



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Winter • 2012

IN THIS ISSUE!

Transitions

Leaving the
Military
and
Finding a New
Beginning

Page 1

William Shemin

A Daughter's Quest
for Her
Father's
Recognition

Page 1

Jewish Fallen Heroes Memorial Day Remembrance

Page 8

Alphabet Soup (MST)

Military Sexual
Trauma

Page 8

Women in the Military

A Look at the
History of Women's
Military Service from
Colonial Day to the
Present

Page 13

Veteran Beware For-Profit Schools

Page 17

Transitions



By Amy Berger

Some people celebrate when they leave the service, happy to be finished or proud of capping off a rewarding career and looking for-

ward to beginning a new one. Others feel almost mournful, as though something in their life has died. And while the close of such an important chapter is bound to be bittersweet, leaving military service is not a dead stop. It's not a period at the end of a sentence, but rather a comma leading to something else. You don't spend time in the military and sever all

ties. It's more than the old saying about taking the man out of the military but not the military out of the man. That's making light of it, a casual joke about something that was an enormous part of your life.

You leave the military, but it never leaves *you*.

In many ways, leaving military service is more frightening than entering it. In joining up, we willingly turned over most of our decision making to other people. When we transition out of the service, we suddenly get it back. Some of us spend our years in uniform fantasizing about being able to go where we want when we want. Others thrive under the carefully directed paths of their military careers and are overwhelmed by the freedom to determine their own road. Both are valid. No two people join the military for exactly the same reasons, and no two people feel the same upon leaving.

The services do a good job of preparing us for the transition to civilian employment. They have career search help, resume writing coaches, and detailed seminars on how to navigate Tricare and other

Continued on page 11

William Shemin Jewish World War I Veterans Act

By Col. Erwin A. Burtnick, AUS (ret)
Chairman, Award of Valor Comm.

In April 2010, I was requested by the Jewish War Veterans national headquarters staff to review the records of Sergeant William Shemin, a World War I recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, to determine if he would have been more appropriately awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions 7-9 August 1918 on the Vasle River near Bazoches, France. Sgt.

Shemin's daughter, Elsie Shemin-Roth, of Labadie, Missouri, made the request for the review of the records of her father who died in 1973. She indicated that as she grew up, she heard from her father and men with whom he served about how anti-Semitism played a role in preventing Sgt. Shemin from being recommended for and receiving the Medal of Honor.

From the documents submitted to me and a review of other
Continued on page 12



Upcoming JWV Teleconferences

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

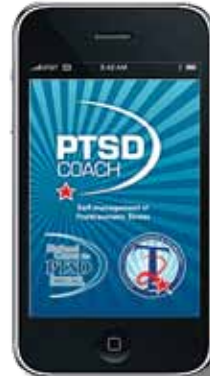
Dial 1-866-266-3378 and enter the JWV Code Number: 202 265 6280#. Enter the full number, including the # sign. All calls start at 8:00 PM EDT

- Thur. - Mar. 22 National Museum-Funding for the Future
- Thur. - Apr. 19 Visions of the Future of JWV in the year 2015-What will we be doing?
- Thur. - Apr. 26 Membership-Knowing When to Hold 'Em-Retention when members want to quit
- Wed. - May 9 Information Technology-Getting your Post and Department on the Internet
- Tues. - May 22 Veterans Services and Hospitals-Working with the Administrators and the Volunteer Service Coordinators
- Thur. - June 14 The National Convention Rules, Committees, Proposals, Elections, Voting, Attendance
- Tues. - June 26 Frailty, Deaths, Funerals, Ceremonies, Memorials. These are our Comrades. How do we Honor them?

PTSD Coach Mobile App

New cell phone platforms have opened up a world of opportunity for service members and veterans seeking information and aid. PTSD Coach is an award winning app developed by the VA's National Center for PTSD and the DoD, and is intended as an educational resource and a supplement to psychological treatment. While the app cannot diagnose PTSD, it can help individuals manage their symptoms. With the app users are able to:

- Perform self-assessments of PTSD symptoms with individualized feedback.
- Manage symptoms using resources, relaxation techniques, and self-help information provided by the app.
- Find support with phone numbers and links to treatment programs and an emergency link to the National Suicide Prevention Hotline.



The app is available in the iPhone App Store and on the Android Market. For more information, visit <http://t2health.org/apps/ptsd-coach>.



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

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For JWV caps, call Keystone Uniform Cap Corporation
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DEPARTMENTS

YOUR LETTERS	3
MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER	4
NEWS FROM CAPITOL HILL	4
DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR	5
COMMENTARY	6
JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY	14
NEW MEMBERS	16
PEOPLE AND PLACES	16
REUNIONS	16
NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES	18
MUSEUM NEWS	20
TAPS	22

Appreciating Our Veterans

I am writing in regard to the lack of appreciation for our vets behind the lines. I personally served in the US Navy from 1964-1970. I am considered a vet even though I was not directly involved in combat.

The news media, especially on November's Veterans Day, only wrote about soldiers killed or wounded and coming home stories. Not one word anywhere of those behind the scenes that support our troops in hundreds of ways. Conversations I have had, especially with young persons, confirm the fact that their idea of a vet is one killed or wounded. To the news media, you need to show those behind the scenes supporting our troops are in every way considered veterans. We are thankful for the sacrifices those killed and wounded gave in combat but need to also thank those that supported them.

*Sincerely,
Joel Tenenbaum
US Navy (Ret.)*

Myitkyina

In response to the interesting article by Sgt. David Macarov, WWII, there was another Jewish soldier who remembered that weird sounding town. My husband, Abby C. Rosenberg (deceased) T/5, was assigned to the Medical corp. in Assam Area Command-Panitola, India where he served from March 1945 until March 1946 when he was deployed back to the US. We met the following October.

I remember him telling of a US Base with a really unpronounceable name –sounded like Misheno. He must have either passed through or possibly collected a soldier who needed medical attention. Never having driven a car (born and bred in NYC), he was seated behind the wheels in an Army ambulance and handed the keys.

He spoke very positively about his time in India and had a number of photos he had taken while in Calcutta and at the hospital in the Assam jungle. Picked up some filaria there, so was deployed back to the US. That departed after he hit the familiar streets of NYC, from where he had entered the army.

Glad you are well and able to remember those days. Our Jewish men always seemed to find something positive about their placement.

*Bernice Berman Rosenberg
Former WAVE LT., Disbursing Officer
West Hartford, CT*

Upon scanning the cover page of the fall 2011 *The Jewish Veteran*, I was totally awed to see "Being Jewish in Myitkyina" (pronounced "mitch-en-aw") and immediately turned to page 14 to read Sgt David Macarov's article – and much to my surprise discovered that the author and I had both been stationed at the airbase named Dinjan. I also served in the CBI Theater of Operations as a weather observer assigned to the 10th weather squadron; however, our paths did not cross. Just the coincidence recalled many memories – especially, since I had not heard these two locales referred to in more than six decades.

I enjoyed the article but did not share in David's feelings about boredom at Dinjan. With all that had to be done in our capacity as weather observers there was little time left to be bored; but then we all do not react to situations in the same way. As Myitkyina was a smaller airbase, conditions there may have been different.

My thanks to David Macarov for the article and the memories of an exceptional experience in my life, and thanks to *The Jewish Veteran* for having printed it.

*Cordially in Comradeship,
Joseph Liberman
Springfield Post 26
Springfield, MA*

Liberation

In 1945 I was an infantry soldier in the 76th division of Patton's army. We had broken through the Siegfried Line and were pursuing the German soldiers through Germany. Each day we would free a town – sometimes two.

One day, we freed a town. Our first task was to police the town, meaning we had to check each building for German soldiers. As I was walking down the main street checking the buildings, I came to what looked like a public building and entered it. The room was very large and in the far end I saw about 35 girls ages 15 to 39 standing. I walked up to them, stood before them, and they made no sound. I said, "Are you Nazis?" They said no and one said, "Sprechen sie Deutsch?" I said "a bissel." I then heard one whisper, "er red Yiddish." The one next to her said, "sh, zug gornisht."

When I heard that I said, "ich bin a Yid." The girls got very excited and spoke some English. They told me that they were Hungarian Jews brought to this town to work in the factories, clean streets, do domestic work, and all sorts of labor as directed. Several of the girls had large stomachs, and I asked if they were pregnant. I was told that this was a condition of malnutri-

tion. We spoke for a while, and then I said I will leave and return in a short time.

I went back to my company and picked up a package received from home and brought it to them. As I started to unwrap the package, I asked if they knew what today was. They said no. I said today is Passover and unwrapped a box of matzah. They were hysterical, most of them crying, and I cried too. It was very emotional.

After the war was over, I thought about that event and realized that we celebrate Passover for our freedom from slavery, and it was on Passover that these Hungarian Jews were freed from slavery.

It has always been my dream to someday meet one or more of these girls and find out what happened to them. If you know of any Hungarian female over 79 years old who was a slave in Germany, tell them this story. Perhaps they were there, and I would love to meet with them.

William Hulkower

Do you have an archival-quality museum exhibit case that you would like to donate to the NMAJMH?

If so, please contact
Pamela Elbe at:
pelbe@nmajmh.org.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE ON ACTIVE DUTY?

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

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

Correction

In last issue's story "Finding Peace from Pieces" in the Museum News section, Milton Wolfson was incorrectly identified as Maurice Wolfson. The author of *I'm Off to War Mother, but I'll be Back* is Jerry Whiting. And the Italian author who wrote about Mission 139 is Enzo Vinci. We apologize for these errors.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Allen E. Falk



One of the greatest concerns of the Jewish War Veterans at this time is to assure that our servicemen and women returning home from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other overseas duty are being provided with the very best assistance available to them.

This is not merely a matter of convenience and comfort. The list of serious problems they face today is substantial:

♦ **Our present poor economic conditions have resulted in a rate of unemployment for veterans much higher than non-veterans.** According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, veterans aged 18 to 24 had a 30.4 percent jobless rate compared to 15.3 percent for non-veterans in the same age range. These figures are disappointing, especially in view of the protections in the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act.

♦ **There are a lot reasons why this employment gap is emerging.** Our youngest veterans may not have the skills yet that many employers find essential, like college educations and experience in office settings. They also have to contend with employees who may unfairly fear the aftereffects of service in a combat zone. As young veterans make the transition to civilian life, it is important that programs exist to help ease this change. The new Veterans Jobs Bill, which includes credits for employers who hire veterans and an extra year of GI Bill benefits for employed veterans, gives some additional assistance to unemployed veterans. More needs to be done and more should be done. These are the men and women who volunteered to serve our country - every single one of them should have the resources they need to find permanent employment after his or her service.

♦ **Family and relationship issues resulting from multiple deployments.** Any veteran who has spent a substantial period of time separated from loved ones can understand the additional stress involved in multiple deployments. Family members can never be sure if, and when, this can occur. This is especially true in the Reserve and National Guard components.

♦ **Health and medical problems caused by exposures in combat areas.** Medical advances have reduced the number of fatal injuries in combat. But the extensive use of improvised explosive devices by the enemy has caused a great number of seri-

Continued on page 7

NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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



JWV remains vitally concerned and fully committed to those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Though American personnel are no longer fighting in Iraq, and the U.S. combat role in Afghanistan will cease in the near future, the tens of thousands of veterans of these conflicts will need our wide-ranging support for decades.

The signature wound for personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan is traumatic brain injury, or TBI. This is a neurological condition that may result in a constellation of cognitive communication impairments, physical, emotional and neurological defects that require life long adjustments. JWV is a strong advocate for those who have suffered TBI wounds.

Our returning veterans vitally need a reduction in the huge backlog of disability claims being faced by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. "Nearly one million veterans today are stuck in the backlog and more than half wait at

least half a year to find out if their claim has been processed," said Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL), Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. Of the approximately 2.2 million veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, 624,000 have filed disability claims and many more are expected. Try as they may, the VA disability processing system remains overwhelmed. JWV continues to call for quicker action through new technology, increased processors and a simplified disability processing system.

In addition to the VA and veterans service organizations, there are other groups helping our returning veterans. One such group, Helmets to Hardhats, has an initiative called Good to Go (G2G) that advances the idea of preparing for the return to civilian life over the course of a year. It's essentially a planning tool that helps people, not just a soldier but the family as well, to pay attention to priorities, not the least of which is finding a job. At the G2G site,

soldiers can find a link to Helmets to Hardhats and search job openings in construction.

My alma mater, Temple University in

Continued on page 7



National Commander Allen Falk speaks with President Obama during the Veterans Day Breakfast at the White House.

DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

By PNC Paul Bernstein, National Editor



CYBER WAR

We have been engaged in a silent war since 2003. You don't see it mentioned in newspapers or on TV. There are no bombs, bullets, rifles, rockets, or missiles. No boots on the ground, no airplanes flying over head, no pictures of dead bodies. Yet it's here. It's war without bloodshed. It's cyber war.

What is cyber war? Cyber warfare is defined as an internet based attempt for a nation-state to digitally infiltrate into another nation's computers and digital networks in order to disrupt information systems. Cyber war, or really cyber terrorism, affects our critical infrastructure, our national defense systems, nuclear plants, electrical grids, satellites, banking, manufacturing, and wired communications. Imagine if there was a real war and our enemies controlled our war effort, it would be like fighting with our hands tied behind our back.

This war is being conducted against us every day, every minute, 24/7. In fact, in a recent CBS News interview, the Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta, stated that cyber war is one of his biggest worries.

Who's behind these digital attacks? Russia North Korea, certainly China, as well as terrorist groups are all engaged in waging this quiet,

invisible, but massive cyber war against the West, most notably against the United States. They are all out to steal our most sensitive military and economic secrets and obtain the ability to sabotage our vital infrastructure.

We know about it, but right now there is very little being done to stop it. The hackers are daily trying to penetrate the computers of U.S. Government agencies, defense contractors, universities, and tech firms –not to mention the email and bank accounts of private Americans.

Who is protecting us? The Pentagon has set up a cyber command, but it is only authorized to protect military networks. CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) Program at Carnegie Mellon is a Defense Department funded research center, and has a working program to resist attacks on network systems. There is a Bill in Congress to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to guard civil government computers and domestic civilian networks. In recent years, hackers have penetrated the State Department, Defense and Commerce departments, and Lockheed Martin. Unfortunately, many civilian companies are not reporting attacks on their networks because they don't want the public to know that they have been penetrated.

Fight Cyber Terrorism!
Contact Your Senators and Representatives to Support:

H.R. 174 - Homeland Security Cyber and Physical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2011

To enhance homeland security, including domestic preparedness and collective response to terrorism, by amending the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Cybersecurity Compliance Division and provide authorities to the Department of Homeland Security to enhance the security and resiliency of the Nation's cyber and physical infrastructure against terrorism and other cyber attacks, and for other purposes.

What about us? What can we do to protect ourselves against hackers who may try to steal our personal information? The answer: Be smart and follow these security tips from the Department of Homeland Security.

Keep a Clean Machine

- Keep security software current: Install and stay current with anti-virus software. Updated versions of your security software, web browser, and operating system are the best defense against viruses, malware, spyware and other online threats.
- Allow for automatic software updates: Many software programs will automatically connect and update to defend against known threats. Accept this option if it's available.
- Protect all devices you use to go online: Smart phones, gaming systems, and other web-enabled devices also need protection from viruses and malware.
- Plug and scan: USB memory and other external devices can carry viruses and malware. Use your security software to scan them.

Protect your Personal Information

- Secure your accounts: Ask for protection beyond passwords. Many account providers now offer additional ways for you to verify who you are before you conduct business on their site.

- Make passwords long and strong: Combine upper and lowercase letters with numbers and symbols to create a long, strong password.
- Different account, different password: Creating different passwords for every account you have can help protect your personal information.
- Write it down and keep it safe: Everyone can forget a password. Keep a list of your passwords stored in a safe, secure place, and away from your computer.
- Own your online presence: When you can, set the privacy and security settings on web sites to your comfort level for information sharing. It's ok to limit who you share information with.

Connect with Care

- When in doubt, throw it out: Links in e-mails, tweets, posts and online advertising are often the way cyber criminals attack your computer. If something looks suspicious, even if you know where or who it

came from, it's best to delete it.

- Be Wi-Fi hotspot savvy: Limit the type of business you conduct and adjust the security settings on your device to limit who can access your machine.
- Protect your \$\$: When banking and shopping check to be sure the sites are secure. Look for web addresses with "https://" or "shttp://", which means the site is secure. "Http://" is not secure.

Be Web Wise

- Stay current: Keep up with new ways to stay safe online. Check trusted web sites for the latest information.
- Think before you act: Be wary of any message that asks you to act immediately, offers something that sounds too good to be true, or asks for personal information.
- Back it up: Protect your valuable work, music, photos, and other digital information by making an electronic copy and storing it safely.



APARTHEID/JUDENREIN: DISRESPECTING THE JEWS

When you write a column or release, you always figure there is a quote you can use so the reader has the opportunity to understand what you are writing about. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't.

Well, there is one quote by former DoD Secretary Donald Rumsfeld which I had to read over a couple of times:

“As we know, there are known knowns. There are things we know we know.

We also know that there are known unknowns. That is to say, we know there are some things we do not know.

But there are also unknown unknowns, the ones we don't know we don't know.”

KNOWN KNOWN: WE KNOW WE KNOW

Unfortunately, the more we know, the more we lie. If you have been following the presidential primary campaign, you are familiar with the blatant lies in negative ads – in spite of videos and transcripts which confirm the known. Screw the truth.

Then there is the area of slogans to defuse the known. The word “apartheid” is now being tossed all over the place in Israel/Palestine – to make them interchangeable with Israel as the oppressor. Apartheid involved white subjugation of blacks in South Africa. There the world turned against the whites resulting in an actual regime change. Once done, the world walked away from South Africa leaving it by itself with a “hooray for our side.”

Israel is completely different – although I have no doubt that the Palestinians would love to see a regime change, and the world would love to walk away from resolving the issues and doing the right thing – let the oil flow.

Israel is not in the same situation as South Africa. This situation relates to the Arabs who voluntarily left or were compelled by their leaders to leave after the United Nations partitioned it into two separate states.

The Arab League and the other Arab nations determined that they did not have to accept the solution being offered – the two state solution. What they want now they had in the beginning and much more.

They determined that they could accomplish by war the annihilation of Jews and keep the entire area to themselves. When they lost, they segregated the Arabs who left or were forced to leave into a new class called “refugees” – never

citizens. They sprinkled the refugees throughout the Middle East sticking them into buildings, what amounted to disparate concentration camps, using them as propaganda tools - at no time allowing them to be either residents or citizens. Their purpose was simply to eliminate Jews from the Middle East, accomplishing what they couldn't do through wars.

If they were successful in their propaganda ploy of turning the Palestinians into the victim, then world pressure would be asserted and Israel would yield – thankfully, not yet and hopefully not at all. But who knows what will result when the Arab Spring blossoms into an Islamic garden?

So we sloganeer with smoke and mirrors. The slogans are: bring the Arabs back to Israel, but don't allow the Jews to go back to the Arab nations from which they were expelled. There are Jews who pound their chests to show they too can use the word “apartheid.” They are looking for convenience rather than peace and quiet a: “look at me; I'm one of the good guys willing to yield.” Their popularity is not worth survival.

KNOWN UNKNOWN: THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE DO NOT KNOW

We know that good boy Bashar Assad is very liberal compared to his murderous father. We know he was trained in the West and is favorable to us. We know that based on need he has been subjected to Iran using him to transmit weapons and money to Hezbollah and Hamas. We know he is not a fanatic and if Israel gave him the Golan Heights, there would be peace between Israel, Palestinians, and the whole Arab community. We now know that all that is a boatload of crap. We also now know that his father was a mere amateur compared to his loving and compassionate son.

Prior to Oslo and since, we have intently listened to words (one set to the West and another set to the Arab world), to rhetoric, to illusionary statements that Arabs only want to be friends if Israel would just negotiate. The United States, Europe, nations of the United Nations have hearing loss when it comes to hearing the words of the Middle East calling for the annihilation of Israel. Not land swaps, but elimination. It's called Judenrein – a cleansing of the world of JEWS – not merely Israelis, not only in the nation-state, but in all the world's neighborhoods (Crown heights...you name it).

World leaders are so desirous of “peace” that they will agree with anything which will

preserve the oil and commercial trade of the Middle East.

After all, just look at the history of the Jews, they have been such easy scapegoats to defuse and hide behind through their history – so why waste such a good thing? The world accepts the truism and, unfortunately, so do some Jews who look to today and forget about tomorrow.

I remember back at the time of the Israel/Egypt peace treaty, there was an Israeli town called Yamit in Sinai where some of the citizens refused to evacuate, and the IDF was coming in to force them out in two weeks. We were there and like many people, including the Israelis, we couldn't understand how the determined remaining people could scuttle that treaty which augured a Middle East at peace.

We had gone to the top of the monument of the town to have a discussion with one of the citizens trying to understand their actions and the effect it was having on a resolution with Israel's most formidable enemy.

He said that it was not peace, it was only a truce and that normalization would not be forthcoming. That their seventeen years as a community was being uprooted with no real political or other purpose – other than to get rid of the Jews. Yamit no longer exists. Its citizens leveled it rather than leave it for the usurpers.

We Americans were going to show them what world opinion was of their actions. BUT they were right, we were wrong, but that's from hindsight. Was there a real peace? NO! Not even today when we sit back and await whether the Arab Spring will blow it away unless the United States and other countries continue the bribery which guaranteed the existence of the illusory peace treaty.

THE UNKNOWN UNKNOWN: ONES WE DON'T KNOW WE DON'T KNOW

Thousands of years of history and Yamit should alert us to the one unknown - that is the ultimate as to when and where the world will get around to the full cleansing - the final solution of Judenrein. It's a shame that with no Jews around it won't even make the history books.

I am not writing this as a shock article, we have enough of that without this. I write it to help me understand the philosophy that by giving up citizenship or even presence we can obtain the ultimate result being sought of peace or at least (you should pardon the expression) sepa-

JWV's 117th Annual National Convention

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Save the Date!

Spend your week with other JWV members and learn about Norfolk's historic and present connection to our nation's military.

Registration and schedule of events will be available soon.

We look forward to seeing you there!



COMMENTARY

rate but equal.

An element of the “peace” discussions relates to returning Palestinians back to the places where they were ripped from by their leaders and the Arab League. What about returning Jews to the Arab Nations they were forced out of? No word, nor will there be.

If new boundaries are determined, will the Jewish settlers who live in those areas of a Palestinian Nation continue to live there as citizens? Or can there be a swap of areas with all of the Arab Israeli areas being traded for the Jewish areas so that both nations are “pure?”

If it is successful there, will others pass exclusionary laws to restrict Jewish residence or presence? Will people be able to go to places other than Spain to see where Maimonides lived in “Jew Town” where no Jew lives today? Will the synagogue in Prague once again become a museum to an extinct people?

There are too many knowns and unknowns for us to ignore them. I agree that it is very comfortable to ignore, but ignorance will really be the end result of ignoring truths and not accomplishing or implementing viable solutions.

Jews should not be negotiated out of citizenship. Never should Judenrein become a way of life. Democracy is too brittle to allow that to happen. We should never be afraid of not being afraid nor unwilling to be positive enough to confront it.

Jews ain't chopped liver – something to be schmear and then devoured!

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

Continued from page 4

ous injuries, burns, amputations, and brain damage.

- ♦ **Depression and anger from the above conditions has resulted in a large number of cases of post traumatic stress being reported in returning veterans.** They often have problems transitioning from constant “adrenaline alerts” to “boring routines” back home. In addition, only 1 percent of the US population is presently serving in all of the armed forces. This can result in social and cultural differences with those who have never served.

News From Capitol Hill

Continued from page 4

Philadelphia, PA, has recently established the Veterans Task Force Committee. This is a collaborative initiative that comprises all key student services departments and is overseen by the vice provost for University College. The Committee discusses new veterans information, benefit changes, organizes social events, and streamlines administrative processes. The committee provides welcome guidance to veterans, assists those with disabilities, and builds community for the veteran population.

In early March, JWV National Executive Committee members from all over the country will storm Capitol Hill as advocates for vet-

Unfortunately, these factors have contributed to a very high suicide rate amongst our returning vets.

I urge our membership at every echelon to bring up these issues as soon as possible and report back to me about successful programs for returnees. We at National will pass on this information.

We also will, through our active participation in The Military Coalition, work with all the other major veterans organizations to assure our military returnees receive the maximum assistance they so rightly deserve.

erans in general and for those from Iraq and Afghanistan in particular. On March 22nd, National Commander Allen E. Falk will present JWV's legislative priorities to a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, which will highlight the needs of our returning veterans.

We can all count on JWV to present the needs of our combat veterans to their members of Congress. We can count on NC Falk to eloquently cover the needs of our veterans in his testimony to the joint committee.

Our veterans have been there for us. JWV will always be there for our veterans!

Memorial Day 2012

This Memorial Day we are honoring the sacrifice of the Jewish men and women who have lost their lives in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. In our nation's capital, we will be honoring their memory through a special Shabbat service held at Sixth & I Historic Synagogue on Friday, May 25, 2012. For those of you who cannot join us in Washington, DC, we ask that you bring the following information to your synagogue for a Memorial Day Shabbat in your own community.

Memorial Prayer for Servicemen

O G-d full of compassion, grant perfect rest beneath the cover of Your Presence to all who have bravely laid down their lives for our country. Shelter them among the holy and pure, who are as radiant as the luminous firmament. O source of compassion, bring them ever near to You that their souls be bound up in the bond of eternal life as are the souls of the righteous. And the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. Amen.

REMEMBERING KNOWN AMERICAN JEWISH CASUALTIES OF THE WARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 2012

Pfc. Daniel J. Agami-USA
Age: 25 Hometown: Coconut Creek, FL

Sgt. Howard P. Allen-USANG
Age: 31 Hometown: Mesa, AZ

1st Lt. David R. Bernstein-USA
Age: 24 Hometown: Phoenixville, PA

Cpl. Albert Bitton-USA
Age: 20 Hometown: Chicago, IL

Sgt. Aron C. Blum-USMC
Age: 22 Hometown: Tucson, AZ

PO3 Nathan B. Bruckenthal-USCG
Age: 24 Hometown: Smithtown, NY

Cpl. Ryan J. Clark-USA
Age: 19 Hometown: Lancaster, CA

Cpl. Michael R. Cohen-USMC
Age: 23 Hometown: Jacobus, PA

2nd Lt. Seth J. Dvorin-USA
Age: 24 Hometown: East Brunswick, NJ

Lance Cpl. Mark E. Engel-USMC
Age: 21 Hometown: Centennial, CO

Cpl. Mark A. Evin-USMC
Age: 21 Hometown: Burlington, VT

Pfc. Aaron E. Fairbairn-USA
Age: 20 Hometown: Aberdeen, WA

1st Lt. Daniel Farkas-USA
Age: 42 Hometown: Brooklyn, NY

Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher-USA
Age: 24 Hometown: Ballwin, MO

SPC. Jacob S. Fletcher-USA
Age: 28 Hometown: Bay Shore, NY

Spec. Daniel J. Freeman-USA
Age: 20 Hometown: Cincinnati, OH

Sgt. Foster L. Harrington-USMC
Age: 31 Hometown: Ft. Worth, TX

A1C Elizabeth N. Jacobson-USAF
Age: 21 Hometown: Riviera Beach, FL

Lance Cpl. Jeremy M. Kane-USMC
Age: 22 Hometown: Cherry Hill, NJ

1st Lt. Nathan M. Krissoff-USMC
Age: 25 Hometown: Reno, NV

Staff Sgt. James M. Malachowski-USMC
Age: 25 Hometown: Westminster, MD

Staff Sgt. Robert J. Paul-USAR
Age: 43 Hometown: The Dalles, OR

Maj. Mark E. Rosenberg-USA
Age: 32 Hometown: Miami Lakes, FL

Cpl. Dustin H. Schrage-USMC
Age: 20 Hometown: Indian Harbor Beach, FL

1st Lt. Roslyn L. Schulte-USAF
Age: 25 Hometown: St. Louis, MO

Capt. Robert M. Secher-USMC
Age: 33 Hometown: Germantown, TN

Spec. Marc S. Seiden-USA
Age: 26 Hometown: Brigantine, NJ

A1C Matthew R. Seidler-USAF
Age: 24 Hometown: Westminster, MD

Staff Sgt. Michael B. Shackelford-USA
Age: 25 Hometown: Grand Junction, CO

Pfc. Steven Shapiro-USA
Age: 29 Hometown: Hidden Valley Lake, CA

Sgt. Alan D. Sherman-USMCR
Age: 36 Hometown: Brick, NJ

Capt. Benjamin A. Sklaver-USA
Age: 32 Hometown: Medford, MA

Chief Warrant Officer Eric A. Smith-USA
Age: 41 Hometown: Rochester, NY

PFC. Eric D. Soufrine-USA
AGE: 20 Hometown: Woodbridge, CT

1st Lt. Andrew K. Stern-USMC
Age: 24 Hometown: Germantown, TN

Capt. Michael Y. Tarlavsky-USA
Age: 30 Hometown: Passaic, NJ

Pfc. Morris L. Walker-USA
Age: 23 Hometown: Chapel Hill, NC

Tech. Sgt. Timothy R. Weiner-USAF
Age: 35 Hometown: Tamarac, FL

Sgt. Robert M. Weinger-USA
Age: 24 Hometown: Round Lake Beach, IL

Spec. Jeffrey M. Wershow-USANG
Age: 22 Hometown: Gainesville, FL

Pfc. Colin J. Wolfe-USMC
Age: 19 Hometown: Manassas, VA

Maj. Stuart A. Wolfer-USA
Age: 36 Hometown: Coral Springs, FL

Sgt. Elijah Tai Wah Wong-USA
Age: 42 Hometown: Mesa, AZ

Spec. Benyahmin ben Yahudah-USA
Age: 24 Hometown: Bogart, GA

SrA Jonathan A.V. Yelner-USAF
Age: 29 Hometown: Lafayette, CA

Lt. Miroslav (Steven) Zilberman-USN
Age: 31 Hometown: Columbus, OH

For more information on the Memorial Day Weekend Shabbat at Sixth & I in Washington, DC, contact Mary Westley at mwestley@nmajmh.org, 202-265-6280, x 511, or visit <http://sixthandi.org/EventCalender.aspx>

Alphabet Soup

IED, RPG, EOD, PTS, TBI - These acronyms have become commonplace over the last decade for those with a family member serving or those that have served in America's military. Now there is a less known but more insidious addition to this alphabet soup, MST: Military Sexual Trauma.



By Karen Bird

IED, RPG, EOD, PTS, TBI - These acronyms have become commonplace over the last decade for those with a family member serving or those that have served in America's military. Now there is a less known but more insidious addition to this alphabet soup, MST: Military Sexual Trauma. MST occurs during peacetime, during training, and at war. MST is one of those "hidden scars," the ones you don't see like PTS (Post Traumatic Stress), which often follows experiencing MST.

MST is not exclusive to female service members. It is one of those equal opportunity events which happen to men and women in our armed forces. Any service member who is sexually assaulted, sexually harassed, or experiences any sexual behavior against his/her will while on active duty or active duty training is a victim of MST.

Since the early 1990s, the VA has been developing programs related to MST including screening, treatment, training, and outreach. In fact, every VA facility now has an MST Coordinator. Over the past few years, MST treatment programs and centers have opened across the country to provide services for MST survivors.

Many veterans and family members of troops receive magazines and newsletters from troop and veteran support groups. Every so often, they may come across an article regarding MST, sexual harassment or sexual assault, but almost never about a service member charged with rape or sexual assault. The general excuse is the person was just a bad apple, it was not typical behavior, and boys will be boys. Unfortunately, some will even go so far as to say if it does not pertain to us or our loved ones then it is not important. Any issue that affects our service members and veterans is important to every American.

MST is not a "new" issue. However, its history is very similar to PTS in that most service members and/or veterans absolutely refuse to talk about what they experienced. With increased access to information through the internet, discussion groups, veterans groups, and other self help groups, information and resources are now available at the touch of a

button. Obtaining information today does not require going to a specific location and revealing personal and private matters, which, as we saw with PTS, can cause veterans to live with unbearable symptoms for decades before they venture to seek assistance.

Unfortunately, MST also carries a stigma very similar to rape. Many who have been subjected to MST do not report it. Some victims are silent because they do not want their Commander or unit to know this information. Some victims are concerned that if reported, it will negatively affect their military career. Some victims are concerned because they are female and are afraid they will be blamed for the assault. Some are concerned because they are male and are ashamed they were assaulted. Therefore, many victims suffer with internalized scars and the resulting associated symptoms for many years.

Only too frequently, these scars manifest themselves through self-destructive acts and behaviors. Others may exhibit anti-social behaviors. Sometimes, victims seek relief by suicide. The high rate of suicide in today's military clearly signifies an immediate need to address all issues which affect our troops. We can only speculate as to whether MST was the cause and/or a factor for those who seek to end their pain through suicide. Identifying, educating, and providing the services necessary to address the issues affecting our troops and veterans should be a priority.

There are many statistics stating MST is experienced by 20 percent of women and 1 percent of men. One VA study in 2008 indicated that more than 48,000 female veterans have screened positive for MST. Due to the sensitive and very personal nature of MST, it is believed the actual number of victims is significantly higher than reported.

For military personnel, the issue of reporting is more convoluted and complicated as the perpetrator may be from the same unit and/or someone in a position to affect a service member's military service and future assignments. Not surprisingly, there have been cases where the perpetrator simply has an MOS which is "too vital" to compromise by allowing an in-

vestigation to be thoroughly conducted.

When a service member experiences an MST event there are, frequently, secondary issues that must be addressed. In one case, a service member who was attacked and fought off the rapist sustained a concussion from the attacker. That led to PCS (Post Concussive Syndrome). Subsequently, that service member was diagnosed with TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) in addition to PTS and depression.

The VA has policies, laws, and directives related to MST. In 2011, several changes were enacted to assist survivors. The President signed an Executive Order establishing privileged communications between sexual assault victims and victims' advocates that will impact future victims in a positive fashion. The Department of Defense adopted two new sexual assaults policies. The VA made changes to MST disability claims policies. Also, Congresswoman Jackie Speier started presenting a series of speeches on MST to educate and advocate on behalf of military sexual assault victims.

Unfortunately, as many veterans know, the medical diagnosis process, whether end of service or medical discharge, is lengthy, complicated, and convoluted. There have been cases where an MST victim who has developed PTS and other related diagnoses is given a determination of having a pre-existing diagnosis of some type of personality disorder.

It is encouraging that the VA has not only defined MST, but provides services to our service members and veterans who have been subjected to this insidious behavior. Unless someone has experienced MST or has a loved one who has undergone MST, most people are not aware that this is a significant issue in the military.

The VA provides free, confidential counseling and treatment to male and female veterans for mental and physical health conditions related to the experience(s) of MST. Even in cases where the incident(s) were not reported when it happened and there is no documentation. Contact the MST coordinator, which each VA Medical Center has, to inquire about receiving assistance.

Continued on page 10

Alphabet Soup

Continued from page 9

Many veterans who experienced this unconscionable behavior do not tell anyone. However, when a service member does make the decision to report this event or behavior,



they must decide whether to file a restricted or unrestricted report. A restricted report is confidential, and cannot be made available to units and Commanders. Each option has important implications for the future.

Next, MST victims have to decide whether to seek needed services. There are known cases where a service member has been raped or assaulted, seeks medical/mental health services, and is told to forget it, put it in the past, or just get over it. It takes a very strong person to have survived the initial abuse and pursue the assistance needed. Shockingly, there have been cases reported where a service member is receiving treatment but a Unit Commander overrules the doctor and prescribed treatment and orders the service member back to duty.

For many veterans who chose not to report or seek help while serving, the outreach and education of the military, VA, and our veterans over the last two decades is paying off. Although many veterans feel that the screening process for MST is lacking, the fact that the VA issued a report in 2008 stating over 48,000 female veterans were assessed positive for MST is revealing. Although the true number would be overwhelming, the fact that the VA reported those numbers gives hope that this issue is finally being addressed.

In reading MST victim's articles, it appears that more veterans are now able to share their experiences, not only about MST but also the military's and VA's handling of the matter. Many veterans are now telling their story and the results of their experience. Several online groups have made resources available to those who have kept quiet in the past, and also provide a forum in which to speak about their experience and how it has affected all areas of their life. For many who have thought for years or decades that it was something that only happened

to them, to find out that what they experienced is not uncommon actually allows many to finally speak out. It is quite significant to know that MST has been identified, named, laws passed, policies established, and all of these have had a positive affect on victims – even many years after suffering such a horrendous event.

To truly understand the extent of this issue, go on the VA's web site or a VA facility web site and search for MST. You will see information, programs, and facilities focused on MST. Online there are many groups which have been formed to focus on MST. MST, like PTS, can only be ignored or downplayed for a limited period of time. Ultimately, with the availability of information from the Internet, this issue will not take several wars or several decades to be believed and addressed like with PTS.

No more forget about it, put it behind you. It is a duty to yourself and your brothers and sisters in arms, to speak up and share your stories. When veterans share their experiences it helps not only themselves but service members of today and the veterans of tomorrow.

This article was written by the mother of an active duty service member who was one of several victims of a serial rapist on a base in Iraq. The article was written to inform readers of the indignities and roadblocks put in front of not only her child but other service members who have sought assistance in healing and recovery of self-esteem and self-image, which are casualties of MST. The service member is still on active duty being treated for concussion, traumatic brain injury, post traumatic stress and military sexual trauma.

Resources for servicemembers who have been affected by MST

- **VA Office of Mental Health Services/MST Support Team** - information on VA's programs and services for treating MST. www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp
- **Vet Centers** - contact your local MST coordinator. If you are a combat veteran or experienced any sexual trauma during your military service, bring your DD214 to your local Vet Center and speak with a counselor or therapist—many of whom are Veterans themselves—for free, without an appointment, and regardless of your enrollment status with the VA. Vetcenter.va.gov
- **Safe Helpline – 877-995-5247** Department of Defense (DoD) crisis support service for members of the DoD community affected by sexual assault. Provides live, one-on-one support, and information to the worldwide DoD community. The service is confidential, anonymous, secure, and available worldwide, 24/7 by click, call, or text. www.safehelpline.org
- **Military Rape Crisis Center** - the nation's largest support group for survivors of military sexual trauma. Started by a veteran and a survivor of MST, they provide crisis care, support, and legal advice. www.militaryrapecrisiscenter.org
- **Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)** - provides advice and assistance to veterans and their families at the state level.
- **National Center for PTSD** - Provides information and resources on trauma and PTSD for veterans, their families, and the general public. www.ptsd.va.gov
- **afterdeployment.org** - a wellness resource focused on helping service members, their families, and veterans with common post-deployment problems. The web site provides self-care solutions targeting PTS, MST, depression, anger, and more.

Transitions

Continued from page 1

retirement benefits. What isn't emphasized as much, however, is the psychological transition. The shift from captain, private, airman, or colonel back to "mister" or "mom," without the rank, can be jarring. Whether we served just one tour or a twenty-plus-year career, we've worn those labels for so long they've become as comfortable as a favorite old sweatshirt. Our stripes, chevrons, silver bars, or gold oak leaves identified us as parts of a much greater whole. If only shedding those familiar, well-worn identities were as easy as taking our boots off at the end of the day.

And yet, maybe the psychological aspects of the transition aren't addressed as carefully as the nuts and bolts of retirement because it isn't quite as challenging as we expect it to be. There's something special about the military, there's no denying that. But in being surrounded by shipmates or platoon buddies and having nearly all our lives' "administrative needs" taken care of on base, it's easy to become insulated from the outside world. To get caught up thinking the military is somehow a world apart. While the bureaucratic inertia and incessant acronyms do make it a bit of an entity unto itself, it's one that's made up of regular people—ordinary people who just happen to do extraordinary things.

What struck me the most when I was on my first ride on a transport plane full of troops on our way to Iraq was how normal everyone was. People were sleeping side by side like sardines along the floor of the plane. Some hunched over notebooks, cataloging the journey in journals or diaries; others zoned out to music or handheld electronics. We were a mini census: men and women of every ethnicity, some quite young and green, others a little more seasoned, each of us with a story to tell and likely on that plane via a confluence of events as unique as our own fingerprints. Guitar cases and tennis bags sat

nestled among the cargo, the paraphernalia of everyday people and their everyday lives. This is not to say there isn't something special about dedicating yourself to the service of our nation, whether for four years or three decades. But you never lost yourself. If anything, you became a stronger, deeper version of the person you already were.

It's a cliché to say that one thing the military does well is prepare us for change. Leadership, duty stations, uniform regulations—it's a wonder whiplash isn't the biggest complaint at base clinics! Some things are obvious, like building a new professional wardrobe and navigating the world of private health insurance. Other things will come as surprises, unfolding over time. You might find you have to watch your language in the corporate workplace more so than in the officers' wardroom after a stressful watch, or during mission debrief after a harrowing flight. What passes for humor on a flight deck might not... well, *fly*, in mixed company around the office water cooler.

On the other hand, if you start a career far afield from the defense industry, you might be pleasantly surprised to learn what a novelty your military background is, and how interested your new colleagues are in your skills and maybe even your old war stories. Having been surrounded in the military milieu, where everyone around you was one of those ordinary people doing something extraordinary, and being in uniform was "no big deal," it's easy to forget how mysterious and awe-inspiring your service is to the people who have never experienced it.

I served just four years, and although my time in uniform was short, it is absolutely sacred to me. Uniforms are just clothing. The military is more than fancy coats and ceremonial swords. The meaning behind the buttons and brass—the honor, the pride, the sacrifice, the *service*—isn't something that can be peeled off and hung in a closet. It's inside us, branded as

indelibly as the voices of our most feared drill instructors.

You're not *less than* for no longer wearing the uniform; you're *more than* because you *did*.

TIPS TO HELP SMOOTH THE TRANSITION

- **Plan early!** Don't wait until the week of your retirement or discharge to start asking questions!
- **Keep your form DD-214 handy.** This is your proof of service, and you'll need it over and over (and over) again. Make plenty of copies!
- **Transition Assistance Program:** Most bases offer in-person seminars to equip you with information to help you ease into civilian life. Everything from translating your military skills into a civilian resume to personal financial planning. www.turbotap.org
- **Employment:** The main site for federal jobs is www.usajobs.gov. If you hold a security clearance, you'll also want to post your resume on www.clearance-jobs.com.
- **Medical insurance:** Inquire at your unit admin office or the base clinic; in many cases you can continue your Tricare coverage (at a cost) until you secure private insurance. Be sure to confirm your status—combat veterans, even those not disabled, are eligible for many free services at VA medical centers for up to five years after discharge.
- **Education:** The GI Bill web site can be overwhelming, but it contains a wealth of information about using your education benefits. Due to heavy case loads, it's difficult to get assistance by phone but responses via email are usually quick. www.gibill.va.gov/

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER?

Do you want an opportunity to aid fellow veterans, military widows, and orphans?

Would you like to have the satisfaction that comes from knowing that you have truly assisted a veteran in need?

Veteran Service Officers are needed all around the country. To qualify you will need to take a five day course dealing with veterans issues and pass a certification test. Once you do your part, we will get you registered with the VA.

To volunteer or learn more, contact JVV's National Service Director, Michael Winnick at: mwinnick@jvv.org

www.jvv.org



eBenefits Portal Creates Single Access Point for Benefit Information

The Department of Defense and the VA have jointly developed the eBenefits portal to create a single web site for veterans to access online benefit information and tools to file claims, monitor the status of claims, and check monthly benefit rates.

Veterans may enroll in eBenefits and obtain a Premium account by verifying their identity in-person at the nearest regional office, going online, or calling the VA's toll free number at 1-800-827-1000.

Active duty service members may also enroll in eBenefits using their Common Access Card at any time during their military service, or before they leave during their Transition Assistance Program briefings.

For more information about the eBenefits portal visit www.ebenefits.va.gov or call 1-800-827-1000.

William Shemin

Continued from page 1

Distinguished Service Cross and Medal of Honor citations from World War I, I felt strongly that had Sgt. Shemin been recommended for the Medal of Honor, it would most likely have been awarded. The only problem I encountered with regard to an upgrade of the Distinguished Service Cross was that there was no procedure in place to accomplish this for a World War I veteran. The Leonard Kravitz Jewish War Veterans Act of 2001 pertained to potential upgrade to the Medal of Honor for Jewish American war veterans serving during “World War II or a later period of war.” Since Sgt. Shemin served during World War I, he was not covered by this legislation.

Sgt. Shemin’s citation for his Distinguished Service Cross, which was signed by General of the Armies John J. Pershing, reads as follows:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Sergeant William Shemin (ASN: 558173), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with Company G, 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Division, A.E.F., on the Vesle River, near Bazoches, France, 7, 8, and 9 August 1918. Sergeant Shemin upon three different occasions left cover and crossed an open space 150 yards, exposed to heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, to rescue wounded. After officers and senior noncommissioned officers had become casualties, Sergeant Shemin took command of the platoon and displayed great initiative under fire until wounded on 9 August.

Sgt. Shemin was hailed as a hero upon returning to his hometown of Bayonne, New Jersey, where there were newspaper accounts of his courageous wartime deeds. After the war, he graduated from Syracuse University; where as an avid athlete, he played varsity football and lacrosse. He ultimately owned a landscaping business in New York. William Shemin was actively involved in both the Jewish War Veterans and the Legion of Valor.

The standards during World War I for award of the Medal of Honor were not as stringent as in future wars. As an example, Sergeant William Sawelson, a Jewish soldier, was awarded the Medal of Honor for “(h)earing a wounded man in a shell hole some distance away calling for water, Sergeant Sawelson, upon his own initiative, left shelter and crawled through heavy machinegun fire to where the man lay, giving him what water he had in his canteen. He then went back to his own shell hole, obtained more water, and was returning to the wounded man when he was killed by a machinegun bullet.”

In a phone conversation with Mrs. Shemin-Roth after reviewing her father’s records, I indicated that in my opinion had he been recommended for the Medal of Honor, it would probably have been awarded. I explained the

dilemma regarding the fact that current legislation went back only to World War II, and suggested that she contact her congressman to have a bill introduced to cover upgrade to the Medal of Honor for Jewish World War I veterans. I offered to assist her congressman in this endeavor.

Mrs. Shemin-Roth contacted Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), whose office contacted me for assistance in drafting the bill. The William Shemin Jewish World War I Veterans Act was introduced in 2010, but failed to be enacted. Rep. Luetkemeyer reintroduced the bill in 2011 in the House of Representatives and Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) introduced a companion bill in the Senate. These bills were incorporated into the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, which passed and was signed into law by the President.

The pertinent portion of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 relating to the upgrade of Distinguished Service Crosses and Navy Crosses to the posthumous awards of the Medal of Honor for Jewish World War I veterans follows:

SEC. 595. REVIEW REGARDING AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO JEWISH AMERICAN WORLD WAR I VETERANS.

(a) Review Required- The Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Navy shall review the service of each Jewish American World War I veteran described in subsection (b) to determine whether such veteran should be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

(b) Covered Jewish American War Veterans- The Jewish American World War I veterans whose service is to be reviewed under subsection (a) are any Jewish American World War I veterans awarded the Distinguished Service Cross or the Navy Cross for heroism during World War I and whose name and supporting material for upgrade of the award are submitted to the Secretary concerned for such purpose before the end of the one-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) Recommendation Based on Review- If the Secretary concerned determines, based upon the review under subsection (a) that the award of the Medal of Honor to a veteran is warranted, the Secretary shall submit to the Secretary of Defense a recommendation that the Medal of Honor be awarded posthumously to the veteran.

(d) World War I Defined- In this section, the term ‘World War I’ means the period beginning on April 6, 1917, and ending on November 11, 1918.

During this entire process, Mrs. Shemin-Roth and I have been in contact with the offices of Rep. Luetkemeyer and Sen. Heller. We have also been in weekly, and sometimes daily, contact with each other. In addition, we have been

interviewed for television, radio, magazines, newspapers, and wire services. When this matter became the subject of an article on the Associated Press wire in January 2012, there was worldwide coverage. Jewish World War I veterans in general, Sgt. William Shemin in particular, and the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. have certainly benefitted from the massive amount of publicity surrounding this issue.

Mrs. Shemin-Roth previously provided her father’s Distinguished Service Cross and the citation to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. She also provided numerous artifacts documenting his life. At my suggestion during the 2011 National Executive Committee meeting, a large exhibit pertaining to Sgt. Shemin was placed in the museum.

I would be receptive to reviewing records of World War I veterans who received the Distinguished Service Cross or the Navy Cross to determine if there is feasibility that the award could be upgraded to the Medal of Honor. The legislation provides that “supporting material for upgrade of the award” be submitted; consequently, additional documentation, if any, beyond the citation should be provided.

Once guidance is made available from the Secretary of the Army, it is my intention to submit Sgt. Shemin’s name and supporting documentation for consideration. If additional viable candidates for upgrade are provided to me for review, I will either submit or assist families in submitting those also.

ATTENTION ALL MARINES!

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

It is our intention to have a special event at the upcoming National Convention in Norfolk, VA this August.

If you do not plan on being at the convention, we would greatly appreciate having your name and address, so we Marines may be in touch with each other for future information.

Please forward in writing all information to:

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

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

By E.G. "Jerry" Farris

Vice-Chair, Nat'l Women in the Military Comm.

Women have been a part of the military, although not necessarily as "service members," from the beginning of the United States of America. During every war we find evidence of women being of service to our country, be it as nurses, cooks, spies or runners, they voluntarily served many, many years before actually being allowed to officially become a part of our armed forces.

During the Revolutionary War, women such as Deborah Samson disguised themselves as men, took a male name (she chose Robert Shirtiffe), and served undetected until taken ill or killed (she was the first woman to serve who, by direct order of then President Washington, received a pension and land in recognition of her service).

As much as both the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War tried to hide from public knowledge that women managed to disguise themselves and serve side by side with male soldiers, the fact remains they did so and showed themselves to be brave and trustworthy. Although found out within a month, to be a woman, 19-year-old "John Williams" was quickly discharged by the Confederate Army. It turned out she was a married woman.

"Charles Freeman," actually a woman named Mary Scaberry, joined the Union Army in Ohio. That fall she fell ill with fever and her identity was discovered when she was admitted to the hospital. She was promptly discharged.

Some women, though, were able to hide their identity through the entire war. Their service to our country has been fully documented for all time.

In researching the women who have served in the military, I found that in the War of 1812, Lucy Brewer, enlisted under the name George Baker, served in the US Marine Corps. Although not recognized officially, according to what is

written, she served on 'Old Ironsides' in some pretty tough battles. It wouldn't be until 1918 when the Marines began to recruit women in all seriousness.

General Zachery Taylor, during the Mexican American War, enlisted and during battle promoted Sarah Borginis to the rank of Colonel during a battle at Fort Brown. Her initial position at the fort was as a cook.

During the Spanish American War (we all remember Teddy Roosevelt's charge up San Juan Hill), over 1500 women served as nurses on land and sea. It was during this time the first woman in the military would die on land and receive a military funeral. Her name was Ellen May Tower of Michigan. She died of typhoid while serving in Puerto Rico.

Although women served in the military, either covertly or openly, they had no rights, no equal pay, and no benefits. Even those who served during World War I were oft times accused of lying about their service; for it was neither "official" nor was it considered legal for them to have served. They were simply considered "volunteers" to act either as nurses or telephone operators. It wasn't until World War II that women in the military finally came into their own.

During World War II, in 1941, a bill was finally introduced to establish a Women's Auxiliary Army Corps which was to be under the arm of the Army. With both General George Marshall and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt pushing for it, the bill finally passed in 1943, and we were on our way! Nurses served at Pearl Harbor, later in Normandy, and finally in many of the other overseas areas of conflict.

Since that time, women have seen service in Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. Wherever we were and are needed, we have gone. Each has a story; each the memories, yet many still feel alone. The experiences are ours to share with one another, but we must also share them with



Hannah Helen Newmark Hoffer in her US Marine Corps uniform. Photo is dated 1925.

the world. We came together, no color, no religion, no creed to separate us...it was our unselfish desire to serve during wartime – to help in any way possible to defend the United States of America. We served with pride, passion, and faith in G-d and one another.

Although membership in the Jewish War Veterans of the USA is small in numbers for women, Jewish women served nonetheless. We are here. We are one. We believe in JWV...and we believe in the USA.

New Initiative to Honor Korean War Veterans

My name is Charles Koppelman, and I have been recently recognized by the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War (KW60) Commemoration Committee as your local KW60 Ambassador.

The Committee, a three-year program initiated in 2010, seeks to honor the service and sacrifice of Korean War Veterans, commemorate the key events of the war, and educate Americans about the Korean War's significance.

The Korean War is often referred to as "The Forgotten War." As a KW60 Ambassador, I hope to propel Korean War Veterans and their contributions to greater public awareness. I will focus on establishing a local voice of sincere appreciation for the selfless service and sacrifices that Korean War Veterans made on behalf of all Americans.

As part of the program, I plan to thank and honor as many of our treasured Korean War Veterans as possible in a heartfelt and meaningful way.

If you are a Korean War Veteran (June 25, 1950 -July 27, 1953) interested in being recognized with an official Certificate of Appreciation sent to you by the Department of Defense and signed by the Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta, you may email me at: K WV148@yahoo.com or contact me by telephone at: 609-655-3111

The following information is requested (PLEASE PRINT): First and Last Name, Service Branch, Rank, Street Address, City, State, Zip Code, and Email (optional).

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



JWV Post 256 TX and JWVA Post 256 TX hosted their annual Thanksgiving dinner at the VA hospital in Dallas, TX. The event featured the VA's newly formed Veterans' Recovery Center Basement Band with main vocalist LuAnn Bergman, President of JWVA Post 256. Musical instruments were also donated by the Auxiliary. According to the mother of one member of the band, "my son hadn't spoken or smiled since he returned home from his service, and now that he is a part of this band, he has come out of his depression and smiles all the time and can't wait to attend the practice with the band!"



Members of the Murray Solomon Brown Post 243 FL handed out presents at Miami Children's Hospital and the Jackson Memorial Hospital Children's Wards this December. Left to right: Front row: Remy Gordon, Beke Pickard, Harris Hershkowitz. Back row: Steve Liebowitz, PNC Ainslee Ferdie, Robert Pickard, Susan Pickard, George Becker, Ed Fisher, Ian Heller.



PNC Sam Greenberg holds a photo of a Welcome Home Parade held on September 11, 1946 in Luzerne County, PA at a commissioners meeting honoring all local veterans. Photo credit: Aimee Dilger, The Times Leader



The Arturo Toscanini Elementary School 216 in Brooklyn, NY held its annual patriotic program honoring veterans on November 23, 2011. More than 25 JWV members participated in the event which taught the children about the sacrifices services members make to ensure America's freedoms. Left to right: David Glass, Post 129 NY; Jack Holzman, Post 169 NY; Irwin Beck, Post 169 NY; Anton Gancz, Post 169 NY; Arthur Feigenbaum, Post 6 NY; and two American Legion members.



Myron Toback of Post 1 NY and his daughter, Joy, appeared in the New York City Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2011. They rode in a 1952 Jeep Willys, the same type of Jeep used by Mr. Toback during the Korean War.



Post 717 NY Senior Vice-Commander Buddy Epstein and Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran Chris Jones pose with his guide dog, Jackson, at the America's VetDogs facility in Smithtown, NY. Epstein presented a donation of \$500 to the organization, a subsidiary of the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, which provides guide dogs to veterans in need.



A Holiday Season gift of 40 "talking watches" for visually impaired veterans was provided to the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park by members of Post 125 NJ. The talking watches were purchased from Memorial Day poppy donations to Post 125. Left to right: Junior Vice-Commander Jerry Russell, Senior Vice-Commander Marc Rubenstein, Veterans Home Administrator Christine McNulty, Post Commander Norm Ginsburg, Judge Advocate Stan Shapiro, Editor Howard Weiner.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Left to right: First Lady Michelle Obama, PNC David Magidson, Marilyn Mittentag, and President Obama at the White House Chanukah Party on December 8, 2011. The Chanukah used to mark the occasion was made in a displaced persons' camp after World War II. The West Point Jewish Chapel Choir performed at the event.



Members of the Department of New Jersey visited the Governor's mansion for a Chanukah candle lighting ceremony on December 21, 2011. Left to right: Department Commander Harvey Fox, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, New Jersey First Lady Mary Pat Christie, and Lois Fox.



Members of Post 333 MI serve lunch to residents of a homeless veteran shelter in Detroit, MI. Over 100 homeless veterans are housed at the shelter.



Members and supporters of Post 605 KS met at Congregation Ohev Sholom on December 6 to pack more than 400 gift bags to be delivered to Ft. Leavenworth in Kansas and the VA Medical Center in Kansas City, MO for the Post's annual Holiday Gifts for Veterans program. Left to right: Chip Levine; Jacob Schulzinger; Mike Katzman, program coordinator; Lou Ransey; Lloyd Hellman; Marvin Denton; Jolene Polley; Ray Polley; Marvin Korn; and Gary Swanson.

On December 25, 2011, Post 499 PA and Adat Shalom Congregation sponsored a Mitzvah Day at the John J. Heinz, III Progressive Health Care Center in Pittsburgh, PA. Far left: C. "Code" Gomberg, Commander, Allegheny County Council. Front center: Post Commander Jacob A. Notovitz.



Post 609 NJ donated two golf carts to the East Orange and Lyons Veterans Hospital facilities in New Jersey. Each hospital received one golf cart for patient transportation on hospital grounds. Left to right: George Bradley, Chief of Environmental Management; Tyrone Steed, Voluntary Services Manager; Earl Rivers, veteran; Sheldon Bloom, Junior Vice Commander of Post 609; Bernard Passer, Commander of Post 609; Kenneth H. Mizrach, Director, VA New Jersey Health Care Systems; Charles Wells, veteran.

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

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

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

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

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Aaron-Avila-118 • Robert-Padilla-118 • Jolie-Grossman-185 • David-M.-Harris-185 • Curly-Hummingbird-185 • Ben-Leinow-185 • Shawn-Menchion-185 • Robert-L.-Platt-185 • Shelley-Zimmerman-185 • Leonard-Hirsch-385 • Jerome-Morrow-385 • Marc-Poland-385 • Daniel-Potsdam-385 • Terry-Barker-603 • Arlene-M.-Klein-603 • Frank-Rosen-603 • Irene-Rosen-603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Seymour-Feldman-51 • Stanton-Lipson-51 • Albert-Passy-142

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Albert-Bakelman-265 • Ralph-Neibauer-266 • Harry-K.-Friedman-440 • Meyer-Hoffman-440

• Steven-G.-Slade-440 • Alexander-Abramowitz-639 • Leigh-M.-Lawrence-778 • Gerald-Mermelstein-819

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Leslie-Lipschutz-407

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Harry-Levitt-605

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Robert-Abrams-567 • Irving-Fleishman-567 • Daniel-Lerner-567 • Sherwin-S.-Freeman-692 • Ralph-Sanders-692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

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

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

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

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Robert-Lancz-44 • Harold-Levine-44

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Michael-S.-Chambers-210 • Sidney-Reiff-619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

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

PEOPLE & PLACES

► **Joe Lubell** of **Post 239 PA** is scheduled to teach a Holocaust course in spring 2012 at the Senior Citizen Center in Allentown, PA. Lubell was awarded the Allentown Human Relations Award 2011 for his work teaching the Holocaust at Muhlenberg and Cedar Crest College.

► **Colonel (ret) Erwin A. Burtnick**, Commander of the Department of Maryland, has been reappointed by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley to a five-year term as a commissioner on the Maryland Veterans Commission.

► **Post 735 MA** conducted their bi-annual collection of funds for the Brockton Veterans Hospital on Veterans Day this past November at Shaw's Market in Sharon, MA. The Post collected and donated \$1200 to the Veterans Hospital to be used in the best interest of the veterans in long term care at the hospital. This fundraising and support of the veterans at the hospital is the main mission of **Post 735**.

► State Senator Daylin Leach (D-Montgomery, PA) received a JWV Certificate of Appreciation from **Post 305 PA**. Senator Leach spoke to the Post about current legislation and political processes.

► Arizona StandDown 2012 was held from February 3-5 at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum and it was bigger than ever. Friday was the single largest day of registration and brought in 863 veterans by the day's end. By the close of Saturday, that number grew to a staggering 1,266 and landed at 1,293 by Sunday's close. Last year, 1,048 veterans were served. Three local JWV members serve on Arizona StandDown's Executive Committee and thirty-two members from four local Posts participated in the event as volunteers.

► **Richard Woolson**, member of **Post 32 MA**, received France's highest honor, the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur, for bravery and valor during World War II from the Consul General of France in Boston on November 29, 2011.

IN SEARCH OF

► Searching for a Jewish American soldier named Abraham or Albert Cohen. He fought in the 30th division (infantry or tanks) in World War II. On April 13, 1945, he was on a tank that liberated a train with about 2,500 Jewish prisoners from the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. Contact Varda Weisskopf at hila_64@inter.net

REUNIONS

► Kilo Company, 3rd Bn., 7th Marine Rgt., Vietnam, and attached units, will be having a reunion in Oklahoma City, September 20-24, 2012. For more information contact William Rolke at k37usmc@att.net and 262-780-0993.

► The 22nd Reunion of the USS John R. Craig DD885 will be held September 12-16, 2012 in Indianapolis, Indiana. To learn more contact Jerry Chwalek at 734-525-1469 and jermail@ameritech.net or visit www.ussjohnrcraig.com.

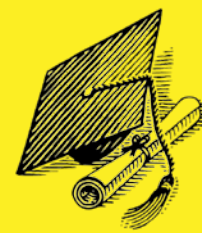
► The Society of the First Infantry Division, veterans of the Army's "Big Red One," will hold its 94th Annual Reunion from August 1-5, 2012 in Memphis, TN at the Marriott Memphis Downtown. Additional details can be found at www.1stID.org. For more information email soc1ID@aol.com or call 215-661-1969.

► Second Battalion Fourth Marines Association will be having their annual reunion in San Clemente, CA from June 13-17, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Express. To make your reservations call 949-498-8800. For more information email valcone@hotmail.com or fxala@hotmail.com or call 714-281-2846.

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VETERANS BEWARE!

For-Profit Colleges Target Veterans to Take Advantage of GI Bill Benefits



By Brian Ahern
JWV and NMAJMH Volunteer

Similar to its World War II-era predecessor, the Post-9/11 GI Bill has sought to make higher education more affordable for returning veterans and their families. In turn, many colleges have developed new programs and policies to better serve veterans seeking to acquire higher education. However, for-profit colleges actively and aggressively recruit veterans for the benefits they receive through the GI Bill.

According to the law, for-profit universities cannot legally accept more than 90 percent of their revenue from Federal financial aid programs, commonly referred to as the “90-10” rule. But GI Bill benefits are exempt from this rule, which makes veterans an attractive group to target. Documents obtained by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) discovered the true extent to which many for-profit universities are targeting veterans for their benefits. These documents contained an aggressive 56-page strategy by Kaplan University to grow their military enrollments fourfold and a memo prepared for the CEO of Education Management Corporation outlining a plan to target military spouses for their one-time entitlement of up to \$6,000.

In addition to their aggressive campaigns to target GI benefits, for-profit colleges have come under heavy scrutiny in recent years for their deceptive recruiting methods, high tuition costs in comparison to non-profit and public universities, and soaring student loan default rates.

According to the Department of Education, the average cost of a full-time student attending a for-profit university during the 2007-2008 school year was \$30,900—their peers attending public university paid roughly half that figure (\$15,600). Furthermore, while only 13.2 percent of all students who enroll in higher education attend for-profit colleges these students account for almost half of all defaults on student loans (46.8%), which can be attributed to the poor financial advice students receive before entering as well as the insufficient demand for the degrees they receive upon graduation.

In 2010, employees from the Government Accountability Office posed as prospective students looking to enroll at fifteen for-profit universities. They discovered all fifteen universities had made deceptive statements, four had advisors that encouraged misrepresenting information on student loan forms, and one had an official that pressured an undercover student to illegally withdraw \$250,000 in savings.

These deceptive practices, high default

rates, and soaring prices have raised significant questions regarding for-profit universities and their practices. But above all, it is their manipulative and deceiving acts toward veterans and their families that have drawn significant scorn from Congress in recent years.

In January, the Protecting Our Students and Taxpayers (POST) Act was introduced by Senators Dick Durbin and Tom Harkin. This legislation attempts to hold for-profit universities accountable by altering the “90-10” rule to “85-15”—meaning universities cannot obtain more than 85 percent of their revenue from federal financial aid programs. Furthermore, this bill would count all forms of federal funding and loans, including GI benefits, as part of federal revenue, which cannot exceed 85 percent under the new legislation.

While for-profit universities offer flexible schedules and specified career education that appears highly attractive to veterans, it has been shown that many remain expensive, offer deceptive financial advice, and provide degrees that are seldom sought after in today’s job market. Veterans should remain cautious when contacted by for-profit university recruiters and should explore their options with public and private universities.

Post-9/11 GI Bill Changes Take Effect

Changes made by Congress to the Post-9/11 GI Bill took full effect at the end of 2011. These changes are intended to reduce the financial burdens of attaining higher education for America’s veterans.

These new changes include paying the actual net cost of all public in-state tuition and fees, rather than basing payments upon the highest in-state tuition and fee rates for every state; capping private and foreign tuition at \$17,500 per academic year; and ending payments during certain school breaks, to preserve veterans’ entitlement for future academic semesters. Certain students attending private schools in select states can now continue to receive benefits at the same rate payable during the previous academic year.

Veterans are also able to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for programs like on-the-job and apprenticeship training, flight programs; correspondence courses, and non-college degrees. In addition, they will be eligible to receive a portion of the national monthly housing allowance rate when enrolled only in distance learning courses.

For more information on the Post-9/11 GI Bill visit:
www.gibill.va.gov or call 1-888-GIBILL-1

Send a NMAJMH Certificate!

Your Certificate Chairwoman, Hannah Deutch, urges you to consider sending a certificate from the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

With the price of greeting cards going up, purchasing a certificate is a nice way to say “I’m thinking of you” and benefit the museum at the same time. For the person who has everything, making a donation to the museum in their honor can be a touching and meaningful gift.

Certificates can be given to mark any occasion: birthdays, graduations, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, or any special event celebrated by friends and family. The museum is happy to personalize certificates to your specifications, so order yours today!

Contact Mary Westley at 202-265-6280 x511
or mwestley@nmajmh.org.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Awards Committee

By Chairman PNC Ira Novoselsky

Everyone enjoys being recognized for his or her hard work. One way that the Jewish War Veterans of the USA do this is through the Awards Committee. There are 21 different awards for Department, Council, Post, and individuals. The Committee makes determinations on 18 of these awards. The only two that are not given by the Committee are the Murray Rosen Award and two (2) Membership Awards for a Post and an individual.

The Award guidelines and instructions are online at www.jwv.org. Everyone is reminded that the Committee cannot make awards to those who do not submit the appropriate paperwork and documentation. Follow the instructions, guidelines, and time frames and your submission will be reviewed.

Use photographs, newspaper articles, flyers for events or anything that puts JWV in the forefront – hospital visits, ceremonies, etc. Put in chronological order from the beginning of the year. Label events, identify members and dignitaries. Remember – you need a separate submission binder for each category.

Good luck to all.

Convention Committee

By PNC Ed Goldwasser

As we look toward this August and our National Convention, we are working diligently on arrangements, both business and social, to make your Convention Week memorable.

We have been invited by Admiral Herman Shalansky to be his guest in a tour of the Norfolk Naval Station. The Admiral was the Commanding Officer of the Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier when the Torahs were presented to the Jewish Chapel on board that carrier.

Norfolk certainly is a military town, and there is much to do that is related to the military. You

can visit the final resting place of General Douglas McArthur or join us at our wreath laying ceremony in Town Point Park where there is a memorial to all veterans. Not too far away is Langley Field which is now home to the CIA, and was an active Air Force Base at the time I was stationed at Fort Monroe, across the Chesapeake from Norfolk and half way to historic Williamsburg, Virginia. For those of you from the Northeast who will be driving to the convention, there is so much to do and see in the Washington/Norfolk corridor. For those of you joining us on Monday's, tour we will visit the local historic sites as well as the Naval Base.

In addition to all the social aspects, we cannot forget the purpose of our National Convention. Our National Executive Committee will be meeting Tuesday afternoon during convention week with the regular business sessions commencing after our Joint Opening session Wednesday at noon. Our business sessions will be highlighted with many speakers on issues that will affect us not only as Americans, but more importantly as veterans. As the war is over in Iraq and winding down in Afghanistan, the need for support for the VA has become more important than ever before. As older veterans are dwindling in number, the new veteran must be provided for, and it is our responsibility to remind our officials of their obligation to these younger men and women. So plan on being present at these sessions and having your voices heard. The convention culminates with the election of new officers for both JWV and our Museum.

The final event of the convention will be the banquet honoring our outgoing National Commander who will then join the long line of dedicated individuals who have served all of us with distinction.

The 117th Annual National Convention will be held August 5-12, 2012 in Norfolk, Virginia. We look forward to seeing you there!

Development Committee

By Chairman PNC Monte Mayer

The Year 2011 for JWV USA as a fundraising year was good when considering the state of the national economy. Anyone would imagine that donations to a non-profit organization would be down, reflecting the trends everywhere else in the fiscal arena, but we still believe that is not the case with us. Our five direct mail fundraisers, which are the calendar, mailing labels, defenders of freedom award to our donors, High Holiday art cards, and the end of the year appeal, were all successful. Obviously, these programs keep our great national veterans organization functioning, and maintain the mission we all pledged to keep when we signed on after our military days were completed. Every donation is recognized as thanks to JWV USA.

If you were one of the few who did not receive our mailings, then it simply means that in the past you did not send a donation to us after receiving the premium we enclosed. Please consider that our mailings are not benefits of membership, but an opportunity to support our efforts nationwide. We need your support to continue what was started 116 years ago by other Jewish veterans who faced the accusation that "Jews didn't serve." If JWV USA doesn't survive, our descendants will hear those words again. If anyone thinks racism or religious intolerance is no longer alive and well, then think again, and read a local paper.

In addition to your donations, we also need your memories. Whether it's you, a family member, or a friend who served, there is a story that has to be told. Please don't allow those pictures, albums, or letters to be cast away. We want them. Our National Museum of

American Jewish Military History can archive them, and our annual calendar will be happy to refresh everyone's memory of your service. Keep it alive.

Holocaust Committee

By Chairman Bernhard Storch

As a survivor and liberator of three Death Camps and one Concentration Camp, and having lost my entire family in them, we must continue to educate students and the public about the Holocaust. I find most of them have no idea about the long ago past in Europe. Personally, I continue to lecture at schools, West Point, the US Coast Guard, the Social Security Agency, the United Nations, NMAJMH, churches, and synagogues. I find that continued education is a must now that the number of survivors and liberators is rapidly decreasing. I have received hundreds of letters from students and educators with positive comments. Unfortunately even with all the facts, eye witnesses, and evidence, we still have denials of the atrocities committed by the Nazis.

The victims were Jews, Gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses, political dissidents, Polish clergy, teachers, professors, doctors, lawyers, and many others. We have an obligation to teach tolerance to each other, and to the younger generation, not only in educational institutions but at home, religious institutions, our military, and private businesses. Because of the Nazi's hatred of Jews and the poor response by world leaders, tragedy fell. Therefore, we the Jewish War Veterans, have to be in the forefront of veterans' organizations to keep an eye on others. It does not matter how painful it is. Unfortunately, European Jewry lost six million -

Do you have stamps to donate to the National Stamp Distribution Program?

Send them directly to our Co-Chairmen Marvin Garfinkle and George Hoppen at:

18716 Schooner Drive • Boca Raton, FL 33496



leaving Eastern Europe practically free of Jews. The Christian population lost almost the same amount of people, but the Christian population was twenty times more than the Jewish one. That is why now, more than ever, the need for education is so important, even if sometimes it seems that no progress is made.

We, the Jewish War Veterans, can be proud that the leadership pressed urgently to establish NMAJMH and the exhibit "GI's Remember," which was an eye opener to the public, and it still continues with the journal. In Rockland County we are distributing it to high school students after lectures under the supervision of their teachers.

Homeless/Stand Down Committee

By Chairman PDC Maxwell S. Colon

Thousands of homeless veterans require a reprieve from life on the streets of our great cities at least once a year. The answer to this

problem is quite a challenging task known as Stand Down.

Stand Down is a military term for battle weary troops sent from the front lines for rest and recovery. This idea has taken hold within our country and is presently in operation in over 200 cities in the USA. The idea is to try and turn around the lives of homeless veterans, man or woman, and bring them back to have dignity in themselves and what they do with their lives.

Stand Down is a community based intervention program that offers our homeless veterans a chance to renew themselves. Stand Downs often provide the various necessities that usually include food; clothing; medical; and legal, mental health, and job assistance; and most importantly hygienic clean up on the spot from living on the streets of our cities.

Again, Stand Down is not a handout, but a hand-up to our nation's veterans. These services are delivered by volunteers and professionals that give their time and expertise to address the various needs

of our homeless veterans. Help comes from numerous veteran organizations, Reserve and National Guard units, homeless shelter groups, health care providers, the Department of Veteran Affairs and community based citizens that set up these events.

Stand Downs usually number from one to three days and most take place outdoors with some being held indoors. A number of these Stand Down operations are held in parks, open spaces, or a baseball or football field.

The biggest task is for a community board to organize a group of dedicated volunteers that are committed to assisting our nation's homeless veterans to improve their lives and their situation. This community help not only helps our veterans, but in turn helps to improve our communities by taking homeless vets off the streets, turning their lives around, and helping them to be again a productive part of our society. This in turn makes our men and women stand tall and have pride in themselves. One thing

to remember is you must have perseverance to build community support for a Stand Down project and that it is not an overnight operation.

In the next edition of our 'Jewish Veteran', I will further enlighten you on our Homeless Veteran.

Membership Committee

By Chairman Robert Richter

Article IV of the National Constitution requires that to be a member of JWV, one must be Jewish and must have been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the US, or be an active duty member of the US Armed Forces.

In order to show proof of honorable discharge, one must provide either a form DD214 or other form of proof of honorable service. As a result, no membership application will be accepted by the Membership Department without such proof submitted.

In order to accept an application

Continued on page 22

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



Have you ever said this to yourself? If so, JWV members have a unique solution.

JWV introduces a **Whole Life Insurance Plan**, designed especially for senior members and their spouses. Acceptance into the plan is **guaranteed**, regardless of your current health condition. You only need to be between the ages of 45 and 85 to qualify.*

There are **NO health questions** to answer—**NO medical tests** to take. You are automatically eligible to secure up to \$20,000 in affordable coverage. Coverage will never end or reduce due to age or health problems, and your payments will never increase with age.

JWV wanted to do something really important for their members. Don't let your final expenses be a burden on your loved ones. Here's your **second chance**. Check out the advantages of this **member benefit** available to JWV members and their spouses.

✓ 1-800-548-9697

Call today to request your Information Kit with NO OBLIGATION

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ALL preexisting conditions accepted	✓
Rates never increase with age	✓
Benefits never decrease	✓
Automatically pays benefits at age 100	✓
Builds cash value	✓
Borrowing privileges	✓

*Age 55-85 in Maryland and 45-75 in Missouri. Not available in all states. Policy availability and benefit amounts offered may vary by state. Offer void where prohibited by law.

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d/b/a in CA Seabury & Smith Insurance Program Management
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Those of you that have visited the National Museum of American Jewish History in recent weeks may have noticed some significant changes to our first floor of exhibition space. In preparation for our new permanent exhibit, we've made some cosmetic changes – removing the walls that once separated our displays and resetting much of the information on temporary easels.

These changes are just the first steps to laying the groundwork for the permanent exhibit. Over the course of the next year, work will continue to be done in order to create our new space and also ensure that the museum still provides an interesting and educational experience for our visitors during the construction.

Our new exhibit will be a total immersion experience – walking our visitors through the story of American Jewish military service. As they navigate the new exhibit, visitors will learn about the change young men and women make

from civilian to service member, the varied reasons Jews choose to fight for the United States, how Jewish service members promote and protect freedom and democracy throughout the world, and the transition our service members undergo from active duty military to members of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

There will be a number of elements throughout the new exhibit to keep our visitors engaged: interactive displays, a short documentary film, and some of the most dramatic items from our collection. As construction progresses, I will continue to update all of you on the status of the new exhibit.

For more information about the new exhibit and the future of NMAJMH, visit our web site at www.nmajmh.org.

Additional space has also been enclosed for preparations to expand our Honorial Wall. We now have room for five more glass panels on the Wall. This is a welcome addition to what

is already a powerful and moving tribute.

Finally, I am proud to announce a new Pavers Program; an initiative conceptualized and started by



**PNC Norman Rosenshein
President, NMAJMH**

Iris Goldwasser, Development Chairman. This exciting new fundraiser will replace the walkway at the front of our building with attractive, engraved bricks dedicated to the individuals invested in growing and preserving the museum for the next generation to enjoy. In the coming weeks, we will be distributing information on how you can purchase a brick and get involved with this new project.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES By Pamela Elbe

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

When the National Defense Authorization Act was signed into law on December 31, 2011 by President Barack Obama, he brought into effect a provision that will allow the Pentagon to review the cases of World War I Jewish servicemen who may have been denied the Medal of Honor because of their faith. The William Shemin Jewish World War I Veterans Act is the result of an extended effort from Shemin's daughter, Elsie Shemin-Roth, who has long been a passionate advocate for her father and has pushed for his case to be reviewed. The Act directs the Secretaries of the Army and the Navy to review the service records of Jews who during World War I were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) or Navy Cross to determine whether that veteran should be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

During World War I, nearly two hundred Jewish Americans received the DSC and over a dozen received the Navy Cross. The following are just a few of their stories.

Corporal Louis Abend was one of the youngest soldiers to be honored with the DSC. Abend enlisted when he was only fifteen years old, serving first on the Mexican border. He was sent to France with the First Division in 1917. During the night of May 17, 1918, the Germans raided the American line near the village of

Cantigny, with heavy losses on both sides. The next morning, the Americans retook the town, capturing about 800 prisoners, but the American casualties were heavy. All of the officers of his battalion were either killed or wounded, so the eighteen-year old Corporal Abend took command and repulsed several attacks by the enemy. Corporal Louis Abend's DSC citation reads:

When all the officers in his battalion became casualties, Corporal Abend voluntarily took command, reorganized the battalion and repulsed three powerful counterattacks launched by the enemy. He kept his men so well in hand that they suffered very little losses during the attack.

The inspiration for Damon Runyon's poem "The Fighting Jew," Sam Dreben served in the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and the Boxer Rebellion in China. When Pancho Villa attacked the United States, Dreben volunteered again, serving with distinction as a scout in General John J. Pershing's Punitive Expedition. Dreben retired from the military after the Mexican campaign but when World War I erupted, he reenlisted with the Army. He earned a DSC during action at St. Etienne. A German machine gun had been keeping the American troops from getting out of the trenches and advancing. The American artil-



Private Daniel Moskowitz received the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action. He exhibited exceptional bravery by leaving shelter and going out into an open field under heavy machine-gun and shell fire to rescue wounded soldiers.

lery was unsuccessful in trying to destroy this machine gun nest. After several days, Dreben decided to make his own move to destroy the machine gun nest. He zigzagged his way alone to the enemy post, where he killed 23 of the 40 Germans.

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

Book reviews by Brian Ahern, graduate of the Citadel and museum volunteer.

IN THE SANDS OF SINAI

By: Itzhak Brook, MD

Having grown accustomed to the sounds of military jets flying over his apartment in Rehovot, Israel, Itzhak Brook couldn't help but feel discomforted by these familiar sounds on the morning of Yom Kippur in 1973. On that fateful morning, the combined armies of Syria and Egypt launched a surprise attack against Israel along both the Syrian and Egyptian borders. Decades after the war, Mr. Brook would write *In the Sands of Sinai*, "Even though the war only lasted seventeen days, the events changed my perspective; to this day, I divided my life between the years before and the years after the War."

Throughout *In the Sands of Sinai*, Itzhak Brook takes the reader through his harrowing account as a battalion physician stationed on the southern front in the Sinai Desert. His constant struggle between fighting for the sur-

vival of his country, returning to his family, and tending to the wounds of his fellow soldiers is full of raw emotion and sheds lights on a soldier's struggles during war. As a physician in the Israeli Defense Forces, Mr. Brook witnessed and treated many physical wounds, but it is his early recognition of the psychological effects of war – referred to today as post-traumatic stress disorder – that makes *In the Sands of Sinai* a pertinent read.

In the Sands of Sinai is a rare account of the ghastly nature of warfare and the psychological effects on the soldiers who fight in them. It is highly recommended for all readers who are interested in the untold emotions that soldiers endure during battle and the traumatic effects that linger upon their return home.

GATED GRIEF

By: Leila Levinson

Shortly after her father's death, Leila Levinson discovered a shoebox of photos in her father's Army-green footlocker. While sifting through the photos in the basement of her father's office

she stumbled upon a ghastly image hidden at the bottom of the shoebox. The image

showed countless rows of emaciated corpses and written across the back of the photo were the words "Nordhausen Germany, 1945."

In *Gated Grief*, Mrs. Levinson seeks to uncover the meaning of these photos and discovers that her father, an Army doctor, had been present during the liberation of Mittlebau-Dora, a Nazi concentration camp commonly referred to as Nordhausen. Through numerous interviews with other GI liberators and trips to Nordhausen and Buchenwald in 2006, Mrs. Levinson attempts to understand her father's experience and how exposure to trauma impacted his life after the war.

Both authors will visit the museum, April 18 and April 24 respectively, for a lecture and book signing. Books are on sale at the museum and online. Portions of book sales go to museum programming.



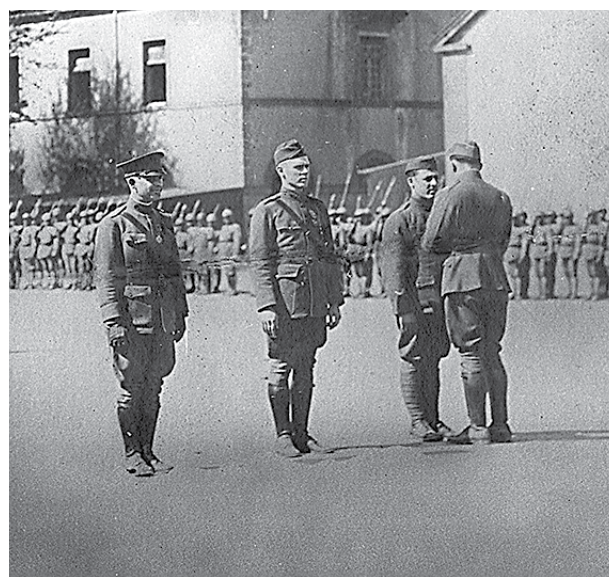
From Our Collection **By Mike Rugel**

Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH

During the First World War, there were countless acts of heroism from American Jews fighting in Europe. Confirmed Jewish Medal of Honor recipients include Sydney Gumpertz, Benjamin Kaufman and William Sawelson.

With Congress passing the William Shemin Jewish World War I Veterans Act, the military can now give the Medal of Honor to those who were passed over ninety-some years ago. Shemin along with other Jews did receive the nation's second highest military honor: the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), an award for extraordinary heroism. Some DSC recipients like Abraham Krotoshinsky of the Lost Battalion and Sam Dreben, "The Fighting Jew," achieved some degree of fame on their own on account of their heroism. Shemin's DSC is one of several in the collection at NMAJMH.

Here, we'll feature another of the WWI DSC medals at the museum: the one awarded to Hyman Silverman. Private Silverman was awarded for action on October 27, 1918. The 60th Infantry, Company E was near Verdun as part of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Enemy shell fire ignited a nearby ammunition dump. Silverman began removing the ammunition



Hyman Silverman receiving the Distinguished Service Cross in France, 1919.

as exploding shells were seriously wounding his comrades. Silverman was hit multiple times by grenade explosions. But he continued pulling ammunition from the pit until most of the explosives had been removed to safety. Not finished yet, Silverman, who less than a year earlier had been a student and book-keeper in Chelsea, Massachusetts, ignored

his own wounds to pull his injured comrades away from the explosions. Only after they had reached safety would Silverman accept medical attention.

Silverman received the DSC in May of 1919 in a ceremony at Clermont-Ferrand, France where he was receiving training at the school for U.S. troops. Silverman was discharged on September 3, 1919 and returned to Chelsea to practice accounting. The DSC was donated to the museum by Silverman's daughter,

Beatrice, a veteran of the U.S. Navy in World War II (and one-time wife of author Norman Mailer). The Hyman Silverman collection also contains the French Croix de Guerre medal, documents, and photographs.



Distinguished Service Cross awarded to Hyman Silverman. Donated by Beatrice Silverman.

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Philip S. Zuckerman-145

We Regret the Error

We regret that Mr. Maurice Bloch of Post 510 was incorrectly listed in Taps in the Fall 2011 issue of *The Jewish Veteran*.

We are delighted that he was listed in error, and can be counted as an active member of his Post. We apologize for the error.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Continued from page 19

for in service membership, a copy of one's Military ID must be included with the application. The in service person may blank out his or her SSN or other federal ID numbers.

On another note, the latest alpha rosters have been sent to all Post Commanders and Quartermasters. This provides an opportune time for reminder letters to be sent to those who have not yet paid their dues. This has been proven by many Posts to be very effective in obtaining outstanding dues. Telephone calls also work.

There have been a number of teleconferences where callers ex-

pressed their ideas on retention and getting new members with specific ways to accomplish those goals. Summaries of these comments can be found on the JWV web site (www.jwv.org).

Scouting

By Chairman Dr. Barry J. Schneider

I am the new National Chair for Scouting. I have been involved in scouting for over 50 years and currently serve on the BSA National Jewish Committee for Scouting. This synergy will allow us to successfully work together for the betterment of our youth.

We have a wonderful opportunity to become sponsors of Jewish oriented Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops as well as Venture and Explorer scouts.

Over 200 boys from the Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, and Chabad communities attended the 100th anniversary Scout Jamboree in 2010. Additionally, there was a large "Scouting serves the Jewish Community" booth showing Jewish involvement in scouting and explaining the Jewish emblems award program.

Jews have been involved in the scouting movement since its inception over a hundred years ago. Jewish organizations of all ilks have

sponsored scouting units creating an atmosphere of positive influence in the life of boys.

Over the next several months, I will be contacting all of our Department Commanders to ask their assistance in locating the Local Jewish Committee chairs within the scout councils in their Departments.

I am also looking for several energetic individuals preferably those who have some scouting background to work with me to help revitalize our committee and interface with the regional chairs of the BSA National Jewish Committee on Scouting. Should you be so inclined please contact me at: dr_barrys@yahoo.com.



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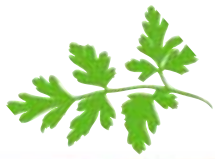
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Happy Passover



Allan Abramson & Wife Sheila
Happy Days and Good Health

Jerry & Sara Alperstein

PCC Edward & PDP Louise Baraw
In Honor to all Veterans

Eugene Baraw • Post 776
Greetings & Best Wishes

Howard M. Barmad • Post 76-NJ
Chag Sameach

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

Bless our Troops

PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749

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

Marshall & Diane Duberstein

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

Sidney M. Gluck • Mesa, AZ

Nat. Inspector Sidney & Fay Goldman

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

PNC Sam & PNP Barb Greenberg
Happy Holidays to All

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

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

Donald H. Haber, PDC NY, FL

Dr. Alvin & Carol Hollenberg

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

Jewish War Veterans USA Post 1
Our Original Post

PPC Norm & Marilyn Kailo • Post 695-NJ

Bob Kummins, Post 400 • Ft. Meyers, FL

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

Jack Kent (Kantrovitz) #62, Akron, OH

Best Wishes & Good Health to All

In Honor of Wanda - Post 400

Bob Kummins Post 400 • Ft. Myers, FL

Sam Menszer
L'Chayim & Best Wishes

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

National JWV Committee on Scouting
Salutes our JWV Heroes

PDC Sheldon & Judy Ohren
To Life!

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

Ben Podgor • Post 112, Atlanta

Queens County Council
Queens, New York

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

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

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

Happy Holiday to all Comrades!

PDC Murray Runin, PNEC N.Y.

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

Cliff & Zinita Sawyer • LA 113
Happy, Healthy Holidays

Stephen & Helen Sax

Irv Schildkraut PC JWV 440
May JWV last forever

Harriet & PDC Norman Schnitzer

PNC Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All

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

Mike & Gloria Shapiro
Peace & Good Health

PPC Norman & Toby Smith • Post 129-NY

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

Hy Tuchman
Post 400 • Ft Meyer, FL

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

PNC Robert & Jeri Zweiman
To Life

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Post 652 • Merrick, NY

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