003, and continues to be amazed at the response from the veterans who receive these packages.



Members of Post 605 MW gather at the Leavenworth, KS VA facility where they distributed gift bags to hospitalized veterans. Left to right: Past Department of MW Commander Mike Katzman, Korean War Veterans Association member Lou Ramsey, Post Commander Sheldon Turetsky, Marc Birnbaum, Department of MW Commander Larry Gordon, and Marvin Korn.



Members of Post 605 MW get ready to assemble gift bags.

PEOPLE & PLACES

► **Michael Zimmerman** of **Post 29 IL** presented a lecture at the Korean War National Museum in Springfield, IL in December 2012. His topic was “The Korean War: Analysis using the Alternative History Approach,” and was one of a series of public presentations at the only museum in the US devoted to the Korean conflict.

► Department of CT Commander **Norman Hanenbaum** was inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame on November 28, 2012 by Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman and VA Commissioner Linda Schwartz.

► **Post 178 NJ**, **Post 657 NJ**, and the Westlake Yiddish Cultural Club held an extraordinary breakfast and salute to veterans Sunday morning, November 18, 2012. Post leadership spoke to an audience of over 200 people about the contributions Jewish veterans have made throughout American history.

► Past National Commander **Sam Greenberg** was recently certified as a Service Officer for the Department of PA. He is available to assist with VA claims for individuals located in Pennsylvania.

► **Alan J. Cornblatt**, National Judge Advocate, received the Professional Lawyer of the Year Award from the Ocean County, NJ Bar Association in January 2013.

► **Post 42 NJ** recently celebrated its 80th Anniversary. Riverside Memorial Chapel helped them mark this occasion by hosting a celebration and dedicating a Plaque for Past Post Commanders. The Chapel has also dedicated a section to displaying military artifacts from Post members and select traveling exhibitions from NMAJMH.

► For the 67th consecutive year, the **Department of MI JWV** and **JWVA** sponsored a Bingo Party at the Battle Creek, MI VA Hospital

on Christmas Day. Members also distributed a few thousand dollars’ worth of donated clothing and toiletries. Over 200 patients were served at the event.

► **George Fisher**, Senior-Vice Commander of **Post 440 FL**, had the honor of holding the flag of the 26th Infantry Division during an event honoring the divisions that liberated concentration camps at a National Holocaust Museum event in Boca Raton, FL. Mr. Fisher served in the 26th Infantry Division during WWII, which liberated Gusen concentration camp, a sub-camp of Mauthausen.

► **Post 39 NJ** distributed twelve hand crocheted lap blankets at the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home on December 11, 2012.

► **Jack Rodin**, **Post 45 CT**, spoke to a group of high school juniors at Rocky Hill High School in CT about his experiences as a navigator during WWII.

REUNIONS

► Kilo Company, 3rd Bn., 7th Marine Rgt., and attached units will be having a reunion in Jacksonville, FL, September 18-23. For more information, contact William Rolke at k37usmc@att.net, 262-780-0993 or Don Tackett at tdontack@netscape.net, 678-725-0329.

► September 24-29, 2013: U.S. Navy/Marines, USS Hornet (CV-8, CV-12, CVA-12, CVS-12) will have a reunion in Providence, RI at the Crowne Plaza, 801 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, RI, 02886, (401) 732-6000, (800) 227-6963. Contact Carl and Sandy Burket, PO Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com for more information or visit <http://www.usshornetassn.com>.

► The 69th Infantry Division Association will be holding its 66th annual reunion October 14-20, 2013 at the Holiday Inn, Opryland/Airport in Nashville, TN. Contact George C. West at gwest2526@aol.com, 610-432-3598 or visit www.69th-infantry-division.com for more information.

► There will be a reunion for the USS Iwo Jima (LPH2/LHD7) shipmates for all ship company and embarked Navy and Marine Corps personnel at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego, CA, October 2-6, 2013. For more information, contact Robert G. McAnally at yujack@megalink.net, 757-723-0317 or visit ussiwjojimashipmates.cfns.net.

► The 23rd Reunion of the USS John R. Craig

(DD-885) will be held September 4-8, 2013 in South Portland, ME. For more information, contact Jerry Chwalek at jermail@ameritech.net, 734-525-1469 or visit www.ussjohnrcraig.com.

► The USS Warrington (DD843) will be holding a reunion at the Embassy Suites in Valley Forge, PA, September 25-29, 2013. For more information, contact Stan Prager at stashuman843@msn.com, 916-791-6700.

► The veterans of the USS Philippine Sea – “the most-decorated” aircraft carrier of the Korean War will meet at the Crowne Plaze hotel in Jacksonville, FL, October 24-29, 2013. For more information, contact the USS Philippine Sea Association at philsea@embarqmail.com, 941-743-5460.

► The USS Waldron DD699 Alumni is having their 24th Annual Reunion October 23-27, 2013 in New Orleans, LA. Information can be found at www.usswaldron.org or by contacting Bill Turner at dcssti@cs.com, 985-264-3294.

IN SEARCH OF

► Did you know or have information related to David Goldman, F-142nd, 36th Division from Chicago, IL? He was an amateur lightweight boxer. Served 1942-1945. Captured in Paestum, Italy 10/1943. Interred in Stalag 2B, West Prussia, Germany. Farm kommando. Farm location/

name unknown. And/or: if you or someone you know was interred in Stalag 2B and would like to share the experience, please contact Janice Goldman at thinker20@msn.com.

► Looking for information about Albert Miller born on May 13, 1921 in Garwood, NJ and died on October 27, 1970 in Pompton Plains, NJ. He was the youngest of eight children of Joseph Miller and Fannie Steisel. He was posted in Birmingham during World War II and married Elizabeth May at Singers Hill Synagogue, Birmingham, England on June 11, 1944. He later remarried a woman named Ida. He was an active member of JWV. If you have any information or know of any living relatives, contact Sara Ray Nathan (née Miller), one of Albert Miller’s children from his first marriage, at srn49@yahoo.com.

Get Featured in the 2014 JWV Calendar!

We are looking for **your** story for the 2014 JWV Calendar. The yearly calendar is sent all over the country and this is your chance to be featured. We are looking for photos and short backgrounds on Jewish veterans from all eras, past and present.

Send your information to Nikki Salzman at nsalzman@jwv.org or call her at 202-265-6280 for more details. Please send only copies of photos, originals will not be returned.

Development Committee

By Chairman Monte Mayer, PNC

As reported at the latest NEC meeting in February, the financial response to our latest mailings has seen a decrease over the past year. As I pointed out, this is not unusual. Other similar not-for-profit organizations, including charitable organizations, have also seen a reduction in their income. This is a result of several factors:

a) The economy certainly has had an effect, as people are much more careful about the way they're spending their money. Funds in savings accounts, 401(k)s, and other places where monies are placed with the exception of stocks, have seen a decrease in the income they are producing. This makes the donor think twice about making a donation.

b) As a result of the natural disasters which have occurred across the country, donors are choosing different recipients for their charitable donations. Rather than the old-line beneficiaries receiving the money, it is now going to emergency fundraising attempts for damaged communities across the nation.

c) Not only has our membership list seen a decrease, but every social, fraternal, and religious organization has seen the same decline. This is a change in our society brought about by new technology as people today seem to connect not personally, but more through smart phones, iPhones, iPads and the like.

Thus our income, sadly, is down. We try to make our mailings interesting, useful, and through our Calendar tell a human interest story. We hope that you reading this will respond to the next mailing and make a donation to JWVUSA in order for us to continue our mission. We also look forward to your stories of the time you were in-

service accompanied with a photograph or two. As I have said before, if we don't tell our story, who will?

Holocaust Committee

By Chairman Bernhard Storch

On Friday, January 25, 2013, I attended the United Nations observance of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. United Nations Secretary, General Ban Ki-Moon, greeted the assemblage. He stressed the importance of continuity in Holocaust education and gave his thanks to the survivors and those who risked their lives saving the victims.

The United Nations' outreach program strives to remind the world of the lessons learned from the Holocaust in order to prevent future acts of genocide. Since its establishment in 2006 by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/7, the program has developed an international network of partners, a film series, and a permanent exhibit at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The program works closely with Holocaust survivors to ensure that their stories are heard and heeded as a warning against anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination. Among the speakers was Professor Mordecai Paldiel, the former director of the Department of the Righteous at Yad Vashem. In 1940, he was saved in France by a Catholic Priest, Abbe Simon Gallay, who helped smuggle his family to Switzerland.

The most moving part of the event was in the Exhibits of the Rescuers which featured Lt. Jan Karski, who I personally met a few years ago. He was a man on a mission to let the world know what was going on with the Jews in Poland, travelling to London and Washington to present his case. He left Washington with a promise from President Roosevelt that we will win the war, and the

guilty will be punished, while the killing in the extermination camps continued.

Professor Ethel Brooks, a Romani Sociologist and associate professor at Rutgers University, gave detailed descriptions about her relatives who were born in Germany as Roma. The Nazis did not report the murder of Roma Gypsies for many years.

In Sachsenhausen, the last camp I helped liberate, my Artillery Battery came across many women on the verge of dying – among them Gypsies. You have no idea what it meant to a frontline soldier to come across death camps during World War II; and yet, ordinary people risked their lives to help. Among them was Mrs. Makowska, a Roma national, who saved over 50 Jewish children.

These stories have to be repeated just as we recite a prayer. The Talmud teaches that to save one life is as if you have saved the entire world. We don't have to wait until next year, we must continue throughout the year, and then we will know all of this suffering was not in vein.

Homeless/Stand Down Committee

By Chairman Maxwell S. Colón, PDC

Many individuals do not choose to be homeless. Many became homeless due to the difficult economy and many individuals and families have turned to the streets and shelters because it's the only option they have left.

One of the goals to end homelessness is working with the local communities, residents, businesses, and organizations. Among military veterans, homelessness has dropped nationally this past year. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates that there were 62,619 homeless veterans in the United States on a single night in January 2012. This is a 7.2 percent decline since 2011 and a 17.2 percent decline since 2009.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has earmarked billions of dollars for a campaign to end homelessness among veterans by 2015. The VA is increasing funding for a rescue program that is intended to aid veterans before they hit the streets. This effort would entail covering a month's rent or a power bill for veterans who are at risk for homelessness.

According to federal officials, California is one of the five states where America's homeless population is concentrated. The other four states are Texas, New York, Florida, and Georgia. These five states hold nearly half of the nation's homeless veterans.

We must understand that there are many solutions to the complex problem of homelessness. Some of the problems which lead to or cause homelessness are heartbreaking, including domestic violence, unemployment, medical costs, post-traumatic stress, poor family role modeling, and bad decisions.

There are many efforts and positive steps that are being applied to assist those who are homeless, but much is still needed if we hope to combat homelessness among veterans. The ideas to address homelessness must be as varied as those who experience it. We must move forward collectively to rein in the epidemic of homelessness. In the next edition of *The Jewish Veteran*, I will further enlighten you on our homeless veterans.

JROTC Program Update

By Chairman Michael Corbett, PDC

Our new program will be unveiled at the National Convention in Richmond, VA in August 2013. Department Commanders are encouraged to designate a program chair to attend the JROTC Committee meeting. At that time, we will detail the new concept and share information with Post and Department program chairs.

Our vision for the future is that our JROTC program medal

and certificate will be viewed as a significant award recognizing the personal distinguished academic achievements, the noteworthy community service, and the exceptional display of military bearing and leadership on the part of the student who is selected at each JROTC Detachment around the country.

JROTC Detachments operate in more than 3,000 high schools around the country – enough for every Post to sponsor the award for their service area. Participation by your Post offers the opportunity for noteworthy publicity and positive exposure in the service area. In just three years the JROTC program will celebrate its 100th anniversary having established its first “battalion” in Leavenworth, Kansas in 1916.

Program Managers may search the internet under their local school systems (or check the phone book in your area) to find where the nearest JROTC Detachment is located; setup a ‘meet & greet’ with the

Detachment Commander, customarily a retired military officer or senior non-commissioned officer; and introduce the program and the Post.

Women in the Military Committee

By Vice-Chairman E.G. “Jerry” Farris, PDC

When I last wrote, Congress was finally addressing the role of women in the military and whether they should be authorized to take up arms in a combat unit. Though women have been carrying arms for decades, they have not been receiving the same recognition or the hazard/combat pay as their male counterparts. I am happy to say that the issue has been debated, and a decision has been made. Women are now allowed to officially be a part of a combat unit.

Any woman who desires to be in a combat unit will be required to undergo the same rigorous training as her male counterpart. She will

have to carry a heavy 120 pound rucksack all day, every day. She will have to qualify on the rifle range and be capable of firing a variety of firearms. Now however, she will be recognized and assigned to combat units.

But, as I wrote, women have been in combat units for decades. In the Panama conflict in which the United States helped to overthrow its dictator, Manuel Noriega, a woman led a brigade into battle for which, by the way, she was accused of not telling the whole truth about what happened. But her troops actually took a prisoner during the fire-fight. Did she or any other female receive the Combat Infantryman Badge. No. The Army said she, and other female combatants, served in non-combat roles, and gave them the Army Commendation Medal for Valor instead. (1)

We have had female military members shot, maimed by IED's, brought down in helicopters, captured, and killed over the years.

Yet, in spite of their bravery under fire and duress, their ability to carry on and get the job done, has gone mostly unrecognized, especially for their ability to fight. In addition to all this, they have continued to do whatever the job demands – and do it well. They have proven themselves over and over again.

Such has been the lot for our women in the military for many, many years. Bravery under fire and an ability to lead have gone unrecognized, and were considered inappropriate and unacceptable to a point. Now perhaps, we will see and recognize that women have always had the ability to be both fighters and leaders, not simply clerks, nurses, and cooks. Go Women!

(1) AP Press

You don't have to live near a Post to be active in JWV! Join Post 77, JWV's online Post. Visit <http://onlinepost77.jwv.org/> or email membership@jwv.org to learn more.

Why didn't I get more life insurance when I was younger ... when it was cheaper?



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In February, I had the honor of presiding over the dedication of the new Remembrance Walk located in front of the museum. It was a lovely ceremony. I would like to thank JWV National Chaplain, Admiral Harold Robinson, for his moving speech at the dedication ceremony.

As we head into the spring, I hope that all of you are thinking about recognizing Memorial Day in your local communities. We once again encourage you to remember the Jewish Fallen Heroes of Iraq and Afghanistan. Through Memorial Day Weekend Shabbat services in your community, we hope that you will read the names of these 50 men and women in solemn remembrance and prayer.

A printable list of the Fallen Heroes' names, along with a Memorial Prayer for service members, is available on our website at www.nmajmh.org/collectionsAndResearch/fallenheroes.php.

In Washington, DC, we will be holding the Third Annual National Shabbat Service honoring these men and women, and all of the individuals, past and present, who have lost their lives serving our country. More details about this

event will be available on our website as we get closer to Memorial Day weekend.

We are steadily moving toward our goal of raising enough funds to begin work on our new exhibit, which will be located on the first floor of the museum. In order to make these plans a reality, we need your help!

Mary Westley, Assistant Administrator of NMAJMH, addresses some of the opportunities available to you in her column on the opposite page, but I would also like to bring your attention to the new Partner Program being led by NMAJMH's Development Chair, PAP Iris Goldwasser.

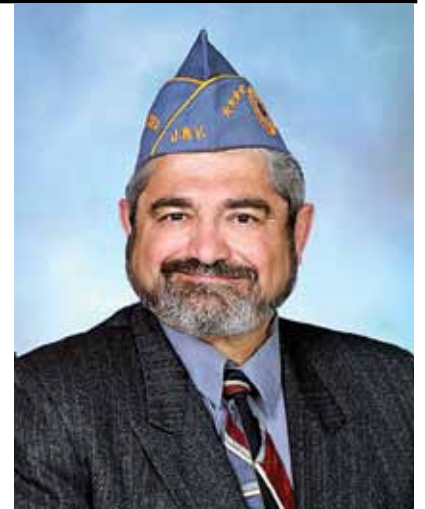
Through this new program, we're asking you to promote the museum outside of the JWV/JWVA community and spread the word of



The Remembrance Walk is a great opportunity to recognize relationships between your Post and other organizations or individuals in your community. This paver was sponsored by our friends at the Air Force Sergeants Association.

Jewish service to this country. Contact your friends, family, and business acquaintances. Encourage the people you know to make a relationship with our museum as a donor and supporter.

The Partner Program is not only a fundraiser, it is a public relations initiative designed to expand our reach in the Jewish and military communities. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Mary at mwestley@nmajmh.org, 202-265-6280 x511.



**PNC Norman Rosenshein
President, NMAJMH**

FROM OUR ARCHIVES By Pamela Elbe

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

Calling All Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans

Following the events of September 11, 2001, Jewish American men and women responded to the crisis by volunteering for service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Thousands have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and at least 50 have died while serving their country.

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History needs your help to fully document Jewish service in the American military. 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—things like correspondence, photographs, uniforms, and unique objects that you encountered during your deployment.

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.

Items of interest to the museum include, but are not limited to: military records, 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. You can learn more about donating to the museum and how our collection is used by visiting the NMAJMH's website at www.nmajmh.org/collectionsAndResearch/collectionAndArchives.php.

The museum has acquired nearly all of the objects in our collection 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.



Tan winter flyers jacket with 455 EAEF Bagram, USAFCENT, MSgt Seth Pasternak, American flag, and 9-11-2001 badges; worn during Operation Enduring Freedom 2009-10. From the Seth Pasternak collection.

Administratively Speaking By Mary Westley, Asst. Administrator

Report on Museum Programs

The museum relies on your support in order to provide an enriching educational experience for our visitors. Our ongoing fundraising programs include, but are not limited to, the Remembrance Walk, the Tree of Honor, the Yahrzeit Memorial Display, and the Certificate Program. All of these programs provide much needed funds for museum operations and allow us to acknowledge donors through an inscribed paver on our Remembrance Walk, a leaf on our Tree of Honor, a Yahrzeit Memorial for a loved one, or a birthday card for someone special.

As part of museum outreach, we also partner with the Jewish Study Center (www.jewishstudycenter.org) and pro-

vide space for some of their weekly evening classes. We find class attendees often arrive early to view our exhibits!

Our annual Family Stories event, which is part of the Dupont Kalorama Museums Consortium's Walk Weekend, is scheduled for June 2. Each year, this event attracts more new and returning visitors. Contact me at 202-265-6280 or mwestley@nmajmh.org if you are interested in participating, you don't have to live locally!

Not able to visit the museum this year? We have a collection of traveling exhibits, which can be easily set up in your community for a diverse range of public events and historical seminars.

As we continue to look to the future, we are actively expanding the opportunities available for the museum to reach audiences nationally and worldwide. None of these programs, however, would be possible without your continued dedication and support.



Mike Rugal, NMAJMH's Assistant Collections Manager, teaches American Jewish military history to the students at the Talmudical Academy of Baltimore.

For more information on these and other museum programs, visit us online at www.nmajmh.org or contact me at (202) 265-6280 x511 or mwestley@nmajmh.org.

From Our Collection By Mike Rugel

Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH

Being an American Jewish POW in Nazi Germany

Captured in the Ardennes Forest on December 19, 1944 at the Battle of the Bulge, Sgt. Daniel Elstein was brought to the German POW Camp Stalag IVB near Mühlberg, Germany. He was issued this dog tag with his POW ID or "kriegie" number. For an American Jew, the prospects of becoming a prisoner in Nazi Germany were extraordinarily harrowing. By this time, rumors of what was happening in the concentration camps were rampant. Elstein was moved through seven different camps or work stations never knowing what might come next before finally being released and liberated on April 9, 1945.



POW ID Tag issued to Daniel Elstein. Donated by Ella Elstein.

Some POWs attempted to hide their Jewish identity. In his memoir describing his experience being captured at the 1943 raid on the Ploesti, Romania oil refineries, Harold Block describes telling his German captors he was a Methodist and feeling fortunate he had a set of Army-issued dog tags without the "H" that identified him as Jewish. In a similar situation, Sy Brenner had a comrade grab his dog tags, cut them in two, and discard the half with the "H" identifier before they were captured. A non-Jew Bob Tolley described hollowing out the heel

of his boot to hide his Jewish buddy's dog tags with the "H."

The Jewish POW experience was diverse. A relatively small number, probably about 80, experienced the horrors of a genuine concentration camp at Berga. Some Jewish individuals were singled out for beatings in the POW camps. But most had an experience like an imprisoned soldier of any religion, enjoying at least some of the protections of the Geneva Conventions. No POW experience was without trials, but most were defined by hunger and boredom. The

boredom is illustrated by the wartime diaries of POWs like Louis Wigdortz and Morris Seifter in the archives at NMAJMH. They're filled with drawings, long lists of names, and poems clearly intended to pass the time.

Capt. Mozart Kaufman described his experience in his published memoirs *Fighter Pilot*. In late December, 1944, Kaufman and the other Jewish POWs at Stalag Luft I were separated from the rest of the camp and consolidated in one compound. They were told that Hitler had issued an order that they all be annihilated. Fortunately, the annihilation never came. The hungry Jewish POWs, who were being kept on a near-starvation diet, sat together discussing the food they missed from home. Kaufman, a Vicksburg, Mississippi-native had grown up with a distinctly Southern diet. He'd never even heard of lox, kugel, matzo brei, gedempte fleisch, or kishka. But the descriptions from the mostly Northeastern Jews he was with made them immediate favorites in Kaufman's mind. Regardless of the original German intent for separating these Jewish POWs, it created an environment where at least one young man came to learn about and embrace Jewish culture.

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