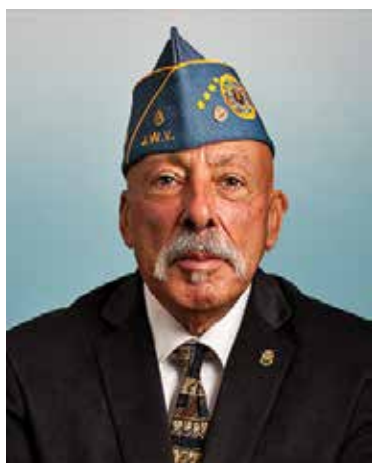




THE JEWISH VETERAN

Volume 68 • Number 3

Colonel Maxwell S. Colón Elected National Commander



At the 119th Annual National Convention, Col. Maxwell S. Colón, USA (Ret.), was elected the National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans.

NC Colón joined JWV in 1990, and has previously served as Commander of Post 385 CA, and as the Commander of the Department of California.

"We have many goals for the upcoming year. I ask for you to join with me and others who have been supportive in investing in our JWV/Museum projects, and be a member that makes a positive change. Our objective to strengthen our memberships should be a priority. Please show pride in our organization and think of the future that we can hand down to our children and grandchildren."

2014 Convention Highlights

The 119th Annual National Convention was a huge success! JWV would like to thank all speakers, participants, attendees, volunteers, and staff members for their help in creating such a great event.

This year's Convention featured several interesting and informative speakers, including Matthew Randle of Student Veterans of America (SVA), Jason Hansman of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), and South Carolina Congressman James Clyburn.

Chief Operating Officer of SVA, Matt Randle, shed some light on the affordability of college for veterans, and



Matt Randle, COO, Student Veterans of America.

about the importance of providing veterans with ways to supplement their education. A former combat medic in the United States Army, the dynamic speaker is also a new member of JWV.

"Nothing that does more, or impacts more deeply, than having time with the folks that are like you and around you," he explained.

Veterans who were having trouble fitting in on college campuses connected using the internet to form the first seven chapters of SVA. In the last six years, the program has grown to 1,092 chapters in all 50 states and three countries.

He reminded the audience that the "mentality of what makes veterans successful in life is in the JWV charter – 'to cooperate with and support existing educational institutions...and to foster the education of ex servicemen and ex servicewomen.'" The age of computers has certainly changed the landscape of communication, but it has not eliminated the need for face-to-face community.

Randle also emphasized that organizations such as SVA have an obligation to do better for the people coming

Continued on page 9



Jason Hansman, Senior Program Manager, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

Lessons of The Holocaust: A Soldier's Story About Liberating Daucau Concentration Camp

By Petra Chesner Schlatter

The message that U.S. Army Infantry Pfc. Bernard Lens of Lower Makefield and Holocaust survivor Daniel Goldsmith of Hatboro made at the second annual assembly about the Nazi Holocaust at Charles Boehm Middle School was to never forget.

Both men had their own stories about The Holocaust and how it affected their lives. Lens served in the U.S. Army infantry in Europe during World War II. Goldsmith is a child survivor of The Holocaust who was hidden through the efforts of Catholics.

Hundreds of eighth-graders at the school listened carefully on March 5 when members of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States Post 697 presented a program.

Lens, 93, talked about being part of the American liberation of the deadly Daucau concentration camp, which was located in southern Germany near Munich.

He saw firsthand the shocking multitude of dead skeletal human bodies that were crammed into railroad boxcars. The extremely sorrowful faces of those who had survived are indelibly engrained

in Lens' mind as is the image of the vast human remains.

The prisoners had been sent to die because they were Jewish at the hands of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime.

"We got these people out," Lens remembered all too

Continued on page 17



Bernard Lens and Daniel Goldsmith in front of a map showing Jewish ghettos and death camps in Poland.

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.

Outlook on the Coming Year

Oct. 22, 2014

Social Media and Engaging Younger Members

Nov. 19, 2014

NEC Plans and Prep

Jan. 13, 2015

NEC Meeting

Feb. 11-15, 2015

Helping Our Museum

Mar. 17, 2015

Community Outreach

Apr. 14, 2015

Veterans Homelessness

May 14, 2015

Preparing for the National Convention

June 4, 2015

National Convention Review

Sept. 3, 2015

Outlook for the Coming Year

Oct. 13, 2015

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Call Pat Ennis at 703-753-3733
 Email: pat@asb-va.com

Or click the link on the → JWV homepage



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For JWV caps, call Keystone Uniform Cap Corporation

Phone: 215-821-3434 • Fax: 215-821-3438

<http://www.keystoneuniformcap.com/Jewish-War-Veteran-Caps.html>

Thank you

I cannot thank the Jewish War Veterans organization enough for selecting me to receive an educational scholarship. My intent was to go back to school after my service in the United States Army. The VA would only help pay so much as it was a foreign university that I was attending (in Israel.) So I applied for the National Achievement Program. I was very surprised and elated to be selected.

I have recently decided however, not to go back to school, which is why I am returning this check for \$1,500.00. Please feel free to give it to another Veteran in need. I have decided to reenlist in the United States Army as I feel there are things that I left unfinished. I was deployed twice to Iraq and spent four years with the 1st Cavalry Division out of Ft. Hood, Texas. I will now be in a Reserve unit here in Maryland.

My grandfather Leo Korn serviced in World War II as an ambulance driver and his nephew, Abraham Korn, was a toggle on a B-26 Marauder that was shot down on December 23, 1944 killing all of the crew. I have a long line of Jewish men in my family who have served this country with honor. I plan to continue this service. Once again I sincerely appreciate the committee that had selected me to receive this scholarship and I am returning it with great thanks.

V/R,
Ryan Korn

“Three Jewish Movements, One Prayer Book”

I was very happy to read that three Jewish movements got together to create a new Siddur for Jewish personnel in the Armed Forces of the United States.

I obtained the new Siddur and read the introductions and briefly reviewed the contents of this very important book. My 26 years in the military allowed me to travel throughout the world and attend hundreds of Shabbat services and meet hundreds of Jews in the military. I found that the vast majority of active duty soldiers could not read Hebrew, were not Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and could not even explain the simplest parts of the Torah, holidays, or Jewish belief system. They did not know the basic prayers of the Shabbat service. In my opinion, this new siddur missed the mark.

I would hope that the next Siddur would begin with a simple introduction to Judaism. Basic questions should be addressed, such as “Who is a Jew?” “What is expected of you as a Jew in the military?” It should include how to deal with issues such as kosher food, work in Shabbat, time off for the Jewish holidays, and no Jewish chaplain on the base where you are assigned.

Since the Siddur is the most important and

widely used Jewish book in the military, I would recommend that the introduction discuss some of the key Jewish concepts, such as the sanctification of time, creating Shabbat in your home or barracks, creating Shabbat in a chapel or synagogue, and study as a form of worship.

I am very sorry to say that my Jewish spiritual needs were never met by the military. I had to find them in local synagogues where I was stationed. I believe that the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council could do a better job for these 10,000 Jewish men and women serving our great country.

Shalom,
Joel Batalisky, US Army, retired
Active member of JWV, Post 256

Membership

As the background to this letter, Post 692's years of experience in endeavoring to increase its membership has met with various success and failures. We have succeeded in signing up some older veterans, but are less successful in attracting younger veterans. Losses can be attributed to deaths, moves away from our area, lack of interest, and financial considerations. In fact, the lack of younger members has reduced an available pool of members who have the strength and vigor to step forward and assume lead positions in our organization. Without that, our Post finds itself without fresh ideas and people who can actively promote JWV. In other words we need to bring in young military persons.

It is my belief that there are two areas that haven't been actively explored by JWV. 1) Jewish cadets attending the military academies, and 2) those who graduated from the military academies since, say 1960, and are not JWV members.

With regard to 1) since, according to your letter, you believe it is the responsibility of the Posts in proximity to a military academy I feel it behooves National to provide evidence that that strategy is working. And if it is not working, or not working well, then to examine the approach and offer changes. Concerning 2) I have no specific thoughts, but I would suggest that a search through academy yearbooks for Jewish graduates would provide a beginning for identifying potential members. Importantly, National should keep statistics on numbers of academy cadets/graduates who are not JWV members and provide them to the Posts for contact.

Regarding my suggestions that The Jewish Veteran publish events that highlight activities of our Jewish cadets at military academies. This should be a regular feature in the Veteran and not left only to local post's publication. Post's publications usually have very limited distribution. Furthermore, news events concerning Jewish cadets, cited in the Veteran, would show total JWV support of our military cadets. I urge that you

give serious consideration to this suggestion.

I would be pleased to discuss any aspect of this letter with you.

Sincerely,
Bernard Resnick
Past Senior Vice Commander Post 692



JWV NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

The Jewish War Veterans is sponsoring an essay contest open to all current service members and veterans who plan to attend, or are currently attending, an accredited Associate, Bachelor's or Nursing Degree program.

The theme of the essay is: **How will your military experience help you pursue your academic goals?**

The following grants will be awarded:

Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant
\$2,500

Max R. and Irene Rubenstein Memorial Grant
\$1,500

Leon Brooks Memorial Grant
\$1,500

If you know of a current service member or veteran who may be interested in entering the essay contest, an application may be obtained by contacting Jordana Green at jgreen@jwv.org, 202-265-6280, or by going to: http://www.jwv.org/programs/service/awards/national_youth_achievement_program.

Applications are due May 30, 2015.

Our National Headquarters is planning to make the application available to Veteran Service Offices and Veteran Associations on college campuses throughout the country. This program is one of the many that JWV has instituted to assist our service members and Veterans.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

National Commander Col. Maxwell S. Colón, USA (Ret.)



Shalom!

I am truly elated to have been elected your National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA for the year 2014-2015 at our 119th Annual National Convention. The distinct honor of being National Commander of the 'Oldest Active Veterans Organization in the nation is a dream come true. I have been an achiever throughout my life, attaining the rank of Colonel in the USA and the rank of Captain in the New York City Department of Correction, and will do my best to represent our organization with distinction.

This position is not a one man job, but a team effort; we must all work together for JWV to be successful. Our mission is to communicate with each other and to welcome the next generation of Armed Forces personnel to our organization. Jews have served this Nation with honor since the Revolutionary War, and we will continue to serve our Country into the future. We are a part of this Nation's fibre, and we have served in all

the various areas of the Armed Forces. Let us take advantage of our personal achievements and accomplishments, and include the media at future functions. We must constantly and continuously strive to promote JWV through public relations in order to recruit future members, but also to show that we are a strong presence in the United States military community.

We should strive to achieve advancement in the primary areas of our organization--membership, retention, and fundraising. This can be accomplished by actively involving military bases, reserve centers, National Guard armories/centers, and your local synagogues.

A donation to JWV or our Museum is also an investment in our future. We should ask our members and patrons to make a purchase within a JWV project. For example: pavers for the Remembrance Walk, leafs on the Tree of Honor to memorialize someone, and Yahzreits for remembering one of our loved ones. We must look to the future and 'YES,' there is a

bright future ahead for JWV. Let us stop complaining about our organization, and instead praise and look for ways to create improvements to make us not the only oldest, but the greatest veterans' organization in the Nation. Every member that is able should attempt to achieve upward mobility regarding positions held within JWV. Remember, no position is unattainable! Be the member that makes a positive change.

Since I joined JWV, and my wife Linda joined JWVA, we have been very fortunate in making numerous friends all over the country. I look forward to working with the JWVA National President, Petra Kaatz, and making the coming year a truly enjoyable experience for both of us. Thank you again for this opportunity and I wish each and every one of you a very healthy and happy L'Shanah Tovah.

NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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



New Secretary of the VA

On September 10, I participated in a briefing and meeting with the new Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Honorable Robert A. McDonald. In my first meeting with the new Secretary I was most impressed with his outstanding background, his managerial qualifications, and his determination to right the wrongs in the VA.

Secretary McDonald is a 1975 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, as is the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Sloan Gibson. Secretary McDonald and Deputy Secretary Gibson have been close friends since the early 1970's and their faithful relationship will enhance their ability to manage the VA effectively.

Following graduation from West Point, Bob McDonald served with the 82nd Airborne Division, completed Jungle, Arctic, and Desert Warfare training and earned the Ranger tab, the Expert Infantryman Badge, and Senior Parachutist wings. Upon leaving the Army, Captain McDonald was awarded the



Honorable Robert A. McDonald

Meritorious Service Medal. In 1978, he earned an MBA from the University of Utah.

Prior to joining the VA, Secretary McDonald was Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the Proctor & Gamble Company (P&G). Under his leadership, P&G significantly recalibrated its product portfolio, expanded its marketing footprint, adding nearly one billion people to its global customer base, and increased the firm's organic sales by an average of three percent a year. During his tenure, P&G was widely recognized for its leadership development progress. In 2012, Chief Executive Magazine named P&G the best company for developing leadership talent.

During the briefing, Secretary McDonald presented three key strategies as follows:

- Rebuild trust with Veterans
- Improve service delivery
- Set a course for long-term excellence and reform.

Secretary McDonald and his wife Diane are the parents of two grown children, Jennifer and Robert and proud grandparents of Mathew and Michael.

We at JWV wish Secretary McDonald every possible continued personal and professional success!

DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

By PNC Paul Bernstein, National Editor



The United States is facing a new type of security threat. In the years after 9/11, fears of al-Qaeda filled the news. Thirteen years later, we find ourselves once again facing another terrorist organization, one more organized and well-funded than al-Qaeda: the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL.

ISIL has left US officials debating whether the group is the “new” Al-Qaeda and whether it is a legitimate domestic threat.

The US is tracking over 100 Americans who are currently in Syria fighting for ISIL, but the National Citizenship and Immigration Services Council has warned that there could be a real threat. ISIL terrorists may be planning to infiltrate the country through the porous southern border or by exploiting visa policies. Kenneth Palinkas, president of the Council, complained that the Obama administration has “widened the loophole” of the asylum system, and future executive orders could “legalize visa overstays” and push “the threat level to America even higher.”

Homeland Security maintains that it has “no specific intelligence or evidence to suggest at present that ISIL is attempting to infiltrate this country through our southern border,” but there have been rumors that four people were apprehended at the southern border who are believed to have ties to the terrorist organization. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson has emphasized that citizens should remain vigilant and aware of the possibility of potential ISIL infiltration.

Recently, a man from Rochester, New York was charged by federal prosecutors for attempting to recruit people to join ISIL and attack US citizens, including recently returned veterans from Iraq. Court documents suggest that the FBI had been closely observing Mufid A. Elfgeeh, a 30-year-old naturalized citizen from Yemen, for over a year after he began using social media to express support for al-Qaeda and ISIS. Elfgeeh had been regularly interacting with undercover agents until his arrest in May, when he tried to buy handguns from one of the undercover agents.

A nineteen year old American Somali woman from St. Paul snuck away from her parents to fly to Turkey and join ISIL, while another US teenager was arrested while trying to travel to the Middle East to join ISIL. St. Paul is home to the largest Somali community in the US, and Somali terrorist group al-Shabaab has been recruiting since 2007. Three other women from the area have also gone missing in the past two months, and may have gone to join the terrorist group after being recruited by IS sympathizers. Additionally, law enforcement officials say at least 15 men from this community have connections to extremist

groups in Syria, including Douglas McAuthur McCain, a US citizen turned jihadi fighter who was killed in Syria this past summer. A Florida man, Moner Mohammad Abusalha, carried out a suicide attack after training in the Middle East for two months.

According to the New America Foundation, 240 United States citizens have been indicted or charged with a jihadist terrorist crime since 9/11, while less than 20 have been charged with crimes related to attempting to join ISIS. The most well-known and lethal attacks in the US, namely the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013 and the Fort Hood shooting of 2009, were carried out by a different kind of terrorist. The perpetrators of the Boston Marathon bombings learned how to create pressure cooker bombs online, allegedly in response to the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The assailants seem to be motivated by the notion that the United States is at war with Islam itself.

In a blog post for New America, Robert Wright wrote, “The perpetrators of these attacks weren’t people who had been lured abroad by Jihadists, given terrorism training, and dispatched to America with a mission. They were people who, while in America, got alienated, got inspired by Jihadist propaganda, and, if any expert instruction was necessary...got it via the internet.” None of the convicted or alleged perpetrators mentioned above received training or financial compensation from overseas.

Terrorist attacks that are successful fill the news, but let’s not forget about other attempted attacks. In 2010, a vehicle laden with explosives was found in Times Square, New York. The device was poorly constructed, and had it detonated, hundreds of people would have been killed in the busy intersection. The NYPD and the Joint Terrorism Task Force identified and arrested the perpetrator in 53 hours, a new US citizen who traveled to his native Pakistan to receive explosives training before returning to the US to build his own bomb.

In June, Attorney General Eric Holder, Jr. announced that the Justice Department had created a task force called the Domestic Terrorism Executive Committee to help fight domestic terrorism. In a Congressional Research Service Report from 2013, data showed that homegrown terrorists were responsible for more than twenty attacks in the United States since 9/11. The original incarnation of the task force was actually from the aftermath of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, but was later neglected.

The Committee is specifically aimed at US citizens who became radicalized domestically

using the internet. “We face an escalating danger from self-radicalized individuals within our own borders,” Holder noted in a video posted on the Justice Department’s website. “Now-as the nature of the threat we face evolves to include the possibility of individual radicalization via the Internet -it is critical that we return our focus to potential extremists here at home.”

If You See Something, Say Something!

The Department of Homeland Security launched “If You See Something, Say Something”, a simple campaign that helps raise public awareness of indicators of terrorism and related crimes, and to emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to proper state and local law enforcement authorities. Many cities, governments, and even subway systems use smartphone apps to allow citizens to easily and quickly post suspicious behavior.

- Be on the lookout for unattended packages, backpacks, or suitcases, especially in discreet areas in public places
- Be wary of suspicious behavior and be aware of unusual or out of place activity in your area.
- Take notice of people in bulky or inappropriate clothing
- Report exposed wiring or other irregularities
- Report anyone tampering with surveillance cameras, locks, or attempting to gain access into a restricted area
- If you report suspicious behavior, be sure to note the person’s sex, race, height and weight, hair color, any peculiarities, clothing, method and direction of transportation, as well as vehicle specifics.
- If you see something suspicious, report it immediately to local law enforcement. In an emergency, always call 9-1-1.



The Ice-Cream Vendor

I was reading the newspaper on August 4th about a missile strike which once again employed the not-so-subtle use by media [print and social] of children as instruments of war.

The New York Times reported

“...those killed or hurt were waiting in line for food supplies.”

My local newspaper, The New Jersey Star-Ledger, reported a Washington Post story:

“...a crowd of civilians had gathered outside; children buying ice cream from a sidewalk vendor, and men and women purchasing food or cigarettes... Among the dead, he said, was the ice cream vendor.”

And then there is the comment made by Turkey’s President Erdogan, the subtlety of which doesn’t require the use of a sledgehammer to understand:

“It isn’t anti-Semitism to criticize the massacre of children and babies in their homes.”

Children are and will continue to be an exceptionally useful weapon in the Israeli-Palestinian struggle and also in most of the so-called rebel and ISIS reporting. The kids readily demonstrate a vile reflection of collateral damage in the death of civilians. But this use seems only to apply and be imposed against the actions of democratic nations, who appear to be the only nations compelled, by treaties, to fight civilized battles. All other nations and groups and non-signatories are not so constrained. ISIS and other old or newly formed militias can behead American journalists and civilians with impunity since they are not constrained by international civility- Israel has not been so fortunate. Nor does international civility and restraints apply with respect to any other conflicts or other lands.

Then a day or two later- not on page one as with other reports- is the report of an Israeli youth who was killed in a rocket attack from Gaza. Followed always by a statement of the vast difference as to the number of Palestinians killed and injured [always spelling out the number of children, like 500 vs 1] and the number of Israelis killed and injured without really spelling out the reasons for the differences in attitudes and cultures and results.

Hamas spent over \$90M on missiles, rockets, and underground tunnels for weapons storage and attack, and continues to use its citizens as shields- especially the wonderful little children. This public relations tool accomplishes more world-wide support for their cause [the destruction of Israel], giving many Jew-haters an opportunity to hide behind a façade of concern for non-militate civilians.

The Israelis, on the other hand, budget and spend monies for defensive weaponry to destroy incoming missiles and rockets, and for bomb shelters to protect its citizens when warning sirens are sounded. This protection of its citizens doesn’t get reported extensively since it is a positive safeguard to save civilian lives rather than to use them as weapons in a public relations foray.

The weapons of choice are known as Social Media. It works and is very effective- in Europe anti-Semitism has not only become an acceptable form of political expression, but it constitutes a major form of political directions and dictations and has put Jews not only in discomfort but in possible jeopardy.

I vividly recall meetings with a leader in the Brussels Jewish community who said that he always keeps a packed suitcase- an acknowledgment of an imminent possibility of another ethnic cleansing of Jews from Europe- thus allowing him to leave without delay for Israel, and for his own survival.

Must we anticipate a future that requires Jews to conform to so-called political restraints of yielding to Islamic terrorists and oil dealers to avoid an Islamic take-over? The problem with accepting such a position is that we become totally submissive- a replay of the siege of Masada. Fear always wins when it owns you.

The most recent dominant dehumanization produced by social media has been sophisticatedly developed by ISIS in policy, performance, recruitment, etc. The producers of the scenario have been able to eliminate any sense of compassion from their production. They operate devoid of any emotion other than sheer hate. One big discussion is whether to call them ISIL or ISIS; but no matter the name, it does not change death.

They have beheaded hundreds with impunity. They are indifferent in the execution of many thousands without concern. They have destroyed villages without apparent plans. Females are transported for use, rape, or sale. Assets, oil production, and banks are converted into ready use for war and control; money is readily available to be converted into death and the creation of a new nation. Those who supplied them initial funding are now concerned that ISIS has been getting their own money and fund suppliers are seriously concerned that one of their creations can turn on them.

To say that ISIS is dangerous is an understatement and is so recognized by other Arab nations to the point that they are [reluctantly] willing to help cut down ISIS. Those who don’t accept their ISIS philosophy are dead. The simplicity of their

approach is the key to their successes.

The world started to realize the full import of their actions. The full events which prompted world concern and the need for action came with beheadings- not of the Middle East’s own citizens [a useable group for public propaganda] but of three very white foreigners- the audience viewing beat the Academy Awards. Another part of the problem is that some of our “allies” are quite willing to use those we have been fighting (ie Syria) in their new war. The quote about “the enemy of my enemy is my friend” is but a delay in the return back to the old war. With such fragmentation, they will win.

No world opinion seems cardinal and we are being rash if it motivates what our responses are or will be. We go through continual approaches of destabilization, always having a façade of morality hiding under an umbrella of humanitarian aid. It is, in reality, an unending war and should be acknowledged as such.

So, how do you go from the elusive opportunity foolishly anticipated from an “Arab Spring” to the unemotional slaughter of civilians to a vast war status encompassing vast areas and numerous refugees? By fully recognizing that this has, in fact, been festering for decades- but defused by oil and politics.

Whether it is the beheading of a Muslim citizen or a white journalist, the response should, in part, have been predetermined by an existing international group- not merely the Americans. We must be able to take things as they come rather than as sprung on us by the media, and this requires planning and on-going intelligence, not by way of the intense pressure that comes with a response to a media surge. This will allow a global threat approach rather than merely the Middle East- anything less will be self-defeating.

So let’s go back to the beginning- do we allow the current burst of shock media to determine what actions must be taken to preserve the future? That is, to say, does the kid with the ice-cream cone determine our actions rather than what we know are the facts, not only in the Middle East, but in Africa, Asia, or South America?

The United States must not be controlled in its thinking, responses, and actions by a bombed out Good Humor truck, dead children, and a dead ice-cream vendor. All of you can see how effective, although messy, reporting in media can be when a copycat in Oklahoma beheads a fellow workers- see how it works. You decide, if you can.

2014 The Military Coalition Awards Ceremony

Senator Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire and Representative Jeff Miller of Florida were presented with the Award of Merit at the Military Coalition 2014 Awards Reception on Thursday, September 11, 2014. The President of the Military Coalition, JWV National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth, and the Coalition's two co-chairs, Mike Hayden and John Davis, were joined by representatives from numerous veterans' service and military organizations in the area, including the Marine Corps Reserve Association, Air Force Sergeants Association, Gold Star Wives, and Military Officers Association of America.

Senator Ayotte was instrumental in repealing the planned reductions to annual cost-of-living adjustments in military retirement pay established by the 2013 Bipartisan Budget Act. Thanks to her leadership, Congress overturned the provision, which would have reduced the annual cost of living increases for "working age" retirees under age 62 by one percent.

Representative Miller chairs the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and has consistently led the way to ensure that service members receive the support they need. He was instrumental in the passage of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, which helps ensure that veterans receive timely medical care.



TMC honoree Senator Kelly Ayotte-NH, is greeted by JWV National Executive Director, Herb Rosenbleeth.

The Military Coalition also awarded the 2014 Freedom Award to Brad Bowman and Jake Cornett. Mr. Bowman, a veteran and the National Security Advisor to Senator Ayotte, has taken great pains to understand the Coalition's legislative goals concerning the protections of military personnel. He worked with other Senate staffers to organize the repeal effort for the 2013 Bipartisan Budget Act and ensured that the Coalition's opinions were heard.

Mr. Cornett was presented with the Freedom Award for his work to

support military families, especially those with special needs family members. The Legislative Assistant to Senator Patty Murray, Mr. Cornett worked with other staffers to develop legislation ensuring that all TRICARE beneficiaries would be eligible for Applied Behavior Analysis therapy.

JWV is proud to be represented on the Military Coalition, both by PNC Robert Zweiman, who is on the Board of Directors, and by JWV National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth, who is President of the Military Coalition.



Representative Miller was presented with the Award of Merit for his work on the House Veterans Affairs Committee. From left: John Davis, Fleet Reserve; Representative Jeff Miller-FL; Mike Hayden, MOAA; and NED Herb Rosenbleeth, JWV.

Retired Judge from Metairie Rebuilds Membership of Jewish Veterans Group

By Earl Hodges

When Sol Gothard retired from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal after a judicial career that spanned more than three decades, the Metairie judge and former social worker began looking around to see what he could do with his time.

It didn't take Gothard long to find the ideal outlet for his energy and people skills. A longtime member of the Jules Lazard Post 580 of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Gothard took over as commander of the post in 2009. The post's membership had been dwindling and at the time, only 17 members remained.

"My wife, Jackie, told me if I didn't take over the post and do something with it that it wouldn't last another two years," said Gothard, 83. Gothard began contacting Jewish veterans all over the city and asking them to join the post. It wasn't unusual for him to work as many as 30 and 40 hours weekly.

"I emailed all my Jewish friends and asked them to join," Gothard said. "Everywhere I went, I asked people if they were veterans. I found out there were plenty of veterans who were interested in joining but had never been contacted."

In a matter of just a few months, Gothard built the Jules Lazard Post membership to 38. And today the membership is a robust 175, including 150 veterans and 25 patrons. A patron is someone who is either not a veteran or non-Jewish.

The Jules Lazard Post has been recognized three times as the fastest-growing Jewish War Veterans of the USA post in the country. The most recent recognition was at the group's national convention held last month in Charlotte, S.C. The Jewish War Veterans of the USA has 300 posts in the country. Its national headquarters is in Washington, D.C.

Soon after taking over as commander of the Jules Lazard Post in 2009, Gothard learned that the Jewish War Veterans were planning to hold their national convention in New Orleans. "I used the national convention to help build enthusiasm among our members," Gothard said. "I knew Jewish veterans from all over the country would be here, and I saw it as a great opportunity for us."

Meanwhile, Arnie Fielkow, a member of the New Orleans City Council at the time, got the council to pass a proclamation commending the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

Gothard and other members of the Jules Lazard Post presented a program at the World War II museum for the veterans who attended the convention. Gothard said he could sense the enthusiasm building among the members of the Jules Lazard Post as they became more involved in various activities. As a result, the membership kept increasing.

"I didn't hold monthly meetings," Gothard said. "I changed the format and began holding events." These events centered around special days and ac-

tivities such as Veterans Day, Memorial Day and other holidays.

The membership of the Jules Lazard Post is also noted for its diversity and includes 35 women, four African-Americans and a Muslim from Turkey.

Even though today Gothard doesn't work 30 and 40 hours weekly with the Jules Lazard Post, he does admit to putting it at least 20 hours each week contacting members, future members and developing new post activities.

"I feel a great sense of accomplishment in what we have been able to do," Gothard said. "Our post has worked with the Volunteers of America in helping homeless veterans, and we've also participated in several Martin Luther King Day parades. We preach love and tolerance."

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Congratulations to the 2014 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 Massachusetts

Edward D. Blatt Award: Outstanding Department Commander
Greg Lee, Department of California

Joseph Demiany Memorial Award: Scouting
Department of Massachusetts

Outstanding Department Website
Department of Southwest

COUNCIL

I. T. Rockman Award: Hospitalized Veterans
Nassau-Suffolk, New York

Outstanding Council Website
Rockland-Orange County, New York

POST

Ben Kaufman Award: Hospitalized Veterans
Dallas Post 256, Department of TALO

National Headquarters Award: Community Relations Record
Post 1, Department of New York

National Commander's Award: Performing Outstanding Service
Austin Post 757, Department of TALO

Brotherhood Award
Post 1, New York

Outstanding Post Website
Hornets Nest Post 765, Department of VA/NC

Post Membership Increase Award
Group 1: 4-49 Members / Maurice Kubby Post 749, TALO
Group 2: 50-99 Members / Jules Lazard Post 580, TALO
Group 3: 100-149 Members / PFC Frederick Hecht Post 425, NY
Group 4: 150+ Members / Dr. Harvey Bloom Post 256, TALO

Brenner-Jaffee Memorial Award – Post Bulletins
Lt. Walter Lipman Post 756, Department of NY

ANY ECHELON

Individual Award – Signing-up of New Members
Robert Richter, Post 126, Department of New Jersey

Murray L. Rosen Award Member of the Year Michael Winnick, New Jersey

The Murray L. Rosen award was presented to Mike Winnick for his work on behalf of veterans and exemplifying the ideals of JWV. For the past twenty years, Mike has volunteered his time to work at the Long Branch Housing Authority as a commissioner. As the former Department Commander of New Jersey, he helped bring JWV into the local Vet to Vet program which provides peer counseling to veterans.



PNC Sheldon Ohren, Post 425 NY, and PNC Robert Pickard.



PNC Robert Pickard (right) and DC Barry Lischinsky, Post 220 MA.



PNC Robert Pickard and Robert Richter, Post 126 NJ.



PNC Robert Pickard and Gerald Alperstein, Post 1 NY.



PDC David Zwerin, Post 652 NY and PNC Robert Pickard.



From left: Scott Stevens, Post 749 TALO; PDC Barry Schneider, Post 755 TALO; Art Kaplan, Post 256 TALO; PNC Robert Pickard; NC Maxwell Colón; Earle Sherrod, Post 757, TALO; and DC Jerome Benjamin, Post 256 TALO.



Mathew Millen, Post 118 CA; PNC Robert Pickard and NC Maxwell Colón.

2014 Convention Highlights

Continued from page 1

after them. "Education is the key," he said. "If you have an educated man with service at his heart, the world is his oyster, he can change anything... If we're not pushing this generation of Veterans to utilize that and go to school...then we have a real problem with waste." There is a need for today's generation of veterans to use what is unquestionably the most generous education benefit this nation has ever offered to veterans (GI Bill), and they must have the means to access it.

Jason Hansman of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) discussed how IAVA was established in 2004 to help veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan transition back into civilian life. Now, it is the largest organization of this generation with over 270,000 members and supporters.

IAVA's primary goal is to improve the lives of veterans and their families through innovative programs. This new generation of veterans is unique; they have experienced the prolonged nature of wars and they are digital natives, tech savvy and used to using the internet to keep in touch with their families overseas. IAVA has capitalized on this aspect of the digital generation with its informal structure. It is an online community instead of physical chapters, with a loose structure at the grassroots level to mimic how this generation already obtains information.

Hansman noted how the issues in Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) only amplify existing problems for veterans—they are coming back to a system that is broken and their needs are not being met. Therefore, veterans' service organizations such as IAVA, SVA, and JWV must push this nation forward to ensure that veterans are getting the care they deserve. Although it's easy to point a finger at the VA and claim that we have lost confidence in the system, we all have a role to play in aiding our veterans, and it is our job to continue to hold the VA and the government accountable.

Thomas Domonoske, of the Legal Aid Justice Center, took the time to speak about ways to fix fraud by using the civil justice system, and discussed how we all can take precautions to protect ourselves in the future. He particularly emphasized that military personnel and the elderly are frequent targets of credit and finance fraud, and need to be vigilant regarding the use of personal information. He gave several examples of how victims are lured into signing expensive financing agreements, and provided information to help consumers avoid costly and misleading transactions.

Major General Baruch Levy, Chairman of TZEvet, also joined us at Convention to offer a briefing on Israel and the situation in the Middle

East during Operation Protective Edge and the heavy rocketing by Hamas. He emphasized that every one of us is touched in some way by the threats facing Israel from terrorist groups, and



PNC Robert Pickard welcomed Congressman James Clyburn, D-SC.

we need to continue to show support for Israel and fight against anti-Semitism.

Congressman James Clyburn spoke about his early days as a civil rights activist and his work today working as an advocate on behalf of veterans. Many in the audience were deeply moved by his personal story, as well as his strong advocacy for civil rights. We also appreciate his positive remarks about the Jewish community, and are grateful for his support.

Photographer Stacy Pearsall, of the Veterans Portrait Project, participated in taking pictures of Convention attendees. This is a wonderful way to thank veterans for their service, and we are thrilled that we were able to participate.

The National Executive Committee completed their semi-annual meeting prior to the opening of the Convention. The Resolutions Committee met several times under the chairmanship of Michael Berman, PNC, in order to present the completed Resolutions to the Convention for approval.

Outside of the meeting rooms, JWV members were busy as well. Following a tour of historic Charleston, participants visited a local tea plantation. Our annual wreath laying ceremony, dedicated to fallen servicemembers, was held at the Greater Charleston Naval Base Memorial.

The Vietnam Committee members held a very successful dinner event at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim Synagogue, the oldest Reform synagogue in the United States.

Over 140 people attended the National Commander's Banquet honoring Dr. Pickard after which the new National Commander, Colonel Maxwell Colón, was installed.

Thank you again to all who participated and attended, and we hope to see you in Tampa, Florida, next year!



Thomas Domonoske, of the Legal Aid Justice Center



MG Baruch Levy, TZEvet.

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for Their Generous Support!**

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Save the Date!

**120th Annual National Convention
August 2-9, 2015
Tampa, Florida**

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By PDC Bob Richter, National Membership Chairman & Greg Byrne, Director of Operations

The Membership Committee met during the 2014 JWV National Convention held in Charleston, SC. Prior to asking the committee to suggest innovative membership recruiting ideas, it was asked not to suggest methods previously discussed and known to be effective. Each attendee was then called on for their ideas.

The following is a summary of suggestions made and other news related to membership. First, there has been a change in personnel at National effecting membership leadership. Greg Byrne, who previously held the position of Director of Membership, was promoted to Director of Operations. A new person will soon be hired to handle membership. Greg will handle your requests until then.

Recruiting suggestions that were made, with the potential to be most effective, were for National to explore ways to swap membership recruiting ads with other VSOs; utilizing TALOS's (Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and South Dakota, a Department with significant number of new members) successful use of a pamphlet containing information such as the Post name, where they meet, at what time, a summary

of what the Post does, and with a membership application attached; for Posts to partner with other Jewish organizations such as JCCs; and for National to develop and provide recruiting material on a DVD. This DVD can contain information of previously suggested ideas developed recently by the Membership Department, and to include the latest suggestions noted above.

Throughout the recommendations, it was noted that getting visibility for JWV was the most positive way to attract new members.

There were other actions related to membership that occurred at the Convention. If you recall, two issues ago of this paper, my column described the requirements of the most common forms of membership that I reported on at the February NEC meeting. As a result of that report it was uncovered that a problem existed with the definitions for Life Membership and Life Patron Status.

The current definition of Life Membership says that when one purchases a life membership, that person has the rights of an Active Member even though that person may have been an Associate Member. This anomaly was corrected

by having two definitions for life membership, one for an Active Life

Member and a second definition for an Associate Life Member. The change was first approved by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and then by the Convention floor.

The requirements for Life Patron Status were such that existing Life Patrons did not meet those requirements. Changes to the definition of a Life Patron were presented to the NEC body and approved. The change now permits existing Life Patrons to retain their Life status.

Membership Award winners are presented elsewhere in this paper. I would be remiss if I did not congratulate the Department of TALOS for their very large increase in membership.

In the next issue of this paper I will report on the unusual Membership types and present the revised Life Membership requirements and the revised definition of Life Patron Status.



National Youth Achievement Award Winners

Seymour and Phyliss Shore Memorial Grant - \$1,500
Meredith Gingold • Department of New York

Robert and Rebecca Rubin Memorial Grant - \$1,250
Mikaela Gerwin • Department of New York

Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant - \$1,000
Alexander Shea • Post 100

Edith, Louis, and Max S. Millen Memorial Athletic Grant - \$1,000
Erika Lynn Sheinhait • Department of Massachusetts

Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant - \$2,500
Jacob Silver

Do You Know A High Achieving High School Senior?

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

The deadline to apply is May 1, 2015. To print an application or learn more about the National Youth Achievement Program, visit: http://www.jwv.org/programs/service/awards/national_youth_achievement_program.



JWV Veteran's Week, a fundraising activity during the week of Veterans Day or in the weeks preceding, is rapidly approaching.

Posts should begin brainstorming fundraising ideas, or they may choose from a list of 20-30 projects suggested by National Headquarters, including suggestions such as holding a poppy sale, bake sale, movie night, raffle, or a wine tasting. Half of all proceeds raised by each Post will go to the Post and the other half will go to the National Organization. If you would like to participant, donate, or volunteer, please contact your local Post!

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/fundraising_ideas

Outreach to the Next Generation

By Col. Nelson L Mellitz

This is a continuation of my previous "The Jewish Veteran" articles on improving outreach for retention of current members and signing up new members. If you would like to re-read my previous articles, please go to our website at www.jwv.org.

When was the last time you said it is an honor to be a member of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America and a Veteran? If you rarely or never have said it, think about opening your next discussion or presentation with these words and you will quickly get your audience's attention.

My wife Debbie Mellitz, co-President of JWV Auxiliary Post 126, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and I have just returned from the JWV 119th Annual Convention in Charleston, South Carolina. We had a wonderful time renewing JWV friendships, socializing, touring the Charleston area, and yes even attending meetings and learning what is happening within Israel, JWV, and greater Veteran community. Many of the meetings centered on improving outreach to our current members and outreach to new members.

On Friday, August 22, I led the "Leadership Workshop" and attempted to bring the previous meeting best practices and suggestions together in a single outreach discussion. Below is a summary of ideas that you can possibly use at your echelon:

- Submission of scrapbooks for National and State Awards. The information in the scrapbooks is lost after they are returned to the submitter. At National, thumb drives or CD/ DVDs with the scrapbook's

information will be requested so it can be downloaded to the National website as best practices. The same should be done at the Department and Post levels.

- When we have JWV community sponsored or supported activities (i.e. Veterans Transportation Services, honor guard), include the Jewish War Veterans Post name and local contact information in the event advertisement.
- Invite and include family members (spouse, children, and grandchildren) in all JWV activities.
- Make local synagogue/temple presentations in prime time – on Shabbat and holidays.
- National should have a thumb drive/CD/DVD to be used for membership recruitment. This electronic recruitment device would be used as an information tool that can be handed to potential members and they can review the information at their convenience. The device information would include: history of JWV, past and recent JWV accomplishments, goals and objectives, why the individual should join JWV, etc. This electronic device would be made available to potential members through Departments and Post leaders. This suggestion has been presented to the National IT Committee for action.
- Advertise about the JWV mission, vision, goals, and successes 9GI Bill improvements in "local" hardcopy and electronic news media including – Jewish, non-Jew-

ish community, base/post newspapers, other Veterans Services Organization publications. Provide an "active" email and phone contact in the advertisement.

Open a JWV extension Post at your local military base and military Academy. Hold meetings at the local bases. JWV has established a Virtual Post that can be used by active duty military and cadets to join if they do not have a local Post or extension Post to join.

One of the most successful new Veterans organizations is the local university/college Student Veterans of America (SVA). The local SVA chapter will welcome a JWV Department or Post to team with them to assist the student Veteran. JWV has established an excellent working relationship with the SVA at the National level; it is up to you to work at the local SVA level. Think about the potential Jewish Veterans we could recruit by working with SVA!

I began this article by stating it is an honor to be a Jewish War Veteran and Veteran of the United States of America. I truly believe in this statement and I know that you also believe it. It is your job as a current JWV leader and member to pass on our spirit to other Veterans, and therefore, support of JWV and all Veterans of the United States of America.

I welcome your comments and additional best practices, please feel free to send them to "The Jewish Veteran" editor.



Mazel Tov!

JWV would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Posts:

Shreveport Post 581
Shreveport, LA

Oklahoma City Post 618
Oklahoma City, OK

Saratoga Springs Post 36
Saratoga Springs, NY

Want to connect with JWV online?

Find us on  Facebook and  Twitter!



Follow the Jewish War Veterans social media pages for news, photos, and updates about JWV.

www.facebook.com/JewishWarVeterans

twitter.com/JewishWarVets



Follow the National Museum of American Jewish Military History to see photos from our collections, updates on exhibits, and other museum news.

www.facebook.com/NMAJMH

twitter.com/NMAJMH

JWV Post Commander Up To The Challenge

By Jennifer Lader, Editor, HAKOL

The Jewish War Veterans have a dynamic new Post Commander, retired senior Master Sergeant Sheila Berg. Originally from Westbury, Long Island, Berg joined the United States Air Force reserves because she wanted to serve our country and sought a challenge. She found it.

It would have been easy for Berg to enlist in the army, because her father had spent his career in the army and had found a position for her. But Berg, who at the time already had a college degree and a master's degree in social work, sat for the military entrance exam and chose the Air Force. The exam gauges candidates' abilities in four areas and Berg made it her personal challenge to pursue the one in which her score had been lowest – Mechanical.

This wasn't her only challenge: "I was older than everybody else at basic training but still had to keep up with everyone else," but she easily outran some of the 18-year-olds. To become a mechanic, one of the requirements was to be able, in one motion, to lift 60 pounds over her head and carry her own 40- to 50-pound toolbox. Did we mention that she was the only female in the post-basic training Jet Engine Mechanic Class.

"I didn't fit the mold," Berg said. However, she enjoyed both the classroom and shop technical training and eventually won over her classmates. "By the end, we were all friends," she said. "We helped one another so everyone in our class graduated."

Of the planes she worked on as a mechanic, Berg said, "My favorite is the C-5. It's the largest cargo plane and can hold eight buses. My next favorite is the C-130 because it backs up. You have to be a mechanic to understand." She also got to know a lot of people she ordinarily would never even have gotten to meet. Keep in mind, all of this was Berg's job one weekend per month as well as two weeks per year. The rest of time, she continued in her career as a clinical social worker.

After 14 years as a jet engine mechanic, Berg became 1st Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of Family Readiness for the Reserves at Dover Air Force Base. This meant that after working a full week, Berg would make



JWV Post Commander Sheila Berg

the drive on Friday to Dover, Delaware. The position was created in response to cases of family problems or of children of single parents being left alone. At first, the Wing Commander did not see the benefit of the program, although Berg and her colleagues helped to overcome that obstacle and the program is now well-supported.

Berg followed that up with two years as 1st Sergeant in personnel squadron, an "additional duty job" to which she was appointed and in which she represented the enlisted people to the commander and held disciplinary duties.

Berg became the superintendent of the non-flying personnel in a flying squadron. One day, she walked into her office on the base and found everyone looking stunned. "There's been a crash," someone explained. One of the planes had crashed at Dover.

"Thank God, everyone survived," Berg said. However, the crew in the front of the plane were injured and had to be taken to the nearby trauma center. Berg and her team jumped into action, engaging in triage and supporting those injured and their families. During the weeks that followed, she found it helped to be a licensed clinical social worker.

In another first, Berg was assigned as the first reserve 1st sergeant to the mortuary at Dover Air Force Base, to which the remains of soldiers of all branches of service are flown from overseas for burial preparation. Those who work in the morgue, she said, "do have the greatest respect.

I tried to make them aware of Jewish concerns when there were Jewish kids [fallen soldiers] coming through, to have somebody with the body and to contact a rabbi."

The respect for religious freedom and the other freedoms we hold dear in our country continued to motivate Berg throughout her 29 ½ years of military service. "In this country, Jews can celebrate and not have to worry about persecution," she said.

For Berg, serving in the military made it challenging to keep kosher, especially when she was required to attend official functions. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Berg was called up to active duty and for three and a half years was required to live by Dover Air Force Base. She attends Congregation Sons of Israel in Allentown and is active in the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley, so she joined a synagogue near the base and volunteered through for the course of her residency.

Berg's son, Jordan was in college at the time of the Iraq War call up. However, while he was still a student at the Jewish Day School, he had to endure an 18-month separation when Berg was called up during the Gulf War.

Berg retired from the Air Force in 2009 yet remains very active. In addition to her new position with the JWV, she is president of the United War Veterans of Wars of Lehigh County, the umbrella organization for the various veteran units and host to the annual Memorial Day ceremony held in Allentown and a Board member of the Lehigh Count Meals on Wheels.

This year, the veterans are inviting the junior ROTC of Allen High as color guard. "I think it's important to mentor young people," she said. "Maybe they'll see the benefit of serving our country."

Such outreach is only the beginning. "Veterans from all campaigns share a common bond that should be supported and [their] benefits protected," Berg said. The challenge in the coming year is to engage new members with different perspectives, and Sheila Berg loves a challenge.

[Reprinted with permission of HAKOL, a publication of the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania.]

JWV is in need of a few more new prayer books for morning minyan at the NEC and the Annual National Convention!



If you are interested in ordering some, please go to secure.uscj.org and click "Authorized Prayerbooks" (small print in blue at top), then scroll down to: Siddur Sim Shalom for Weekdays; author Rabbi Avram Israel Reisner. (Rust colored cover)
The cost is \$25 per book, plus S&H. (\$10 for 10 books, slightly more for less books)

If you wish to order new books for Shabbat services, the book just above the weekday prayer book is the one (Dark blue cover).

Books can be shipped directly to: Jewish War Veterans of the USA, 1811 R Street NW, Washington, DC, USA 20009, Attn: Jordana Green. Once ordered, please forward a note with the number of books ordered to: Jerry Farris, National Chaplain, thewhiziest@yahoo.com.

By Michael S. Sealfon (COL, USAR Ret), Ph.D.

From lessons learned during the Pacific campaign in World War Two and again in Korea—infectious insect- and bacterial-borne diseases create more battle casualties than those inflicted by actual combat. Thus, medical treatment facilities during the course of the Vietnam War were supplemented by simple to relatively sophisticated medical laboratory facilities staffed by specially-trained enlisted specialists and Allied Health Medical Service Corps officers. To further increase the effectiveness and accuracy of in-country laboratory testing for infectious diseases, the Army established the Ninth Medical Laboratory in Long Binh, Vietnam as both an in-country reference laboratory and training facility.

As a newly-graduated medical technologist and Regular Army Medical Service Corp Captain, I was assigned to this modern, permanent facility within two days of my June 1970 arrival in-country. I spent the next two weeks peering into a microscope while bringing my parasitology skills, especially microscopic identification of parasites and their eggs, up to current in-country diagnostic standards. After successfully passing my challenging practical exam, I was driven to Tan Son Hut aerial port and boarded a C-130 prop aircraft for a flight north to Danang. My final assignment was as laboratory director for the 95th Evacuation Hospital, a 300-bed critical care facility dramatized (totally inaccurately) in the China Beach television series!

A significant percentage of Vietnam combat hospital admissions were classified as fevers-of-unknown origin (FUOs) which had to be quickly diagnosed to begin treatment for rapid turnover of these individuals to duty. The medical staff relied heavily upon the laboratory to differentiate between the multiple species of malaria, intestinal parasitemia, and the different forms of meningitis.

My introduction to the 95th Evacuation Hospital was immediate and intense. While attempting to locate the laboratory, I was stopped by a field-grade physician who introduced himself as the Chief of Thoracic Surgery. He inquired if I was the new laboratory officer, and if so could I do blood gases? Currently, the laboratory staff could not make the facilities blood gas analyzer operational. My guarded response was that if the analyzer was an Instrumentation Laboratories model 113, I would do my best as I had recently undergone this specific type of training. Fortunately, the instrument was the same, and within an hour I was able to perform the first of what would total 650 vital blood gases analysis during my eleven month tour. Once this service was available to the medical staff, a special protocol was developed for incoming medically-



The crest of the 95th Evacuation Hospital.

evacuated patients. If the casualty had suffered a thoracic wound, then the medical regulating officer (MRO) would quickly activate my personal pager, and I would dash to the laboratory to bring



Colonel Sealfon after his return from Vietnam in June, 1971.

the instrument on-line prior to helicopter touchdown on the hospital helipad.

My combat tour was filled with logistical, medical, and personnel challenges. The laboratory was staffed with sixteen young twenty-something draftees, most with just four months of concentrated basic laboratory orientation and training obtained at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX. Each day seemed to bring unforeseen administrative and unique technical/training challenges.

As the Laboratory Director, I was exposed to a wide variety of first-time laboratory experiences which had not been covered during my twelve-month internship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. I experienced my first positive dark-field exam for syphilis as well as my first and only direct specimen collection for this procedure. I had to make a difficult and emotional diagnosis of acute lymphocytic leukemia in a 21-year old

Navy enlistee. One evening a non-combat acquired helicopter trauma injury required that the laboratory and hospital staff draw 120 units of fresh blood to stem the bleeding. There was a fatal case of falciparum malaria which progressed to life-threatening “blackwater fever” requiring aero-medical evacuation to Saigon for renal dialysis. Finally, there was the daily tsunami of stool, blood and urethral specimens for intestinal parasitic infections, possible malaria, and sexually-transmitted diseases!

Though the notorious Army supply system was surprisingly responsive to the majority of laboratory logistical needs, there was a constant shortage of critical items required for the more diagnostic state-of-the-art testing. The normal supply chain was supplemented by items shipped from CONUS (state-side) military laboratory facilities, and by a one-time “stocking-up” of necessary items from Tripler Army Medical Center while on my “R & R” in Honolulu.

Being directly involved with patient care was not a routine occurrence for the average medical technologist, but was an integral part of the daily workflow at the 95th Evacuation Hospital. Knowing that my skills and leadership helped keep our soldiers alive was most fulfilling, and secondarily resulted in being awarded both Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medals. In addition, this altruism was to be the prime motivation for two post-graduate degrees, Clinical Chemistry Board Certification, and a twenty-seven year Army active and Reserve career culminating with retirement as a Colonel in March 1993. My civilian career paralleled that of the military and I also retired as a Technical Director from Seattle, WA, LabCorp™.

The highlights of my Army Reserve laboratory career were being selected as commander of the 363rd Medical Laboratory, Columbus, OH, and participating for three weeks in Reforger '91 while at the 56th General Hospital in Würzburg, Federal Republic of Germany. My military career reflects the Medical Service Corps motto—“To conserve the fighting strength.”



COL Sealfon receiving the Bronze Star in October, 1971.

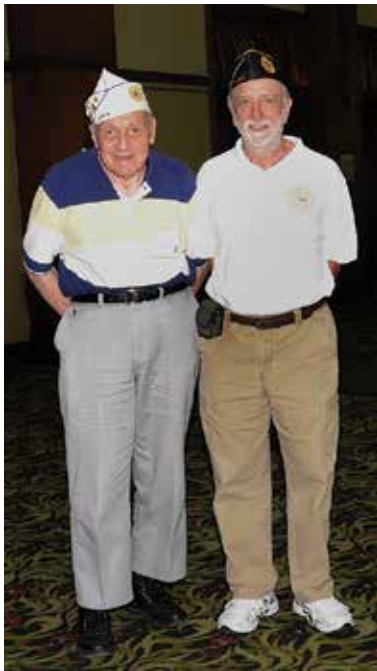
JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Members from Jewish War Veterans Revere Post 161 MA, and North Shore Post 220 MA, teamed up with the USO of Boston to welcome the Sailors and Marines serving on the USS Oak Hill. From left: Anastasia Kaloyanides, Department Commander, Barry Lischinsky, Post 220 MA, Jenn Monynihan-USO, Lily Ackerly-USO, Rachel Hathaway-USO, Past National Commander Ira Novoselsky, Post 161 MA, and Post Commander, Joseph Cole, Post 161 MA.



NJ Department Commander Larry Rosenthal, Junior Vice Commander Al Adler, and Past Department Commander Bob Jacobs standing tall with (middle) Brigadier General Bosza, Chief Commander of the Albanian Armed Forces Service. This picture was taken prior to the historic first Officer Candidate School Graduation of soldiers from the New Jersey Department of Military Veterans Affairs training academy.



One of the original Monuments Men, Harry Ettlinger, Post 740 NJ, and Mathew Millen, Post 118 CA, caught up at JWV's 2014 Annual Convention.



Robert Shay, Post 100, and the NCSY Northwest group worked together to put flags on the graves of Jewish veterans. He and his family have been putting flags out at Temple De Hirsch Sinai's Hills of Eternity Cemetery for 18 years. Two years ago he added Bikur Cholim's two cemeteries with the help of Ari Hoffman, the adult leader of the NCSY group, where they put out 68 flags. This year he found a newer list of veterans buried there, bringing the number of flags to 173.



From left: Arthur Goodman, Post 222 OH, was presented with the Lorain Veteran of the Year award at the annual Lorain Veteran of the Year dinner held on March 22, 2014. The keynote speaker was Lorain native General Johnnie Wilson, USA (Ret.), Steve Smith, Post 222 OH, who organized the event, and Beverly Gelb, Post 222 OH. Over 6 different Veterans organizations were in attendance.

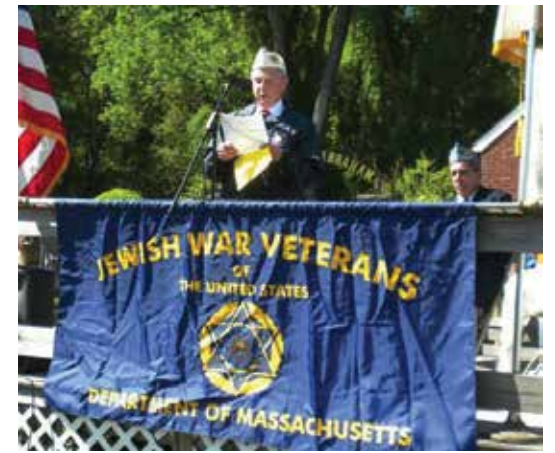


Maryland Free State Post 167 held a highly successful poppy drive at the Fort Meade Commissary. Pictured (from left) are COL Erwin Burtnick, USA (Ret), Dept. of MD commander; Michael Zippert; Richard Udoff; Post Commander Stephen Mintz; and Stanley Fishman.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Post 697 PA was well represented at Holocaust Education Ceremonial Bill Signing by Governor Corbett at the Philadelphia Federation. The Post has been working with local schools and synagogues to ensure that the Holocaust is never forgotten. PNC Louis Abramson, Jerome. Polonsky, Jonathan Sherman and Allan Silverberg were in attendance.



On Sunday June 1, 2014, Post 157 MA held its annual Memorial Service at Baker St. Cemetery in West Roxbury, MA. Pictured: Larry Herson, Junior Vice Commander of the Department of MA welcomes attendees.



On July 7, 2014, representatives of Sharon Post 735, Jewish War Veterans of the United States presented a check in the amount of \$1,625 to Richard Leeman, Assistant Chief, Voluntary Service as the Brockton Campus of the Veterans Administration Boston Healthcare System. These funds were used to help hospitalized veterans. Among the items provided are specialized telephones for the used of paralyzed patients so that they may more easily maintain contact with their families. Pictured (from left) are Lt Col Jeffrey Weitzenkorn, USAF (Ret), Post 735 MA, Commander Richard Leeman, Assistant Chief Voluntary Service, and Paul Maltzman, Post 735 MA Quartermaster.



At the 83rd Annual JWV Department of NJ Convention, Marc Rubenstein, Post 125 NJ, was presented with the Commander of the Year Award and Post of the Year Award.



Alan Moskin, Post 756 NY, was inducted into the New York Senate's Veterans Hall of Fame by Senator David Carlucci, D-NY. Mr. Moskin was honored for his work with veterans and for continuing to tell his story when he sacrificed everything to liberate Nazi death camps in World War II.



Florida Governor Rick Scott attended the JWV Department of FL convention. From left: PNC Dr. Robert Pickard, Post 243 FL; PNC David Magidson, Post 243 FL; Governor Scott, PNC Ainslee Ferdie, Post 243 FL; PDC Michael Weiss, Post 648 FL; and PDC Michael Corbett, Post 440 FL.



Members of Friedman-Paul Post 201 AZ, celebrated the 98th birthday of member Harry Kaye. Harry has been a JWV member since 1946.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Development Committee

By Chairman Monroe Mayer, PNC

At our National Convention, I asked for a show of hands from the group concerning how many individuals receive our Development mail. I did see a good response, but it was not universal. The attendees were reminded that Development mail is not a benefit of membership, but is a fundraising procedure. We do attempt to reach all membership and our donors, but in order to keep receiving our mail, a donation must be made on a periodic basis. Our Jewish War Veterans Calendar, Mailing Labels, High Holiday cards, wallet size calendars, and bookmarks are costly, and we need your contributions in order to continue sending out these popular mailings, and of course, to raise funds for our Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

This Veteran newspaper is a sample of a benefit of membership, and therefore, we ask that if you are not receiving our Development programs to please contact the office by mail or postcard and ask to be put on our mailing list. We are alternatively checking our membership to see to it that that recent members are included. Our purpose is not to exclude anyone, and we would love everyone to receive our programs, but we would also love everyone to make a donation.

We are proud of our Calendar, which does not show flowers or scenery, but tells the stories of Jewish men and women who have served our country in all of its conflicts. Our High Holiday cards reflect the artwork of Smadar Livne and other artists, while we all find a use for mailing labels.

In the event that you, a member of your family, or a friend have a story to tell, please send it in with a good photo to the Editor. We thank those of you who continue to donate to our organization, and trust those who have not received our premium mailings to communicate with us so we can add you to our lists.

Iraq and Afghanistan Committee

By Chairman Larry Rosenthal

At the National Convention on August 21st, JWV members convened to discuss ways to seek out and involve Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

It was the general consensus that these men and women are not the veterans of yesterday. We all agreed that NOW is the time to recruit and retain this new generation, because this is the future. But HOW?

It was agreed there were at a minimum of eight key things to work on:

- Communication – Social Media, such as Facebook, Yahoo Groups, or LinkedIn are just several names that were suggested. Every Department and/or Post should start one and maintain it regularly. Simple, direct, and to the point.
- Web pages - Whether the National, Department, or Post webpage, they need to be user friendly, up to date, transparent, informative to this generation, and if possible enjoyable to use.
- Newspapers, Community Events Calendars, and Press Releases – More younger faces in the front of pictures, very important to remember the 5 Ws (Who, What, When, Why, and Where), but the most important thing to include is a phone number and email address.
- Opportunities to get involved - such as “Stand Downs,” get on the State Adjutant General and Governor’s email list for events, Welcome Homes, Military activities such as Runs or Walks in the area.
- ESGR (Employer Support the Guard and Reserve) Volunteerism, all states have them it is part of DOD. Do briefings, presentations, and job fairs.

- Get involved with IAVA (Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Affairs), start a chapter or place an advertisement.
- Membership to Post 77, the Online Post.
- Be aware of the free “in-service” membership for those serving.

I realize these are just bullets, but if you have any questions, concerns, or would like more explanation, please email me at LSR1950@Hotmail.com. As the Chair, I only coordinate the meeting; it is up to everyone within JWV and JWVA to help get the new generation to not only join but to become active. Sign them up, but then also ask them for their help on sitting in on a committee they have an interest or expertise in. If they can't come to meetings, ask them to help in some manner from their homes. Find out what they do or what they like to do, and get them involved!

Although this is the Iraq and Afghanistan Committee, it is up to every Department Commander, County Commander, or Post Commander to task someone from their organization to review the above and make it happen.

NMI Certificates

By Chairman Hannah Deutch

I am happy to report that between the NEC meeting on February 6th, 2014 and the National Convention we have sold \$2,271 worth of certificates to JWV members and Non-members, and \$417 to members of the JWVA for a total of \$2,688. As you read in the last Veteran, we were just short of \$5,000 for the 2013-14 year. I am very happy with the result the first half of 2014 and hope that this coming year we will go past the \$5,000 mark. We continue to sell 5 certificates for \$40, as it seems to help our sales. I thank you all for your cooperation and support, and especially the Ladies of the Auxiliary. Wishing you all Le Shanah Tova, and it was lovely to see most of you at our National convention.



New Memorial Honors Disabled Veterans

The first national memorial honoring disabled Veterans was dedicated on October 5 in Washington, DC. The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial serves as a constant reminder of the cost and impact of human conflict.

Dedicated to both the living and the deceased, the Memorial is within sight of the U.S. Capitol, so members of Congress are always aware of the human cost of war and the need to support America's veterans.

For more information about this new Memorial go to: www.dvnf.org.



For Veterans going through a difficult time and their loved ones who are concerned about them, a single call, chat, or text can be a critical first step. One conversation with a Veteran about how he or she is doing can open the door to services and support.

Everyone can be the person who makes a difference in a Veteran's life, and connecting with support doesn't have to be hard. The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

**Veterans
Crisis Line**



**1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1**

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 Jewish War Veterans (JWV) sponsors a **Group 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 accident 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-sponsored 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.



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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Lessons of The Holocaust

Continued from page 1

well. "Medics were waiting to give them IVs. I emptied out the first barrack we got to. Two men couldn't walk. I carried each man out. By the time I got them to the medics, they died in my arms. And believe me, the rest of my life I will never forget that."

Lens, 93, told about how the scene was horrific. He showed graphic photographs of the seemingly countless bodies that were found at concentration camps.

The images of the living prisoners in concentration camps were shocking.

In one photograph, women were stripped naked and would be taken to ditches and machine-gunned.

"Do they look happy?" he asked the students.

The teenagers were captivated to hear Goldsmith's story of how he survived The Holocaust in hiding as a Jewish boy in Belgium after the Nazi occupation of that country.

Goldsmith, 82, gave a short version of his family's story that covers a period of 1939 to 1945 when his sister was just a baby. He was eight years old.

"Because we were children, we are called children survivors of The Holocaust," he said.

On May 10, 1940, Goldsmith and his family fled to northern France on foot. "The Germans caught up with us in two weeks and made everyone turn around and go back where they came from,"

he said. "Soon after we got back, the anti-Jews decrees, regulations and restrictions were issued."

"The Nazis imposed a forced labor on the Jews and they had to wear a yellow star," he said. Goldsmith showed the students the very star that he had worn on his lapel on the outside of his jacket.

In Aug. 1942, his father received notice to go to a forced labor camp in northern France. His life ended at Auschwitz concentration camp. Living conditions were brutal, and many of those not killed in the gas chambers died of starvation, forced labor, infectious diseases, individual executions and medical experiments.

The next month, the street where the Goldsmiths lived was raided by the Nazis.

"They came in the middle of the night and started pulling the Jewish people from their homes..." he said. "There was a lot of yelling and screaming -- quite a bit of commotion."

"That woke my mother up," Goldsmith said. "She looked out the bedroom window and she saw what was happening. She quickly grabbed a blanket, my baby sister and me. We went upstairs. We went to the rear of the house where there was... steps leading up to the skylight. We walked up to the skylight, walked to the front of the house and we laid down there."

People were being dragged away in their night-

clothes and put in a truck. "We lay there literally shivering -- not knowing what was going to happen to us," he said. "Later, we heard banging on our door. They broke the door. They trashed the house."

One soldier went up the ladder and opened up the skylight and poked his head through the skylight. "He had a flashlight," Goldsmith said. "He looked around and because we were 40 feet away from him he did not see us. We heard banging. They boarded up the front of the house."

"I'm a little bit religious," he said. "I believe a small miracle happened that night. Through this whole commotion, my baby sister slept. I know had she have cried I wouldn't be here to tell you the story."

His mother found a convent where she could hide her children. Later, she had heard through the Belgian Underground, for which she was a courier, the convent was going to be raided by the Nazis.

His sister went to live with a private Catholic family. His mother put him in a boys' orphanage. Eventually, the orphanage was raided. He and five other Jewish boys wound up in prisons and were put on a freight train used to transport people.

The boys escaped. Ultimately, a priest helped them by secretly placing them in Catholic homes.

[Published: Wednesday, March 12, 2014, from Bucks Local News. Reprinted with permission.]

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Lionel W. Eltis-100 • John Gordon-77 • Marvin L. Bernstein-100 • Stephen M. Dolgin-100 • Stephen B. Fischer-100 • Alexander J. Fishman-100 • Matthew W. Randle-100 • Jake Stephens-100

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Howard A. Greenspon-64 • Stephen Weiner-64 • Ray Myers-65 • Howard R. Spanier-65 • Frank R. Wall-65

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Michael E. Wolf-118 • Leo J. Howard-603 • Catharina Saliman-786

DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Gerry R. Gunn-676

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Todd A. Weicholz-266 • Neil Rabinowitz-300 • Howard A. Frucht-352 • Martin Sobol-352 • Joshua M. Wolf-373 • Karle W. Lee-631 • Irving Korwin-819

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Grant Golden-29 • Robert M. Stahl-29

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Marvin Kahn-605 • Joseph Levy-605 • Harvey Bloth-644 • Carl K. Sherman-644

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Paul M. Roberts-567 • Jack Besansky-692

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Bob E. Bohmiller-157 • Melvin B. Botsian-157

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Louis Hirschman-474

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Charles L. Kramer-039 • David Gorowitz-609 • Thomas Nebenzahl-609 • Mel Nudelman-609 • Sheldon Schenkman-609 • Mitchell J. Barnett-741 • Jerome L. Cohen-741

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Bryan Stern-1 • Marvin Block-36 • Ralph Caprow-36 • Samuel S. Gordon-36 • Joseph Jacobson-36 • Andrew E. Kahn-36 • David H. Kieserman-36 • Allan R. Polacsek-36 • Seth Rosner-36 • David Silverhart-36 • Marvin L. Volin-36 • Mortimer W. Zelikofsky-36 • Jeffrey C. Graham-42 • Harris M. Stein-046 • Leoanard Applebaum-191 • Milton Katcher-425 • Jacob H. Bialek-488 • Gary Alter-717 • David K. Reisman-717

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Kenneth Schreiber-44 • Michael B. Segal-122 • Charles M. Stern-179 • Jason M. Schmitt-222 • Jay A. Schmitt-222 • Andrew R. Kiral-712 • George E. Phillips-712

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Micah Gross-170 • Stephen Schwartz-215 • Alan I. Golombek-697 • Lauren Nettles-697 • Maxwell Pevar-697 • Morton Tanenbaum-697 • Ronald L. Wolf-697

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Larry M. Wilk-121 • Samuel Murad-455

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Nathaniel C. Fuchs-210 • Brent Moran-619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Hala W. Goldenberg-256 • Jim Liston-256 • Laurence D. Scharff-256 • Steven M. Solka-256 • Gabriel Greenberg-580 • Joe M. Badt-581 • William M. Braunig-581 • Christopher S. Brown-581 • Laurence D. Courtney-581 • Richard D. Dechowitz-581 • Bernard B. Lobel-581 • Herbert S. Miller-581 • Mitchel R. Newstadt-581 • Angeline O. Noelani-581 • Stephen G. Parker-581 • Jerald L. Perlman-581 • Alan J. Sorkey-581 • Alvin B. Toys-581 • Michael A. Charter-749 • Julian F. Gonzalez- Herrel-749 • Jacob Karpel-749 • Stanley S. Marcus-749 • Paul J. Hamilton-753 • Julio C. Ordonez-753 • Howard R. Solomon-753 • Phillip Kabakoff-755 • Kenneth I. Licker-755 • Neil C. Schneider-755 • Morris L. Weinman-755

DEPARTMENT OF VA/NC

Duncan Adams-95

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Herbert Cummins-701

103-year-old Robert Sohn was sworn into the Jewish War Veterans on September 10 by his son, Jeff, commander of JWV Lt. Seth Dvorin Post 972. Sohn is a veteran of World War II.

PEOPLE & PLACES

► Congratulations to **Arthur Goodman**, longtime member of **Post 222 OH**, on being selected as Lorain County Veteran of the Year. Goodman is involved in many civic programs to help recognize and assist veterans, in addition to being secretary of the Lorain Veterans Council. He served as a sergeant with the 236th Chemical Depot Company in Europe from 1944-1946, and while in France volunteered for a body-to-body blood transfusion to save a fellow soldier. Retired U.S. Army General Johnnie Wilson was a guest speaker at the annual dinner.

► Yonkers, NY designated a portion of Gateway Road to be named after deceased JWV member **Cpl Seymour Lehman, Post 68**, in honor of his exemplary service record and outstanding record of public service on behalf of his fellow veterans. His family attended the dedication ceremony on his behalf.

► **Post 553 NY** held a BBQ on August 12th, 2014 at the Montrose, VA. Over 60 veterans, VA

patients, and VA staff attended. Post members **David Mack, Audrey and Milton Gastel, Mort Sanders** participated, as did **Post 425** members **Bob Dworkin, PNC Sheldon Ohren, and Bernhard Storch**.

► **Post 256 TX** had an excellent turnout at its Annual Hot Dog Social at the Richardson Senior Center on July 13th, 2014. Many members attended and chowed down hot dogs, cole slaw, and cake.

IN SEARCH OF

► Seeking to reach anyone whom may have insight into the wartime experience of David Goldman, Chicago, IL, 36th Division, F-142nd. 1942-1945. Stalag 2B, Hammerstein, West Prussia. 09/1943 - 04/1945. Contact Janice. thinker20@msn.com (224)201-4975.

► Seeking to find anyone who knew my father, Private Julius Mischel, Queens NY, 311th

Infantry, 78th 'Lightning' Division, Huertgen Forest, Battle of the Bulge: Belgium and Germany, September-December 1944. He was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge. Contact Howie at hmischell@aol.com.



About 40 mourners attended the service for Bernard Gavrin on September 12, 2015, at the Jewish cemetery in the Arlington National Cemetery. Twenty-nine year old Gavrin was reported missing on July 7, 1944 after participating in the invasion of Saipain, then occupied by Japan, and was presumed dead in 1945. Last year, the private first class's remains were discovered by a Japanese NGO in an unmarked burial site. Gavrin was given full military honors, and his nephew was handed a flag while the U.S. Army Band played the hymn "Yigdal."



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shalom Readers,

I want to thank you for electing me as president of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. After serving as treasurer for over 20 years, it is my honor and privilege to hold this position.

NMAJMH has been very busy these past few months. After a successful Convention in Charleston, we returned to focusing our efforts on completing our brand new permanent exhibit. NMAJMH and JWV will be hosting an official opening ceremony at 3:00 pm on Veterans Day, November 11, 2014. The event is free and open to the

public, and we would love to see you there! The Museum will be open from 1:00 to 5:00 PM, so even if you cannot attend the ceremony, please come peruse the new exhibit.

Additionally, we have been working to complete our new digital Yahrzeit program, which will soon be available on our website, <http://www.nmajmh.org>. The purpose of our program is to serve as a Yahrzeit reminder for you and your family, and to eternally provide information and photographs about your loved ones. As families scatter across the globe, this site stands as a way to honor and memorialize a loved one from anywhere in the

world.

The new Yahrzeit program will include the opportunity to set up emails to remind you about upcoming Yahrzeits, as well as a date conversion calendar, which will tell you the English and Hebrew dates of the Yahrzeit. Members and non-members will be able to participate in the Yahrzeit program; for more information please contact Mike Rugel at mrugel@jwv.org.

The Museum is dependent on donations, and we cannot survive without you. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Museum so that we may continue to document and preserve the contri-



**PNC Joseph Zoldan
President, NMAJMH**

butions of Jewish Americans to the peace and freedom of the United States.

I wish you L'Shana Tova, a happy, healthy, and sweet New Year.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES By Pamela Elbe

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

Progress Report on the New Permanent Exhibition



Work has begun on the new permanent exhibit.

The countdown has begun! The National Museum of American Jewish Military History's highly anticipated permanent exhibit is opening very soon – the grand opening is on Veterans Day. As this issue goes to press, the electricians are finishing up and Quatrefoil is hard at work installing the exhibit. It has been a very busy summer here at the Museum, and we hope that you are as excited about the upcoming exhibit as we are!

The exhibition will be full of state-of-the-art

things about using flexible technology is that we can add to the exhibition long after the exhibit installers have completed their work. This means that it is not too late to add your story to the exhibition. We are specifically looking for additional content for our interactive computer touch-table. The theme of this interactive map is post-WWII American military service around the world (1945 to the present) and it will include the personal stories and photographs of those who have served. We need your help to show how Jews have

audio-visuals and interactivities, with each area of the exhibit having its own unique multimedia element. Using both high-tech interactive elements and artifacts from the Museum's collection, we will tell the story of Jewish service in the American military. The exhibition will be flexible; the technologies used will make it easy to change content within the exhibit as new information and materials become available.

contributed around the globe while serving in the American military. This includes the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, but we also want to include the many, many smaller operations that are so often overlooked. Whether you participated in the Berlin Airlift, were stationed at Thule Air Base in Greenland, or recently returned from serving in Afghanistan – we want to document just how varied Jewish military experience has been in the past 65 years.

To have your story and photograph included, please send an email to Pamela Elbe (pelbe@nmajmh.org) with the following info:

- Your name and contact info
- Dates of service
- Military operation (name and location)
- Your branch of service and rank at the time
- Describe a specific, memorable incident that occurred during your military service. How is it representative of your overall experience?

Please be sure to include a story and one or more quality photographs from your time of service. In order to be able to use your images, we ask that the digital photo file be at least 1 MB. If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Elbe.

Opening Veterans Day!

Come Celebrate NMAJMH's
New Permanent Exhibit,
Opening
November 11, Veterans Day.

Museum Hours

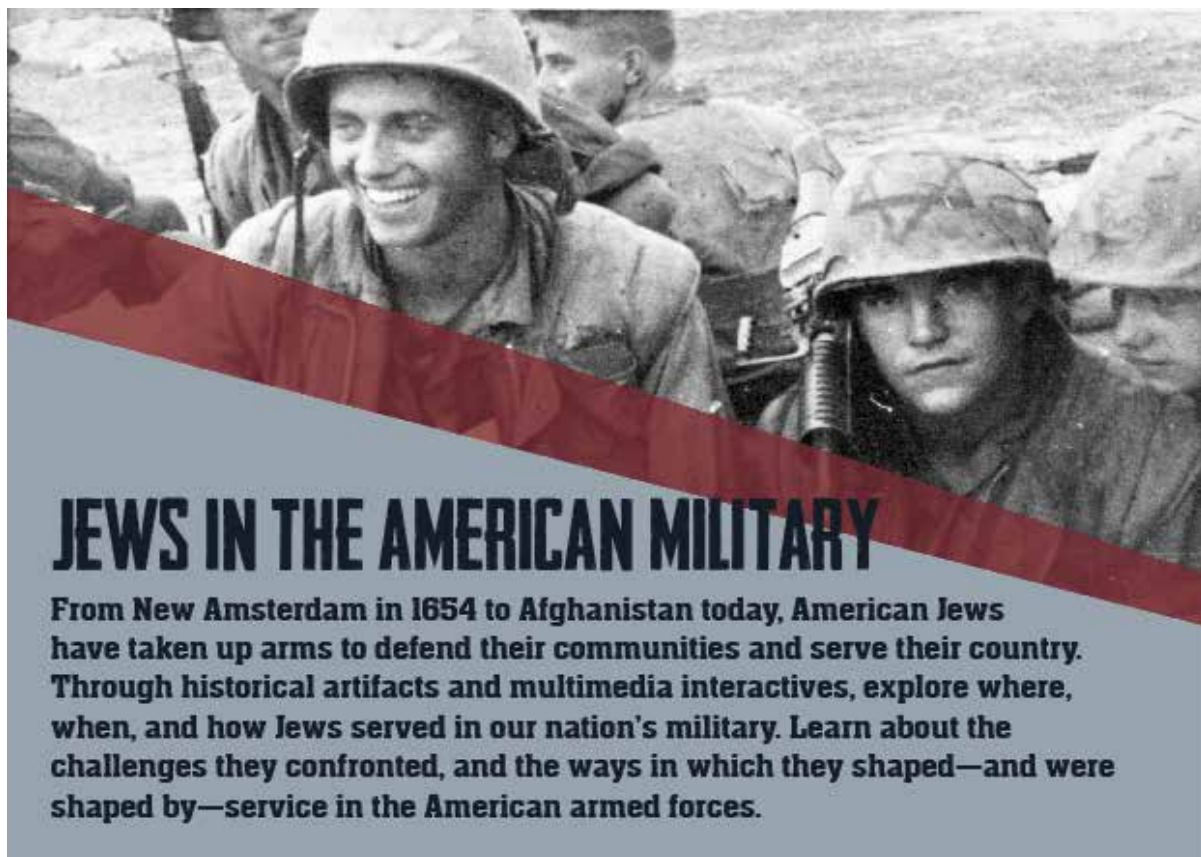
1:00-5:00 PM

Dedication

3:00 PM

Admission is free
and open to the public.

Visit www.nmajmh.org or
www.facebook.com/NMAJMH
for more information.



JEWS IN THE AMERICAN MILITARY

From New Amsterdam in 1654 to Afghanistan today, American Jews have taken up arms to defend their communities and serve their country. Through historical artifacts and multimedia interactives, explore where, when, and how Jews served in our nation's military. Learn about the challenges they confronted, and the ways in which they shaped—and were shaped by—service in the American armed forces.

FROM OUR COLLECTION By Mike Rugel

Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH

Medal Holds Special Place in Exhibit

The Purple Heart medal awarded posthumously to Roger Briskin will be featured in the Cold War section of our new core exhibition. Corporal Briskin was a member of the 3rd Marine Division. While leading his squad on an operation near Da Nang, the patrol came under fire from Viet Cong forces. When another Marine was wounded, Briskin rushed to his aid, while bringing his comrade to safety, a bullet hit him in the head. He died instantly at age 19 on March 31, 1967 in Quảng Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam.

The young man from Radnor, Pennsylvania had joined the Marines after graduating from Lower Merion High School and spent a year serving in Santo Domingo before going to Vietnam. The collection of materials in the Briskin Collection at NMAJMH shows his dedication to being a combat Marine and his deep concern for his fellow soldiers. There's a United States Marine Core Individual Combat Notebook and several weapons manuals filled with handwritten notes, and his training records testify to his hard work learning his job as a machine gunner. His American and Vietnamese Medals and ribbons show us that he took this commitment seriously and his exemplary service was recognized.

It is his letters home that testify to his concern for humanity and thoughtfulness about war

and his role in it: "a small position, but put us all together and we're going to play quite a significant role in bringing this world to a place of peace; knowing this I don't mind the war so much, although I don't really like being shot at... the real victory will lie within the relationship of the people of Vietnam with our people... our greatest means of winning the war although it is a hard program to carry out. Love is stronger than hate, friendship and fellowship stronger than bullets and bombs."

His heartbreaking final letter home to his family shows Briskin's devotion to his Judaism and Jewish comradery:

I had been asking my chaplain to make arrangements to get me to Da Nang for at least one Jewish service before Passover... I ended up hitchhiking—don't try to imagine how hairy that was. Anyhow I arrived in Da Nang in about two hours and started looking for the Jewish chaplain's office. All of the soldiers in Da Nang were staring at me and I figured out why immediately. Everyone on the base was walking around in clean uniforms... and here I am—filthy utilities, torn up boots, helmet in one hand, rifle in the other, cartridge belt hanging loosely, tanned, filthy. Everyone stared at me as if I had just



Purple Heart Medal awarded to Corporal Briskin, who died as a member of the 3rd Marine Division on March 31, 1967 in Quảng Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam.

been raised from the dead.

Everyone was very helpful... It took me no time to find where I was going... The next day after a real night's sleep, I hitchhiked back to my position... I had 2 new sets of utilities, 4 prs. of socks, a new pair of boots, and a bottle of Martell VSP Cognac—a present from one of the Jews I met... P.S. Dad—I'm not stationed on a post—I'm occupying a foxhole. I'm psyching myself up for a tennis match when I get home.

- March 1967

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Jack Levins-100 • Larry Willis-100 • Jerry Schor-686

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Morris L. Kutcher-118 • Thomas Richards-185 • Edward E. Ash-603

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Samuel Alman-45 • Hyman Belansky-45 • Edward H. Friedman-45 • Cyril Levine-45 • Calvin Mass-45 • Aaron J. Perlman-45 • Roger Rubinow-51 • Seymour Wiener-141 • Leon W. Jaiven-142 • Rubin Vine-204 • Stanley Gampel-317

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Herman M. Rubin-266 • Clifford R. Josephson-300 • Jacob Sahl-321 • David Abrams-352 • Milton A. Zimmerman-440 • Jack J. Alson-459 • Paul Fisherman-459 • Jack Ostrofsky-459 • Joseph Rosenbaum-459 • Charles Harrison-506 • Murray Goldstein-519 • Melvin Shubert-520 • Nathan Alper-730 • Howard Fox-780

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Albert Laks-407 • Sheldon Solovy-800

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Aaron Braeman-605

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Edwin Collier-567 • Harold Kuptzin-567 • Miriam G. Rothchild-567 • Murray Seid-567 •

David Weber-567

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Joseph N. Goff-32 • Nathan Harrison-32 • Neal Coffman-193 • Harry L. Baker-211 • Yale Berry-211 • Sumner D. Dubrow-211 • Joseph M. Furman-211 • Milton L. Glickstein-211 • Edwin E. Minsky-220 • George Rosenberg-302 • Wallace H. Heller-735

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Phillip Charns-333

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Sidney Schmuckler-162

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Nathan Heier-39 • Robert J. Topchik-47 • Philip Solowey-125 • Jack Goldstein-126 • Steven M. Lahav-126 • Martin H. Lorber-126 • Solomon C. Pflag-126 • Jack Weinstein-126 • Harvey Fox-178 • Robert Green-178 • Russell Schwartz-178 • Eric J. Hamberg-273 • Saul E. Karlin-273 • Herman Pollack-273 • Leonard Kahn-538 • Jacob Solomon-609 • Percy Ellias-651 • Leonard M. Kahn-695 • Ira A. Feinberg-741 • Sanford Feingold-741 • Irving Post-741 • Morris Stein-741

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Michael Cohen-80 • Alvin M. Cohen-105 • Sam J. Handler-206 • Irwin Karchmer-206 • Seymour Hymanson-250 • Sidney Buxbaum-335 • Morris Zimmerman-336 • Sol Schecter-425 • Milton Shayowitz-648 • Paul Wallach-648 • Abraham Rubenstein-655 • Maurice I. Rottenberg-717 • Arthur D. Cozewith-720 • Sidney Feld-764 • Leo Zimmerman-770

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Sidney Hill-44 • A. Louis Keil-122 • Sam Komessar-122

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Rubin Mogul-98 • Harold Tanenbaum-215 • Barney Bernstein-305 • Albert Hyder-305 • Paul Leipzig-499 • Albert Greenland-697 • Mortimer Nelson-697

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Larry Klinger-112

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Lawrence Barr-201 • Morris A. Cohen-201 • Edwin Greenberg-201 • Aaron Polinsky-201 • Bernard J. Schuster-201 • Arnold Morton Gross-210

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

E. Ralph Lupin-580 • Leroy Solomon-55

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Charles Feldman-55



PNC Robert Pickard salutes fallen servicemembers.



After members recited the Mourner's Kaddish, Gerald Alperstein, Post 1 NY, played taps.

Honoring the Fallen

Every year during the convention, JWV holds a wreath-laying ceremony to honor fallen servicemembers. This year we gathered to pay tribute at the Greater Charleston Naval Base Memorial in Charleston, South Carolina.



JWV members gathered for the wreath-laying ceremony. Photo by Bonnie Stevens.

Simchat Torah



Chag Samaech!

Allan Abramson & Wife Sheila
Happy Days and Good Health

Jerry & Sara Alperstein

Paul & Marion (Gitelson) Ash
IMO Aaron Gitelson • Post 258 NY

Eugene Baraw • Post 776

Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ
Chag Sameach

PNP Eleanore & PDC Ralph Bell

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

PNC Paul & PNP Elaine Bernstein

NP Joanne & NEC Jerry Blum

PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749

Marshall & Diane Duberstein

Gerald H. Elkan • North Carolina

P.C.C. Harold Engelmann
In loving memory of Lorraine Engelmann

Sidney M. Gluck • Mesa, AZ

Nat. Inspector Sidney & Fay Goldman

PDC Herb & Beth Gopman • Dept. of FL

Alan J. Gould Post 105
In Memory of Sam Gould, Post Cmdr.

PNC Sam & PNP Barb Greenberg

NEC Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 321
In Memory of Those Who Have Served

CMDR. Charles & ILene Greinsky
Life Members, Post 80 • Staten Island, NY

Donald H. Haber, PDC - New York

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

In Loving Memory of Harry & Yetta Israel

In Memory of Sid & Florence Israel, USMC

Jeannette Jacobson • 606/PNEC-PDC
In Loving Memory of Alan Fox

Jewish War Veterans USA Post 1
Our Original Post

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

Jack Kent (Kantrovitz) • Post 62 OH

Mark I. Koppelman, CMDR
Bell Oak Post 648 • Queens, NY

Bob Kummins, Post 400 • Ft. Meyers, FL

PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

NC Sheldon & Judy Ohren
To Life!

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

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

PDP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein
Good Health & Happy Holidays

PDC Murray Runin • Post 42, NY

Cmdr. Greinsky & Sr. Vice Cmdr. Satloff
Post 80, Staten Island, NY • 79Years

Stephen & Helen Sax

Irv Schildkraut PPC Post 440
USMC-USNR-USA

Harriet & PDC Norman Schnitzer PNC

Lawrence & Judith Schulman
Our Very Best Wishes to All

Shalom Alechem - Alechem Shalom

Gloria & Mike Shapiro
In memory of Hal, Harry, and Harvey

PDP Linda Singer
In Loving Memory of Bill Singer, PDC/NC

PPC Norman & Toby Smith • Post 129 NY

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

Veterans-Thank you for your service
David Weiner • Post 239 Allentown, PA

Major Stuart A. Wolfer Institute
www.msawi.org

Jeri & Bob Zweiman, PNC
To Life

David S. Zwerin, PDC
Post 652 • Merrick, NY

To all our Troops
Be safe, be well!



Send a greeting or message to family and friends in the next issue of *The Jewish Veteran!*

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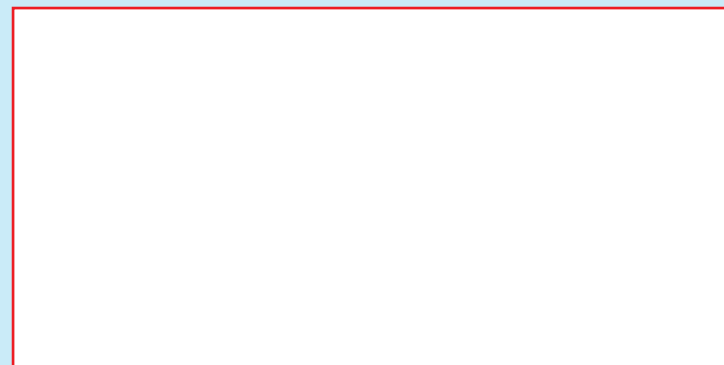
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(no more than 30 characters per line)

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If not now, *when?*



Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Join us on our 29th Annual Mission to Beautiful and Historic Israel! February 22-March 3, 2015

We visit places other groups do not visit. Meet Israelis and their leaders. Get updated briefings.

Enjoy fun and comradeship with fellow veterans. ***It's more than a tour, it's a meaningful experience!***

PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Israel Mission

Day 1-Sunday, Feb. 22: Nonstop Flight by ELAL Israel Airlines. Experience Israeli ambiance even before you arrive. Dinner, breakfast, and inflight entertainment on board.

Day 2-Monday, Feb 23: Afternoon arrival. You are met and assisted by aviatours staff and transferred to our Tel Aviv beach front hotel. Enjoy a welcome dinner and have a good night sleep.

Day 3-Tuesday, Feb. 24: Tel Aviv. After an abundant buffet breakfast - we'll meet with U.S. Military Attaché for a briefing. We depart for a panoramic tour of Tel Aviv and visit Independence Hall where David Ben Gurion announced the Independence of Israel in 1948. This is a very meaningful moment in the history of the Jewish people. Continue to visit Rabin Center where we'll learn of major events in the life of Israel during times of war and peace. Afternoon meeting with staff of TZEVEV – Israeli Defense Force (IDF) Veterans' Organization. Here we will receive a special briefing by Maj. General Levy and an officer of the IDF. Back to the hotel for dinner and overnight rest.

Day 4-Wednesday, Feb. 25: After breakfast we depart to visit Ayalon - an underground ammunition factory during the British mandate time. This unique place was discovered by accident only several years ago. Proceed to Latroun - Armored Corp museum and the museum of the Jewish Warrior. Here you will be able to touch an Israeli made Merkava, considered one of the most advanced tanks in the world. We ascend to Jerusalem. On the way we visit the 9/11 memorial site, second only to the Ground Zero memorial. This memorial signifies the bond between Israel and the USA in their fight against terrorism. We reach Ammunition Hill where a fierce battle took place during the Six Day war. Here you can understand how Jerusalem was unified. Check into our Jerusalem hotel, in the center of the city. Dinner and overnight.

Day 5-Thursday, Feb 26: After breakfast we go to Mt. of Olives for a panoramic view of Jerusalem. Take a picture in one of the most famous sites in the world. We enter the old city to visit the Holy Sepulcher Church. Inside are the last four stations of the Way of the Cross and the empty grave. People from all over the world come on pilgrimages to this important place. We will have a short lunch break (try the Jerusalemite Falafel) and go to Bethlehem, the city where both King David and Jesus Christ were born. We visit the Nativity Church and the cave where according to tradition, Jesus was born. Return to our Jerusalem hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 6-Friday, Feb. 27: We start the day at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum. As you enter this place, you walk from dark to light. From the darkest times of mankind to the light of Jerusalem. Like the prophesy of Ezekiel 37:1-14 'Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' 12 Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel'. This prophesy is embedded in Yad Vashem. Six million perished in

the Holocaust, but only three years later, the State of the Jewish People was born, and now it is strong and flourishing.

Today we also visit the Israel Museum house of the Shrine of the Book, where the Dead Sea scrolls are exhibited. We also see here a model of Jerusalem during the Second Temple time (Jesus time). It's Friday afternoon. We will join many who come to the Western Wall (Wailing Wall) for a special prayer before Shabbat. This is the only remnant of the Second Temple, destroyed by the Romans in 70AC. Back to our hotel for a rest, Kabbalat Shabbat and a Shabbat dinner.

Day 7-Saturday, Feb. 28: Optional Day -Masada and Dead Sea or Sabbath in Jerusalem. We leave Jerusalem and head East towards the Judean desert to Masada. We ascend Masada by cable car. Here 700 Jews choose to commit group suicide rather than fall into Roman hands. This fortress has become very symbolic. IDF soldiers take their vows here. "Masada shall never fall again." We travel to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth. We take a dip in the water which is rich with minerals - nature's gift to your skin. There are so many minerals in the water that you float on it. We reach Kibbutz hotel Lavi for dinner and overnight. A possible lecture by a Kibbutz member about life in a Kibbutz. Those who stay in Jerusalem, after Shabbat you will be driven to meet up with the group at the Kibbutz hotel.

Day 8-Sunday, Mar. 1: After a healthy Kibbutz breakfast we will tour the synagogue at Kfar Naum where Jesus preached. It is located on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. From here we ascend to the Golan Heights and travel to Mount Bental for a view over Syria. Nearby is Emek Habacha (the valley of tears) site of the fiercest tank battle of Yom Kippur. Watch a unique video about it in Kibbutz Elrom. Possible encounter with an IDF unit. Our last visit will be to the Shalom Observation overlooking the entire Sea of Galilee. Here you understand the strategic meaning of the Golan Heights. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 9-Monday, Mar. 2: We depart our hotel towards Nazareth. We visit the church of annunciation built over a typical house of the time, including a mikva (emersion bath). Continue to Zippori which was the Jewish center in the Galilee. Yes, though the Romans destroyed the temple and expelled many Jews to Rome, Jewish life in the Holy Land continued. Since emerging from slavery to freedom in Egypt, the Jewish People have overcome horrendous times. Faith seems to be the secret. Not too far we visit Beth Shean which was a Jewish town during the revolt against the Romans. We ascend to beautiful Haifa for a bird's eye view over its bay and the amazing Baha'i Gardens. In Haifa we visit the Pnimiya Zvait - IDF "West Point Academy". Meet cadets who will become the future commanders of the IDF. We end the day with a dinner and rest at a hotel. Transfer to Ben Gurion airport for our flight back home

Day 10-Tuesday, Mar. 3: 12:45AM Flight home. Early morning arrival in NY.

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

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

E-mail: cturner@jwv.org

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