



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Summer • 2013

Dr. Robert Pickard Elected National Commander



At the 118th Annual National Convention, Dr. Robert Pickard COL (USA Retired) was elected the National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans.

NC Pickard served in active duty from 1966-68 as a Medical Officer. After being discharged as a Captain from the USAF, Pickard attended the University of Miami Medical School for residency. He began his practice of medicine and surgery in South Miami and Coral Gables in 1972. Pickard joined the Florida National Guard and served a total of 22 years in active National Guard service retiring as a Colonel O6 in 2000.

He is a life member of Post 243 FL where he has previously served as Post Commander. NC Pickard has also held positions as National Adjutant, Chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Committee, a member of the National Executive Committee, and Past Editor of *The Jewish Veteran*. He is married to Susan Lemkin Pickard and has four daughters: Gabrielle, Annie, Teddi, and Beke.

Jewish War Veterans Joins Effort to Honor America's Vietnam War Veterans

The Jewish War Veterans welcomed Lt. Gen. Claude "Mick" Kicklighter, USA (Ret), Director of the Department of Defense's Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Program, as the keynote speaker at the grand opening of the 118th Annual National Convention in Richmond, VA.

Lt. Gen. Kicklighter, who served two tours of duty in Vietnam during his 35 years of service in the Army, addressed the efforts the government is making to commemorate the service and sacrifice of America's Vietnam War veterans.

"At all events, we want to remember and honor all veterans and their families. This is a very inclusive commemoration," explained Kicklighter. "And especially we want to remember the families who lost loved ones in that war and families who still have unaccounted for and missing in action."

Over 3 million Americans deployed to Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. By the end of the war, more than 58,000 members of the US Armed Forces were killed and over 150,000 were wounded. As of 2010, 1,698 US military personnel remain unaccounted for.

The Commemoration Program was authorized under the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. The objectives of this program are to:

- Thank and honor the men and women who served in the Vietnam War and the families of these veterans.
- Draw attention to the work of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War as well as the efforts of Federal agencies and the governmental and non-governmental organizations that support-



Lt. Gen. Claude "Mick" Kicklighter, USA (Ret)

ed and/or served with the Armed Forces.

- Recognize the efforts made by those on the home front during the war.
- Spotlight the advances made

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COL Bob Norton Addresses Veterans' Benefits at 118th Annual National Convention



COL Bob Norton, USA (Ret)

COL Bob Norton, USA (Ret), a registered lobbyist from the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), spoke to delegates at the 118th Annual National Convention in Richmond, VA on the topic of veterans' benefits.

Norton, a specialist in the area of veterans' benefits, discussed areas where Veterans Service Organizations like JWV should be vigilant in the coming years. During his remarks he emphasized that JWV members must continue to be watchful on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims back-

log, make sure servicemembers are able to easily transition back into civilian life, and ensure the government continues to fund the benefits veterans earned while in service.

One of the biggest issues facing veterans continues to be the large backlog of pending claims in the VA's disability claims system. In March 2013, there were over 600,000 claims backlogged more than 125 days. Since March, all claims over two years old were decided on by the agency, and as of September 30, the VA reduced the

Continued on page 17

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 ET

2013-14 Schedule

- November 20..... Growing JWV Membership
- January 8..... NEC Plans and Preparations
- March 5..... Helping NMAJMH
- April 9..... How to Find and Retain Members
- May 7..... JWV and Homeless Vets
- May 28..... Preparing for the National Convention
- September 10..... Reviewing the National Convention
- October 22..... Outlook on the Coming Year
- November 19..... Global War on Terrorism



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YOUR LETTERS

Congratulations

On behalf of the Jewish Federation of Rio de Janeiro, we extend our best wishes for Col. Pickard.

We do not have an association for Jewish vets in Brazil, however, 42 of us took part in the Brazilian forces of WWII and still today many Jews are enlisted, from soldier to general.

Mazel Tov!

*Israel Blajberg (Lt Artillery, Brazilian Army)
Director of Citizenship
Jewish Federation of Rio de Janeiro*

National Youth Achievement Program

I just wanted to send out a big thank you, as I was recently thrilled to learn that I was a winner of the Robert and Rebecca Rubin Memorial Grant! This scholarship is going to help me greatly at the University of Michigan, where I am currently planning on majoring in both illustration and environmental science.

Coming from the Jewish War Veterans, this scholarship means a lot to me, as I am very close to my Grandpa whose service in WWII is the reason I was able to apply for this scholarship.

Thank you again!

Dana Demsky

Passing the Torch

Joey Axler, grandson of the late Sidney Singer, Past Commander of Post 718 PA, honored JWV with his bar mitzvah project. In his own words from his bar mitzvah speech:

“... I’m helping out with people who don’t give up. I have chosen to work with the Jewish War Veterans because of my Zadie, who was a Jewish War Veteran from the Army/Air Force during World War II. As a leader in his Post of the Jewish War Veterans, he has helped to provide homes for homeless veterans and senior citizens. My bar mitzvah project has been helping the Jewish War Veterans in any way I can. I have been attending Saturday morning Shabbat services with them at the Delaware Valley Veterans’ Home. At the services I give out kippas, tallit, and prayer books, and I carry around the Torah. I also have helped a few times at the veterans’ bingos by passing out food and helping to fill out the bingo cards. I have attended this year’s Seder and Chanukah party and have been involved in preparing and distributing the food. I also help with their fundraisers by eating at their restaurant fundraising nights and collecting donations for poppies at Memorial Day. I also have joined them for decorating the graves of Jewish War Veterans in Philadelphia. The Jewish War Veterans have fought for our country, freedom, and liberty. They have kept

their faith while making life-threatening decisions and putting themselves at risk for the future of our country. They haven’t given up. Just like Joshua and Caleb, these veterans trust God and show their strength and faith by following their own decisions.”

Kaddish

Dear Sirs,

I have just returned from a trip to Normandy, and we visited the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach (our second visit). Some, but not all, of the graves with Jewish Stars had stones or small coins signifying that the grave had been visited (and perhaps Kaddish said). I believe that an effort should be made to make sure that each and every Jewish soldier buried at the cemetery has his grave visited and, if possible, Kaddish recited. A group could do all of this in a one day visit to the cemetery, with Kaddish said collectively for all the soldiers and each Jewish soldier’s grave marked with pebbles or similar. I was quite moved to see that someone had visited, but the fact is that all of the fallen Jewish soldiers deserve at least this minimum annual attention. I believe that the JWV is the appropriate organization to carry out this mission. I would be happy to donate or even participate in such an effort...

Respectfully yours,

Alan Weinschel

Service Officers

I want to take this time to thank the Jewish War Veterans of the USA for all that they have done for me as I have gone through the Veterans Affairs system. You have helped me in many ways, some of which I have knowledge of. Thanks again and I hope I can present the JWV to others in the best possible way.

*Robert Effel
Philadelphia, PA*

Thank You

On behalf of myself and my family, I wish to send a thank you to everyone for the kind words and support as we deal with the recent loss of our loved one, Helene Robins.

*Sincerely,
PNC Ed Robins*

National Service Officer Program

By Michael Winnick, Director

There was a time when I attended Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) meetings. It was at a time when we were trying to come to terms with the rejection we faced from the VFW, the American Legion, and the American public. Vietnam vets banded together to assist each other, and moved forward with the motto “never again will one group of soldiers turn their backs on another...”

The VVA meetings ended with a “rap session” where the vets had a chance to sound off and get it off their chest. At one meeting a young vet got up to vent, he told us a story of how he needed assistance filing a compensation claim with the VA for injuries he received in Vietnam.

He went to DAV, where he said they took his lifetime membership and did nothing. He then went to the VFW, same routine.

When he happened on the JWV Veteran Service Officer’s office, his words were succinct, “They never asked if I were Jewish, they never asked me for membership, they only asked what I needed and then they did it.”

I cannot imagine a public relations person who could have created a better image for an organization, nor can I think of a better way to aid veterans in need.

This is a job with very few “thank you” notes and even more frustration. But when you do get the “thank you” note (or phone call) or you receive notice that your client is going to be compensated, or that the widow of a vet will receive medical care and a pension, you know all the frustration and work has a positive end.

Needless to say, we do not ask if the veteran or his spouse is Jewish, and we don’t ask them to become members (if they ask I do refer them to the membership committee), we only ask how we can help.

To join us, you would have to commit to taking a VA approved course, usually about a week long, followed by a written test, and devoting the rest of your life to worrying about total strangers.

Then, on a few rare occasions, you get to enjoy the feeling of achievement very few people ever have.

For more information, contact me at mwinnick@jwv.org or 732-222-7256.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Dr. Robert E. Pickard, COL (USA Retired)



On August 23, 2013 at the 118th Annual National Convention of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, I had the honor of being elected to the high office of National Commander of the oldest continuously active veterans' service organization in America. My motto for the year is: "Do the Job with Dr. Bob. What is that "Job"? The "Job" that I need your help with is to share with me the challenge of advocacy for JWV causes. This is a job that cannot be accomplished by any single person. Our common advocacy is to uphold the good name of the Jew. Our advocacy is to belie the canard that "Jews don't serve in the Military." Our advocacy is to fight anti-Semitism which in many cases has morphed into anti-Zionism. Our advocacy is to fight against all forms of racial, ethnic, and religious bias. Our advocacy is to fight for the rightfully deserved benefits of all our nation's veterans, Jew and non-Jew alike. Help me tell the world, Jew and otherwise, that Jewish volunteers at our VA Hospitals all across America have logged in almost 50,000 hours at various VA Hospitals in 2012 and 32,257 hours

so far in 2013, according to Ms. Ginny Hoover, Voluntary Service Specialist of the VA Health Care System in Washington, D.C.

Today's returning veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are being greeted as heroes. Not so when service members came home after Vietnam. Members of my generation of veterans who served in country were met at the airports with oaths such as "baby killers," spit upon, and otherwise abused. Today's veterans, thankfully, are greeted with slaps on the back instead of slaps in the face, and JWV is right out front cheering them with "Hooahs"!

As your National Commander, I need your help to advocate for all veterans' and Military causes in Congress. In order to maximize our lobbying efforts on the Hill we need every JWVer to recruit as many Jewish veterans as possible so that our numbers are significant and count with our legislators. Tell how our "Action Days" in Washington make real differences in the lives of our active duty, National Guard and Reserve, and veterans. Tell the true story of 2003

when the Florida National Guard troops were being deployed to Iraq/Afghanistan with antiquated Vietnam Era flack vests as armor. I was in Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen's office lobbying with my fellow JWVers and told her about the old armor for Florida troops. Moments after I told the Congresswoman of the potential dangerous situation, she was on the phone with Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld. Within 24 hours, the Florida Guard in country was equipped with the latest armor and had enough to share with the Indiana Guard. Hundreds of lives were saved by that action of the Jewish War Veterans. This is a miracle story, and it shows the power of doing the right thing at the right time.

I further challenge you and me in the paraphrase of President John Kennedy: "Ask not what JWV can do for you; rather ask what you can do for JWV." "Do the Job with Dr. Bob."

NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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



Capitol Hill is in disarray. The bitterness between the two parties, not to mention the House and Senate, prevents the Congress from approving a budget.

There is a lack of trust between young and old, Democrats and Republicans, Senate and House, the short and the tall. Thus, there has been no federal budget passed since 2009. Unable to meet its own deadlines to implement specific thought out budget cuts, Congress has allowed the sequester to take effect. This has led to furloughs of federal government employees, reductions in programs such as Head Start and unemployment insurance. Diminishing resources make it extremely difficult for Congress to set a budget and stick to it. The options for trimming the budget are limited.

Congress has always had its battles. However, I used to see both parties as having a higher in-

terest, i.e., the good of the country. That attitude seems to be fading away. There is a very wide divide between the two parties.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has also received a lot of negative attention lately. In addition to the massive disability benefits backlog, a disturbing pattern of preventable deaths and other patient safety issues has appeared at various VA hospitals.

As a result, the VA has been under heavy pressure from the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs to straighten out the huge disability claims backlog. The staggering backlog on disability claims is a nationwide problem on which the VA has not yet made any meaningful progress. Strong congressional pressure is likely to continue.

Another area of congressional pressure on

the VA involves huge bonuses being paid to certain VA executives. For example, the VA Office of Inspector General reported that mismanagement and leadership breakdowns were to blame for the deaths of at least five patients in the Pittsburgh system and up to 21 veterans were sickened between February 2011 and November 2012. Nevertheless, the VA Pittsburgh Director received the highest possible score on a VA performance review covering the bulk of the outbreak period.

Another example is that of the director of the VA medical center in Cleveland who was recently indicted on federal charges of mail fraud, bribery, money laundering, and other crimes, yet he received over \$80,000 in bonuses from the VA between 2007 and 2011.

Our veterans deserve better!

DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

By PNC Paul Bernstein, National Editor

Welcome to the New "Alice in Wonderland"

The President on May 23, 2013 declared that the Global War on Terror (GWOT) is over. Hey great, who won? Did we sign a treaty or just raise the white flag? He said the military and intelligence agencies will not wage war against a tactic but will instead focus on specific groups and their networks.

The war to defend the US against the forces of Islamic jihad will be no more. This statement came on the heels of the Boston attack on April 15, 2013. We should tell the good news to the City of Boston, which is still cleaning up after the bombing.

The President referred to "extremists" and mentioned that there remains a "pull toward "extremism." He accurately mentioned that a "common ideology fuels the terrorism we face." I worry, though, that the end of the GWOT will grab the attention of terrorists. This strategy may give our enemies an invitation to double down on ag-

gression. Take Benghazi, for example, when on September 17, 2012, they killed our Ambassador and several other Americans on American soil. Tell the family of the late Ambassador Stevens that the war is over. By the way, tell me (Tower One survivor) that the war is over.

The Muslim Brotherhood is rising to power in Tunisia and Libya, and we know about Egypt and Syria. Al Qaeda is renewing its power in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, and Yemen. And yet, we say the war is over. America is at a crossroads. By throwing in the towel and calling off the GWOT, we're allowing events to speak for themselves; forcing a public reassessment of our failed national security policy regarding militant Islamic extremists and the jihad wars.

Speaking about the public response to all of this, in a Fox News poll conducted after the revelation that the National Security Administration

(NSA) was collecting internet and phone records to prevent future terrorist attacks, 77 percent of respondents said the war on terrorism is "ongoing and should continue to be a top priority to the government." Surprisingly, 82 percent of women were in favor of the war on terrorism continuing to be a top priority for the government, compared to 72 percent of men. Women are traditionally seen as less hawkish politically.

The American public knows that we are still engaged in a Global War on Terror. Shifting away from talking about terrorism and militant Islamic extremism does not protect Americans from this threat. When an attack occurs, we need to be ready to fight, and I worry about how prepared we will be if our government does not acknowledge this danger.



Help Your Loved Ones After You're Gone

Coping with the death of a loved one is always a difficult task. Whether the death is expected or sudden, families often feel lost as they fulfill their loved one's final wishes. For veterans whose loved ones are eligible for VA survivors' benefits, there is extra comfort in knowing that those they leave behind will be taken care of after their death.

Receiving survivors' benefits, however, is not as simple as calling the VA and notifying the agency of a veteran's death. It requires numerous claims forms, which can feel overwhelming and unpleasant for an individual already coping with grief.

You can help your loved ones now by planning ahead and putting the necessary documentation together for your family to use to make a survivors' benefits claim.

The VA recommends that you make copies of the following:

- Veteran's discharge certificate or DD-214
- Veteran's VA claim number or social security number
- Government life insurance policy
- All marriage certificates and divorce decrees
- Each child's birth certificate (or adoption order)
- Veteran's birth certificate (if filing for parents' benefits)

You will also need to have the death certificate available to file a claim.

Make sure that all documents are stored in a safe, accessible location. Discuss your plan with your family and confirm that they will know how to file a claim if you pass away.

For more information, visit www.vba.va.gov/bln/dependents or www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp

The Department of New York announces the National Hyman Miller Education Award of \$1,000

The award is open to high school seniors and returning service personnel across the country. Applicants should submit the following:

- An essay of 350-500 words on the topic, "What can the Department of Veterans Affairs do to improve veterans' benefits for returning service personnel?"
- A cover letter with name, address, phone (home or cell), email address, name of high school, and name of college accepted to
- High school transcript
- Three letters of recommendation

Application deadline: June 1, 2014

Please mail completed application and essay to:

PNC Lawrence Schulman
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
105 Rockhill Road
Rochester, NY 14618

COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee

“Diplomatic Malpractice of the Worst Order”



That’s what the man (Secretary of State John Kerry) said it would be if we didn’t seek a diplomatic solution instead of a military one. Frankly, he was speaking about Iran and Syria as a result of two Security Council resolutions sponsored by Russia and China who for years were protecting both Iran and Syria from United Nations “diplomacy.” Those resolutions would never have seen the light of day if economics and death didn’t force it – so thank sanctions and 1,400 dead.

It’s interesting that after over 100,000 were killed in Syria, and with millions of refugees, it became necessary that they had to murder another 1,400 with gas and chemical weapons to unnerve the world community. Of course, the 1,400 had to include children (not the conscripted ones) to add to the highly moralistic element for important action.

For about two years, Assad had himself a civil war which he shared with the other nations who ignored it as a usual part of the Arab Spring. The United States couldn’t determine which were the good rebels or the bad rebels to support, and we provided minimal humanitarian assistance.

The world looked on being concerned with Syria’s store and production of chemical and biological weaponry – which Assad said Syria did not have, and that even if it did, it would never use them – both Russia and China agreed with Syria and supported them vocally and logistically.

President Obama then pledged a “limited” military response if Syria or any other nation crossed a “red line” (a tenuous concept) and used chemical or biological weapons. So there it was – a challenge which Syria grabbed on by killing 1,400 civilians by gas. It thus became put up or shut up. So what was to be done?

The United States called for allies to support the limited military response. American

opinion polls dramatically rejected any US intervention of any sort. Secretary Kerry started making the rounds in seeking support. At one press conference he was asked what he personally would desire – Kerry gave a “fantasy” answer that Syria would give up and destroy all of its chemical weapons, and we would not use a military response. He didn’t believe that Assad would agree to destroy all of the weapons he said he didn’t have, nor those which were used in his non-gassing of the 1,400.

President Putin of Russia immediately took Kerry up on this and with China submitted not one, but two resolutions – one for Syria, which dealt with chemical weapons, and one for Iran, which dealt with the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Thereafter, they all very speedily (including of course – Syria and Iran) went into immediate negotiations. Little did the public know that such a solution had been the subject of prior negotiations as acknowledged by Secretary Kerry on the *60 Minutes* TV program. Surprisingly, UN Inspectors are now in Syria checking on chemical weapons facilities and there appears to be the start of Iranian nuclear discussions.

Thus, what accounts for this appealing change in attitude? From my point of view, it is as simple as that thing called money. The policy of sanctions even though not fully carried on by “our friends and allies” has imposed a debilitating effect on the economies of Iran, Syria, Russia, and China. The sanctions policy has had a decidedly devastating economic impact on terror governments and companies, and it has had an effect on the funding used to dysfunction world security.

So we wait now for the other diplomatic shoe to fall known as the “fairness doctrine,” namely if Syria and Iran are willing to discuss and seek a true resolution, shouldn’t we modify sanctions relieving the poor people having

a demand of their necessities? If we are suckers enough to buy this slimy approach, then our red line policy has once again shown us to be wimps and proves to be, as usual, a white line drawn on a white piece of paper.

As is often the case – our “limited military strike” has been a vacuous threat with little meaning other than for suckering the American people into apathy and mentally sterilized. This time we added that we definitely won’t put boots on the ground to make it more palatable.

To eliminate or to drastically soften the sanctions would be the height of stupidity, but we should anticipate that the demands will be made, and they will expect to dull the American mind to fall easy, avoid a fight, and give into the greatest defeat we will face to avoid confrontation.

At this point, any discussions relating to closing down on sanctions should immediately be a deal breaker and we should also immediately reinstitute the original proposal of voluntary destruction of chemical weapons and use. Threats and red lines have passed – can there be time to pursue our mindless and gutless leadership or complete lack thereof?

So the United States must make it nonnegotiable that absolutely no relaxation shall be made on any of the sanctions no matter how minimal. That no consideration should be considered until both Syria and Iran have given verifiable proofs of complete compliance with both resolutions.

Then, Secretary Kerry can truly say that diplomatic malpractice of the worst order exists if we surrender on sanctions. Syria and the others were willing to chemically dispose of 1,400 Syrians to get the issue before the Security Council. What will Secretary Kerry do to prevent that from once again happening, if anything? What is your bet on this issue?

Second Annual JWV Veteran’s Week Fundraiser

A resolution was supported at the August 2013 National Convention for each Post to participate in one “JWV Veteran’s Week” - fundraising activity during the week of Veterans Day or in the weeks preceding.

During JWV Veteran’s Week, each Post may select a fundraising activity from a list of 20-30 projects or may choose one of their own. Half of all proceeds raised by each Post will go to the Post and the other half will go to the National Organization. All proceeds sent to the National Organization should be clearly

marked that they are part of the JWV Veteran’s Week fundraising activity.

Last year, which was the first year of this program, Posts and Departments around the country raised almost **\$30,000** for the National Organization. Equally as important, JWV Veteran’s Week raised almost **\$30,000** for local Echelons.

To learn more about the program and find resources that can help your Echelon start a JWV Veteran’s Week project, visit http://www.jwv.org/events/memorial_day_veterans_s_day.

Honor Flight

By Mel Glickman, Post 631 FL

On April 27, I was one of 85 World War II veterans to be taken on an honor flight from the West Palm Beach Airport to Washington, DC. I heard about the program at our local Post, and Jules Golombik, our Quartermaster, gave me all the information so I could apply. Months after sending in the application, I was called in early April to see if I would accept stand-by for the April 27 flight. I did and a week later there was a cancellation, and I was told I could join the group.

First, I received a visit from my guardian-to-be, Sue Ness, and her husband. Sue was to be my aide throughout the trip. If I required a wheelchair, she would even do the pushing. They explained that each vet had a guardian assigned. Both Nesses had been guardians before. This time, not only Sue, but her son and his girlfriend were all going as guardians, who either pay their own way or have an employer or friend donate the flight cost.

A few days later, I was visited by Paul Sumner, a retired Miami Beach firefighter. He brought me the official Honor Flight cap, t-shirt, and tote bag with various donated goodies. Paul told me there were 127 hubs in 41 states, all honoring veterans. I asked if the flights were only for WWII vets. He said they will soon open them up to Korean War vets, since the number of WWII vets is rapidly diminishing. He was going on the flight as a guardian and mentioned

how many firefighters are involved in this volunteer program.

The morning of the flight, we arrived at the airport at 5:00am. Many vets and guardians were already there. When our guardians met their assigned vets, we signed in and received identification tags to wear around our necks. The tag listed name, branch of service, and city residence in FL. We went up a floor and were greeted by volunteers serving coffee and muffins. A quartet of female singers, "The Sunations," entertained us with a 4-part harmony of popular songs. Later, as we walked to board the plane, they sang the Star-Spangled Banner. Quite moving!

The chartered plane was a US Airways A321, a roomy, comfortable aircraft that held our group: 85 vets, 86 guardians, and about 30 supportive volunteers. The oldest vet on our flight was 98. Breakfast was served and we settled down for our 2 ½ hour flight. As we took off, fire trucks on each side of the plane shot their water cannons over us as a parting gesture. When we arrived and disembarked, we were amazed by the huge welcome from active service members from all branches, boy scouts, cub scouts, and other volunteers.

Four buses transported us to the National Mall to see the World War II Memorial. This impressive dedication to the price of freedom has a Freedom Wall with 4,000 gold stars to commemorate the more than 400,000 Americans who gave their lives. Large stone pillars on two sides represent the Atlantic and Pacific fronts and granite columns honor each state and US territory. There is a large pool and fountain at the center.

Sue and I then took the ¾ mile walk to the Lincoln Memorial, always an impressive place. After some time there and much picture taking, it was time for lunch. The buses took us to a Knights of Columbus Hall in Arlington, VA. We were served an Arby's



Sue Ness and Mel Glickman wait in West Palm Beach, FL for their flight to Washington, DC. Photo courtesy of Sue Ness.

box lunch with soft drinks. Then we went to Arlington National Cemetery to see the changing of the guard at The Tomb of the Unknowns.

After viewing this precise ceremony, we were treated to a talk about the Guard by one of the Army participants. He explained that each guard marches for an hour (every half hour in the summer). They can do as many sessions in a day as they wish – usually six. As we left, Senator Bob Dole was seated in a wheelchair taking pictures with some of the vets. Now it was on to the Iwo Jima Memorial.

This magnificent sculpture, a copy of the famous Rosenthal photo of the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi, was indeed a sight to behold. We also visited the memorials to the Challenger astronauts and a memorial to the soldiers killed while freeing the Iran hostages. Then it was time to go.

Back at Dulles Airport, we were greeted by two female singers, a male piano accompanist, and seven female dance studio students. Many of the vets danced with the ladies as we were entertained for an hour. My excuse for not dancing was that I was wearing sneakers, not my dancing shoes.

After boarding the plane for our return, we were told that there was a mail call. Each of the vets received a letter from various middle school students. I got six letters from students aged 10-12, all thanking me for my service. During the day, I must have had my hand shaken by more than 100 people, all thanking me and the group for our service.

When we arrived in FL at 8:10pm, there were fire trucks on both sides of the plane with lights flashing and water cannons shooting to welcome us. As we walked through the flight gate, we were again greeted by hundreds of people holding signs and balloons, shaking our hands and thanking us for our service. It was the end of a never to be forgotten day.

If there are any World War II veterans who have never had the chance to experience this program, you can still apply. Visit www.honorflight.org or call 937-521-2400 for more information.



Honor Flight participants gather in front of the US Marine Corps (Iwo Jima) Memorial. Photo by Sue Ness.

GRAVE MISSION

For years, a small group of local Jewish veterans has scoured military and cemetery records to ensure other vets' military service isn't forgotten.

By Repps Hudson

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In 1947, just two years after the end of World War II, Ralph Shower began a quest he continues to this day.

Still alert and capable at age 97, Shower is an Army veteran on a mission while he's able: to locate the grave of every Jewish veteran buried in the St. Louis area.

A member of the 517 Signal Company in the 17th Airborne during WWII, Shower was severely injured during a low-altitude parachute jump while stateside. The drop location was miscalculated and Shower and two others came down hard into trees — Shower didn't wake up until three days later. During his months of recuperation he saw many mortally wounded men in hospital wards.

That experience made such an impression that he wanted to find a way to pay lasting tribute to Jewish men and women who had served in uniform. So he began his effort that continues today, with the help of a handful of other Jewish veterans and their friends and family.

"In 1947, right after the war, we went door to door, with volunteers, in neighborhoods that were predominantly Jewish. We knocked on doors and asked if there was a Jewish veteran in the home," said Shower.

That early canvass netted about 4,500 names, Shower said.

Then each one had to be verified with military discharge records. Getting the names, substantiating military records and then locating where each veteran was buried has been the heart of the efforts of Shower and several other men and women over the years.

Today, Shower's main partner in the effort is Ron Waxman, 68, a former Navy electrician who served during the Vietnam War on the U.S.S. Charles R. Ware, a destroyer off the coast of Vietnam.

These two men, separated in age by nearly three decades, believe every Jewish veteran—man or woman—should be honored for having served his or her country, whether overseas or on the home front.

MEN ON A MISSION

Their motives are basic. Even though he never



Flags posted in the Jewish War Veterans holder mark the graves of veterans at New Mount Sinai cemetery in St. Louis. Photo by Mike Sherwin, St. Louis Jewish Light.

went overseas and faced the enemy, Shower witnessed much pain and loss when he was bedridden at Ft. Bragg, N.C.

"I was in a throw-away ward," he said, meaning the men there were expected to die. "It's pay-back time."

He added: "When people have been through extreme circumstances, they are more compassionate."

Waxman is answering different impulses. After retiring from a career with the U.S. Postal Service, he was looking for something to do.

"The reason I called Ralph was I needed to do more," Waxman said. "I served my time in the Navy as an electrician. It was a dangerous job... I've always had it in my heart to help."

So today, after five years of working as a team, they put in about eight hours a week together on this vets project. Waxman said he spends another eight hours a week entering data into his computer.

He and Shower seem inseparable these days. Waxman drives Shower where he needs to go and brings him food regularly. He watches over Shower like a dutiful son.

In a way, Shower is the father Waxman didn't have growing up in University City in the 1950s and early 1960s, before he enlisted for four years in the Navy.

When asked if Shower has become like a father to him, Waxman nodded as tears filled his eyes.

Shower lives alone in Olivette. His wife, Ethel Furman Shower, died in 2009, after 70 years of marriage. Son Michael Steven Shower died in 1995. Two daughters, Michelle Shower Proctor, and Suzanne Walch, live in Columbia, MO.

So far, Shower and Waxman and volunteers over the years have found about 8,000 graves of deceased vets in eight Jewish cemeteries in the St. Louis area. They know of another 200 in national cemeteries.

"These guys come to me with a list of names they got from the federal government," said Robert Aronberg, funeral director at Rindskopf-Roth Funeral Chapel. "They want to know the date of birth, the date of death, the rank and what cemetery the person is buried in."

Aronberg, a Vietnam-era vet who served in South Korea, thinks that when the World War II generation is gone, "there won't be any Jewish war veterans groups left."

But he has nothing but praise for Shower and his volunteers.

"I would not do it," he said, though he helps by locating graves his funeral chapel has handled. "It's a full-time job. They work at this seven days a week."

Sometimes, Shower said, he gets calls from other cities or even countries from people who are trying to find a relative's grave.

"I get 20 to 30 calls a month, some from outside the United States," said Shower. "They'd like to see Grandpa's grave."

DISPELLING A MYTH

These days, Waxman spends a lot of time at his home computer, converting 3-by-5 index cards bearing the names and details of Jewish vets into a database.

When Shower and Waxman find a grave, they and other volunteers mark it with a Star of David on a narrow aluminum tube that can hold a small American flag. Around Memorial Day,

Continued on page 9

Boy Scouts put flags in markers, and the graves are marked again on Veterans Day.

However, at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in south St. Louis County, such markers aren't allowed, Shower said. But the stones of Jewish veterans in national cemeteries are marked with the Star of David.

Today Shower and Waxman believe they have finally got most of the records, located the graves and placed markers at those graves, thanks to the work of key people who have spent endless hours poring over paperwork to create a computer database that can be passed on.

They know there are more Jewish graves out there, in such possibly unlikely resting places as Bellefontaine and Cavalry cemeteries.

For example, Ben Fliesher, 86, of University City, another World War II veteran who served in the Army Air Corps, also has been doing his own research. He and Shower worked together for years, too.

Fliesher is motivated, in part, by his experience in basic training.

"I was the only Jew in the barracks," he said. "The other guys played a lot of tricks on me."

He wants to dispel what he has often heard: "A lot of vets don't believe Jews served in the war."

In his effort to find Jewish vets' graves, Fliesher said he has come up with some surprises.

"I have the enlistment of a Civil War man in 1863, but I couldn't find where he was buried," Fliesher said. "In New Mt. Sinai Cemetery, I found a Confederate colonel."

Such efforts to locate names and graves are what keep volunteers like Shower, Waxman and Fliesher going.

Shower's biggest challenge today?

Aronberg alluded to it: the indifference of a younger generation of Americans toward mili-

tary service in this no-draft era of all-volunteer men and women in uniform.

UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Shower wonders who will continue his work and the tedious record-sifting efforts of others in the Jewish community, vets and non-vets, when he and the others are no longer here.

Who will keep up with the burials of World War II, Korean and Vietnam vets and mark their graves?

Who will pay tribute to those Jews who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan when they eventually die?

For that matter, even Greg Byrne of the Jewish War Veterans in Washington, D.C., says he doesn't know how many Jewish veterans there are in the United States.

He uses a rule of thumb that it is probably something like 2 percent of the men and women who have served in the armed forces, just as the Jewish population in the United States is about 2 percent, year in and year out.

The Jewish War Veterans – the country's oldest vets group—was founded in 1896 to counter the misconception that Jews don't serve in the military of the United States, a notion that persisted in the late 19th century and continues today.

Shower and Waxman, both members of Memorial Post No. 346, want to let the greater St. Louis community know that Jews have always served in uniform: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and even the Merchant Marine.

Go to any Jewish cemetery today, and you are apt to find these markers, some with flags and some without. One hazard, or at least an annoyance, they say, is when grounds crews mow the grass and sometimes knock the markers away from the graves. So they have to be replaced.

Shower is somewhat pessimistic about how much work in locating graves will continue after he is gone. He sees profound changes in American society as one cause.

"We have intermarriage," he said. "Fifty percent of marriages end in divorce. There are so many two-wage-earner families. Things are tight. Families used to be much closer, and they were extended families."

All of these factors, in Shower's mind, may mean people like him and Waxman and Fliesher have less time to pay attention to such things as caring about veterans, especially if they are not a direct relative.

"When these old guys die, there will be no Jewish war vets to do what they have been doing," said Aronberg of Rindskopf-Roth. "The younger guys don't care."



As Ralph Shower looks on (at right), Ron Waxman drills a hole to place an aluminum tube flag holder topped with a Jewish War Veterans insignia used to denote graves of veterans. Another local Jewish War Veterans group, Post 644, organizes a Boy Scouts volunteer effort to place flags in each marker each Memorial Day. Photo: Mike Sherwin

Jewish War Veterans Joins Effort to Honor America's Vietnam War Veterans

Continued from page 1

in technology, science, and medicine made possible by research conducted during the Vietnam War.

- Acknowledge the contributions made by America's allies during the war.

JWV National is proud to announce that it has joined this effort as a Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Commemorative Partner. As a Commemorative Partner, JWV has made a commitment to help the Commemoration Program fulfill its objectives by planning events designed to honor Vietnam veterans and their families.

The Commemorative Partner Program is open to state and local communities, veterans' organizations, and nongovernmental organizations like synagogues and social groups. Kicklighter urged JWV members across the

country to get involved.

"We need your help," said Kicklighter. "We're encouraging all of your Posts, your 300 plus Posts, and your Ladies Auxiliary to become Commemorative Partners and to help us recruit, organize, and lead events in our communities to thank and honor our Vietnam veterans, and all of our veterans, and their families right where they live, where it really counts – in hometown America."

Becoming a Commemorative Partner is free, and the National Office encourages all Echelons to visit www.vietnamwar50th.com to apply to join as a Commemorative Partner and promote the program locally.

The Vietnam War Commemoration will take place in three phases. Phase 1, the preparation phase, will stretch from now until the end of 2014 and will focus on recruiting, organiz-

ing, and supporting Commemorative Partners. Phase 2, which will run from 2015-2017, will task Commemorative Partners with organizing two events each year in communities across the country. Phase 3 will run from 2018-2025 and will concentrate on education and history with an emphasis on properly reflecting the legacy of the Vietnam War generation.

"That's what this commemoration is all about," said Kicklighter. "A nation's thanks to a generation that in many cases didn't get it. Together, we have the opportunity to turn back the pages of history and to assist in righting a wrong that should not have occurred 50 years ago."

For more information about the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration and the Commemorative Partner Program visit www.vietnamwar50th.com.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By PDC Bob Richter, National Membership Chairman & Greg Byrne, National Membership Coordinator

Convention Membership Report

The Membership Committee recently met at our National Convention in Richmond, Virginia. For those of you who were unable to attend, I would like to update you on the status of our membership and some of the important topics discussed.

The committee reviewed our membership status. While we continue to experience a decrease in membership, our losses have begun to level out. Two years ago the decline peaked at 11 percent, but the loss was reduced to 9 percent last year, and 6.6 percent this year. Also, the number of new members increased this year to the largest amount since 2008. Of those new members, many of them are on active duty, giving us a large increase of in-service members over last year. This is a hopeful sign, as we must continue our outreach to our military and young veterans. Additionally, this was the first time in a number of years that we had a winner in all four categories of the Post Membership Increase Award.

It is important for us to not just recruit new members, but also to encourage them to become active members of the organization and train

them to take on leadership roles. If a member is active in JWV, he or she is much more likely to want to continue that membership.

One of our initiatives to encourage greater participation among our newest generation of members is the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Committee, which held its first meeting via web conference at the National Convention. The committee, chaired by Larry Rosenthal of the Department of New Jersey, is charged with outreach to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and advocacy for the issues most important to them. If you or someone in your Post is interested in getting involved with this new committee, please contact our Membership Department to get more information.

Another important session at our Convention was a leadership workshop led by PDC Nelson Mellitz of New Jersey. At the workshop, we discussed the necessity of succession planning. As a leader, whether it is at the Post, Department, or National level, you must plan for the future by training your successors. Identify the fu-

ture leaders of your echelon and share your knowledge with them.

As Membership Chairman, too often I hear of Posts that have struggled after a longtime Post Officer is no longer able to continue in his or her position, leaving a lack of knowledge of that person's duties. Succession planning benefits JWV by guaranteeing continuity of organizational knowledge and it gets more people active in our organization.

I want to thank the members of our National Membership Committee and those who participated at our committee meeting in Richmond. If you were not able to attend our meeting at the Convention, I hope you will join me on November 20, for our membership teleconference. Remember that growing our membership is a goal we must all work to achieve.



Due to recent U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) investigations into the tax-exempt status of certain veterans' organizations, we are requesting that all JWV veteran members provide National Headquarters with a copy of their DD-214 or other discharge document listing dates of service.

Please redact any personal information (i.e., social security number and service number) before mailing the form, and make sure you only send a photocopy. Do not send your original document.

If you do not have your records, you may request copies from the National Military Personnel Records Center by calling (314) 801-0800 or visiting <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/>.

In-service members may provide verification through the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act website at <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/scra/>. Click on "Single Record Request" and provide us with the certificate verifying your active duty status.

Please send a copy of your documents to the JWV Membership Department.

E-mail: membership@jwv.org

Fax: (202) 234-5662

Mail: Jewish War Veterans of the USA
Attn: Membership
1811 R St. NW
Washington, DC 20009

Your cooperation in this matter will protect JWV and its echelons from possible costly IRS penalties.

Thank you to the over 500 members who have already responded to our request to send in copies of their discharge papers.



Recently there have been problems with AOL email accounts receiving emails from JWV. These steps will help ensure you receive our emails:

- If you're having trouble receiving your email via AOL's desktop software, try signing in online at webmail.aol.com to read your email.
- Make sure that jwv@jwv.org is added to your email contacts list. If you've received a warning saying that JWV is an "unknown vendor," this will resolve the problem.
- Check your spam filters. Under spam control, the options "block mail containing pictures and files" and "block mail containing specific words and phrases" should not be checked.

For more information on this topic, visit help.aol.com and type "unable to receive email" in the search bar.

Debra Stern, Post 724 NY, Receives Murray L. Rosen Award



Debra Stern was honored as the 2013 recipient of the Murray L. Rosen Award in recognition of her work with female servicemembers and veterans. A Life Member of JWV, Debra is also the Chairman of the National Cemetery Committee and has been instrumental in recording the location of deceased Jewish American servicemembers in the United States and in the military cemeteries abroad.

Congratulations to our JWV Award Winners!

DEPARTMENT

Feureisen Award - Doing the Most for Hospitalized Veterans
Department of Massachusetts

Wolfson Award - Outstanding Record in Community Relations
Department of Massachusetts

National Commander's Award - Performing Outstanding Service
Department of New York

Edward D. Blatt Award - Outstanding Department Commander
Department of Massachusetts

COUNCIL

I. T. Rockman Award - Hospitalized Veterans
Nassau-Suffolk District Council • New York

National Commander Award - Performing Outstanding Service
Rockland/Orange District Council • New York

POST

National Headquarters Award - Community Relations Record
Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126 • New Jersey

National Commander's Award - Performing Outstanding Service
Rockland/Orange District Council • New York

Brotherhood Award

Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Larry Epstein-Florence Greenwald Post 1 • New York

Post Membership Increase Award

Group 1: 4-99 Monroe Township Post 609 • New Jersey

Group 2: 100-174 Atlanta Post 112 • Southeast

Group 3: 175-249 Paul A. Rosenblum Post 44 • Ohio

Brenner-Jaffee Memorial Award - Post Bulletins

PFC M. Chwatsky-SGT W. Farber Post 717 • New York

ANY ECHELON

Vietnam Veterans Award

Manhattan-Cooper-LTC Larry Epstein-Florence Greenwald Post 1 • New York

INDIVIDUAL

Individual Award - Signing-up of New Members

Jack Pathman, PDC, Post 603 • California



From left: Ron Peters, Post 648 NY; PDC Gerald Alperstein, Post 1 NY; PNC Sheldon Ohren; Paul Warner, Post 42 NY; and DC Edward Baraw, Post 69 NY.



PNC Sheldon Ohren and Hannah Deutch, Post 1 NY.



PNC Sheldon Ohren and DC Barry Lischinsky, Post 220 MA.



PDC Robert Richter, Post 126 NJ; PNC Sheldon Ohren; Larry Altersitz, Post 126 NJ; and PDC Nelson Mellitz, Post 126 NJ.



PDC Dr. Michael Weiss, Post 506 FL; PNC Sheldon Ohren; and PDC Michael Corbett, Post 440 FL.



PNC Sheldon Ohren and PDC David Zwerin, Post 652 NY.



Mathew Millen, Post 118 CA; PNC Sheldon Ohren; and COL Maxwell Colon, Post 385 CA.

Convention Highlights



Dear JWV members,

L'Shana Tova. A happy and healthy year to all.

Congratulations to Dr. Robert Pickard on his election as National Commander. I look forward to working with him and seeing him in my travels. I am sure that together we can accomplish a great deal.

It is with much gratitude and humility that I accept the honor of serving as the 80th National President of the National Ladies Auxiliary, Jewish War Veterans of the USA. I believe that I am the first National President from the small state of Connecticut. I will surely do my best to make them proud.

My theme throughout my term of office is "Smile Across the Miles of JWVA." Let us all smile as we continue on our journeys. Surely, some days, one might feel that there is nothing to smile about. However, just a little smile can make someone's day and light up their life.

Our Auxiliary continues its many programs across the country. Our mission is to "assist sisters, comrades, and other veterans and their families, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who may need help, encouragement, or protection."

It is really important to support our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. We also need to support their families emotionally as well as financially. These veterans may have been in harm's way and are returning with many issues. Some may even be homeless. This is an area that I feel strongly about.

I also look forward to working with everyone in the JWV office.

Fondly,
Joanne Blum
National President

JWV Congratulates the Winners of our National Youth Achievement Program Awards

Seymour and Phyllis Shore Memorial Grant: \$1,500

Chelsea Elana Giller
Plainview, New York

Robert and Rebecca Rubin Memorial Grant: \$1,250

Dana Michelle Demsky
Orlando, Florida

Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant: \$1,000

Gabriel Tal Jacobs
Mequon, Wisconsin

I. Rubenstein Memorial Grant: \$750

Andrew Michael Alter
Houston, Texas



Sidney Goldberg, Post 50 NY, speaks out during a Convention Business Session.



Capt Alex Keisch was the special guest speaker during the Century Club event at the Virginia Holocaust Museum. Photo by Terri Routh.



Major General Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of VA, addresses Convention delegates on the current objectives of the Virginia National Guard.



Convention delegates listen to a speaker during a business session.



PNC Sheldon Ohren, PNP Arlene Lodgen, PNC Michael Berman, and PNC Ira Novoselsky pay tribute to all deceased servicemembers at the memorial for Jewish Confederate war dead at Hebrew Cemetery in Richmond, VA.

By LTC George Heart, WA-Ret.
JWV National Historian

In his own words – Private First Class Henry Herz:

“The only word that comes to my mind right now is “SNAFU.” You know – “Situation normal – all f###d up. We thought that the brass had totally gone nuts with these crazy orders they gave us. Here we were sitting ducks and the German border was literally a stone throw away. And that’s where the Germans were waiting to attack us. We got hurried here when the Nazis started a massive counter attack south of us.

That was the start of the Battle of the Bulge for us. We did not even have winter clothing. All I had was a crappy thin field jacket – no gloves, no insulated boots. I remember tying some socks around my head to keep my ears warm. I had my Garand rifle, but only about two dozen rounds for it. I also had two lousy grenades. The rest of us had about the same, though some had those old Chicago gangster style submachine guns. That was it.

About half of the new boys that were holed up with us looked like they just got sent from what we called “repple depples” – replacement depots. That sure didn’t give us a lot of confidence, but we shared our cold C-rations with them anyway. We expected the Germans to attack at any moment – we were quite scared. Our small group was no match for the Germans. On top of that, we heard that the Nazis around Bastogne had infiltrated some American units wearing US Army uniforms and driving captured jeeps. Good for us, we knew each other in our outfit – and if we didn’t – someone else knew.

Eventually, a young, baby-faced 2nd Lieutenant came over and explained to us why these crazy orders. We were to make as much “rattle and racket” as possible. We were to drive our jeeps back and forth, build open fires, march



Henry Herz, OMGUS. Berlin 1945.

around in circles, continuously talk on the radios and even play gramophone records. The idea was to let the Germans think that we were a million men – and that they would hesitate to attack us. So we started creating as much havoc and noise as we could. I remember driving a Willy’s jeep back and forth. We started to build big fires – heck almost like bonfires. Since we had open fires, I remember we got fed warm – oh so good – Spam sandwiches and hot coffee. This went on, I think, for at least two days and nights, and, you know, the whole crazy thing worked. The Germans never attacked us and actually retreated. I think no shots were ever fired during this part of the Battle of the Bulge. I do, however, have to laugh when we played songs like “Pistol Packin’ Mama” and “Jeepers Creepers” over to the Germans. That music sure must have sounded pretty strange to them. Maybe that’s what actually scared the Nazis away...”

In 1938, at 17 years of age, Henry Herz escaped Nazi occupied Czechoslovakia and was able to flee to the United States. The Jewish

community of Budweis, which he grew up in, was literally wiped off the face of the earth and all of his relatives ended up in concentration camps.

When the United States was thrust into World War II, he attempted to enlist in the US Army, but was promptly rejected, as he now was classified as an “enemy alien.” Only after the intervention of his representative in Congress – a young Lyndon B. Johnson – was he able to join up. He was inducted at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio and completed basic training at Camp Wallace near Galveston, TX. Before shipping out for England, he received his American citizenship.

In late 1944, he landed in France serving as an interpreter (he spoke fluent English, Czech, and German) with a military government detachment from the XIII Corps. Herz participated in the Battle of the Bulge from mid December 1944 until the end of January 1945. His small unit was positioned just south of Kerkrade, Holland – less than a quarter of a mile from the German border where the Wehrmacht assembled an offensive force near Herzogenrath. The ensuing “rattle and racket” tactics utilized by this small band of American soldiers has become a lesser known historical part of the Battle of the Bulge!

After the Ardennes campaign, Herz played a role in establishing several displaced persons camps and served as a soldier and civilian in the Office of Military Government in Germany. For his valor and dedication to duty he received the Bronze Star Medal among other awards.

The author is the son of the late Henry Herz and serves as National Historian for JWV. This is the first of a series of articles in a new column called “War Stories” for The Jewish Veteran. If you have a fitting “war story” for inclusion in this column, please contact LTC Heart at 613heart@gmail.com



PNC Lawrence Schulman discharges New Past National Commander Sheldon Ohren from his official duties.



PNC David Hymes, the oldest JWV member in attendance at the National Convention, places the National Commander hat on new NC Robert Pickard.



PNC David Magidson and PNC Ainslee Ferdie swear NC Robert Pickard into office.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Active duty Navy member of Post 158 VA, Lt. Aaron Kleinman, Chaplain Corp and former Navy Pilot, demonstrates flight gear to the children of Camp Ruach at B'nai Israel Congregation in Norfolk, VA during the camp's Military Day.



Left to right: Mayor Jeri Muoio, West Palm Beach, FL, and Cpl Burt Richards, Post 819 FL. Cpl Richards, founder of the Veterans Speakers Forum, travels to schools in his community presenting programs honoring those who served. Over 9,300 students have been educated through Cpl Richard's forum.



Senior Vice Commander Buddy Epstein and Commander John Robbins of Post 717 NY presented a check to Beth Zimmerman (pictured with her rescue dog Bunny). Zimmerman is the founder of Pets for Patriots a nonprofit charity which partners with shelters across the country to place at-risk dogs and cats with veterans and servicemembers. The charity provides various forms of support to make pets affordable over their lifetime.

POST 273 NJ DONATES \$10,000 TO LOCAL VA HOSPITALS

Post 273, serving Union County and Southern Essex County, New Jersey, recently made two \$5,000 donations to the East Orange and Lyons Veterans Hospitals following Memorial Day at the East Orange Veterans Hospital.

With the hospital museum as the backdrop, the checks were presented to Kenneth H. Mizrach, Medical Center Director for the Lyons and East Orange VA Hospitals, Mary Beth Hynoski, Lyons Voluntary Service Program Manager and Thelma Miller, East Orange Voluntary Service Specialist by JWV Post 273 members Richard Shipman, Post Commander; Myron Katz, Post Vice Commander; Dr. Howard Kessler, Post Quartermaster; and Major (Retired) Marc Krauss, Post Member.

"We are extremely appreciative of the members of the Jewish War Veterans Post 273 for their recent donation to the VA New Jersey Health Care System. Our nation's heroes will benefit greatly from this kind gift," said Kenneth Mizrach. The donations will go into



Left to right: Thelma Miller, East Orange Voluntary Service Specialist; Richard Shipman, Post Commander; Kenneth H. Mizrach, Medical Center Director; Myron Katz, Post Vice Commander; Dr. Howard Kessler, Post Quartermaster; Major (Retired) Marc Krauss.

the general fund that supports the immediate needs of veterans. Prior JWV donations to the VA Hospitals included telephone calling cards for patients at each hospital, flat screen TVs for the Palliative Care Ward at Lyons, specialized equipment for East Orange, and over \$1,000 for special events for veterans.

Richard Shipman, Post 273 Commander, simply stated, "Giving back to our fellow veterans is the least we can do, they deserve it."



Harry Ettlinger, Department Commander of NJ, speaks with Virginia Holocaust Museum docents during the National Convention. Photo by Terri Routh.



Post 26 MA gathered with staff and students at the Lubavitcher Yeshiva Academy (LYA) in Longmeadow, MA for a September 11 commemoration. Post Member Bob Zosman, a graduate of LYA Hebrew school, assisted LYA Rabbi Noach Kosofsky a student with raising the flag during the program.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



PNC Sheldon Ohren joined the Department of California for its annual Convention in June. Left to right: Hy Arnesty, Post 118 CA; Department Commander Greg Lee; PNC Sheldon Ohren; Judy Ohren; and PDC Darin Selnick, Post 760 CA.



Members of the Department of MA gathered at Baker Street Cemetery in West Roxbury, MA to read the names and recite Kaddish for the 65 members who passed away this year. This tradition dates back to 1937. Past Department Commander and National Judge Advocate, Harvey Weiner, read the names of this year's departed.



The Department of New Jersey honored Chaplain Richard D. Berg, Post 972 NJ, at its summer convention. Joining him during the presentation was his wife Jan Berg, Chaplain JWVA of New Jersey, his two JR Commanders, Joshua and Aryeh, and Col. Nelson L. Melitz, USAFR, Ret. Past Department Commander of NJ. Photo by Ed Hornichter.



Post 65 NV presented a plaque to Frank Vignola, Vice President and General Manager of the Eastside Cannery, Las Vegas, NV for the Cannery's continued support and dedication in helping American veterans. Left to right: Paul Schreiman, Post 65 Commander; Mr. Vignola; Sandra Rothman, Post 65 Marketing Chairperson; and Richard (Dick) Rose, Post 65 Junior Vice Commander.

Post 757 TALO was selected to present the colors for the opening ceremonies of the 2013 JCC Maccabi Games held in Austin, TX. The JCC Maccabi Games bring together over 1,500 Jewish teenage athletes for Olympic style events. Athletes from the US, Canada, Israel, Mexico, and Panama participated. The JWV Honor Guard consisted of Past Post Commanders Barry Mann and Bob Kaplan, Post Commander Earle Sherrod, and Post Adjutant Hal Jacobs.



Post 888 MD and MD Department Commander Erwin Burnick gathered in the Jewish section of the Garrison Forest Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Owings Mill, MD for Memorial Day 2013. Lt. Col. Rabbi Michell Geller read the El malei rachamim followed by everyone reciting the Kaddish.



The Department of Michigan and its Ladies Auxiliary recently awarded college scholarships to 10 high school graduates as part of its annual Convention. The \$750 awards were given to descendants of veterans without regard to race or religion. JWV and JWVA members pictured with award recipients: Bernard Gross, Post 510 MI; Vicky Levesque; Shirlee Marshall, Program Chairman; Department Commander David George; and JWVA Department President Myra Gross.

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

John Freeman-77 • Aaron Werbel-77 • Michael Berman-100 • Leonard J. Bornstein-100 • Lewis A. Lambert-100 • Steven W. Rotkoff-100

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Harold Greenberg-118 • Louis Widawski-118 • Joshua Kucker-152 • Ralph Barnes-185 • Martin L. Simms-185 • Norman Maxwell-385 • Robert Kosloff-603 • Lewis Lerner-603 • Herman Season-603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Jacqueline Schatz-51 • Aaron Thiela-51

DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

Arnold J. Drescher-747

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Selwyn Barohn-352 • Joseph Coop-352 • Sheldon B. Estrin-400 • Eugene D. Gordon-400 • Joel W. Hersch-400 • Matthew Lawrence-400 • Arthur Tanenbaum-400 • Donald M. Brofman-631 • Barbara M. Needleman-639 • Hoseph Gross-819

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Robert Simon-29 • Gabriel Kregel-407

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Abraham Kopec-605 • Kenneth L. Weintraub-644 • Steven Weisman-644

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Michael Eisenberg-167 • Samuel I. Girson-567

• Seymour Plave-567 • Maynard Turow-567 • Philip D. Wendkos-567 • Alan F. Lewis-692 • Gerald Eckstein-888

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Joseph Shelzi-22 • Michael Ury-140 • Milton Joseph Wolk-193 • Harry L. Baker-211 • Robert Stacks, MD-211 • Theodore Polonsky-220 • Robert B. Scharmatt-638 • Robert M. Soffer-735

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Joel Rosner-474

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Irving J. Weintraub-21 • David Goldhecht-65

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Stephen Schwartz-047 • Berel B. Arrow-125 • Irwin W. Geltzer-126 • Marvin E. Herring-126 • Edward J. Mc Carthy-126 • El A. Rothman-126 • Joseph Sobel-126 • Paul R. Wolfthal-133 • Allan J. Hermann-273 • Robert S. Hyatt-273 • Robert Poznak-273 • Lawrence Wasserman-273 • Leonard Cohen-536 • Joseph Peller-536 • Joel Felberbaum-609 • Alvin Fine-609 • Hyman Israel-609 • Eugene Price-609

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Timothy Hanna-1 • Neil S. Gross-46 • Eric Perlman-46 • Harold Rinn-50 • Bert Isen-105 • Gerald A. Schwartz-191 • Neil Friedman-336 • Sanford Cohen-425 • David Goldklang-425 • Martin Nosenchuk-425 • Arthur H. Federman-717

Abraham Rubin-717 • Milton N. Zemarkowitz-717

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Arnold Stone-44

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Lawrence Levine-499 • Marvin N. Feld-697 • Stanley B. Goldman-697 • Edward Spivack-697 • Marvin Waxman-697

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Harvey Goldman-23 • Evan Kerzer-23

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Joel Weinbaum-111

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Joseph Goldstein-194 • Adam D. Kitz-194 • Bernard Lieberman-619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Earl C. Bullock-256 • Tobe Pilato-256 • John Eger-749 • Chester Frame-749 • Sara J. Scoggin-749 • Cody Cure-753 • Mark Miller-753 • Bart Sherwood-753 • David Brymer-755 • Zachary Stolley-755 • Michael K. Miller-757 • Drew Diamond-781

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Herbert Sprung-95 • Marvin Waldman-95 • Alexander J. Brot-158 • Rachel Cuthrell-158 • Andrew A. Lask-158 • Michael Manaskie-158 • Emanuel W. Michaels-158 • Geoffrey M. Sacks-765

PEOPLE & PLACES

► **Post 740 NJ** donated \$1,000 to the East Orange VA Hospital on July 3. The Funds were the proceeds from their Memorial Day poppy sale.

► **Paul Cohen, Post 603 CA**, is the Los Angeles County Veteran of the Year. He will be recognized on National television at the Rose Bowl on November 15.



Paul Cohen

► Members of **Post 819 FL** hosted eight wheelchair bound patients from the West Palm Beach Veteran's Hospital at a luncheon on June 4 at the Golden Corral Restaurant, Boynton

Beach. "It was rewarding for our Post to host this event," said Howard Weiss, Senior Vice Commander. "These men who served our country have very little opportunity to leave the hospital for a few hours and enjoy an outing like this. We do these two or three times each year to bring them a pleasurable activity."

► **Barry Sobel, Post 74 MA**, logged 4,000 volunteer hours at Edith Nourse VA Medical Facility, Bedford, MA.

► The **Department of Michigan JWV and JWVA** were the leading marchers in the Oak Park, MI 4th of July Parade. Members were led by Department Commander **Harmon Tron** and Auxiliary 333 MI President **Myra Gross**.

► **Alan Moskin, Post 756 NY**, has been appointed as a member of the Service Academy Review Board by Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY). The five member board meets with local applicants for the US Service Academies and makes recommendations for admission to the Congresswoman.

► **Post 717 NY** held its 26th Annual Salute to

IN SEARCH OF

► Frank Harris, born in Germany, veteran of the US Army, and advocate for better nutrition in public schools, is the founder of the Nuernberg-Fuerth Survivors Group. Since 1977, he has dedicated himself to finding other Jewish survivors of the cities of Nuernberg and Fuerth, Germany and their families. The Survivors Group releases two editions of a newsletter each year, one for those born in Germany and one for their descendants. If you are, or know of, a survivor from Nuernberg or Fuerth, Germany, please contact Mr. Harris at 914-276-6597.

Veterans event in East Meadow, NY on August 3. At the program, **Buddy Epstein**, Post Senior Vice Commander, received the Veterans Distinguished Service Award from Nassau County Executive, Ed Mangano, for his work with veterans.

► **Jack Lederman, Post 46 NY**, was awarded membership in the NY State Veterans Hall of Fame. He was a combat infantryman in WWII and was wounded in battle. He received the Purple Heart.

COL Bob Norton Addresses Veterans' Benefits

Continued from page 1

number of backlogged claims to 421,793 – a significant drop from March. However, the VA still needs to do more if it's going to meet its pledged goal of deciding all claims in less than 125 days with a 98 percent accuracy rate by 2015.

“The reality is that we all must keep up the pressure on the VA,” said Norton. “All of us together through our elected officials, and through VA committees in particular, [must] ensure that the VA reaches its goals.”

Another major issue is the transition of servicemembers back into civilian life. There is already a steady pipeline of veterans reentering the civilian world, a number that will increase as the armed forces shrink in the next few years. This transition will come with challenges for some returning servicemembers. Some of these individuals may have behavioral or emotional wounds from their service. Others may not know how to navigate the civilian workplace.

MOAA and the Military Coalition (TMC), of which JWV is a founding member, are focused on making sure the government provides transition services and support. This subject is also a current focus of the Armed Services and Veterans Committees in Congress. Right now, legislation is going through the committee pro-



cess to aid servicemembers in obtaining civilian licenses and credentials while serving. Norton highlighted why this is such important legislation for returning servicemembers.

“You take an Army medic or Navy corpsman who goes through world class training, it takes about a year and a half to train a Navy corpsman or Army medic, followed by extensive experience at home and deployed overseas in combat theaters of operation,” explained Norton. “They have tremendous experience and background and they should be able to get a civilian credential, for example as an EMT, Emergency Medical Technician, before they leave active duty if that’s

the kind of career they want to pursue.”

If returning military personnel are able to take the skills they gained while serving and translate them immediately to the civilian workplace, they will have a much easier time making the transition to civilian life. But it is up to organizations like JWV and TMC to ensure that this legislation makes it through Congress.

Norton asked JWV delegates to prepare their Posts, Departments, and Echelons for what will happen to veterans' benefits as the United States brings the War in Afghanistan to an end. Past history has shown that there will be calls to cut the VA and VA Healthcare budgets – ignoring the rising demand for VA services that comes when military personnel return from war.

What can JWV members do to make a difference for veterans and returning servicemembers? Norton advocates participating in JWV programs like the annual Capitol Hill Action Day.

“The key is persistence and determination,” Norton said. “If a [Congress] member’s office seems indifferent or hostile to what is needed for our veteran community, keep coming back at them. Wear them down; get them to see the light.”

Life is full of surprises ... including accidents.



In this day and age, there's no such thing as being too safe. You know how important it is to take precautions and guard against the unexpected.

That's why JWV sponsors an **Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance Plan** to help you provide your family the financial resources they may need should the unexpected happen to you.

As a member under age 70, you're **guaranteed acceptance** for coverage in the plan and can choose a Principal Sum that best fits your needs—\$250,000.00, \$150,000.00 or \$100,000.00. Economical group rates negotiated by JWV are offered exclusively to our members.

And, this accidental insurance plan not only pays the benefit amount you select, but offers **additional benefits designed to help cover expenses such as day care, elderly care, injury rehabilitation, and help with costs for college or trade school for insured spouse and children** to help give your loved ones an added measure of financial well-being.

Here are some additional benefits of the JWV-endorsed AD&D Insurance Plan:

- ✓ **Benefits for Military Air Travel**
A benefit equaling the lesser of the Principal Sum or \$150,000.00 will be payable for any covered person who is recalled to service or serves in the reserves, and incurs a covered loss while a passenger on any transport-type aircraft operated or contracted by the Air Mobility Command of the United States.
- ✓ **Benefits for Common Carrier**
An additional benefit of \$25,000.00 is payable if the insured incurs a covered loss as a result of an accident while a passenger on a licensed common commercial carrier, such as a plane, taxi, bus or any other vehicle licensed for the transportation of passengers.
- ✓ **Adaptive Auto/Home Benefit**
You'll receive an additional 5%, up to \$5,000.00 of actual expenses incurred, if a covered loss (other than loss of life) makes it necessary for you to modify your home or car. The Certificate of Insurance will provide certain limitations.

GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE

Members (under age 70 and residing in the United States) and their eligible dependents cannot be turned down.

To learn more about the JWV-sponsored AD&D Insurance Plan (features costs, eligibility, renewability, limitations and exclusions) and how it can help protect your family against an unexpected loss, call **1-800-503-9230** or visit us online at www.jwvinsure.com

This Plan is underwritten by New York Life Insurance Company
51 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010
Under Group Policy No. G-29319-0 on Policy Form GMR-FACE/G-G-29319-0



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Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Committee

By Chairman Larry Rosenthal

I would like to thank everyone for their support, encouragement, and taking your time out of the Convention to attend the inaugural Committee meeting. This Committee is not one or two members, it is everyone who says: "Yes, I am a member of the JWV."

The purpose of this Committee is so that the younger Jewish military personnel in today's active forces along with the Guard and Reserve have a "voice" with the more seasoned JWV members.

To act as mentors, advisors, and an information highway to those younger veterans in dealing with the military, the Department of Veteran's Affairs, and other possible friendly organizations. To use our knowledge to help them attain the necessary information and promote the comradeship of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

To cultivate a brotherhood/sisterhood with the younger veterans not only to join our ranks, but get them involved to sustain and enhance the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

Thank you to everyone who attended the first Committee meeting. Anyone interested in working on this new Committee, (i.e. doing a blog, being a spokesman in their area, getting out the word about this new committee in their area's newspapers, magazines, or synagogue bulletins) has ideas or suggestions, maybe even finding benefits that would help our "new" vets, or names of potential influencers can contact me at lsl1950@hotmail.com.

Development Committee

By Chairman Monroe Mayer, PNC

Development or Direct Mail is a nice way for us to say that JWV USA is sending you a useful, small gift, and we would like you to respond with a donation. It is not a new idea, and we all receive various types of mail solicitations, but

in our case, we try to tailor our presentations, so that they will immediately appeal to you, the recipient.

Calendars are sent by many different organizations, and most of us receive a sample of them. But the JWV USA Calendar doesn't utilize flowers or scenery in its pages. Our effort is to tell the story of Jewish men, women, and especially families, who have served their country. We should all be proud to read and see the pictures of these individuals and how they served. We always look to our own members to send us their pictures and histories, so we can retell these stories.

Our High Holiday Cards are a special item that few other groups utilize. We have you in mind, so that you may use these cards to send to your closest relatives and friends.

Still, please remember, these items are not necessarily benefits of membership, though some may think so. They have the specific purpose of raising the necessary funds required to continue the existence of our great organization. We must still carry out the mission laid out by our founders some 117 years ago. Basically, the reason for our existence was not for a group of ex-service people of the Civil War to get together and play cards. The specific reason was that it was their function, and still ours, to tell the story that Jews have served honorably and well in times of war. It is sad that we have to remind some in our nation of this fact, but I am sure we all agree that it is still required.

There is also a possibility that you may not receive these items at all. This arises because in the past you may have received the cards or the Calendar and did not make a donation as requested. However, if you did send in a donation in the near past, then chances are excellent that you will continue to receive the High Holiday Cards, as well as the 2014 Calendar.

Maintaining our great organization, together with the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, well into the

future is in your hands as contributors. Without our National Organization, the individual Posts cannot carry out the Mission successfully. We still need your assistance in supplying the material you may possess and donating to our continued existence.

NMI Certificates Committee

By Chairman Hannah Deutch

Up to now I have been reporting on the sale of the mini-bulk certificates (which come in groups of 5 for \$40) only, but as of this report the various other certificate programs like the bulk will be included.

Since the NEC meeting in February the following sales took place: JWV-\$2,356 and JWVA-\$489, for a total of 2,845.

I want to thank everyone on behalf of our Museum. We still have four months to go until the next NEC meeting, so keep it up and maybe by February we will break the \$5,000 mark.

Women in the Military Committee

By Vice-Chairman E.G. "Jerry" Farris, PDC

Since the beginning of the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, over 800 women have been wounded and over 130 have died of their wounds.

I wrote earlier about the inequality of pay for women in combat zones. They may be required to carry a rifle or wear a handgun, but may not receive pay for doing so. The truth of the matter is that most women do not want to be on the front lines. Yes, there are a few who would argue it is their "right," but most do not wish to be there. The Department of Defense has been working to change the rules of who can participate in ground fighting; yet in the same sense, they feel women would not be able to engage in combat effectively.

According to a Congressional Research Service article on women

serving in our military, there have been no restrictions by Congress since the early 1990's on women in combat units. The military itself has imposed restrictions. Today, we find the role of women in combat is still conflicting in its acceptance. So now, our Congress is expanding the role of women in the military.

Here is the question: if they do not feel women are capable of fighting, why require them to carry arms in the first place? Next question: if they are carrying arms (even if not using them in front line combat), why shouldn't they receive some sort of hazard pay for the possibility of having to use them to defend themselves or their camp?

Of course, in all reality, the majority of women probably do not have the slightest inclination toward being on the front lines anyway...nor do a lot of men, I'm sure.

What do women do when assigned to a country that is at war? They become the backbone of front line support. Women become the administrative backbone to the companies to which they are assigned. Many are there as doctors and nurses to help heal the broken and wounded. Women have also been trained to search Muslim women, thereby respecting their rights and privacy, and becoming an integral part of the team in those places where such close contact is necessary.

Women will forever be a part of this country's military. The best we can hope for is equality in pay, equality in rank, and equality in respect. If we want more, we will have to speak out. In the meantime, women will continue to serve unselfishly and wholly, in an effort to maintain peace at home and in the world. So, if the female soldier chooses to take on a combat role, let us be fully supportive of her action; but likewise, if she does not wish to be placed in a combat situation, can we be equally supportive of that choice, too? Let us hope that is the case.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to wish everyone and their families a happy and healthy New Year. We have had a busy summer at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, and I believe we are off to a great start for what will be an exciting year.

I am extremely happy to report that a contract has been signed with Quatrefoil Associates to begin the construction phase of the new core exhibit on the first floor of the Museum. We anticipate having the core exhibit of our Museum ready for unveiling to the public by Veterans Day 2014.

I know many of you have worked hard to raise the funds that have made this exhibit possible. I want you to know that it was your efforts which enabled us to reach this milestone. I know all of us look forward to having an exhibit which chronicles the Jewish experience, from past to present, l'dor v'dor, in

the American Armed Forces, and I look forward to spending this year seeing this exhibit become a reality.

In August, we held our annual board meeting at the National Convention where we discussed the future of our Museum and elected our new Officers and Board of Directors. I personally would like to congratulate all of the new Officers. Together, we will have a productive term in office.

At the National Convention, we raised \$480.00 in a raffle for a paver in our Remembrance Walk Program. Congratulations to White Plains Auxiliary 191, our raffle winner. I am proud to announce that we have now sold over 250 pavers, raising over \$80,000 for the Museum through this program in a little over a year.

We have a number of programs coming up at the Museum. Our Noontime Notes series

on the American Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration continues through the end of October. The Jewish Study Center will be holding classes at NMAJMH on many Tuesdays this fall. We're also busily planning our third annual Chanukah event, which will be held on December 4th. For more information on these events, please visit our website at www.nmajmh.org.



**PNC Norman Rosenshein
President, NMAJMH**

The Jewish Study Center Fall Classes at NMAJMH
Fall classes at NMAJMH are held on Tuesday evenings. To register for these classes, or for more information, visit www.jewishstudycenter.org.

What's Happening in the Middle East.....	Nov 12, 6:30-7:45PM
The Hebrew Calendar	Nov. 12, 6:30-7:45PM
Panel: Intellectual Property Rights+Jewish Law	Nov. 19, 7-8:15PM
U.S. Courts and Jewish Observance	Dec. 10, 6:30-7:45PM
American Jewish Theologians.....	Dec. 10, 6:30-7:45PM

FROM OUR ARCHIVES **By Pamela Elbe**

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

View the Museum's Collection Online

Do you know that you can view NMAJMH's collections online? After much preparation, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History is proud to announce that we have made a portion of our collection available online. It has long been a goal of the museum to make our collection more accessible to the public, especially since only a small percentage of artifacts can be on exhibition at a time. Publishing our database online is another means by which NMAJMH can educate the public about Jewish service in the American military, in addition to our in-house exhibits and traveling displays. You can search through hundreds of collections at once to find images and information using artifact search. You may also browse through the collections, filtering by names or events to narrow down the list.

For the past eight years, the museum staff has been cataloging and photographing every item in the collection, and while this project is still not fully complete, we have finally reached the stage

where we are able to share the fruits of our labor. The collection online features a searchable database of selected items from NMAJMH's permanent collection. Now donors and researchers will be able to search our collection and view objects and photographs online. The database can be browsed by item type, event, or person, or searched by keyword. The site currently contains roughly 5,000 objects, photographs, and archival items. These highlights are designed to reflect the scope and diversity of the museum's sizeable collection. The online database is updated frequently to include a larger representation of the museum's collection as well as recent acquisitions. Please visit the site often to browse the latest additions.

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



Class A Army uniform belonging to SPC Daniel Agami.



Coconut mailed from Guam during WWII.

ADMINISTRATIVELY SPEAKING By Mary Westley, Museum Coordinator

“...I go to a Jewish High School. We learn a lot about Jewish history and mostly the Holocaust. At my school, we mostly learn about the Jews in the camps and the partisans but not the soldiers from the US and other countries, so I learned a lot about the subject [coming to NMAJMH]. I like a lot the “Jewish War Veteran’s Protest March” exhibit because it shows that some people didn’t ignore and weren’t afraid to stand up for the injustice. My great-grandfathers fought for Russia in WWII. I’m very proud [of] their bravery.”

Rachel Tchinov, age 13, Montreal, Canada.
Written in the NMAJMH comments book on August 14, 2013

Rachel’s statement about her visit to NMAJMH is very poignant. It hits on one of the key points of our mission statement to “[educate] the public concerning the courage, heroism and sacrifices made by Jewish Americans who served in the armed forces.”

Education is the key to discovering and learning about one’s heritage. That’s one of the

reasons why documentation is so essential to posterity. Through timely exhibits, tours, classes, and lectures, NMAJMH effectively chronicles the unique contributions Jews have made to the American military. This is not a story told from past to present by any other museum in the country.

With the assistance of local partners like the Civil War Trust, the Jewish Study Center, and the Dupont Kalorama Museums Consortium, we will continue to further our mission and provide knowledge to visitors like Rachel.

With continuing to fulfill our mission in mind, this fall we have many educational programs planned at the Museum. Every Wednesday from 12:00-2:00pm through the end of October, we’ve brought back our popular Noontime Notes series. This fall, we’re focusing on the American Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration featuring guest lecturers who are experts on Civil War history.

We are proud to continue to serve as a home for the Jewish Study Center’s classes. A listing of the classes meeting at NMAJMH can be

found on the opposite page.

Finally, on December 4th we will be holding our 3rd Annual Chanukah Party at NMAJMH. JWV National Chaplain Michael Bloom, Post 381 DC, will be leading guests in the story of Chanukah and lighting the candles. This event has been one of the highlights of our programming schedule over the last few years, and we look forward to holding it again this year.

If you’re in the area, we hope you can join us!

Do you have a working reel-to-reel tape player that can play 7” or larger reels? If so, please consider donating it to NMAJMH. In order to digitize the larger reels in our collection we need a tape recorder/player that can play 7” reels, preferably at multiple speeds. If you have a working player that you no longer need, please contact Pamela Elbe at pelbe@nmajmh.org.

FROM OUR COLLECTION By Mike Rugel

Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH

Elijah Wisebram’s helmet from the First World War is beautifully painted in a colorful camouflage pattern. He turned his utilitarian helmet into a work of art and a showpiece to recall his service. Wisebram also scraped his name into the helmet under the brim. It’s an M1917 or Brodie helmet. Millions of them were produced during the war and used by US and British troops.



Elijah Wisebram’s helmet.

Decorating a helmet was a celebration of victory. Often referred to as parade helmets, they were typically painted after the war, some-

times by doughboys on a ship bound for home. Many of them included unit names or the places of battle. For Private Wisebram, the act of celebration was double. He’d fought honorably in France with the 307th Engineers of the 82nd “All-American” Division. He’d seen action at St. Mihiel and in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive and come through unscathed. But he was also finally a citizen of the United States returning to his home soil aboard the USS Kentuckian in May 1919.

Wisebram had come to the US from Bialystock, Poland (then Russia) in 1911. There, he’d witnessed the pogrom of 1906 as a teenager. By 1917, he’d been through most of the US naturalization process before being drafted. But he wasn’t a citizen yet. He would recall decades later that “my non-Jewish friends told me ‘Oh no, get out of going in the Army, you don’t have to go. Just tell them you’re not a citizen yet. Just tell them you don’t got your second papers and you’ll stay out.’ I said ‘No, I’m an American now and I’m going to fight for my country.’”

After the war, Wisebram was discharged at Camp Gordon. He then returned to Rome, Georgia before moving to Barnesville, Georgia.

Honorable Discharge from The United States Army



TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to Certify, That Elijah M. Wisebram #1917569
1st Lt. Eng. 307th Engrs. 82nd Div. AEF.
THE UNITED STATES ARMY, as a TESTIMONIAL OF HONEST AND FAITHFUL SERVICE, is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the military service of the UNITED STATES by reason of expiration of term of service, and U.S. Sec. 106, 107, 108.
Said Elijah M. Wisebram was born in Bezdabrudka, in the State of Russia
When enlisted he was 25 1/4 years of age and by occupation was a soldier
He had brown eyes, dark brown hair, dark complexion, and was 5 feet 7 inches in height.
Given under my hand at Camp Gordon, Ga. this 22 day of March, one thousand nine hundred and twentieth year.
GEOBOLA, Lamar County, Georgia, Clerk of Office Superior Court.
Filed for Record March 17, 1922
Recorded in Discharge Book 1
Page 17 March 17, 1922
M. D. W. Clerk

Elijah Wisebram’s Honorable Discharge certificate from the United States Army.

He ran Wisebram’s Department Store in Barnesville for decades and was active in many civic organizations there.

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

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Harry L. Rose-45

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Rube Paler-145

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History is seeking information on deceased American Jewish veterans and their places of burial to be included in our Archives.

Please include the following:

- Name
- Home State
- Branch of Service and Rank
- Conflict
- Date of Death (Killed In Action?)
- Awards
- JWV Member?
- Name & Location of Cemetery
- Row/Plot/Site

Please send information to:

Debra Stern
c/o NMAJMH
1811 R St., NW
Washington, DC 2009

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Allan Abramson & Wife Sheila
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PNC Louis & Gloria Abramson
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If not now, when?



Jewish War Veterans

28th Annual Mission to Israel • January 26 – February 4, 2014

If you promised yourself that you will see Israel one day....

We visit places most tours don't get to, and provide the opportunity to meet with Israeli leaders and military. When you travel with us, you can look forward to an exceptional experience. In addition to our amazing guide Ronit, this year we will have the services of a dedicated hostess to look after our group.

Sunday, JAN 26: Enjoy a non-stop flight on EL AL Israel Airlines. Dinner, movies and breakfast on board.

Monday, JAN 27: Arrival at Tel Aviv's-Ben Gurion airport. Aviatours staff will assist you and transfer you to Crowne Plaza beach-front hotel in Tel Aviv. Meet your guide Ronit and hostess Dalia. We take a rest and meet for dinner.

Tuesday, JAN 28: After our daily delicious Israeli breakfast, meeting with US Military Attaché and Tzevet (IDF veterans' organization). Visit Azrieli Roof Top - to have a birds view of Tel Aviv and beyond. (On a clear day you can see Beirut, Lebanon). Visit the emergency Underground Hospital and the mysterious Underground passages in Dizengoff Street. Continue with a panoramic tour of Tel Aviv as time permits. At this time you feel the jet lag, so let's return to the hotel for a rest and meet for dinner.

Wednesday, JAN 29: Check out from hotel. Visit Palmach Museum in Tel Aviv (The pre IDF military organization). Proceed to visit the Military Academy in Haifa, where high school cadets are educated to become the future IDF commanders. Meet cadets. We proceed to Akko on the Mediterranean-shore for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, JAN 30: Today, we visit the Crusader underground city in Akko, Rosh Hanikra Grottos, and

the IDF base there (Lebanese border). Our last visit is to Zippori mosaic floors. Zippori was the capital of the Galilee after the destruction of the Second Temple. Overnight at Kibbutz Lavi.

Friday, JAN 31: Tree planting at Golani Junction. Drive to Jerusalem through the Jordan Valley. Stop at an observation point and hear from a settler about Jewish settlements in this strategic area. Ascend to Jerusalem, check-in and enjoy dinner and a peaceful night.

Saturday, FEB 1: After breakfast we return to the Judean Desert to visit heroic Masada. Have a dip in the Dead Sea - nature's gift to your skin. (The best minerals in the world at the lowest point on earth).

Sunday, FEB 2: Jerusalem - After breakfast we visit the Davidson Center, telling the story of life during the Second Temple time. Continue to the Western Wall (prepare your written request to God), Jewish Quarter and Yad Vashem (Holocaust Museum). Dinner and overnight.

Monday FEB 3: Jerusalem - Visit Mt. Herzl Center, 9/11 Memorial, and visit Yad Sara and participate in building medical equipment for people in need. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Tuesday FEB 4: Flight home. Arrival on same day.

Welcome home! You have returned from a trip of a lifetime!

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

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

E-mail: cturner@jwv.org

You can also find more info on the JWV website:

http://www.jwv.org/events/international_assembly_of_jwv

If you would like to extend you stay in Israel, or take optional extensions to Petra (Jordan) or other side trips, please contact David or Mary at Aviatours:
(800) 950-0747 • (516) 867-2200 • info@aviatours.net

