



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Volume 67 • Number 1

Private First Class Leonard Kravitz Receives the Medal of Honor

On March 6-7, 1951 in Yangpyong, Korea, Pfc. Leonard M. Kravitz's unit was overrun by enemy combatants. As his comrades withdrew, Kravitz voluntarily remained at the machine gun. He drew enemy fire to his position, an action which saved his platoon at the cost of his life.

The citation for his Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) reads:

...Kravitz, an assistant machine-gunner attached to Company L, was in a defensive position on strategic key terrain. After the friendly elements had repulsed two earlier probing attacks, the enemy launched a fanatical banzai charge with heavy supporting fire and, despite staggering losses, pressed the assault with ruthless determination. When the machine-gunner was wounded in the initial phase of action, Kravitz immediately seized the weapon and poured devastating fire into the ranks of the onrushing as-

sailants. The enemy effected and exploited a breach on the left flank, rendering the friendly positions untenable. Upon order to withdraw, Kravitz voluntarily remained to provide protective fire for the retiring elements. Traversing the gun to the left to cover the infiltrating enemy and ignoring the pleadings of his comrades to fall back, he fearlessly maintained his position. Detecting a column of Communist troops moving toward friendly positions, he swept the hostile soldiers with deadly, accurate fire, killing the entire group. His destructive retaliation caused the enemy to concentrate vicious fire on his position and enabled the friendly elements to effect a withdrawal. After the strong point was re-secured, Kravitz' body was found lying beside the gun he had so heroically manned, and numerous enemy dead lay in and around his emplacement. Kravitz' incredible display of valor set an inspir-



Private First Class Leonard Kravitz

ing example for his comrades. His unflinching courage and consummate devotion to duty reflect the highest credit on himself and uphold the finest traditions of the military service.

Kravitz's incredible courage led to a recom-
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'Monuments Men' Recalls Allied Effort To Save Europe's Heritage

by Penny Schwartz

BOSTON (JTA) — There's nothing like a star-studded Hollywood movie to shine a light on a little-known piece of history.

That's the hope of Robert Edsel, who wrote the book that inspired "The Monuments Men," the George Clooney-Matt Damon film.

The all-star cast also includes Bill Murray, John Goodman, Jean Dujardin, Bob Balaban, Hugh Bonneville and Cate Blanchett.

Clooney, who directed the film, teamed to write and produce it with Grant Heslov, bringing together the duo who produced last year's Oscar winner for best picture, "Argo."

The action-packed World War II adventure film is a fictionalized version of Edsel's book of the same name. The book tells the compelling and surprising story of a special Allied military unit known as the Monuments Men sent into battle zones to protect historic buildings, churches and monuments across Europe.

Later, the unit of 345 members from 13 countries — many were art historians, archivists and architects — rescued more than 5 million



Harry Ettlinger (right) with a Rembrandt painting salvaged from a salt mine in 1945. Monuments Man Ettlinger is the Department Commander of NJ. Photo courtesy of the National Archives.

pieces of Nazi-looted paintings, sculptures and rare manuscripts. Among them were some of the world's most treasured cultural objects, including works by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rembrandt and Vincent Van Gogh.

In a phone conversation with JTA, Edsel says the visibility of a major feature film offers

a chance to honor the legacy of the long-forgotten heroism of the Monuments Men, provide a path to reclaim art that is still missing, and galvanize the public's concern to prevent cultural destruction in war zones today and in the future.

Edsel suggests that while he is not Jewish, he sees in the Monuments Men a story that will resonate with young Jews, a different entry point to teach about Jewish culture and the Holocaust.

The movie provides historical context to events that reverberate in headlines today, from the discovery of a trove of Nazi-looted art in Germany to the destruction of ancient artifacts in Egypt and war-torn Syria.

Clooney says that making a film about saving art isn't just about paintings hanging on a museum wall.

"It's about the fabric of our culture," he said at a recent news conference in Hollywood.

In the film, Clooney plays Frank Stokes, based on the real-life figure of George Stout, an

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Upcoming JWV Teleconferences

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

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

2014 Schedule

April 9 How to Find and Retain Members
 May 7 JWV and Homeless Vets
 May 28 Preparing for the National Convention
 September 10 Reviewing the National Convention
 October 22 Outlook on the Coming Year
 November 19 Global War on Terrorism



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JWV National Achievement Programs

Applications for JWV's National Achievement Programs are now available online. This year, the National Organization is offering two grant programs.

The National Youth Achievement Program is open to high school seniors who are direct descendants (children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren) of members in good standing.

The National Achievement Program is an essay contest for current servicemembers and veterans who plan to attend or are currently attending an accredited Associates, Bachelor's, or Nursing degree program.

Visit http://www.jwv.org/programs/service/awards/national_youth_achievement_program to learn more about these opportunities.

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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>

VA Medical Center Volunteers

I wish to commend the local chapter of the JWV which over the last few years has assembled nylon totes full of personal comfort items for distribution at the VA Medical Center, Washington, DC. Your members assemble the items and I have had the privilege of giving them in the name of the Jewish War Veterans to dozens of double and triple amputees from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center who come here for the VA-DOD Integrated Disability Evaluation System.

Rest assured, I recognize the JWV does so much more. I draw your attention to this simple act of charity since I see the faces of young men torn by war and rehabilitated with the human kindness of many including your local chapter.

Thank You,
Patrick C. Joyce, M.D.

Appreciation for JWV National Service Officers

My name is AJ Moore. I am a disabled Gulf War vet. In 1991, I was diagnosed with end stage cancer. The cancer, chemotherapy, radiation and surgery very nearly ended my life. It was a hard fought battle with many ups and downs. The physical and mental scars still haunt me to this day.

I tried a number of times to get help from the VA medical facilities. I will say only this: the VA of 20 years ago is not the VA of today. Today, everyone I have come in contact with has been amazing in their treatment of me, their respect for me and the help/direction I have been given. There are many people who are deserving of a pat on the back for a job well done. There are, however, two individuals that are absolute rock stars!!! If not for these two people I would not have gotten the help I so desperately needed and more importantly to me, the vindication I needed for my own internal demons.

Mort Friedlander, Veterans Advocate
Gene Kanofsky, Veterans Advocate

These two gentlemen made sure that every single issue and problem was given the proper attention to detail needed so that nothing was overlooked when my case was settled. They called me often at my home to make sure I was not only getting the things done I needed to do to get my case handled, but made sure that I, as a human being would not give up. They ensured everything went smoothly and would stop what they were doing every time I called to answer my questions and offer encouragement.

I won't go into detail as to exactly what my health problems are ... Suffice to say that every single health problem listed on my case was

successfully compensated. I had been living off of 10 percent disability for over 20 years and, as of January 31, 2014, I have been given the maximum monetary disability and over 200 percent disability rating.

So, on behalf of my family and myself, I offer thanks and praise for a job not only well done but in my eyes perfectly done!! There were of course many people involved with helping me with my VA case but it is most assuredly due to the hard work, diligence and herculean effort put forth by Mr. Friedlander and Mr. Kanofsky, the Jewish war veterans advocates.

I salute these gentlemen in a job well done!!!
AJ Moore, USNR

JWV's National Service Officers provide assistance and advice to any veteran regardless of affiliation, length of service, racial, religious or ethnic background. To contact a Service Officer, visit http://www.jwv.org/programs/service/service_officer_program.

70th Anniversary of D-Day

Dear Readers:

Your help is needed on an important project. It does not call for money, just a few minutes of time.

This fall a visit to Normandy included a visit to the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach.

Among the 9,387 graves are 149 Jewish soldiers with Stars of David marking their graves. Some (but not all) of the Jewish graves had stones or small coins signifying a visit by someone. Others did not. The photo below conveys only a fraction of emotion we felt.



Photo by Alan Weinschel.

The generation that fought in Normandy is dying out and their children are aging as well.

We should remember the fallen by including them in Kaddish on June 6 each year – in every synagogue in the United States – with words along these lines:

“We remember also on this 70th anniversary of D-Day the Jewish soldiers who gave their lives, on the beaches in Normandy and elsewhere, that we might live in freedom, including

the 149 whose graves are at Omaha Beach.”

This would mean perhaps 10 seconds in the course of a service.

Friday, June 6th, 2014 is the 70th anniversary; the language would change each year, and of course there is no magic to any particular words, and Kaddish could be recited on the day closest to June 6 that fits each congregation's schedule.

It is important that these men be remembered.

Several synagogues have already agreed to do this and there has been positive feedback from others.

Will you please ask your rabbi to do this at your congregation and also to distribute this message to others?

Many Thanks,

Alan Weinschel
normandykaddish@gmail.com

New, Safer Identity Cards for Veterans Enrolled in VA Health Care

VA is introducing a new, secure identification card called the Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC). VHIC replaces the Veteran Identification Card (VIC).

As part of a phased rollout, on February 21, VA began issuing the VHIC to newly enrolled and other veterans who were not issued a VIC. Then, starting in April, VA will begin a replacement effort to automatically mail the more secure VHIC to veterans who have the old VIC.

The new VHIC is distinguished by additional security features and will have a different look. The Social Security number and date of birth were removed from the barcode and magnetic strip. Similar to a typical health insurance card, the VHIC displays the veteran's Member ID and branch of service emblem, a new unique identifier, as well as a Plan ID which reflects the veteran's enrollment in VA health care. The VHIC is for use in VA medical facilities and does not authorize or pay for care at non-VA medical facilities.

Veterans can continue to use their current VIC card until their new VHIC is received. VA recommends veterans safeguard their VIC as they would a credit card, and cut up or shred the card once it is replaced with the new VHIC.

For more information, contact VA at 1-877-222-VETS (8387), visit your local VA medical facility Enrollment Coordinator, or find more information online at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

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



Comrades, when both Republicans and Democrats came out recently with a bill that was designed to ameliorate parts of the effects of sequestration and “balance the budget,” I was as happy as the next fellow. However, the devil is in the details, and when I read further, I became more and more upset. The balancing of the budget was to be at the expense of military retirees! I was reminded of what Mercutio said as he was dying in “Romeo and Juliet”: “A plague o’ both your houses,” speaking of the Montagues and Capulets whose feud led to his death. Well, I won’t go as far as to curse both the House and the Senate but shame on both of them for trying to balance the budget on the backs of our men and women in uniform and those who have worn the uniform!

Apparently mavens from both sides of the aisle of the House and the Senate could find nowhere else in this over-inflated spendthrift government to cut costs but by sacrificing the rightfully earned and promised benefits of military veterans. What’s the issue? A bipartisan group decided to cut the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of military retirees 62 years of age and younger who are not disabled. No cost cutting

could be found in other entitlements anywhere in the huge bureaucracy of big government except for those who shoulder a weapon to protect and defend our liberties here at home and abroad! The 1 percent cut in COLA over time translates to a 20 percent cut for those who put their lives on the line and the welfare of their families so the rest of us can sleep soundly every night.

Apparently, the bean counters would equate

military service to any other federal employ. To attempt to treat retirees from the military like any other federal employee is just about the most ridiculously unfair thought process I can imagine, but then again, who thinks in Washington these days?

This cut is the “unkindest cut of all” since it betrays a sacred trust that every member of our armed services signed in his or her blood. When these folks sign up for military service the government (you and I) promises them that in exchange for their years of dedicated selfless service in which they might be asked to sacrifice themselves and the well-being of their families they will receive rightfully earned benefits, including retirement pay and medical care. In return, they commit themselves, body and soul.

Where is our commitment to them? This betrayal of trust is a most egregious breach of faith! That portion of this off-kilter so-called “balanced budget” which arguably relieves

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NC Robert Pickard attended Florida National Guard Day on March 11 as the doctor for the day. Left to right: NC Pickard, Brigadier General James Eifert, Adjutant General Emmett Titshaw, and Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL).

NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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



BROKEN PROMISES

The Congress and the Administration are breaking promises to veterans, to active duty military personnel and to military families. I served in the military for 28 plus years and I resent having benefits earned taken away.

Military personnel and families have become increasingly angered by ongoing attacks to their hard earned pay and compensation benefits. Cuts to retirement cost-of-living adjustments blind-sided the military community, prompting them to fight this broken promise while still reeling from the news that the Pentagon is considering closing all the commissaries in the United States.

In opposition to many anti-veteran and anti-military proposals, Senator Bernie Sanders, Chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs

Committee, has written and introduced S.1982, the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014.

This massive omnibus bill, one of the most comprehensive veterans’ bills in decades, would create, expand, advance and extend a large number of VA benefits, services, and programs that are important to JWV and to our members. For example, this bill would authorize advance appropriations for VA’s mandatory accounts to ensure that in any future government shutdown, veterans benefits payments would not be delayed or put in jeopardy. This legislation would also provide additional financial support to survivors of servicemembers who die in the line of duty, as well as expanded access to GI Bill

educational benefits.

The passage of S.1982 would improve the lives and the health of veterans, especially the wounded, injured and ill, and their families. JWV specifically strongly supports the provisions in section 801 of this bill that would fully restore cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for all Military Retirees which were eliminated by the recently passed Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. JWV believes these cuts constitute an egregious breach of the moral contract between this great nation and the brave men and women willing to die for her.

JWV calls on the Congress to pass the provisions of S.1982. More important, JWV calls on the Congress not to break any more promises made to those who serve in our nation’s military!

DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

By PNC Paul Bernstein, National Editor



Please, Say It Is Not So

Say it is not so that the Stars and Stripes newspaper is on the Pentagon's chopping block as reported on November 2013.

I don't believe the rumor, but rumors have a way of becoming reality. The belt-tightening budget cuts at the Pentagon may eliminate the newspaper and cause reduction to programming on the American Forces Network and the Pentagon Channel. Really? Come on, man.

It seems the DOD subsidy to the newspaper in 2014 was only \$7.8 million. This is pennies considering the big Defense budget. Are they really crazy to think this would make a difference in the scheme of things?

When asked about the possible closure of the publication, veteran Senator John McCain said, "I think it would be a terrible mistake... The men and women who are serving get a lot of their information this way. It's a great conduit to spread information to the men and women who are serving all over the world." He went on to say, "Armed Forces Network, among many other things, does sports, which all of our men and women love. So I think it would be crazy."

When I was overseas, I looked forward to reading the newspaper, and I got information in

Stars and Stripes that was not available anywhere else. The sports on AFN were a treat especially the Army-Navy Football Game. What a shame if the current service personnel serving overseas were deprived of this little piece of home.

By the way, Stars and Stripes is distributed daily in the Middle East, Asia, and Europe. It also has an increasing online presence. The publication is to a large degree staffed by civilians and has a civilian ombudsman who answers to Congress.

The important thing to remember is that the Stars and Stripes is an independent editorial voice, which provides important transparency and accountability and oversight in the military.

In addition to being an iconic military newspaper, it is also an award winning publication. The paper won a Polk Award for its investigation into the Pendon Group, a public relations firm that was hired by the Pentagon to profile and evaluate journalists in an attempt to influence them to report on events that were favorable to the Pentagon.

The Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation office, which comes out of the DOD, has the task of reviewing spending on all such

media products. Yes, the Pentagon is under pressure to maintain American military might in an era of sequestration, but the morale of its service personnel is an important component of the military might of this country.

How can they stop a publication that has served the military continuously since World War II? How can they stop a publication with such a storied history? The first version of the newspaper appeared during the Civil War in 1861 by Union Soldiers who used a captured facility to run off a one-page paper. During World War I, the paper ran weekly and was an all-military staff that served our military forces under Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing. It ended publication after the war.

Currently, most of its budget comes from advertising, newspaper sales, and other revenue, which leads to the question: why not make up the additional monies and eliminate the Pentagon subsidy? Does the newspaper have to be Pentagon funded? The answer is NO. Let's hope we can find public donations.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

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some of the effects of sequestration might be salvageable, but this cut to the retirees must be repealed.

On the eve of our Capitol Hill Action Days in Washington, Congress finally came to its senses and voted to repeal the COLA cuts for military retirees younger than 62. This repeal does not apply to those who joined the military after January 1, 2014, and we will continue to work to reverse the COLA cut for all eligible military retirees – including those who join the U.S. military in the future.

Thinking back on this episode, one wonders, "what were they thinking?" Were they equating federal employees and military folks as equals? To even think that these two are "equal" is ridiculous and unfair. The fact is that if there were no Jewish War Veterans nor other veterans' service organizations watching every move that Congress makes, "mistakes" such as this one would go unnoticed and veterans' rightfully earned benefits would be the first place to cut costs, as evidenced by the present case.

Here is yet another good reason to tell your Jewish friends who are veterans but not yet members of JWV to join! ***We are looking out for you!***

New Online GI Bill® Comparison Tool Available Will Help Users of Post-9/11 GI Bill Become More Informed Consumers

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched an online GI Bill® Comparison Tool to make it easier for veterans, servicemembers, and dependents to calculate their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and learn more about VA's approved colleges, universities, and other education and training programs across the country.

The GI Bill Comparison Tool provides key information about college affordability and brings together information from more than 17 different online sources and three federal agencies, including the number of students receiving VA education benefits at each school.

The GI Bill Comparison Tool is one item in a series of resources VA is launching in response to President Obama's Executive Order 13607, which directs agencies to implement and promote "Principles of Excellence" for education institutions that interact with veterans, servicemembers, and their families; and to ensure beneficiaries have the information they need to make educated choices about VA education benefits and approved programs.

Recently, VA also instituted a GI Bill online complaint system, designed to collect feedback from veterans, servicemembers, and their families who are experiencing problems with educa-

tional institutions receiving funding from Federal military and veterans educational benefits programs, including benefits programs provided by the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the DOD Military Tuition Assistance Program.

The executive order, signed April 27, 2012, directs federal agencies to provide meaningful cost and quality information on schools, prevent deceptive recruiting practices, and provide high-quality academic and student support services. VA works closely with partner institutions to ensure the needs of GI Bill beneficiaries are met. More than 5,000 education institutions have agreed to the Principles of Excellence.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is a comprehensive education benefit created by Congress in 2008. In general, veterans and servicemembers who have served on active duty for 90 or more days since Sept. 10, 2001 are eligible. Since 2009, VA has distributed over \$30 billion in the form of tuition and other education-related payments to more than one million veterans, servicemembers, and their families, and to the universities, colleges, and trade schools they attend.

The GI Bill Comparison Tool can be found at: <http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison>.

COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee

We're Stuck with Cleaning Up Our Mess

Negotiations seem to be what global resolutions are all about. At least, we have stopped drawing different colored (red, yellow, green) lines to show how strong we wish we could be. If anyone crossed them or even believed in their existence, gone would be the headlines.

No troops are on the ground in the Ukraine, Syria, or Iraq (right now they are enjoying their own civil war); although we still do have troops present in Afghanistan. Hopefully, we will get them out by year's end.

All parties, however, must understand and accept that negotiation doesn't mean submission. At least, not complete submission.

We are negotiating on Syria which allows us to give humanitarian aid (?) to the rebels and for Russia and China to give military aid to Syria, thus continuing to make Syria available to ship aid to the terrorists.

Then there is Iran where we can negotiate for at least six months on what we will be doing as far as their nuclear weapon development. All we had to do is loosen up some sanctions like allowing them to export 100,000 barrels of oil per day. It shows what happens when you stick to principle. Not ours, theirs.

To me, it all has become a poorly played out farce. Politicians are playing as though they are statesmen (capital "s"). That means protecting their own jobs in their own states. If they had the guts, at least once in their lives, to act with honesty, integrity, or to resign in favor of someone who could act to the development of being a true American Superpower – to protect our nation, to lead the world, and to set the future on to growth.

The DOD has submitted its new proposed defense budget. Will our politicians cut programs which benefit their own states by continuing to produce weapons systems which are out of date and have become sinkholes in our economy? NO!!!

Will they allow the research to go onto the next stages and thereby advance the security of our friends, allies, and the world? Research is going to go there whether we want it to or not. Recognize that security without growth is not the answer. The reality is that without growth there can be no security. Leaders prefer the easy way by cutting programs that may benefit our military service personnel and their dependents rather than to cut money from the pockets of their campaign donors. Those who gave of themselves and continue to do so are softer targets than those who take for themselves and give to secure their own interests.

There must be a realization that technology has usurped our discussions and actions on social, business, research, and other global levels. We now can usually speak or communicate with each other by internet, telephone conference

calls, or if we want to see each other and make it more intimate, by Skype or FaceTime. So we are always able to negotiate on a continuing basis without there being the need for any true or meaningful interrelationship of thought or exchange of thinking. Thus, we can sit around a table and B.S., threaten, rhetorically agree without any intention of action, and so forth and so on. Hell, we can even get a group together in a square or on streets and protest, shout, or destroy all at a moment's notice. Social media can be wonderful, but it has shown not to bring democracy.

So, on one issue, we now can determine if our Defense Budget and the Quadrennial Defense Review continue to stipulate whether fighting two wars at the same time is proper to accomplish our national policies. We just finished off one war in Iraq (and fortunately have not gotten involved in their new civil war) and, by the end of this year, the second one in Afghanistan (I hope).

So far, we have avoided direct involvement in Syria, and with the Russian Federation not getting the Gold Olympic medals they thought they should get, they now want the Crimea, which they always thought they owned.

In making new determinations, we must seek to revise or correct errors from the past, look to go on a new public relations expedition so that the world will continue to use and love us as to their needs, or do we drop the past and enter into a new future – a sometimes impossible task, but worth attempting even on an initiating basis.

Now add to that, a new State Department report that the military and other involvements we have been in have not resulted in the creation or the development of democracies but mostly have had the opposite result, strengthening of "friends" to become more effective opposition against us.

The United States over the last decade or so has gratuitously assumed the role of being the world's policemen, devoting itself to a policy of nation building (not our own country – that would have been too intelligent). We replaced it for the centuries old international political colonial approach of "conquer and then control." We have ended with the victims being the conquerors, with us being subservient so we don't have to embarrass ourselves in the world community, while leaving American blood on foreign soil which we make no claim to.

Russia is annexing Crimea with really no one (other than the Ukrainians) forcibly opposing it. For once, the world is being openly honest in throwing the Ukrainian people to the wolves. Agree or disagree, that's the way it is.

Americans are called wimps because we haven't sent troops or made calls for boycotts, just sanctions. We have not succumbed to the demands of our friends to come down hard on Russia, while

they did nothing but provocatively call for decisive action against Russia – not theirs – ours.

So change the game, let us fully admit that each of us is dependent on each other. This may be a good time, since a number of Crimeans favor Russia – I know that sounds cavalier and without any compassion. In centuries past, commodity controlled consumption and power determined the society we allowed. It still does and unless we wake up now, we will continue attached to the immoral.

Change requires a makeover. Not just a makeover, but one which tells not only our own citizens, but those of the world – we will no longer be a patsy willing to accept because the world expects it of us – no, actually always demands it of us – a programmed mindset which we must never again accept as our natural and immediate reaction. But, again, we now have the opportunity to change a global misconception and replace it with a defined American policy requirement by not giving up our Superpower status and world position with a misapplied obligation to spill American blood on demand.

A number of columns back, I spoke of a global Marshall Plan seeking to strengthen world internal economies and not merely their banking and financial relationships in the world. Utopia – no, not really – but a possible reality – yes. It is time to go forward with a lightning sword of understanding and real meaning which with the sole purpose of victory – winning, that is – defeating the opposition – creating positive change in society – ours as well as theirs.

It requires courage. It requires the will and determination not to weaken in our resolve in accomplishing our growth and our security. It requires that we accept actions and not mere words (negotiate with meaning – we don't ever get everything we want). We must be willing to form defined and immediate responses with the implementation of approaches such as MAD, Flexible Response, and without consideration for lame excuses including collateral damage – that is to say, we must mean what we say – a strange requirement to say the least.

The beauty of writing an article is that you can dream – this is a time in our existence that we should really begin to dream and react. Robocalls will tell us that your dream "is important to us" – just don't consider holding still without getting a response – a positive one, not one which is just passing the buck.

P.S. Meet you in the square. Bring some friends with you.



NEC • Capitol Hill Action Days • 2014

On February 12-16, members from across the country gathered in Washington, DC to meet with Congressional representatives and attend JWV's National Executive Committee Meeting.



Barry Zabelinski, Post 972; Larry Rosenthal, Post 444; and Adam Campbell, Post 972 listen at the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Committee Meeting.



JWV leadership met with VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. Left to right: PNC Ainslee Ferdie; PNC Norman Rosenshein; Secretary Shinseki; NC Robert Pickard; and Mike Winnick, Director of the National Service Officers Program.



Elliott Donn, Post 45 CT, makes his voice heard during the National Executive Committee Meeting.



Members of the Department of MA met with their Congress people on Capitol Hill. Left to right: PNP Arlene Lodgen, PNC Ira Novoselsky, Senator Elizabeth Warren, PDC Barry Sobel, and PDC Steve Lodgen.



JWV Delegates listen during the National Executive Committee Meeting.

NATIONAL COMMANDER DR. ROBERT PICKARD TESTIFIES BEFORE SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

On March 6, 2014, National Commander Dr. Robert Pickard, COL (USA Retired) testified before a joint session of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs on behalf of the members of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. Commander Pickard, in conjunction with the leaders of other veterans' service organizations, presented JWV's legislative priorities for the 113th Congress:

VA Claims Backlog

The backlog of cases at the VA remains at over 270 days. JWV calls upon Congress to authorize the hiring and training of additional claims adjudicators and the introduction of improved electronic systems to reduce the backlog and allow for adjudication of claims to be made in a reasonable period. If adjudication cannot be made within 180 days, the applicant's disabilities should be presumptively determined to be service-connected and the applicant eligible for



National Commander Dr. Robert Pickard testifying before the Committee.

medical services. A determination of rating and compensation can be made at a later date.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

A significant percent of veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan are suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This latest group of sufferers joins those with PTSD from prior wars. In addition to treating these veterans, the VA must reach out to their families

to give them the tools they need to assist their loved ones. JWV calls on the VA to offer counseling to these veterans and their families at every Community Based Outreach Center and, where there is not an Outreach Center within 30 minutes of a veteran in need, to offer a complete array of services through contract providers.

Sustain VA Health Care System

While progress has been made at the VA, more needs to be done to improve care and make sure the VA is held accountable. Some of the initiatives JWV is advocating for include advance appropriations to all VA discretionary and mandatory accounts, full implementation of all VA Caregivers Law (P.L. 111-163) provisions, and better collaboration between DOD and VA to achieve a real "seamless transition" for servicemembers.

Commander Pickard's testimony is available in its entirety at www.jwv.org.



By Charles Whitmore, Post 100

January 17th was the eighth anniversary of my wife's passing. She died of Leukemia in 2006. The 8th of February was my 67th birthday. These two mileposts reminded me of how fleeting time is. A friend was suddenly faced with a life threatening medical condition (As it turned out – he came through fine). These facts were in my head when I saw the announcement for the Mission to Israel. The headline read: Visit Israel – If not now, When? It took me two minutes to decide to sign up.

As a (non-practicing) Jew this trip had special meaning to me. I was raised in a home where religion was not observed. Of course we were taught values: honesty, integrity, respect, patriotism etc., etc. Because my father was not Jewish, he didn't encourage the learning of the various customs and traditions that I should have been aware of.

My mother came from a family that only celebrated the most important Jewish holidays. As a result, she had only a smattering of knowledge of her religion. By the time I was old enough to get



NC Robert Pickard, his daughter Beke, and other attendees on the Mission to Israel stand in front of the Knesset Menorah.

a bar mitzvah, we had lost contact with most of my mother's side of the family.

Growing up in the late 50's and through the 60's, I was in the awkward and uncomfortable position of being Jewish enough to be rejected and shunned by certain people; and yet, not enough of a Jew to be accepted by some in local Jewish circles. Both Jews and non-Jews advised me to keep a low profile and not to advertise the fact that I was Jewish. To avoid trouble, I would avoid the issue. Since my name is not a Jewish name, and since I did not "look" Jewish, I would often be mistaken for a person of Irish or English



Charles Whitmore, Post 100, at the Western Wall.

decent and thus a Christian background. I would often have to endure listening to insults and misinformation directed at Jews and Judaism.

Jewish people were portrayed as weaklings, cowards, devious, stingy and unpatriotic... Since those days, I have learned that Jewish people have much to be proud of. None of the ignorant stereotypes types hold up. At that age I did not know that so many of the people throughout history that I admired were in fact Jewish.

This trip to Israel reinforced my feeling of pride. Seeing for myself all the accomplishments of the Israelis: their ingenuity in making the desert fertile, their strong military, and their modern architecture; I was very impressed with all of what I saw. Of course, I knew all about Israel, but there's nothing like seeing it for one's self. Anyone who goes to Israel cannot help but be impressed.

The trip was great! Our tour guide was excellent, a former IDF officer, she supplied us with many antidotes of her experiences and meet-



Barry Schneider (left), Department Commander of TALO, and Walter Geraghty, Jr., an Allied Veteran representing the American Legion.

ings with top officials. She was very knowledgeable and gave us a behind-the-scenes glimpse of Israeli life. Most of all, she was a lot of fun.

The bus driver was a master at his craft. He maneuvered into seemingly impossible places.



NC Robert Pickard greets Dr. Major General (ret.) Baruch Levy during the briefing and tour of TZEvet.

Our bus was a brand new Mercedes Benz, with plush seats and large windows for sightseeing.

For me the highlights of the trip were:

- The Tree Planting – I planted a tree dedicated to the memory of my late wife.
- The magnificent view of Haifa from the hilltop, with the beautifully groomed gardens.
- The Israeli-Lebanese border military base.
- The Dead Sea and the experience of floating in that salt water.
- Masada.
- Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus Christ.
- The ambience of the bazaar in Old Jerusalem.
- The "Tank Farm" was of particular interest to me. I wish that we could have spent more time learning about and photographing those amazing armored vehicles.

Best of all was our group. What a nice bunch of guys (and two gals). It was a pleasure to travel together. I hope that I might have the opportunity to visit Israel again in the not so distant future.

For more information about JWV's Mission to Israel, contact Christy Turner at cturner@jwv.org or 202-265-6280.

Post 167 MD Donates Needed Equipment to Local VAMC



Post 167 MD donated three Staxi Patriot Transport Chairs to the Baltimore VA Medical Center. Each chair cost \$1,500. Left to right: Past Post Commander Richard S. Udoff, Department Commander Col. Erwin A. Burtnick, USA (Ret), Post Commander Stephen A. Mintz, and Junior-Vice Commander Michael Zippert.

Department of Connecticut Introduces New JWV Ties

The Department of Connecticut has introduced a new JWV tie project, a fundraiser with profits to go to JWV National and the Department of CT. PDC Jerry Blum got the idea from PNC David Magidson's plea for Veterans Week fundraising and the need to think "out of the box" when it comes to raising money. The ties are silk and, more importantly, "Made in America" exclusively for the Jewish War Veterans. Blum was able to have the ties made in Brooklyn, NY and still keep the price at \$30.00 per tie.

Blum's wife, JWVA National President Joanne Blum, laughingly stated that her, "hubby is 'schlepping' them wherever he goes," including NEC and the National Convention.

There are always some ties in each of their cars, and the Blums are glad to 'schlep' ties to help members avoid the \$2.50 shipping and handling charge.



Joanne Blum, JWVA National President, presents one of the new JWV ties to her husband, PDC Jerry Blum.

Bottom line is that JWV members will now be able to have a beautiful red, white, and blue tie with a gold JWV logo to wear with pride.

For more information, please call Jerry Blum at 860-869-2981 or email jerrybug2@aol.com.

Medal of Honor

Continued from page 1

commendation for the Medal of Honor, but it was ultimately downgraded to a DSC, the U.S. Army's second highest military award. In addition to the DSC, Kravitz also received the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, United Nations Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal, and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

In the 1990s, questions were raised about the small number of minorities who received the Medal of Honor from WWII to the present. Legislation was advanced to review African American and Asian Pacific American veterans from WWII who received the DSC. In 1997, seven African American veterans received the top U.S. Military honor. Three years later, 21 Asian Pacific American veterans were selected to have their DSCs upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

For the Jewish War Veterans, the correction of this historical discrimination raised another question: were Jews also passed over for the Medal of Honor?

At one time, Jewish Americans were barred from owning property in certain neighborhoods, faced employment discrimination and quotas at universities. For Jewish immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, however, the U.S. armed forces were often a great equalizer, bringing Americans of all swaths of life together in service for their country. In the years after WWII, as America went through the Civil Rights

Era and the Jewish community became more assimilated, anti-Semitic and racist attitudes in the country waned.

At the time that the historic reviews of African American and Asian Pacific American veterans were taking place, there were 13 known Jewish recipients of the Medal of Honor. Of these recipients, two had received the medal for actions in WWII and two for actions in Vietnam. There were no Jewish Medal of Honor recipients from the Korean War.

Mitch Libman, a childhood friend of Pfc. Kravitz, always questioned the downgrading of Kravitz's award to a DSC. Libman spent years researching and gathering information pertaining to Kravitz's actions in Korea.

In a "Letter to the Editor" published in *The Jewish Veteran* in 2000, Libman wrote, "I have read through all the awards of the CMOH during the Korean War. Every recipient listed certainly deserved it. There are even a few that did exactly what Lenny did and were awarded the CMOH. I have never complained of discrimination before because I haven't ever really been subjected to it. But everyone I spoke with said they weren't surprised. There isn't one Jewish recipient of the CMOH in the Korean War."

To definitively answer whether anti-Semitism was a factor in denying Kravitz and other Jewish servicemembers the Medal of Honor, Congressman Robert Wexler (D-FL) introduced the Leonard Kravitz Jewish War Veterans Act of 2001 to "direct the Secretaries of the mili-

tary departments to conduct a review of military service records to determine whether certain Jewish American war veterans, including those previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross, should be awarded the Medal of Honor."

The legislation, which passed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, also included a provision to review Hispanic American veterans. The review was a huge undertaking, spanning December 1941 to September 2001, and focused primarily on veterans who received the second highest military honors from the Army, Navy, and Air Force. JWV also submitted names of Jewish veterans for consideration and consulted with the military branches during this process.

On February 21, 2014, over 60 years after the courageous actions which took his life, the White House announced that Pfc. Leonard Kravitz would receive the Medal of Honor, finally bringing him the recognition for heroism that he deserved. Along with Kravitz, 23 veterans, including 18 other victims of discrimination and five individuals of uncertain ethnic and religious affiliation, were put forward to receive the Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor ceremony honoring all 24 Army veterans was the largest of its kind in history.

On March 18, Laurie Wenger, Kravitz's niece, accepted the Medal of Honor on his behalf – bringing an end to a long effort to right the past wrongs of discrimination and anti-Semitism.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

During the most recent membership teleconference there was considerable confusion over what requirements have to be met for the various types of membership that JWV has. All of the different types are defined in detail in Article IV of the JWV Constitution and Article I of the Bylaws. For the sake of simplicity, I am going to summarize the most common membership categories and outline their requirements.

The most common type of membership is active membership. To be an active member one has to be of the Jewish faith, of good character, a citizen of the USA, have served in the armed forces of the USA during periods of conflict as defined by the U.S. Congress, and be discharged under honorable conditions. An active member is eligible to stand for election or be appointed to any position in the organization.

A person who served in the armed forces of the United States (including the National Guard and Reserves), but not during a time that would qualify them for active membership, is eligible for associate membership in JWV. Another way to qualify for associate membership is if a veteran served in the armed forces of an allied nation dur-

ing the time of a conflict that the United States participated in. Associate members enjoy all of the rights and privileges of active members, except the right to act as a delegate. Like all members, they must be Jewish, U.S. citizens, and have been released from service under honorable conditions.

In-service members are members of the U.S. armed forces who are currently serving on active duty. These members are treated as active members, except that they are not required to pay annual dues for as long as they remain on active duty. In order for us to update their member years, in-service members should contact National Headquarters each year to verify their mailing address and active duty status.

Anyone eligible for the three types of membership listed above can become a life member by submitting a \$500 life membership payment to National Headquarters. Life members are not required to pay annual dues. Life memberships may be transferred to another Post, but if a member wishes to belong to more than one Post, they must pay dues for the secondary Post.

Honorary membership can be awarded to someone who is not eligible for active mem-

bership in JWV, but has performed outstanding service for the United States or the Jewish War Veterans. Nominations for honorary membership are reviewed by the Honorary Membership Committee, and final approval must be given by a National Convention.

Another classification often associated with membership is patron status. Patrons are not members of the Jewish War Veterans. They are donors and supporters of JWV who may participate in the activities of a Post, but they may not vote or hold office. Any person who supports the mission of JWV may become a patron.

Applicants for all membership types should submit a completed application either online or through the mail to National Headquarters. All applications should be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's discharge papers or signed by a JWV sponsor who has reviewed the applicant's records to verify eligibility for JWV membership.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the JWV Veterans Week Fundraiser!

Atlanta Bicentennial Post 112
North Essex Post 146
Abrahamson-Biglow-Spector Post 354
Murray Solomon Post 243
Shore Post 712
B&P/ Robert A. Carpenter Post 485
Lt. Greenberg-Albert I Lerner Post 692
Bayonne Post 18
Augenblick-Marcus Post 669
Allan H. Katz Post 118
Paul D. Savanuck/Shaarei Zion Memorial Post 888
Perlman-Matlin Post 800

Department of MN
North County Post 385
Framingham Post 157
Lehigh Valley Post 239
Old Dominion Post 158
Judith A. Resnik Post 352
PFC Frederick Hecht Post 425
Shandler-Pincus Post 305
Department of NJ
White Plains Post 191
Maryland Free State Post 167
Robbins-Feldstein Post 178

Coral Springs Post 606
New Brunswick Post 133
Jersey Shore Post 125
Manhattan-Cooper-Epstein-Greenwald Post 1
Three Villages Post 336
San Antonio Post 753
Monroe Township Post 609
Bronx Post 3
Robbins-Feldstein Post 178
Department of CT
Deerfield Beach Post 265
Mark Seiden-Ben Kaufman Post 444



Representing the participating Posts and Departments are: Front row (from left): PNC David Hymes, Department of IL; Helene van Clief, Department of NY; PDC Sid Lichter, Department of NJ; PNC Ainslee Ferdie, Department of FL. Back row (from left): PNC Sheldon Ohren, Department of NY; PDC Jerome Berns, Department of IL; DC Jeffrey Sacks, Department of IL; PNC Paul Bernstein, Department of NY; PDC Jon Zak, Department of NY; PDC Roger Gove, Department of OH; DC Edward Baraw, Department of NY; DC Barry Schneider, Department of TALO; DC Greg Lee, Department of CA; DC Richard Rosenzweig, Department of FL; PDC Col. Maxwell Colon, Department of CA; PDC Barry Sobel, Department of MA; PNC Michael Berman, Department of NJ; Larry Rosenthal, Department of NJ; PDC Steve Lodgen, Department of MA; PDC Jerry Farris, Department of PA; PDC Irwin Gerechhof, Department of NJ; PDC Jerry Alperstein, Department of NY.

Outreach to the Next Generation

By Chairman Colonel Nelson L. Mellitz, USAFR (Ret)

In the United States there is a growing civilian (99 percent) and military/veteran (1 percent) divide. This population divide is creating a gap in the veteran and support organizations' ability to communicate individual and family economic needs, job skills capability, social and educational goals, and medical requirements to the civilian 99 percent of the U.S. population. Since September 11, 2001, less than 1 percent of the U.S. population has served in the military. We have had a very small percentage of the overall U.S. population fighting in multiple wars and on multiple deployments during the last dozen years.

The cultural gap between those that have and have not served began growing in the second half of the 20th century and greatly widened during the Vietnam War. Even prior to the elimination of the U.S. mandatory draft in the 1970s there is evidence of a gap in culture between those that have served and those that have not. Most post 9/11 veterans did not have to endure anti-war criticism when they returned home as some Vietnam veterans, but the men and women who served in the Areas of Operations (primarily Afghanistan and Iraq) and in support outside the Area of Operations still face a widening cultural isolation from a country that does not appreciate their experience or the hardships endured by their families.

As we know, military culture is extremely structured and isolated from the general population. Try entering a military base without a current military ID and you will see the isolation created by security barriers. In addition, since many in the civilian community 99 percent do not personally know anyone serving currently in the military and few, if any, veterans that have served since the Vietnam Era, the cultural gap is reinforced with a lack of knowledge.

In the book "Those Who Have Borne the Battle," author James Wright explains:

"If we have no personal relationship with those who are fighting our wars, than we think of the war as a geographic drama, and we think of those fighting it as heroic action figures, or perhaps as victims, but also less as real lives with dreams at real risk."

How do you feel when you watch the evening news and see the scenes of battles in Afghanistan where Americans are killed and wounded? Do you react the same way to the battle horrors as you did shortly after September 11, 2001 or the way we did after seeing videos of the Vietnam War battles on TV year after year?

I fear that the kinship we have as members of the Jewish War Veterans is being lost in our attempt to communicate that we are here to help



because we have also gone through the pain and difficulties that returning military members are currently experiencing. Do the recently returning military members really know that Jewish War Veterans members can help them to transition into the civilian 99 percent and still retain the 1 percent U.S. military exceptionalism that we all embody as brothers and sisters?

What We as Jewish War Veterans can do to Bridge the Divide

The military has a "we care for our own mentality" which reinforces the civilian – military/veterans gap. We have to ask ourselves what we can do as Jewish veterans to support the integration of veterans as individuals into the larger 99 percent of society. In addition, an immediate benefit to JWV would be to show Jewish veterans why they should be active members of the JWV:

- Establish a one-to-one brother and sister program between JWV members and active duty military/veterans. This program is a Mentor–Protégé project that can benefit both parties greatly.
- Advertise in the major metropolitan communities' newspapers (not just Jewish newspapers) where there is a large Jewish population or military bases what JWV has to offer veterans and what it has done for veterans and the larger community. Advertise what it means for Jews to serve and the pride we have in being a Jewish veteran. Give examples of successful Jewish veterans.
- The Jewish community is known for generosity with both service and financials. JWV can organize and direct services and programs aimed at veterans using the experience of our members to directly assist in business and finance leadership and helping veteran families in need.
- Identify and focus on supporting Jewish and other community services readily available

to the general population by identifying to local veterans and their families the services available in your local community: SCORE, The Mission Continues, etc.

Conclusion

Jewish War Veterans members who have served and are patrons understand the full weight of the burden we

carry and the price we paid when we return from battle, and we will be the individuals to lead our brother and sister more recent veterans to integrate within the other 99 percent of U.S. citizens.

Theodore Roosevelt stated: "We infinitely desire peace, and the surest way of obtaining it is to show that we are not afraid of war."

The United States went to war after being attacked on September 11, 2001 with a plan to win. It is up to the Jewish War Veterans to actively demonstrate to our brothers and sisters that we are all veterans, we know your pain, and we will work together to help you be a successful part of the civilian 99 percent with your exceptional military skills.

Please email to Nikki Salzman (nsalzman@jwv.org) in the JWV National Office a brief description of your Post, Council, or Department's successful outreach and next generation integration programs. Your program may be featured in future editions of my outreach article.



2015 JWV Calendar

JWV is looking for submissions for the 2015 Calendar. Every year, JWV features Jewish servicemembers from all eras of service, past and present.

The JWV Calendar is received by members and supporters across the country, and we're looking to feature members like you! Send your photos and a brief write-up of your time in the military to Nikki Salzman at nsalzman@jwv.org. Photos and other information can also be mailed to Attn: JWV Calendar, 1811 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Please **DO NOT** send originals. JWV will not return original photos.



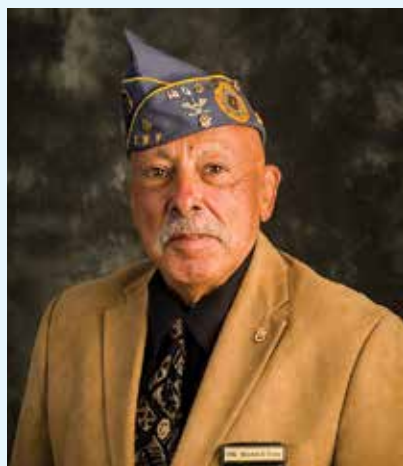
Colonel Maxwell S. Colon Announces His Candidacy for JWV National Commander

COL Maxwell S. Colon's candidacy for JWV National Commander has been unanimously endorsed by North County Post 385 CA, 'The Boldest Post in the West,' and by the Department of California.

Maxwell is a retired Army Colonel with 32 years of service who has served his city, state, and country in the Armed Forces of the USA on active duty, Army Reserve, and the Army National Guard. He was called to active duty during Vietnam and served on the SOCOM staff/J-9 during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He is a graduate of five Senior Military War Colleges/Universities and was appointed as the first Director of Race Relations/Equal Opportunity for the New York Army Reserves Command (77th ARCOM).

Maxwell is also a retired New York City Corrections Captain who worked at Rikers Island, Bronx House of Detention, and the Manhattan House of Detention. He retired in 1986 with over 20 years of service.

Maxwell is a penologist with a civilian education that includes a BS from the University of the State of New York, a MPS from Long Island University (C.W.



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Post Campus), Summa Cum Laude and Outstanding Graduate Student Award, and a Post Graduate Certification from Long Island University (C.W. Post Campus), Summa Cum Laude and Security Administration Award.

Maxwell joined JWV, North County Post 385, San Diego, CA in January 1990 when he received a letter from PNC Murray L. Rosen. He was elected Senior Vice Commander in 1991-93, Post Commander in 1993-96, South Coast District Council Commander in 1995-98, and Department

of California Commander in 1998-99.

Maxwell has received numerous awards from the Post, Council, Department, and National levels of JWV. In 1995, he was the recipient of the Murray L. Rosen Award. In 1996, he received the NMAJMH President's Award and in 2000 he received the NMAJMH Recruiting Award. He received the Outstanding Department Commander Award for 1998-1999. Lifestyles Magazine described him as an indefatigable Veteran and life achiever in their 1999 Winter Edition. He has served as a member and chairman of a number of national level committees and is a current National Executive Committee delegate.

Maxwell was born and raised in the South Bronx 'Fort Apache,' NY until he was a young man. He moved to the West Bronx where he met Linda Sue, his wife of 48 years. They later moved to California and currently reside in La Costa, CA. They had four children, son, Craig Scott, and daughters, Jodi Dyan, Risa Ixchel, and Karyn Danielle. Risa passed away in 2003 at the age of 27. They have two grandchildren Alexa Sarah and Jake Harrison.



Place Your Ad or Message in the 2014 Convention Journal!

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

- Deadline for submission is July 15th.
- B+W ads only.
- All ads must be accompanied with payment at time of submission.
- Ads submitted without payment will not be included.

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

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

Name of Individual or Echelon Submitting Ad

Address

City State Zipcode

Post/Auxiliary Name and Number

Department

Authorized by (Signature)

Voting Eligibility at the 2014 National Convention

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

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

If you have any questions about your Post's voting eligibility status, or need additional information, please contact Greg Byrne at: gbyrne@jwv.org or 202-265-6285



JEWISH WAR VETERANS of the USA

119th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

AUGUST 17-24, 2014 • CHARLESTON, SC

Embassy Suites North Charleston – Airport/Hotel
5055 International Boulevard • North Charleston, SC 29418
TEL: 1-843-747-1882 • FAX: 1-843-747-1895

Hotel Registration deadline is **Monday, July 15**. A one night (\$165/single or double) deposit is required for all hotel registrations. A 3-night minimum stay is required.

Hotel reservations must be made through JVV or the surcharge will be assessed and attendance at meetings will not be allowed. There is a \$165 Convention surcharge for those not staying at the hotel. Local Members living within a 50 mile radius are exempt.

Partial Schedule of Events

(Subject to Change)

Daily • August 20-23

Morning Minyan

Sunday • August 17

Mystery Theater & Dinner

Monday • August 18

Tour of Charleston

NMAJMH Event

Tuesday • August 19

Wreath Laying

NEC Meeting

Committee Meetings

Wednesday • August 20

Joint Opening Session

Resolutions

1st JVV Business Session

Century Club Event

Thursday • August 21

2nd Business Session

Committee Meetings

Resolutions

National President's

Banquet

Friday • August 22

3rd Business Session

Committee Meetings

National Commander

Election

Shabbat Evening

Services

Saturday • August 23

Shabbat Services

NMAJMH Board Meeting

Commander's Banquet

Name: _____ Post No: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Room will be shared with: _____

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

JVV 119 th Annual National Convention ★	Cost	How Many?	Amount
Convention Registration Fee	\$50.00 per member		
I prefer: <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds	\$165.00 per night		
3rd Person in a room	\$90.00 per night		
Minimum Deposit Only	\$165.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel	\$165.00		
Mystery Theater and Dinner • Sunday, Aug. 17	\$50.00 per person		
Tour of Charleston • Monday, Aug. 18	\$47.00 per person		
Open to All Convention Attendees! Century Club Event Wednesday, Aug. 20	\$50 per person		
Commander's Banquet • Saturday, Aug. 23 No. of: London Broil _____ Fish _____ Kosher _____ Sugar Free Dessert _____	\$42.50 per person		
Raffle Tickets	\$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00		
You must include full payment for all event(s) that you plan on attending. Reservations for trips or activities will only be made if paid in full.	Total:		
	Amount paying now:		
I am paying by <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card			
<input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover			
Card No. _____		Exp. _____ / _____	
Signature _____			

Sign and mail this completed form, along with your payment to:
Jewish War Veterans • 1811 R Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009 • Attn: Convention Dept.

Free Shuttle Service from the Charleston International Airport, Free Parking, Complimentary Breakfast Each Morning, and Complimentary Evening Reception at the Hotel with Beverages and Snacks.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Michael White (left), Raymond & Flanigan Furniture Store Manager, and Dan Harting (right), District Manager, hand PDC Jerry Farris a \$1,000 check. Post 239 PA assisted the store with their Salute to the Troops fundraising event. Shoppers were asked to write a note to a servicemember in the VA hospital. The Post raised \$692 and the store added an additional \$1,000 to their total.



Post 657 NJ presented a check for \$5,000 to the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home of Vineland, NJ. The donation, made in the memory of Post member Stu Ozegowsky, will go toward the purchase of furniture and other items for use by the residents and their families. Left to right: Boris Reissek, Jr., CEO of the Veterans Memorial Home; Sandi Ozegowsky; Carol Adler; Sandy Yaskulka; Post Commander Al Adler; and Tracey Adler.



Post 757 TALO donated a gas engine golf cart to the Austin, TX area Horses for Heroes chapter. The cart will be used to transport handicapped and disabled veterans and their families so they can use all the features of the ranch including the picnic grove, trails, and stables. Previously those with wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, and difficulty walking were confined to the parking lot area. Pictured: Post Commander Earle Sherrod (far right) presents the cart to Randy and Nancy Stratton, founders of the Austin Horses for Heroes chapter.



Members of Post 133 NJ participated in the local Veterans Day celebration and parade. They were joined by rabbis, teachers, and students from the Rabbi Pesach Ramon Yeshiva for Kaddish just before the start of the parade. JWV members from left to right: Harold Ruchlin, Richard Hoffman, Walter Braun, Stanley Eber, and Frederick Shaffer.



The Department of Michigan and its Ladies Auxiliary took part in their 68th consecutive Christmas day visit to the Battle Creek VA Medical Center. JWV volunteers visited with over 200 patients, played bingo, and provided clothing, healthy snacks, and other items.



Post 609 NJ presented a check to the NJ National Guard to help needy families of members of the Guard called to active duty. In 2013 and 2014, Post 609 gave a cumulative donation of \$25,000. Left to right: Junior-Vice Commander Ralph Goodman; Maj. Gen. Maria Falca-Dodson, NJANG (Ret); Post Commander Bernie Passer; Sgt. Major Len Mayersohn (ret), Chairman, Readiness Council NJ National Guard; Senior-Vice Commander Shelly Bloom; and Quartermaster Ron Slaten.



On October 1, 2013, members of Post 39 NJ, for the second year in a row, traveled to Ft. Belvoir, VA to distribute 75 DVD players that the Post purchased and hundreds of DVDs contributed by the community to returning wounded veterans. Direct financial aid was also provided by the Post to the Wounded Warrior Project, Operation Homefront, Operation First Response, and the Fisher House. Pictured: veterans and servicemembers at Ft. Belvoir holding their DVD players and selecting DVDs.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Jeffrey Weitzenkorn, Commander of Post 735 MA, presented a check in the amount of \$1,450 to the VA Boston Healthcare System at the Brockton Campus. These funds represent the amount collected during the Post's three day solicitation at Shaws Supermarket for Veterans Day. Left to right: Ralph Marche, Chief of Voluntary/Recreation Services, VA Boston; Commander Weitzenkorn; and Richard Leeman, Assistant Chief, Voluntary Service.



Post 580 TALO participated in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade in New Orleans, LA. They were the only veterans group participating in the parade this year. Pictured: Post 580 TALO Patrons Jimmy Anselmo (left) and Seth Watkins.



Cpl. Burt Richards, Post 819 FL, and Sgt. George Fisher, Post 440 FL, spoke to 135 students at a local school about the U.S. armed forces and the Tuskegee Airmen. Left to right: Sgt Fisher, Student Mickie Jackson, Cpl. Richards, and JROTC Student Quincy Thelusme.



Arthur Schiff (front), a new Life Member of Post 69 NY, made generous donations to JWV and JWVA. From left, National Inspector Sidney Goldman, PDC Jerry Blum, and PNC Paul Bernstein visited Schiff to present him with his Life Membership certificate and thank him for his generosity. Schiff, a resident of a VA Medical Center in NY, has benefited from Post 69's past programming, which inspired him to give to the National Organization.



Post 105 NY Commander Lance Allen Wang presents the Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award to Bob Nevins of Saratoga WarHorse at the 49th Annual Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award presentation at the Stratton VA Medical Center Chapel Feb. 23.



Members of the Department of California spent Christmas Day delivering gifts to hospitalized veterans. The "A Gift for a Yank" program was started in 1946 by the late entertainer (and JWV member) Eddie Cantor. This year marked the program's 67th year. Mathew Millen, Commander of Post 118 CA, stands with the gifts before they were distributed to veterans.



Gabriel Jacobs was the recipient of the \$1,000 Bernard Rotberg Memorial Grant, one of the national awards offered by the Jewish War Veterans. His great-grandfather Morris Cohen was a member of Post 145 WI. The Department of Wisconsin presented his award in December. Left to right: Robin Jacobs, Elaine Sanderson, Gabriel Jacobs, Post Commander Ronald Laux, and Jonathan Jacobs.



The Department of TALO held their semi-annual convention in El Paso, TX in January 2014. Left to right (standing): Dolores Schneider, Department Commander Barry Schneider, Senior-Vice Commander Earle Sherrod, Past Department Commander of NY Jerry Alperstein, and Jerry Benjamin; (seated): Jack Schlossberg, Junior-Vice Commander Rich Morris, and Art Kaplan.

Civil Rights Committee

By Chairman Jerry Berns, PDC

In the past 12 years I've tried to bring you different aspects of civil rights. A civil right is an enforceable right or privilege. The United States adheres to the most notable international agreement on civil rights. Examples of civil rights are freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and the right to vote. We've talked about Jews in service, Martin Luther King, Coretta King, LGBT Americans, Native Americans, Jews migrating back to Germany, Africa, etc.

This time our focus is on the Jews in Alaska. Some background on Alaska first. Alaska is larger than the state of Texas. Most Jews live in Anchorage, Fairbanks, or Juneau. I believe that Nome also has some Jews. The Jewish population in Alaska is a little over 6,000. There are a lot of interfaith marriages with Jews, and the women tend to do more to keep Judaism alive. At this time, there are five synagogues in Alaska and a number of private homes used for places of worship. Two of the synagogues are located in Anchorage, one in Fairbanks, one in Juneau, and one in Sterling.

The first Jews (as far as we know) came to Alaska in 1898, mostly emigrating from Russia and from San Francisco. Most of these early settlers were fur traders.

The new settlers ran into anti-Semitic resistance. This resistance was mostly in the political field.

In 1939, President Roosevelt named Ernest Gruening, a Jew, Territorial Governor. Gruening was Alaska's longest-serving Territorial Governor. He was called the Father of Alaskan Statehood.

During the Nazi Regime, Jews tried to resettle in Alaska with the help of Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes. Jews found much anti-Semitic resistance for one excuse or another, but a small amount did get in.

Jews donated a lot of money to help in the efforts to gain Alaska's statehood as the 49th state.

Politically today, Alaska is predominately Republican but

the Jewish population is mostly Democratic.

Anchorage is the largest city with the most Jewish people residing there. On July 3, 2013, the Alaska Jewish Museum and Cultural Center opened its doors. It's about Jewish contributions to Alaska's history and their own Jewish life.

Over all, the Jewish population is involved with all functions of life for the betterment of Alaska.

I suggest everyone read about our 49th state of Alaska, and if you're lucky enough to visit this beautiful place, make sure your trip includes the Alaska Jewish Museum in Anchorage.

Development Committee

By Chairman Monroe Mayer, PNC

A major change in charitable donations to the usual recipients, such as JWV USA and other veterans' organizations, along with other well-known recipients, has occurred. A new class of donees has replaced the old-line institutions. Due to major natural disasters, e.g., Hurricane Irene, Superstorm Sandy, tornadoes, forest fires, flooding, and even shootings, we find normal donations are being reassigned to communities and worldwide areas which have been subject to these tragedies. These new facts have been verified by other institutions similar to ours, and the results are seen across the board of non-profits and charities. Every part of the country, and even the world, such as the Philippines, has been subjected to these events. They are becoming more common to us today due to cell phones, the internet, and TV news channels.

This presents a problem today for us, as our membership is slowly declining, and the economy is not growing as fast for the middle and lower class.

What it means for us, as Posts, Councils, Departments, and National, is we have to work harder to secure the finances we all need today. Please remember that at one time the National Organization could easily support itself as membership dues were large and growing and the benefits from insurance

proceeds helped to sustain us. That is no longer true today, and we are feeling the loss. Our Committee is doing its best to revise this, but we still look to you, our leadership, to remind our members to please respond to the mail solicitations. The premiums we include for all of you in our mailings are generally looked forward to by our recipients, but please remember this: the calendar, High Holiday cards, and other items are not benefits of membership. If you have not received any of these lately, it is simply that you have not donated recently. We go over our mailings to ensure that those who donate do receive these items.

Your photos and stories of active-duty occurrences are still needed for our calendar. We are looking for all stories, including KP, and guard duty. If you have a story to share, please send it to Nikki Salzman at nsalzman@jwv.org.

Health Initiatives Committee

By Chairman Dr. Jacob Romo, PDC

This is an update of items that were previously reported on at JWV National Conventions and/or in The Jewish Veteran.

Traumatic Brain Injury: The New York Times (12/16/2013) reported that the Department of Veterans Affairs has promulgated new regulations, which took effect on Jan 16, 2014, on how veterans can receive health care and compensation for traumatic brain injury (TBI). Since 2000, almost 287,000 active duty service members and veterans were diagnosed with TBI and about 62,000 of those injuries are related to Iraq and Afghanistan service. About 10 to 20 percent of veterans of those conflicts may have TBI and about 7 percent of veterans have both TBI and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Because of significant advances in medical care and early diagnosis and treatment, more servicemen are surviving and returning from combat with TBI.

TBI and PTSD: The San Diego Union Tribune reported on a four-year San Diego VA study (2008–2012) of 1,650 Marines at Camp Pendleton, which revealed that the

strongest predictor of PTSD is a blast injury to the brain. According to that study, "TBI was the strongest predictor of PTSD, even when controlling for pre-existing symptoms and combat intensity." The research conducted by the VA at Camp Pendleton is the first that indicates that brain trauma increases the risk of developing PTSD. A Time Magazine "Swampland" article dated February 4, 2014 depicted graphically that "the more combat events" troops experience, the more mental-health problems they will suffer. According to a new Army report, "there is a direct-linear relationship between combat exposure and resulting mental maladies" i.e. PTSD, anxiety, depression, and suicidal tendencies they can trigger. Repeated deployments lead to more combat traumatic experiences, which in turn leads to more TBI, PTSD, anxiety, depression, and suicide.

TBI, PTSD, and Suicide: It has been reported that at least 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have PTSD and/or depression. The percentage is higher when combined with TBI. The recent Rand Corporation study of PTSD and TBI also showed that rates of veteran suicide are much higher than previously thought. The number of veterans committing suicide increased dramatically between 2009 and 2011. Department of Veterans Affairs statistics showed that the rate of veteran suicide remained largely unchanged at about 22 deaths a day. Suicides among active duty soldiers and Marines rose alarmingly over the last few years but appear to have begun to reverse that trend. In a USA Today article on January 31, 2014, it was reported that the "historic pattern of rising suicides among soldiers that tormented the Army for nearly 10 years reversed dramatically in 2013. Suicides in the Army fell by 19%." There were 150 suicides among soldiers on active duty status in 2013 down from a record 185 in 2012 according to Army data. It is believed by suicide researchers that the decline may be "the inevitable result of the nation ending involvement in one war in Iraq and winding down its role in another in Afghanistan."

Post 112 SE Hosts Oneg at Ft. Benning

Post 112 SE in Atlanta, GA sponsored an oneg for active duty service personnel at Ft. Benning, GA. CAPT Neil Block, USN (Ret) has been coordinating weekly Jewish services at Ft. Benning, and Post 112 representatives Commander Barry Benator, George Heart, Robert Max, Richard Chastain, Jay Bailey, and Col. Don Gilner were delighted to join him for an inclusive service with more than 300 attendees.

A significant number of those pres-

ent were Jewish as well as a lot of curious non-Jewish attendees. Several officers and enlisted soldiers participated in the service along with members from Post 112.

Following the service, everyone gathered for bagels and cream cheese sponsored by the Post. The Post 112 members present said a few words about their time in the military, thanked the soldiers for their service, and invited all present to join JWV.



Post 112 SE members with troops at Ft. Benning. Left to right: Dick Grifenhagen; Robert Max; Post Commander Barry Benator; Richard Chastain; Col. Don Gilner; and George Heart.



Post Commander Barry Benator addresses the troops during the Post 112 SE sponsored oneg.



CAPT Neil Block, USN (Ret) leads the service at Ft. Benning.

Although it has been postulated that the strains of fighting two wars at once, multiple deployments for the active, reserve, and National Guard and stresses resulting from frequent family separations were possible causes of military suicides, previous studies have indicated that many suicides were by soldiers and Marines who had never deployed to the war zone and had more to do with financial and relationship issues. The Navy also experienced a decline in the number of active duty sailors who took their own lives. The Navy Times, citing U.S. Navy statistics, reported a 2013 suicide rate of 12.4 per 100,000 sailors, down from 16.6 in 2012. In actual numbers, 59 sailors suicided in 2012 vs. 44 in 2013. According to an Army Times report on February 17, 2014, the Navy had the biggest decline in suicides, nearly 22 percent from 2012. However, the reasons why service members commit suicide still “remain varied and complex.” According to that Army Times article, “the task of maintaining and calculating military suicide data appears to be a continuing challenge for the Pentagon

and the services” because each service keeps its own data and various “discrepancies make it difficult to determine how troops are faring across the services or compared with the U.S. population.”

VAVS

By Chairman Jerry Berns, PDC

In past years, I’ve brought up the fact that by volunteering your time you give the Jewish War Veterans the most exposure in the country. It shows others what we do and how we care for our men and women veterans. The patients, the hospitals, the staff, the doctors, the nurses, and the families get a chance to know who we are.

You may ask: How can I help?

Volunteering can include visiting patients, answering phones, delivering their mail, transporting outpatients to appointments, helping run organized events, and sharing and teaching others your special talents.

Believe me, these patients and the VA staff are very grateful for your time and dedication.

Last September, I visited the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare

System. I spent a gratifying afternoon at the VA Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center. While I was there I met Larry Wong, who is a Volunteer Service Specialist, and Marianne Davis, who is the Chief of Voluntary Programs Service. It was nice to finally meet them in person since I talk to them on the phone. They gave me a tour of the facility and introduced me to a number of our JWV volunteers.

The clinic is huge. There is a big day room that is used for many different functions. There the veterans can socialize, eat, attend movies, or take part in other entertainment. This particular afternoon, there was a group performing song and dance numbers. They are called Pre-Creation and they were great. I enjoyed them, and the veterans seemed to really enjoy them too.

This facility is a place of comfort for many homeless veterans who come there. They come in the afternoon for a place to spend their time. I am glad there is a place for them to go.

Recently, I received an email from Beverly Leneki, Chief of Voluntary and Chaplain Services

for the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System in Michigan. It read:

Hi Mr. Berns:

It was great chatting with you last week. I’m happy to share with you one of your volunteers Mitch Rycus and his faithful Dog named Kipu, a mixed poodle. Mitch and Kipu have been part of our pet therapy program since November 2010. On a regular basis they come into the Medical Center and visit in patients in the community living center and in the out-patient waiting areas. For many of our CLC residents this is a high point of their day. Mitch always has a smile on his face and Kipu is a delight.

Thanks so much Beverly for passing on that story.

Mitch, we applaud you and Kipu for all the good you do for our veterans.

Once again, my comrades, WE thank you for all your volunteerism. But most of all, our veterans are truly grateful for all your efforts.

God bless our veterans and our country.

Continued on page 22

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

James Case-100 • Elisha McIntyre-100 • Ernest P. Sachs-100 • Alan C. Sanger-100 • Valerie V. Knowles-344

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Marvin J. Golden-185 • Josh Leasure-385 • Ian A. Gale-603 • Seymour Porter-603 • Joan Starr-603 • Charles J. Young-603 • Lawrence B. Polsky-680 • Arthur Schlosser-680

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Michael Passo-821

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Joseph Katz-172 • Bernard A. Gropper-300 • Ron McDevitt-639 • Wm. W. Levine-698

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Leonard Cravath-29 • Gerald Pollack-29 • Marvin Weiss-29

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Irving A. Cohen-605

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Lillian Wolf-567 • Phillip Resnick-692 • Jules Blitz-888

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Arnold Beberman-157 • David M. Raduziner-157 • Harvey F. Doren-211 • Dennis A. Herman-211

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Jack Mayer-474 • Martin Miller-474 • Harold Pramekamol-510

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

Bruce F. Lafollette-21 • Ed Katz-21 • Leonard

Krane-21 • Mervyn Levin-21 • Donald Davidson-64 • Jayme Glick-64 • Marvin Marcus-64 • Paul J. Warman-64

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Andrew T. Kennedy-39 • Jeffrey I. Lipschutz-39 • Morton H. Burke-125 • Stuart Alperin-126 • Manny Pak-126 • Gerald E. Sheier-126 • Ervin Smith-126 • Martin Goldman-133 • Michael Jacobs-178 • Albert Barouch-273 • Adam J. Campbell-972

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Stephen J. Bearman-336 • Jeffrey M. Leiman-336 • Lawrence Shoenthal-425 • Herbert Blatt-764 • Leon Glassgold-764 • Milton Markowitz-764 • Melvin Milner-764 • Edwin Rosenfeld-764 • Jerone Weisenberg-764

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Russ L. Remick-587

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Richard M. Silk-499 • Angelo M. Depalma-697 • Robert Duboff-706 • Steven S. Pellicone-706 • Ron I. Baron-791

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Robert Marcus-608

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Howard Barry Cohen-619 • Paul Herman-619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

Raziel Amar-749

DEPARTMENT OF VA-NC

Mona Pearl-95 • Jesse Monestersky-158

▶ The USS Hornet (CV-8, CV, CVA, CVS-12) 66th Reunion will be held at the Hilton Double Tree Airport Hotel in San Antonio, TX. For more information, contact Carl and Sandy Burket at 814-224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, or www.usshornetassn.com.

▶ The 23rd Reunion of the USS John R. Craig DD885 will be held September 24-28, 2014 in Portland, OR. For more information visit www.ussjohnrcraig.com or contact Jerry Chwalek at 734-525-1469, jermail@ameritech.net.

▶ The 94th Infantry Division WWII Historical Society Reunion will be held June 25 -29, 2014 in Washington, DC. For more information, contact John Clyburn at 908-781-1406, 94thHistSociety@comcast.net.

▶ The USS Warrington (DD843) Alumni Organization will be holding its reunion September 17-21, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront in Jacksonville, FL. For more information, contact Stan Prager at 916-791-6700, stashuman843@msn.com.

▶ The US Navy Amphibious Force Veterans Association will be holding its reunion in New Orleans, LA on September 7-10, 2014. Contact John J. Walsh at 732-367-6472 or navyguys@verizon.net for more information.

▶ USS Iwo Jima (LPH2/LHD7) Shipmates, for all ships company and embarked Navy and Marine Corps personnel who were onboard the LPH2 or LHD7, will be having its reunion at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Jacksonville, FL on August 27-31, 2014. For more information, contact Robert G. McAnally at 757-723-0317 or yujack46709@gmail.com. Visit ussiwojimashipmates.cfns.net for more information.

PEOPLE & PLACES

▶ **Post 717 NY** sponsored a holiday party at the Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook, NY. The resident veterans were treated to music, pizza, and ice cream. The Post also gave the Veterans Home a donation and passed out beautiful handmade lap blankets made by the Meadowbrook Women's Initiative group.

▶ Congratulations to **Jerry Field, Post 710 IL**, on receiving a Gold Medal from the DOD for his service as a member of the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee. As a Committee member, Field helped to create and promote activities to honor Korean War Veterans and educate Americans of all ages about the historical significance of the Korean War.

▶ **Post 256 TALO** sponsored a special Christmas Day Mitzvah Program at the Lancaster VA. Over 40 people volunteered to bring cheer to over 200 bed bound veterans.

▶ **Post 210 AZ** held a Super Bowl XLVIII Party for the 40 residents at the Arizona State Veterans Home in Phoenix, AZ. Post members served food and entertained the residents throughout the game. Pizza was served and bingo was played during halftime.

REUNIONS

▶ The Society of the First Infantry Division, veterans of the Army's "Big Red One," will hold its 96th Annual Reunion from June 25-29, 2014 in Orange County, CA at the Hyatt Regency. For more information, contact the Society of the First Infantry Division at 215-654-1969, soc1ID@aol.com, www.1stID.org.

▶ The USS Waldron Reunion will be held in Tampa, FL from October 22-26, 2014. For more information, contact Michael Montalbano at 813-977-9652 or mike.montalbano@yahoo.com.

IN SEARCH OF

▶ My name is Tony Lynch, I am part of a group from Essex, England who are researching the crash of a B17 Flying Fortress (#44-8198) of the 8th AF, 379th Bomb Group, 526th Bomb Squadron that was involved in a mid-air collision over Braintree, Essex England May 10, 1945. All 11 men on board this aircraft died as a result of that crash. We are trying to erect a memorial to these men which we would unveil on the 70th anniversary in 2015. We are looking for surviving relatives and need your help finding the family of 1st Lt Irving Nussbaum #0-862361. His Jewish serviceman card indicates his mother was Mrs. Nussbaum of 16 Van Sicklen Street, Brooklyn, NY. His father was named Morris and he had a brother, Maxwell, who also served in WWII. If you have any information, please contact me at Tel: (UK) 01621 816 245; Address: 6 Luther Drive, Tiptree, Colchester, Essex CO5 OSQ England; email: tony.lynch69@btinternet.com.

'Monuments Men'

Continued from page 1

art historian at Harvard's Fogg Museum whose proposal to protect cultural property during the war led President Franklin Roosevelt to establish the unit. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower is credited with empowering the unit to carry out its mission.

It was a watershed moment in the preservation of cultural history, Edsel and others say.

Through the Monuments Men Foundation he established in 2007, Edsel is backing a bill in Congress that would award the Monuments Men the Congressional Gold Medal.

"It's a race against time," said Edsel, who would like to see the bill adopted while there are living members of the Monuments Men.

Harry Ettlinger, whose Jewish family fled Germany in 1938 when he was young, is among the only five Monuments Men still alive. Ettlinger was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944 at age 18, and eventually was assigned to the Monuments Men unit for his fluency in German.

"It makes me feel good that I did something of value for the rest of the world," Ettlinger, 87, told JTA in phone conversation from his home in Rockaway, N.J.

In the movie, the British actor Dimitri Leonidas plays Sam Epstein, a character based on Ettlinger. Following a recent private screening, Ettlinger gave the film a thumbs up.

In November 2012, Ettlinger accepted an award

from the American Jewish Historical Society on behalf of all the Monuments Men. The society also awarded its legacy award in memory of Col. Seymour Pomrenze, an archivist who served 34 years of active and reserve service in the Army, for his unique leadership role in the Monuments Men recovering and restituting millions of Jewish books and artifacts and nearly 1,000 Torah scrolls confiscated by the Nazis. Pomrenze died in 2011.

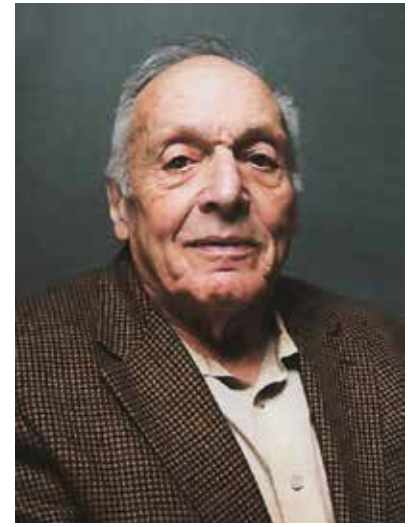
In many ways, Pomrenze's work is a parallel story to the saving of looted art, says Lisa Leff, an associate professor of history at American University in Washington, D.C., and a specialist on the fate of Jewish archives in France during and after World War II.

But while the Monuments Men's mission was to return the art to its original countries, much of what Pomrenze rescued became "heirless," as the original Jewish owners and entire Jewish communities perished in the war.

An organization of Jewish scholars was established to deal with the books and manuscripts and other property, which was disbursed to Jewish institutions in Israel and the United States.

While the film is not an explicitly Jewish story, Leff imagines it will garner significant attention from a Jewish audience because so much of what was stolen was owned by Jewish collectors or created by Jewish artists.

Edsel says he hopes that a toll-free ho-



Harry Ettlinger

line set up by the Monuments Men Foundation will lead to the return of some of the art that is still missing. He hopes, too, that increased prominence of the Monuments Men story will inspire similar efforts today.

"Looking forward," Edsel said, "we want to put their legacy to use so that the U.S. and other countries re-establish the high bar set by General Eisenhower during the war."



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who braved the snow to join me at the Museum's Board of Directors Meeting in February. Those present were treated to a special presentation from Quatrefoil Associates on the core exhibit that will open in November 2014.

I think everyone at the meeting will agree with me when I say that the new exhibit will transform NMAJMH for the better. We will continue to update you on the progress of the exhibit in the coming months as we finalize all of the details and begin the construction phase this fall.

I am also hard at work with our national staff to finalize our new Yahrzeit Program website. We anticipate that the new website will be rolled out in the next few months. The new design is modern and extremely user friendly. Depending on the Yahrzeit plan you purchase,

there is now the capability to upload multiple photos to a loved one's memorial display and increase the amount of text in his or her biography.

The new website will allow us to more seamlessly notify Yahrzeit sponsors and next of kin that a loved one's yahrzeit is approaching. The front of the website will have a rotating gallery featuring individuals marking their yahrzeit on that date. This means that anyone visiting our website from anywhere in the world will know who to say Kaddish for on that date.

When the new Yahrzeit Program website is up and running we will be making our first announcements via email. If you don't receive emails from the Museum and would like to be added to our list, please contact Iryna Apple at iapple@jwv.org.

Finally, I'd like to say a few

words about fundraising. Small amounts of money are coming into the Museum, and for that, we are, of course, grateful. However, operating the Museum – maintaining the exhibits and the materials in our archives, repairing the space and the building when necessary, and keeping our exhibits current and relevant – is an expensive endeavor.

In the past, when the Museum ran low on funds, we were fortunate to have JWV step in and make up the difference. However, financial circumstances for JWV have changed in the past 10 years. With the loss of many of our WWII era and Korean era veterans, JWV is now a much smaller organization and unable to fulfill this role.

This means that it's more important than ever for you to go into your communities and find new NMAJMH members and potential donors. Remember, unlike JWV,



**PNC Norman Rosenshein
President, NMAJMH**

there are no restrictions on who can be a member of the Museum. The only requirement is a desire to preserve the proud history of Jewish Americans in the U.S. armed forces. If you don't speak up on behalf of the Museum, who will? We need advocates like you in order to continue to tell our story and ensure that the Museum is here for many years to come.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES **By Pamela Elbe**

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

We Need Your Help: Request for Stories - Last Call

As part of our new permanent exhibit, NMAJMH is developing an interactive computer touch table. The theme of this interactive map is American military service around the world (1948 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 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.

Visitors will explore the location and chronology of military conflicts across the world from the Cold War to the present. Visitors will encounter personal stories of Jewish veterans who participated in these conflicts, using a timeline to access a series of world maps. For each decade since 1945, a map shows locations

in which American military operations took place. By tapping a location, visitors call up a set of "cards," each telling the story of an individual service member's experience through brief text and photographs. We need your help to further flesh out this map, to show how Jews have served and continue to serve in the American military in conflicts big or small.

We have already received many wonderful submissions, but we have room for more. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this exciting new exhibit! To have your story and photograph included, please send an email to Pamela Elbe (pelbe@nmajmh.org) with the following information:

- ◆ Your name and contact information
- ◆ Dates of service
- ◆ Military operation (name and location)
- ◆ Your branch of service and rank at the time
- ◆ Describe a specific, memorable incident



Capt Arthur Bayuk and 3rd Airlift Squadron crew with Ghanan Pres. J.J. Rawlings during a humanitarian mission to Ghana.

that occurred during your military service. How is it representative of your overall experience? Were you stationed somewhere remote, or have an interesting MOS or duties?

Please include one or more photographs from your time of service. In order to be able to use your images, we ask that the digital photo file be higher quality resolution (file size of at least 1 MB). If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Elbe at pelbe@nmajmh.org.

ADMINISTRATIVELY SPEAKING **By Mary Westley, Museum Coordinator**

The Museum Store provides many opportunities for gift giving, offering our visitors and members educational resources and finely crafted items. Best of all, with each purchase, money comes back to the Museum to fund our programming.

The Museum Store has dichroic glass Magen David pendants created by glass artist Jamie Agins and stunning greeting cards (A Celebration of Israel: 5 note cards) created by local Maryland watercolor artist Mike Shibley. We offer books and videos on military service, including those written by Museum members like Jason Abady (“The Battle at the Overland Trail”) and military veterans like Dr. Julian Haber (“They Were Soldiers in Peace and War Volumes I and II”) and Dr. Itzhak Brook (“In the Sands of Sinai : A Physicians Account of the Yom Kippur War”). We even have a cook book available containing recipes and stories from Holocaust survivors in “Recipes Remembered.” Not to mention, we sell our own catalogs documenting our exhibits.

This spring, we are highlighting the works of two of the authors featured in our Museum Store. The first is “They Fought for Each Other” by Kelly Kennedy. This book depicts the “tri-

umph and tragedy of the hardest hit unit in Iraq,” Charlie Company 1-26, which was the unit of Jewish fallen hero SFC Daniel Agami. As we get closer to Memorial Day weekend, I encourage you to pick up this book and reflect on the sacrifices made by the individuals in Charlie Company 1-26.

The second work is by Linda Dudik, PhD., President of the World War II Experience (www.wwiexperience.com). She wrote “To Quiet the Fears of Others: The Story of a World War II Army Nurse,” which documents the personal and military history of WWII nurse Lillian Krell. Krell is one of many women who are highlighted in our exhibit Women in the Military: A Jewish Perspective. During our special programming for the DKMC Walk Weekend on June 8, we will feature the making of the book with special highlights from the videotaped interviews between Dr. Dudik and Krell.

Later this spring, we will honor the service and sacrifice of SFC Agami and other Jewish servicemembers who have died in Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn. On May 23rd, we will once again in-

vite their families and the community to come together at our annual National Memorial Day Shabbat service held at the historic Sixth and I Synagogue in Washington, DC.

We encourage you to remember their names at Shabbat services in your local community as well. The full list of Fallen Heroes is available online at www.nmajmh.org.

On Sunday, June 8, as part of the Dupont-Kalorama Museums Consortium’s Walk Weekend activities, NMAJMH will host an afternoon of Family Stories. Our special guest this year is Grace Guggenheim, daughter of the Oscar winning DC based filmmaker, Charles Guggenheim, who will introduce the film “Berga: Soldiers of Another War,” which was written and directed by her father.

We hope that you will be able to join us at these very special upcoming events.

We give a special thank you to museum docent, Lt. Col. Sheldon Goldberg, USAF (ret.), Post 692 MD, who recently served as a spokesperson for NMAJMH and JWV on PBS Newshour where he discussed the Medal of Honor in a widely watched interview with co-anchor Gwen Ifill.

FROM OUR COLLECTION **By Mike Rugel**

Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH

Lieutenant Abram Grossman would pack equipment and notes in the bag pictured below to use



while monitoring equipment during flights aboard B-29 bombers. The 1,500-mile flight on May 25, 1945 from the Mariana Islands to Tokyo was Grossman’s 27th mission as a flight engineer on a B-29. It was a harrowing one. Grossman and four other members of the B-29 crew survived. Their six crewmates died. The citation for the Distinguished Flying Cross awarded to the survivors tells the story of the mission:

From landfall to land’s end they were under constant attack by enemy fighters and anti-aircraft fire. On the approach to the target area, one engine was rendered inoperative by flak,

and a large hole was sustained in the right wing, with heavy loss of fuel. With great determination, they kept the aircraft on course and made a successful bomb run on three engines, scoring excellent results. On the return from the target, the windmilling propeller of the damaged engine wound off, striking the fuselage and resulting in further structural damage. When enemy fighters again attacked the crippled airplane, instrument and control cables were damaged heavily, and the second engine cut out. The airplane began to lose altitude rapidly, and the crew members were forced to bail out only 70 miles from the Japanese mainland.

After parachuting out, Grossman and the others spent 13 hours in a life raft before being rescued by a submarine and then placed on a U.S. Destroyer.

Soon after his safe return to the Marianas, Grossman joined the Goldfish Club, an organization for airmen all over the world who have survived a water landing. He was back to his flight engineer duties in July. His handwritten Combat Record lists the May 25th flight with the notation “Ditched” after 10 hours of flight time. There are ten additional missions listed before

the end of the war in the Pacific in August.

Perhaps the brush with death made Grossman more religious. Two weeks after the mission, Chaplain David I. Cedarbaum wrote to Grossman’s parents in Asbury Park, New Jersey that Grossman had attended Shabbat services. Cedarbaum offered gratitude to God for the “miracle” which brought Grossman back. He wrote: “Meager as the Sabbath is out here, it is nevertheless rich spiritually – especially at such times when our men come back safe and sound and immediately join their fellow Jews in prayer and thanksgiving and share in the beauty and fellowship of Jewish life.”



Goldfish Club patch awarded to Abram Grossman.

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Ira Levy was incorrectly listed as a member of Post 47 MI in the TAPS section of The Jewish Veteran. During his life, he was a proud member of Post 474 MI.

Notices for the TAPS section should be sent to membership@jwv.org.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Continued from page 17

Women in the Military Committee

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

Ironic, isn't it? The very person assigned to investigate sexual assault in the armed forces is himself accused of sexual misconduct by a lawyer in his own office! Now is the time for our collective armed forces to engage an investigative team from outside the ranks. Now is the time to finally come to grips and accept the fact that this deviant behavior is endemic within the ranks and there are very few, if any, truly qualified at this time and point to lead the investigation.

So many outside the services wonder why women and men wait so long to report the assaults they endured. Perhaps now they will be more understanding when they are told you cannot trust the higher-ups...that they are just as guilty of perpetuating the crime as those who commit it!

Ever since women have served in our armed forces, they have been subjected to unsolic-

ited sexual advances from the men they served with – both enlisted and officers. Now, we hear of men who are also assaulted by other men. There is nothing “fun” about being the victim of such a crime. Yet many times, these troops have been ridiculed and their assaults have gone unpunished.

There is a great amount of shame felt by the victim; especially when the first question they are often asked is what did they do that caused the other person to attack them? Did they flirt? Show too much leg? Wiggle a bit too much? You get the idea...it's always easier to try to put the blame back on the victim rather than focus on the perpetrator.

Over the course of this past year it was beginning to look as if all the branches of our armed forces were finally addressing the problem and forging forward to do something about it. More men and women began coming forward and reporting the assaults with promises of punishment for the offenders.

Then we learned once the criminal was ar-

rested and tried, found guilty and dishonorably discharged (but generally without jail time), their commanding officers were turning over the judgments and they were back on the job, able to smile at their victims. Now, we learn even the investigator in charge of going after the criminals is himself accused of sexually inappropriate behavior.

When does it stop? Who can be trusted? I say it is time we stopped using the “Good Old Boy's Club” to investigate what is happening within the ranks! It is time for civilian investigators, civilian attorneys, and civilian judges to step in at the request of our military justice system – even if it takes an act of Congress!

Our men and women deserve only the best! They are serving to keep us free and are being held “prisoners” by their offenders. Let us have our voices heard! Let us address the problem in force to our representatives in Congress. If we speak loudly enough, and enough of us speak out, they have to listen! Speak up! Women AND men! Enough is enough!



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Allan Abramson & Wife Sheila
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Jerry & Sara Alperstein

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In Memory of Sid & Florence Israel, USMC

Brad Gross • Lots of luck, you made it!

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Jewish War Veterans USA Post 1

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Happy Holiday!

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Lt. Milton Walzer under sign "Passover Services" with the damaged Korean Capitol building in background, 1952.

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