



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Volume 67 • Number 2

Bringing an End to Sexual Abuse in Our Military

One year ago, JWV called for meaningful action on ending sexual abuse in the military – a look at what has gone wrong and right in the ongoing efforts to combat this problem.

In the spring of 2013, this country seemed poised to pass legislation to bring the issue of unwanted sexual contact in the military under control. Significant proposals were brought forward by members of Congress to bring an end to these crimes, and JWV joined its voice to these calls for reforms.

Following several high profile cases, sexual abuse and misconduct in the military were a hot topic in mainstream media outlets. The American public was stunned by the outcomes of some of these cases. Most notably, that of Lt. Col. James Wilkerson who had his conviction of aggravated sexual assault overturned by a Commanding Officer who offered no explanation for his decision. Almost a year later, in re-



sponse to public outrage, the Commanding Officer was forced to retire.

At the same time, the Pentagon's release of a

survey on unwanted sexual contact in the military only underscored the issue by revealing that 6.1 percent of female and 1.2 percent of male active duty service members were victims of unwanted sexual contact in 2012.

In April of this year, the Department of Defense (DOD) submitted an updated report on sexual assaults in the U.S. Armed Forces to the Committees on Armed Services. The "Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military" examined data from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013. One of the key findings: reports of sexual assault increased in all four military services. DOD received 5,061 reports of sexual assault involving one or more service-members as either the victim or the suspect. In fiscal year 2012, they received 3,374 reports.

DOD has patted itself on the back for the

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Three Jewish Movements, One Prayer Book

This Memorial Day weekend, three Upper East Side synagogues remembered the Jewish men and women who have died defending the United States by using the JWB Jewish military siddur during Shabbat services.

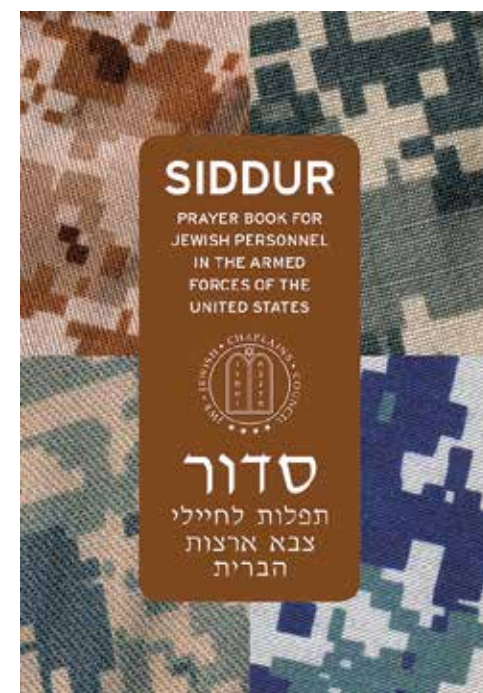
The three synagogues — one each from the Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform movements — used the newly released siddur during services beginning the Friday evening of Memorial Day weekend at three separate services in New York City. On Friday, May 23, services to honor our troops began with Kabbalat Shabbat at Central Synagogue where David Frommer, the first cantor to serve in the U.S. military was featured in the service using the siddur.

On Saturday, May 24, the siddur was used at Park Avenue Synagogue, a Conservative congregation. Steven Rein, the congregation's assistant rabbi and a chaplain in the Air Force reserve, spoke at the service. To conclude the day of rest, Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, an Orthodox congregation, used the prayer book for evening

services beginning at the Ramaz Gottesman Center. David Posner, JCC Association vice-president and director of strategic performance, who coordinates JWB with JCC Association, spoke at the end of the evening service.

"This will be a rare opportunity for congregations to use this siddur, which is really meant for our military chaplains and the men and women they serve," said retired Rear Adm. Rabbi Harold Robinson, director of the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, a program of JCC Association. "But it is a fitting Memorial Day tribute to use in a congregational setting, reminding us of those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom."

The prayer book was introduced at JCC Association Biennial in San Diego in late March and used during Shabbat and daily services during the conference. The JWB Jewish Chaplains Council is a program of JCC Association. Because of a special "copyright of exception" granted by the three Jewish movements that participated in creating the siddur, the book will be restrict-



ed to use in branches of the military and by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is not meant

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JWV High Holiday Cards



It's almost 5775, which means JWV's High Holiday cards will be in your mailbox soon.

If you would like additional High Holiday cards, or if you did not receive cards this year, contact Ruby Deschamps at 202-265-6280 x401 or rdeschamps@jwv.org to find out how you can receive this year's cards.



THE JEWISH VETERAN

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2014 Schedule

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October 22

Outlook on the Coming Year

November 19

Global War on Terrorism

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YOUR LETTERS

Responses to JWV's Release on the Military Justice Improvement Act

With all due respect, I disagree with your solution. Picking out a sacrificial lamb of whom to make an example won't make things right.

To remove from the chain of command responsibility for investigation and discipline of any crime or discipline issue in the military is a slippery slope. Imagine what would happen to discipline, moral, structure, readiness if any soldier, sailor, airman or Marine could go to a civilian authority for redress against his or her officers. When I was a major on a Reforger exercise in Germany, working in the G5, I was dealing with a helicopter crash in a German village. The next day, three female enlisted soldiers complained to my boss that I didn't say "please" to them when I told them to do something during the emergency. They wanted me reprimanded for rudeness and bossiness. What if they'd been able to take their complaint outside of the military system? Yes, that's a silly example, but it's real, and the mindset is there in politicians' heads. Witness Senator Gillibrand. They understand and respect nothing about the military. Remember the consideration given to trying major Nidal Hasan in a civilian court for "workplace violence."

Don't even think about heading down that road. If a commander is incapable of or unwilling to exercise judgment and integrity, you remove that commander, not the responsibility. There is a simple solution to sex crimes in the military: the UCMJ. Follow and enforce the UCMJ to the letter, do it fairly and without exception, and the problem will largely go away.

I am no Pollyanna – I experienced routine sexual discrimination AND sexual assault throughout my 28-year career on active duty and in the Reserve. My very first day as a brand-new butter bar LT in my first assignment in 1967, a grizzled old sergeant dropped his drawers and exposed himself to me with the words "I ain't never took no order from a woman, and I ain't startin' now." As a captain I received career-stopping negative OERs from my CO, a major, because, as he told me, I wouldn't sleep with him. I wasn't a "team player." Out of circumspection and decorum, I will not describe the laundry list of my experiences.

Why did I stay in the Army with all these negatives? First and foremost, I love the Army and my driving desire was to serve my country. Practically speaking, so far as sexual crimes were concerned, it was certainly no better on the outside in the civilian world. The Army at least had a Code of Honor, and the UCMJ, which ideally should have worked. And the military was the only career field where there was equality in pay and opportunity (at least through the rank of captain back then for women). I believed in the

system, however faultily it was carried out by flawed individuals in the system.

However, I must admit that when I finally was driven, as a major, to file an IG complaint with 82 pages of documentation, and the Army took more than nine months to investigate it to give the offender, my CO, time to get promoted to O-6 before issuing a one-page report that the IG had found no grounds for my complaint, I was nearly broken. But I stayed.

Just enforce the damned UCMJ. Unless it's been rewritten since my 1967 copy, it will solve a lot of problems in today's military. So would following God's laws of personal conduct as laid out in Torah.

*Karen McKay, LTC USAR (Ret.)
Post 180 Dept.-at-Large*

I am for a civilian group to judge these crimes. I am so angry about this injustice to the female service woman. They ask us to serve, we volunteer and then they treat us like second class citizens. I think that we females and our male counterparts should get after our legislators and demand respect and a fair verdict.

*Debbie Stern,
Chair, Women in the Military Committee
Post 724 NY*

How can a woman (or a man, for that matter) who has been assaulted be expected to find justice within the military when we see how prejudiced the military is when it comes to handing down an acceptable sentence to the perpetrator of the offense? Take the lack of appropriate prosecution of a general (Army BG Jeffrey Sinclair) where the sexual charges were actually DROPPED for lesser, non-related charges!

And to give the message that it's okay to rape someone just because they might be drunk, sends a resounding "go-ahead" to others who will now feel they can do no wrong when it comes to sexual misconduct.

Hooray for Sen. Gillibrand for her valiant effort to get the investigation and prosecution of sexual crimes out of the hands of the military! It is about time women (and men) feel they have an advocate who truly gives a hoot! ("Damn" would be a better word).

I feel we need to get behind her and let her know from every state, that we are in support of this bill. If we truly care about the injustices we are seeing in the way our military "justice" systems are turning their collective backs – or burying their heads in the sand – then we need to do something, and do it NOW! Get on the phone, write letters, do whatever it takes to lend support and a voice.

*E.G. Jerry Farris
Vice-chair, Women in the Military Committee
Post 239 PA*

PFC Leonard Kravitz

It was with great pride that I read of PFC Leonard Kravitz receiving the Medal of Honor, and bitterness at how long it took and why it took so long.

My name is Bruce H. Wolk and I am a writer living in Denver, Colorado. Some of your readers will know my name. I am Jewish, a Vietnam era veteran and a JWV member. Starting in 2008 to the present day, I have been able to interview in the first person, approximately 105 Jewish WWII pilots, crew, and support staff of the "air war." I interviewed both men and women.

The interviews were compiled into a manuscript entitled: "Stars on My Wings." Though I am represented by an agent, the book has not yet found a publisher willing to publish the book. I am deeply ashamed. I feel a burden to every Jewish veteran who allowed me to interview them. I will keep trying, that is all I can do. So this letter is not to "push" a book, for there is no book to "push."

I wish to comment instead on your article and in regard to PFC Kravitz being withheld the Medal of Honor due to anti-Semitism. In my opinion, it is not conjecture that his medals were withheld, but much closer to the truth.

Several of the WWII combat veterans I interviewed told me of commendations intentionally withheld from them and from other Jewish veterans. One Jewish B17 pilot I interviewed told me of attempts after the war to try to make right the wrong of withholding commendations within the AAF, but he did not wish to elaborate certain details. Sadly, this very fine gentleman has passed away.

Nevertheless, several veterans volunteered that it did happen albeit in a very unofficial "Gentleman's Agreement" among certain people who were far from gentlemen. In one case, a gunner talked of an anti-Semitic Master Sergeant at the HQ of his bomber squadron. In another case, it was a commanding officer who simply did not like Jews. The unofficial policy reared its ugly head in various pockets of the AAF and Navy Aviation – I wish to stress it was unofficial.

I realize that PFC Kravitz gave up his life in Korea and not in WWII; nevertheless, the insidious nature of anti-Semitism in the military could not have evaporated in the short time span between both wars.

I cannot express enough my great pride for veterans such as PFC Leonard Kravitz. Make no mistake; his service was fought on two fronts: the enemy "out there," and at times, the undercurrents within our own military. I often wonder how many of the Jewish men and women I interviewed – and the so very many I did not, will be forever denied the recognition they deserved.

*Bruce Wolk
Post 344 Dept.-at-Large*

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

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



Dear Comrades, as I approach the end of my year as NC I want to thank all of you for allowing me to represent you as your National Commander. I was and am humbled and proud to have served you to the best of my ability. When elected last August in Richmond, VA, I challenged myself and you to continue to fight for the three-fold missions of JWV; 1. to fight for the good name of the Jew against anti-Semitism, bigotry and hatred; and to belie the old canard that “Jews don’t serve in the Military;” 2. to fight for the good and welfare of the troops in the field, to insure they have the “beans and bullets” to do their jobs; and 3. to fight for the rightfully earned benefits we deserve and were promised to us by the government when we came home from the field as veterans.

I now pause to reflect on what I have accomplished as your National Commander in these few short months. The time has flown by so fast and so much work has been expended in trying to present our JWV missions in the best possible light to the rest of the nation. I will touch on only a few highlights of my work as National Commander which seem to me to be the most significant. I hope and pray that the work I have begun will contribute to the building blocks

on which our JWV reputation and respect is constructed.

The office of the National Commander is definitely a humbling experience. I found myself feeling many times like the lead character in the Forrest Gump movie, a stranger in a strange land. As a representative of JWV there were often times that I had to pinch myself to make sure I wasn’t dreaming, but then I realized that someone has to be at the White House representing all Jewish veterans when Pfc. Leonard Kravitz’s family accepted the Medal of Honor, and that someone this time was me. I had many times said: “I’ve been kicked out of better places!” But at the White House I was stumped and could not think of any place “better” than there.

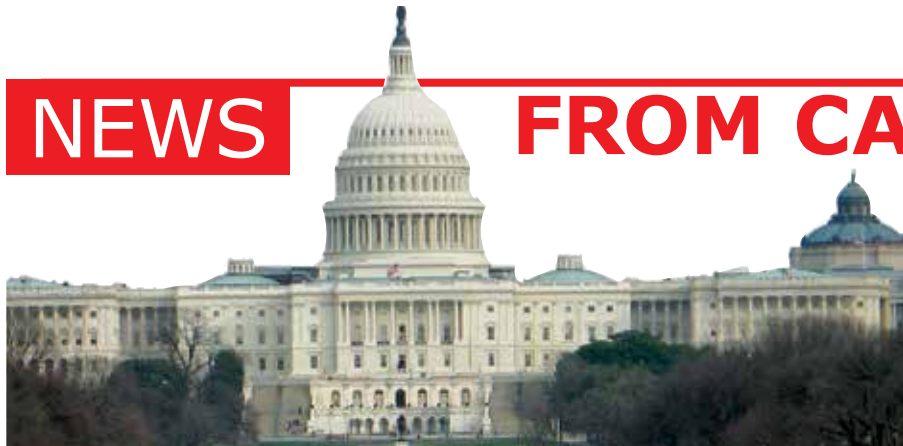
I found myself in front of members of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committee speaking on behalf of JWV and all veterans, and personally marveled at how easy it was to speak when I spoke from my heart and from what I know to be wrong and right. I spoke about the poor care that veterans continue to get at VA Hospitals all across the country and the absurdity of giving administrators of those VA hospitals “bonuses” or “performance awards” in the face of these tragic and preventable medical errors.

Lastly, I treasure the visits I have made to JWV in various areas of the country and Departments. These visits have been most instructive, and I hope that those Posts and Departments where I traveled found the experience worthwhile. I have met many new members of JWV and re-visited many old friends too. I can say that JWV is far from “dead.” It is alive and kicking and more active in some ways than ever. I tell you that JWV is very much alive and well and has great potential for growth. There are a vast number of Vietnam veterans out there who need only to be asked to join. We have only to press our fellow Jewish veterans who are not yet members of JWV to join us in our fights. I implore you all to get them on board with us.

So in summary, can we say, “mission accomplished”? Did we, “Do the Job with Dr. Bob” as my campaign slogan proposed? Yes and no. The fight has begun. I need your help and I pledge the new National Commander the same sort of full hearted support that I have been getting this year from all of my JWV comrades.

NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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



D-Day Remembered

This year is the 70th anniversary of the Normandy invasion, also known as D-Day. Very few of those brave soldiers who fought on that day are still with us.

D-Day was the beginning of the invasion of German-occupied Western Europe. It was the largest seaborne invasion in history and led to an Allied victory in WWII.

Many members of the Jewish War Veterans landed in Normandy on D-Day. Even though Jewish families in great numbers took advantage of the opportunity provided by our government to have their loved ones’ remains brought home, there are still Stars of David throughout the American Battle Monuments Commission Cemetery at Normandy.

General Eisenhower had originally selected

June 5 as the date for the invasion. On June 4, however, the prediction of high winds, heavy seas, and low clouds made June 5 clearly unsuitable for the invasion. But the weather report predicted sufficient improvement in the weather for June 6.

An extensive aerial and naval bombardment, and a huge air assault, preceded the landing of 24,000 Allied airborne paratroopers shortly after midnight. Infantry and armored divisions landed on the shores of France by 0630. The target Normandy coast was some 50 miles wide.

The invasion fleet included vessels from eight different countries and nearly 200,000 naval personnel. The fleet was divided into the Western Naval Task Force, supporting the American sectors of the beach, and the Eastern Naval Task

Force in the British and Canadian sectors.

The Allies failed to reach their goals on the first day, but gained a foothold which they expanded in the coming days, weeks, and months. Nearly 160,000 troops crossed the English Channel on D-Day, with first day Allied casualties numbering some 12,000, including 4,414 confirmed dead. To this day, survivors of Normandy say they remember the blood in the water.

While I wish I could recognize every JWV member who participated in the Invasion of Normandy, I only have space to recognize a few. NC Bob Pickard has connected the JWV headquarters with Dr. Harold “Hal” Baumgarten, who landed on Omaha Beach, was wounded five times in 32 hours of combat. After the war, Hal

Continued on next page

DISPATCHES FROM THE EDITOR

By PNC Paul Bernstein, National Editor



Our society is changing and evolving. The transition to maintaining our information “on the grid” is almost complete. New technologies have simplified our lives, but with the ease of this technology is a growing danger: cyberattack.

The threat to our infrastructure, our military and civilian systems is very real. In the past few months, it’s been hard to avoid the disturbing headlines. Symantec Corporation, which creates the anti-virus software that many of us use on our home computers, issued its annual “Internet Security Threat Report” in April detailing the cyber security threats faced in 2013. They noted that in 2013, there were eight breaches which exposed more than 10 million people’s identities. This is more than we’ve ever experienced on this level in a single year. They named 2013 as the “Year of the Mega Breach.” According to Symantec, over 500 million individual identities were exposed to criminals in 2013.

We’ve lived through these breaches firsthand. During the holiday season, we were told to cancel our credit and debit cards if we’d recently shopped at Target after millions of card numbers were compromised by hackers. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently advised Americans to avoid Internet Explorer after a serious security bug was discovered, which could allow hackers to get around security protections and infiltrate users’ computer systems. Online auction house eBay recently disclosed that a data breach between February and March of this year allowed hackers to steal email address, birthdates, and other identifying information from its users.

These are major companies with millions of individual users and customers – all left vulnerable after security measures against hackers proved insufficient.

On television, we see footage from news stories of hackers compromising baby monitors, and Symantec reports that security researchers have shown that it’s possible to hack into smart televisions and hospital equipment. With all of these things very real and present dangers, we could be extremely vulnerable to attack by our enemies.

Symantec also observed that cyber criminals were using a “low and slow” method to try to outsmart new tactics for stopping cybercrime. This means that attacks are now more targeted and take place over a longer period of time.

These attacks are not limited to our economic interests. Some of them have struck to the heart of how our country operates. In May, a group of hackers attacked a U.S. public utility (this utility remained anonymous in public reports). There was no impact to operations for the public, but the hackers did affect the control system network at the utility. How many other cases like this have happened in the U.S. without us knowing? How long until one of these attacks cripples our infrastructure? The fallout from this kind of attack would be catastrophic.

A poll conducted May 19-20 by Rasmussen Reports, found that 85 percent of likely voters are concerned about U.S. infrastructure facing a cyberattack. Further, 46 percent viewed a major cyberattack as an act of war.

Do cyberattacks justify real world responses? I think yes, and I find it heartening that we’ve

started taking action over state sponsored cyberattacks waged against our country.

Our government recently indicted five Chinese army officers with the crime of cybertheft. These military officers are responsible for conducting state-sponsored military attacks against corporations in America and in other countries. Using the same tools as the rouge hackers of Anonymous and other anarchist hacking organizations, these officers allegedly stole sensitive information and trade secrets from these U.S. corporations. They exploited the security weaknesses of our computer programs and web browsers to bring back highly sensitive information to their country’s leadership.

Moving forward, we must begin to think critically about how we react to cyberattacks. These actions can have a real impact on our economy, infrastructure, and our way of life. Do these attacks justify a real world response? If yes, what kind of response? In the near future, will this be a reason for war?

We must be ready to make these decisions as we enter into this brave new world.

Thank you to everyone who has sent me well wishes as I’ve dealt with my recent health scares. It means so much to me and my family to know that we have your love and support as we go through this difficult time.

NEWS FROM CAPITOL HILL

went on to become a physician and, by order of the President of France, he became a Knight of the French Legion. We salute Dr. Harold Baumgarten and thank him for his service.

There are also two veterans of the Normandy invasion who stand out in my mind. They are Al Ungerleider and Stanley Wides. Al Ungerleider was a lieutenant on the D-Day landings and was in combat throughout WWII, in Korea, and later in Vietnam. He is one of my favorite heroes. Another is Stanley Wides, a long-time JWV leader. In my early years at JWV, Stan and I used to speak often. This column is dedicated to the memory and honor of both Al Ungerleider and Stanley Wides.

Dr. Harold Baumgarten is a veteran of the first wave landing of Omaha Beach on D-Day. He is a highly decorated veteran and regularly speaks on his experience serving in WWII.



Clarification:

In the piece, “Private First Class Leonard Kravitz Receives the Medal of Honor,” it is mentioned that in 1997 there were no Jewish recipients of the Medal of Honor from the Korean War. Eight years later, in 2005, Cpl. Tibor Rubin received the Medal of Honor for actions during the Korean War. In March 2014, Pfc. Kravitz became the second Korean War Era Jewish servicemember to receive the Medal of Honor.

Correction:

In the photo of Post 133 NJ on page 14 of “The Jewish Veteran,” Paul Scharf was incorrectly identified as Frederick Shaffer. We apologize for the error.

COMMENTARY

By PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee



Long Life Can be Very Costly

The surprise of all surprises – the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously voted for and the U.S. Senate with just three negative votes passed bills (Veterans Access to Care Acts) providing for real initial changes in the Department of Veterans Affairs in the delivery of its services. It all occurred very shortly after the reports of veteran deaths while on waiting lists.

Now, the two bills go to a House/Senate Conference Committee to adjust the differences which, as of now, appear to be minimal, and then to the president for signature. Now that's the way it is supposed to happen. As of now – nada. With all of the audit and other reports coming out reflecting mismanagement, cover-ups, increased administrative costs, etc., the emergency still exists and must be addressed in a prompt and meaningful manner – our obligation to the veteran is an absolute which must be met.

Rumor has it that even those who had voted favorably (it will look grand in their campaign literature this coming November) are going to hold the bills hostage for budget horse trading, by reducing the requisite funding, which, in the first case, was responsible for the delays in appointments and the rendition of health care services to the veteran. The copout they use is that they don't trust the VA to provide health care with the funding being provided – so, they, with their warped vision, won't vote to provide proper funding.

So, if the bill has not, as yet, been signed, call your Congress people to make sure of its full passage before some of the nutcases decide to horse trade passage for the repeal and elimination of ACA, Medicaid, Medicare, or Social Security. Tell them that if the bill is not in effect before the November elections, you and your families MUST vote for the opponents.

This is even more important now with the large list of waiting veterans, plus there are those who will be returning from Afghanistan and now we again face the conflicts in Iraq in which the world will involve America instead of the world accepting the responsibility of stabilizing global peace. The result will be more veterans on the waiting lists.

The pot has been stirred and is yet to be brought to a full boil of remediation. The VA despite all of its administrative faults, its health system still has been a decent and good health care provider to America's veterans – if a greater amount of the funding were made available for health care and nothing for the bonuses or other non-productive administrative expenses which have been drained over the past number of decades.

“The Mikado” said that we've, “got them on the list, but they never will be missed.” But, they were, in fact, missed – through the learned political dirty tricks (now deemed to be an acceptable general

practice) were able to cover up the fact that veterans were not being served. Actual funding would have made the subterfuge unnecessary, and would have created a reality where we served the needs and requirements of the veteran. Cooking the books and keeping the secret waiting lists even entitled and awarded some employees to receive “performance bonuses.” The new audit just found that 13 percent of the patient schedulers were “instructed” to enter false information on wait appointments – not a pretty picture but definitely a correctable one if we don't become lemmings. There is no place for VA deniers.

If it weren't so unspeakable as to the indifferent manner in which the veterans were serviced in health care, we could look at it as a plot for a cable documentary or an unreality program. The problem is that it has a genuine measure of truth to it – but, worse than truth, it has the clear-cut appearance of being a considered plan to evade budgetary lessons – or was it merely the continued way of doing business?

So what the politicians will seek to do is to have ourselves an investigation and create political committees with the hiring of political staffs instead of correcting and facing the problems and seeking meaningful resolution – that's to say it must be political evasion while veteran lives remain in jeopardy.

The words of the political ward-healers to America's veterans will, as usual, has been and continue to be that they “love and respect America's veterans (especially the voting ones) for what they have done and continue to do for our nation.” But unfortunately, the politicians have to continue to get elected, so screw you if you think we will really provide the mandatory funding you need for your health needs. By the way, if any veteran needs a photo op for your newsletter, just come by my office – just don't expect me to vote for your benefits or the possibility of your continued health treatment.

Some speak of living to 120 years. The beauty which we visualize coming from an extended lifetime however ain't necessarily so. Those who in past wars never made it off the battlefield are now, with improved treatment, coming home. Some are returning home without limbs and with many treatable injuries which the VA will need to treat throughout their lifetimes. The VA needs more doctors and the money to hire them. The VA needs more ordinary administrative processing staff and the money to hire them. The VA needs more money – money – money – money, and the VA and our country need a nation which believes in the veteran and is thankful for their contributions.

Yep, there was an increase in the monies made available in the last budget – but, it didn't meet the actual need for the increased number of veterans

coming home with TBI, PTSD, and other injuries which we now find have lost their way on the waiting lists.

Now we come to the interesting part – how do we intend to correct the defects and make the health service both meaningful and readily available to the veteran? You and I may say that we should immediately fire all known persons involved in the deceit – not a bad start. Some of our legislators are genius enough to say we can correct it by totally getting rid of the VA, its staff, hospitals, clinics – hell, we can probably substantially reduce taxes and come up with new therapies such as euthanasia or create tax credits for suicides – the imagination of the budgeters can become limitless. Don't say that such an approach is way out of the box.

With elections being based on how much money is spent and the U.S. Supreme Court now allowing that money to be spread to a larger number of candidates – there are many who are willing to give up your rights to secure their offices. So your veteran vote must be predicted not only on what you are promised, but what is actually produced.

The veteran and his/her families must not sit back assuming that their needs have been accepted fully by the nation. There are those who have over many years sought to privatize the VA and make it just another community asset available to all citizens. They have sold this over the years to non-veterans and others that veteran health care is a fraud and taxpayer giveaway to junkies and non-productive citizens and in doing so they have acquired many voting adherents and slogan followers. All you have to do is to see the many public hospitals closing or being taken over by for-profit hospitals who seek bottom line profits rather than community health – privatization is not the road to accomplish anything other than greed and those who may die while being on a waiting list.

Make no mistake, the passage of the current legislation may (I hope) be merely the first step – the volatility of the issue, if allowed to be driven by apathy, will fester – not today, but tomorrow and the day after – until they succeed and we all become Hessians to be purchased and sold without having to demonstrate loyalty to anyone but their employer. Then they and their masters will learn and experience the ultimate fallacy of their philosophy and positions – but too late. At least, we won't be around to see it.

TO GET TO THE NEXT STEP, WE MUST ENACT THIS FIRST STEP – OR THEN THROW THEM OUT OF OFFICE IF THEY DON'T SUPPORT YOU!!

Admiral Becker Addresses USNA Jewish Baccalaureate Service

On May 16, 2014, RADM Paul Becker spoke to the graduating Jewish Midshipmen at the Commodore Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel at the U.S. Naval Academy. His speech is reprinted below with his permission.

I'm visiting from the Pentagon. For those of you who haven't been there, it's a building with five sides – on every issue it seems!

As an Admiral in the Pentagon there are plenty of things you've got to do, and only some things you get to do. I'm happy to be here for the latter; thank you for inviting me to share in this celebration.

I'll start with a few background data points on Jews in the military. America has always had Jewish personnel in uniform. We've served with distinction since the Revolution (Francis Salvador, was the first Jewish soldier killed in that war; there is a statue in his honor in Charleston, SC), earning Congressional Medals of Honor since the award was created following the Civil War, through the Spanish-American War (there was a Jewish Rough Rider, Jacob Wilbusky), WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Urgent Fury, Desert Storm, Just Cause, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

There is an American Jewish War Veterans society, the oldest chartered American veterans' organization, and a National Museum of American Jewish Military History (it's on R Street in DC, near the National Geographic Society, if you're ever up that way). There have been some exceptionally famous Jewish military members; the most famous in naval circles was the namesake of this chapel, Commodore Uriah P. Levy, heroic on the Great Lakes during the war of 1812, but most famously known for leading the abolishment of flogging as a common practice in the Navy; and on the other hand, also leading the abolishment of grog aboard Navy Ships. So he leaves a mixed legacy, but on the whole a very good one! Uriah Levy has another more enduring contribution to American history, his individual purchase of a decaying estate called Monticello, the Jefferson estate in Virginia, restoring what he could with his own funds and eventually donating the property to the United States government so it could serve in perpetuity as a national landmark, which it does today.

Rabbi Sherwin recommended I cite either Torah or Talmud. I'll go Talmud: "a Jew, no matter how far he strays from the path, is still a Jew." We practice a tolerant vein of the religion, but in the military profession there is less tolerance for young personnel to explore the professional boundaries of the service. It's a dangerous business, this military business, where staying on



RADM Paul Becker, USN (USNA '83 - second from left) with USNA class of '14 Jewish Midshipmen at their baccalaureate service on May 16, 2014.

the path is often the best course when operating nuclear reactors, firing weapons, catapulting jets off an aircraft carrier, handling classified information, etc. But good Officership, in my experience, comes from examples set by those who know when to stay on a path and when to allow junior personnel the right amount of leeway to stray from the path a bit.

This is where a tolerant Jewish background comes in handy as an officer. It was never for me, as an increasingly senior officer and frequently the local Jewish lay leader, to tell more junior Jewish personnel what should be their Jewish path or how far they should stray. Their Jewish path was their choice, influenced by their parents, family, friends, rabbis, and their core values. There's no right answer, there's no objective standard of what "the path" should be. But as a Jew in the U.S. Military, I recognized early on I needed to set an example for others that they need to be comfortable with their Jewish path whatever they determined that path to be.

But here's where I don't stray from my religious path as, to cite Commodore Levy, "an American, a sailor, a Jew" and that's setting a standard for myself and providing an example for others; and setting examples is what good Officership boils down to. I don't stray during the big holidays when junior Jewish personnel turn to a senior Jewish officer for ritual leadership, and I don't stray from my own beliefs which are part of my spiritual self.

When you are at sea, or in a distant land, and you are the senior member of the tribe ... I try to educate the next generation of Americans, sailors, Jews to remember where the path is if they need it, and how to get a Jewish chaplain to join them or how to get themselves to a Jewish community nearby to share our common heritage. There's a reason our people have survived for millennia across tragedy and triumph – a common heritage and a common faith. I encourage others to always

keep the knowledge of where to find that religious path, even if one strays from it.

I've been amazed over the years how enlightening the experience can be when you join a minyan or thriving congregation during a port visit or on an aircraft carrier in the Arabian Sea, Bahrain, Singapore, France, Italy or Australia. I've been to all these locations and not a one of them had personnel who were out in the streets looking for me to find them and enter their gates to worship. I had to take the initiative to find them because I didn't want to stray too far from the path for too long. Because ultimately – as the Talmud says – a Jew no matter how far he has strayed is always welcome back. And that's a lesson worth teaching as an American, a sailor, a Jew.

Finally, a couple of thoughts on your efforts in the months, in the years ahead as soon-to-be officers. I stay in the Navy because I believe America can fight and win any war. There are fancier, more politically correct ways to say that, but when it comes down to it, we are graduates of this school to be war fighters and war winners. That's the essence of why our nation has service academies. The only way our adversaries win any struggle against us is if we lose our will to do what's right or think it's just not important enough. Now, especially coming off a decade plus of hard combat in Southwest Asia, there's a tendency to underestimate the threat regular or irregular adversaries pose against us in Asia, Europe, Africa, or the Middle East; but make no mistake about it, our adversaries are patient, ruthless, and motivated. We need you, new officers, to be just as motivated to win.

You'll need you to give it your all because we are faced with enemies giving it their all. Our enemies are conducting their version of unlimited war. Now, we in the U.S. have certain limits – rightful limits – on the way we conduct war. Limits on target sets, collateral damage, rules of engagement, etc. But there must not be, there cannot be, limits on your obligation and dedication to carry out your mission and achieve results; today and in the future. You are all now heirs and heiresses, not to huge fortunes like those named Rothschild, Rockefeller, Bloomberg, but heirs to an ethical military that knows what is true and does what is right; heirs to a society of freedom and abundance that most of you are too young to have contributed to ... yet. So now is your time new officers, now is your time to contribute, to serve as cohorts with other academy, ROTC, and OCS grads around the globe, afloat and ashore, to serve as guardians of the present and future. So Godspeed, safety and strength as what Commodore Levy would say, as "Americans, as sailors [and Marines], as Jews."

The JWV and the Boston Marathon Bombing

By National Judge Advocate Harvey Weiner

In the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombing on April 15, 2013, many Massachusetts Jewish veterans have stepped up to volunteer free services to the bombing victims. My law firm was lucky to be assigned pro bono to help bombing victim Kaitlynn Cates, a 25-year-old single woman, who had much of her calf blown off by shrapnel and had suffered PTSD. She became unofficially bombing victim #1 because she was the first injured person to arrive at a Boston hospital, where she was driven by her heroic friend, Leo Fonseca, whose car was parked nearby. When she was carried into the hospital, the initial response of nurses and staff was “what bombing?” She was told that she had 4 minutes of blood left in her body.

We helped her submit legal paperwork to the OneFund and to the state’s victim fund, encouraged her and accompanied her to meet with Kenneth Feinberg, the OneFund czar, obtained financial analysts for her and generally provided moral support and friendship. A Jewish Vietnam-era veteran in my law firm drafted her will and trust (as well as drafted contracts between pro bono contractors and other victims who needed changes in their living facilities because of their injuries).



NJA Harvey Weiner and Kaitlynn Cates.

At my first meeting with her, Kaitlynn commented that the fancy green Lululemon sweatshirt seen in the iconic picture of her at the bombing had been a recent gift to her and had disappeared in the hospital. It had cost \$108. (\$108.00 for a sweatshirt!?) I told my wife, who told a friend, whose daughter worked for the company that made the sweatshirt. Within a week, a free replacement sweatshirt was hand carried from Washington by that employee and was given by me to Kaitlynn.

When the victim expressed a desire for a sec-

ond opinion on her PTSD, PDC (Mass. Dept.) Dr. Jack Romo, who has extensive expertise in treating war bombing victims with PTSD, volunteered his services.

My personal experience in a landmine bombing in Vietnam helped me bond with and gain the trust of Kaitlynn. On February 15, 1970, I was involved in a road side bombing when a Viet Cong planted mine blew up a jeep and killed and wounded several personnel. I was in the second jeep, which should have been first but had taken a wrong turn. I had saved a piece of shrapnel from that bombing incident and Kaitlynn requested a bit of it to wear around her neck to give her strength. (All of the shrapnel from the Boston Marathon bombing had been gathered up as evidence by law enforcement and was unavailable.) I did and she does and perhaps it has.

When I first met Kaitlynn, she was wearing a Boston Strong baseball cap. At a later time, she gave me one as a thank you gift. I immediately re-gifted it to Jon Davis, the son-in-law of the late JWV PNC Bill Carmen. Jon had just been diagnosed with brain cancer and my hope was that the cap, with its special provenance, would have some healing powers. Jon wears it every day.

We are hoping to have Kaitlynn speak at the Post 211 MA meeting once she recovers from her latest surgery.

Sar-El

By Israel Gotay, Post Commander 692 MD

Sar-El is a non-profit, non-political organization with volunteers from Israel and around the world. This winter, PC Israel Gotay participated in one of their programs supporting the IDF.

We started our Sar-El volunteer experience on February 1. Many questions went through my mind: what am I getting into? Will I keep up with the other volunteers? What will the conditions be like? Upon landing at Tel Aviv’s Ben Gurion airport, I started relaxing. We were met by Pamela Lazarus, the Sar-El Program Coordinator. She was very skilled at making the volunteers relax and responding to our questions. She spoke with the authority of a person who knew every angle of the volunteer experience. My apprehension dissipated with every passing minute.

While we waited for our ride to the IDF base, volunteers from around the world started to mingle and exchange experiences with each other. We had repeat volunteers who had done the Sar-El experience many times. Their input made us feel more comfortable and we went from anxiety to excitement about supporting the IDF.

We were assigned to a base near Tel Aviv. We had Canadians, Australians, and Americans



Lieutenant Levy and Israel Gotay.

as our primary team members with a few Europeans. We all had unique reasons for volunteering. The majority of the volunteers were retired but very active physically and socially in their communities. We bonded quickly with each other and our host.

The Sar-El program has been around since the Galilee War in 1982. Sar-El is a Hebrew ac-

ronym meaning “Service for Israel.” The volunteers came from 30 different countries. Each group of volunteers was assigned a Madrichot (i.e. Leader) or two. We were lucky to have Eva and Malkaya. They were great teachers and led us through our volunteer experience. They also coordinated our weekend R&R trips to Tel Aviv.

The Sar-El experience is an ALL inclusive vacation. It includes room and board with three meals a day. The boarding is spartan in nature and the food isn’t gourmet. The experience also includes a JOB and you are expected to work. I didn’t see any slackers. Everybody wanted to do more because we understood what was at stake. The daily briefings and training provided by our Madrichot made us understand that our contribution was important and appreciated. The mess hall that we utilized for our meals was kept neat and comfortable. We ate our meals alongside our IDF counterparts.

I was lucky to be assigned to an IDF base near Tel Aviv. My assignment was to work for Lieutenant Yuval Levy. The Lieutenant was an outstanding leader and manager. He had a work team of between three to five members. Our pri-

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By Sheldon A. Goldberg, Ph.D
Lt. Colonel, USAF (Ret.)

They say that nothing succeeds like success...or does it? Given the politics of the war in Southeast Asia, the bombing pause of November 1968 changed the nature of the air war. Emphasis appeared to focus more on the bureaucratic aspects of war fighting, i.e., a form of “bean counting” that looked more at deviations from flight schedules than mission accomplishments, insisting on the maintenance of aircrew proficiency, such as the “Combat Sage” program that send combat crews to the Philippines for target practice with air-to-air missiles. It even devolved on ground crews, requiring them to be fully dressed when going about their tasks, i.e., no more working in T-shirts, despite the heat on the tarmac. Aside from air support of the fighting in South Vietnam, focus would now be on aerial interdiction of the Ho Chi Minh Trail coming out of North Vietnam into Laos, and a number of operations named Commando Hunt began.

It was during this period - from May 1969 to March 1970 - that my tour in Southeast Asia as a Weapons Systems Officer (WSO) in the 497th Tactical Fighter Squadron (Nite Owls), the only night-dedicated fighter squadron in the Air Force, took place. Flying the two-seat F-4D Phantom from Ubon Royal Thai AFB, the “Nite Owl” mission varied from simple strike missions, armed reconnaissance, escort for the AC-130 “Spectre” gunship, and, beginning in the fall of 1969, as fast moving night FACs (forward air controller) – “Owl FACs” – charged with stopping traffic coming through both the Mu Gia and Ban Karai passes from North Vietnam into Laos and subsequently down the infamous Ho Chi Minh Trail, but that is a story for another time.

As one would expect, Nite Owl sorties began at sunset and lasted until sunrise, and the number of aircraft in each sortie depended on the type of mission flown and could last from one to two hours for a strike mission to up to four hours for Spectre escort or Owl FAC mission. There was, however, a problem encountered when flying the “dusk patrol,” i.e., the first strike mission of the evening. Air operations over Laos were split into “day” operations and “night” operations, with the break usually around 1800 hours. At that time, most of the day fighter sorties would have ended and the day Airborne Command and Control Center (ABCCC), would be on its way back to its home base. The night ABCCC would just be coming on station and squadrons at various bases that had been assigned night sorties would be getting ready to take off. Thus, when the Nite Owl “dusk patrol” sortie arrived in the assigned target area, the airborne day FACs were gone and the airborne night FACs had, for the

most part, either not yet or just arrived. In either case, targets, particularly trucks, had not been identified and the “dusk patrol” sortie had to either hang around, hoping a FAC would find something, ask the ABCCC whether ground sensors in the area had picked up truck movement, or simply request a vector to a nearby “free fire” area over which to unload its weapons before returning to base.

In late January 1970, I had a chance encounter with an OV-10 “Nail” day FAC who, as it turned out, usually flew the last day mission in the areas we Nite Owls usually covered. He told me of the frustration he had during these sorties when he was able to follow North Vietnamese trucks as they came out of hiding in ones and twos, join up with others to form convoys and wait under cover for darkness, to then set out on the trail knowing there were no U.S. fighters up at that time.

In return, I commiserated about going out on the “dusk patrol” to find that the night FACs had not yet arrived or if they had, had no knowledge of where any trucks or other enemy activity on the trail might be. We rationalized together that if we could modify our sortie schedule, we might be able to make a difference. I brought the Nail together with my squadron commander, Lt. Colonel Robert (Bob) Cass, who was also my pilot and together we worked out a plan that would, if successful, give us grounds to petition 7th Air Force to modify the sortie schedule.

We first decided where we would meet the Nail FAC during his last sortie, which, using predetermined geographic coordinates (Delta points) in the area was the easy part. Secondly, Lt. Col Cass decided that we would take advantage of the schedule that allowed take-offs to occur 15 minutes early without incurring a “schedule deviation.” Thirdly, we would climb out and fly to the tanker using afterburner to gain even more time. Here is where I have to give a tip of the hat to the tanker crews. If any aircraft approached a tanker at any time and needed fuel, and if the tanker had it, they gave it...no questions asked.

On 26 January 1970, we put our plan into effect. Once off the tanker, we immediately headed toward the rendezvous point to meet the Nail and checked in with the ABCCC. Operating the radios was my job and I knowingly called out to the nighttime ABCCC to let them know we were airborne and armed as specified on the “frag”



Lt. Col. Sheldon A. Goldberg

order. As expected, the day ABCCC responded and, although a bit irritated, told us to head into our assigned area. Our Nail, who was monitoring the frequency and heard us then called the ABCCC to inform them that he had “movers” (trucks on the trail), and asked if there was any ordnance in the area. The ABCCC then called us and asked if we could meet the Nail. By this time, we were at the prearranged meeting point, often circling over Nail. Our response was affirmative and we were given the FAC’s radio

frequency in order to check in with him.

The rest was child’s play. Switching to Nail’s frequency, I told him where we were or that we were already overhead. If the latter, he would fire a white phosphorus rocket to mark the target area while describing what we were attacking and where it was in relation to the. Within seconds, Col Cass had the target or targets in his sight, released the appropriate ordnance, jinked to avoid the inevitable anti-aircraft artillery (AAA), and once back at altitude, waited for Nail to provide us with a bomb damage assessment (BDA). Nail would then lead us to another area where trucks were hiding. Between 26 and 31 January, I flew four “dusk patrol” sorties with our Nail buddy, attacking “movers” and storage areas, destroying nine trucks, including an ammunition truck and a fuel truck, and causing a number of large and medium explosions, and setting 26 fires of various sizes. On one such sortie, we successfully avoided over 600 rounds of AAA from 85mm, 57mm, 37mm, and 23mm guns.

One would think that this success would have been applauded, but it was not. Someone, somewhere in the chain of command was more concerned with making sure the Frag Order was followed to the letter than with destroying the enemy’s ability to supply the war in South Vietnam. Word came down from 7th Air Force that scheduled night sorties simply do not fly during the daytime; that they do not take gas from daytime scheduled tankers; and that they do not contact the daytime ABCCC. The Frag Order was not to be deviated from and that was final.

(This is an abridged version of the article that appeared in the June 2014 issue of the Officer Review, the official journal of the Military Order of the World Wars, pp. 10-12. Reprinted and edited with permission.)

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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

I am encouraged by the membership recruitment efforts I've seen put forth by Jewish War Veterans members around the country. Many of our Posts have responded positively to NC Pickard's challenge to reach out to potential members.

Atlanta Bicentennial Post 112, for instance, recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat at Fort Benning, Georgia. The event provided great publicity for JWV, and the Post was able to sign up 10 new members as a result. North County Post 385 in Escondido, California, also maintains a strong presence at their local military installation. They regularly attend events at Camp Pendleton, and count four active duty Jewish chaplains among their members. Through their relationship with these chaplains, they are able to reach many more potential members. Samuel Sansweet Post 765 in Charlotte, North Carolina, which had been inactive for several years, has been reactivated by a group of dedicated members. They were able to sign up nine new members at one of their local synagogues, and they have plans to do outreach at other congregations in the area.

I'm pleased to say that these are only a few examples of the efforts being put forth by JWV members to grow our organization, and these efforts are getting results. For the last few years, our rate of membership loss has been reduced, and the number of new members brought in annually

has increased. Our ultimate goal, of course, is not just maintaining our current level of membership, but membership growth. To accomplish this, we need the help of all of our members.

The examples of the Posts I mentioned earlier show that we can't just wait for potential members to come to us, we must go out into our communities and find them. We need all members and Posts to be active membership recruiters. The Membership Committee recently published a booklet on membership recruitment and retention as a way to share successful strategies that have been used by Posts around the country. If your Post does not hold regular recruiting events, please consult this booklet and see what you can do to help JWV grow. You can print a copy of the booklet and other recruiting materials by visiting our website at www.jwv.org/membership/recruiting.

The next meeting of the National Membership Committee will oc-

cur at our National Convention in August. I invite all of you to join me at our meeting in Charleston, where we will discuss future membership initiatives. If you are unable to join us, I encourage you to share your membership ideas by emailing me at membership@jwv.org or writing me at our National Headquarters. Your ideas may be shared at the committee meeting or on our website for the benefit of other members.



Steve Russak speaks at a meeting with fellow Jewish veterans to reactivate Post 765 in North Carolina.

Strength After Tragedy

By Sheldon Turetsky, Commander, Post 605 MW
You are all very well aware of the tragic shootings in Overland Park, KS at the JCC and Village Shalom on Sunday April 13th, so I won't repeat what you know. What you may not know is that within minutes of the shootings and the apprehension of the "person" purportedly responsible, our Post sponsored another event at 3 p.m. at nearby Congregation Ohev Shalom.

In spite of the very dicey weather (we already had calls asking to postpone), and then frantic calls on cell phones about the shootings that just

occurred, we decided, "let's roll."

Twenty minutes before the 3 p.m. scheduled start, the rain suddenly stopped. Ten minutes before the start, the sun came out and stayed out until 15 minutes after we finished. We (eight of us in "uniform"), three Boy Scouts, the President of Ohev Shalom, and two Scout Leaders (observed by a Prairie Village Police Officer) did something that decent, law-abiding citizens do in the face of hatred, violence and terrorism...we retired an old, tattered U.S. Flag and raised a new U.S. Flag on the flagpole, saluted, recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and sang the national anthem.

I was very proud that we did this, especially to show the Boy Scouts something that they will surely long remember and appreciate.

The entire community, Jews and non-Jews, clergy,



Members of the Department of Midwest after the flag raising. Left to right: Department Commander Larry Gordon, Past Department Commander Mike Katzman, and Past Post 605 MW Commander Marvin Denton.

veterans, government officials, first-responders, students, and elderly are recovering from something that none of us thought could ever happen here. We thank everyone around the country for their support, encouragement and prayers.

Members of the Overland Park, KS community gather to retire the U.S. flag. Left to right: L. Curtis, Prairie Village PD; Boy Scouts and Scout Leaders from Troop 61; Dan Allmayer, Congregation President; Past Department Commander Mike Katzman; Steve Schorr; Marc Birnbaum; Department Commander Larry Gordon; Marvin Denton; and Post 605 MW Commander Sheldon Turetsky.



Outreach to the Next Generation

By Colonel Nelson L. Mellitz, USAFR, Ret.

You have been Invited to Speak as a Jewish Veteran – What do You Say?

Over the past few months, I have been asked by many Jewish War Veterans members, Post, and Department commanders what they should say about U.S. Jewish veterans at speaking engagements.

There is no single answer to this question because the audience will vary from engagement to engagement, but knowing basic information about JWV and the audience should give you the format for an educational and value added presentation.

The Audience

I have recently presented on behalf of the Jewish War Veterans to two diverse organizations: 1) The Tri-State Law Annual Enforcement Recognition Breakfast (New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and Delaware) the audience included: FBI, Attorney Generals, State, County and local police, and Homeland Security Departments; and, 2) The Geshar House, a Jewish educational organization with an audience of 12 – 17 year old disabled students and their teachers.

How to Start

Be dressed properly! There is a theory that the speaker should dress and look like the audience. If you are going to speak with professionals like law enforcement officers, it is important to wear business appropriate attire. However, if you are going to talk with teenagers, you can dress casually. The message you should keep in mind is that the law enforcement officers who are dressed in business suits and uniforms will not listen to your message if you are wearing jeans and a T-shirt.

What You Should Know

Should you start by reciting the mission of JWV? That is:

To maintain true allegiance to the United States of America; to foster and perpetuate true Americanism; to combat whatever tends to impair the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions; to uphold the fair name of the Jew and fight his or her battles wherever unjustly assailed; to encourage the doctrine of universal liberty, equal rights, and full justice to all men and women; to combat the powers of bigotry and darkness wherever originating and whatever their target; to preserve the spirit of comradeship by mutual helpfulness to comrades and their families; to cooperate with and support existing educational institutions and establish new educational institutions; and to foster the education of ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen,



and our members in the ideals and principles of Americanism; to instill love of country and flag; and to promote sound minds and bodies in our members and our youth; to preserve the memories and records of patriotic service performed by the men and women of our faith; to honor their memory and shield from neglect the graves of our heroic dead.

No! You are not expected to read this purpose statement; in fact, I request that you do not read it but summarize it in your words.

Perhaps you should say: that Jewish War Veterans members stand, in war and peace, for the continuation of our democratic way of life. We, the JWV members, have served in the military since before the U.S. declared its independence from the British. We have served in greater numbers than our percentages in the general population and continue to serve in the U.S. military.

The Jewish War Veterans, which is the oldest continuously operating veterans' service organization in the United States SUPPORTS and HELPS ALL U.S. uniformed MILITARY and veterans no matter their race, creed, sex, or religion.

NMAJMH and Artifacts

Visual aids are important with any audience you are speaking to. Our National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) has a great series of traveling exhibits (e.g. Women in the Military, Jews in the Military, Jewish Medal of Honor Recipients) that are available to all members, Posts, and Departments. The Department of New Jersey has purchased a complete set of Museum traveling exhibits and they are available for New Jersey JWV members with advanced scheduling. Perhaps your Department has traveling exhibits?

In addition, as a veteran you have artifacts from your time in the service (e.g. uniforms, pictures, souvenirs). Teens and adults really like to see the military related items that you value. I have an original December 2005 paper voting ballot used in the first "free" Iraqi national

election (in 40 years) that I picked up at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. The Iraqi election ballot may not be more than a brief TV image to my audience until they see and feel this actual document, and I stress that Jewish military were there to earn the Iraqis the freedom to vote. You can evoke the same reactions with your NMAJMH exhibits and personal military artifacts.

Conclusion

A possible conclusion for your remarks is that "I pledge on behalf of JWV to continue "our" mission of supporting all U.S. Military and veterans, please join me with your support.

The biggest casualty in any organization is to be FORGOTTEN. We in THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS will not forget you, please do not forget us.

Your comments and suggestions concerning JWV Outreach (recruitment and retention) are encouraged; please submit them to the editor of The Jewish Veteran at jwv@jwv.org.

Sar-El

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my role was to satisfy requests from the field for medical supplies and receive supplies from bases around the country. We worked hard and had fun while we accomplished our assigned task. We quickly developed a great working relationship.

Our team also included an outstanding IDF civil servant named David who rarely stopped working to take a break. He was our primary teacher at the worksite. We had a lot of respect for his work ethic and dedication.

The Sar-El experience is not all learning and working. We had our weekends free to be able to visit anywhere in Israel. I did Tel Aviv both weekends because of my desire to meet up with friends that are Olim (immigrants) from Cuba and the diversions that Tel Aviv has to offer. I also love the beach in Tel Aviv and the newly expanded boardwalk. The nightlife and dining also includes a Cuban restaurant called Alma de Cuba.

In closing, I want to highly recommend the Sar-El experience. You will leave with a feeling that you have done an awesome and rewarding contribution for Israel. You will meet some outstanding folks from around the world and you will have an opportunity to visit different places in Israel.

Please contact me at israel_gotay@yahoo.com with any questions about volunteering for a Sar-El experience. You can also visit their website at www.sar-el.org.



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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

Sexual Abuse in Our Military

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increase in reporting on sexual misconduct. However, an increase in reporting does not fix the issue. Furthermore, it's questionable that this report presents the whole picture. For the fiscal year 2012 report, the Pentagon conducted an anonymous survey which found there were 26,000 victims of unwanted sexual contact that year. This year, the report did not include a similar estimate of total crimes committed. With no equivalent survey conducted for the newly released report, it's impossible to know for sure if the 5,061 number reflects success in getting a greater number of victims to report the crime or an increase in cases.

Strides have been made to address sexual misconduct in the military. In the spring of last year, DOD launched two dozen initiatives with the intention of bringing sexual misconduct and abuse to an end. Among those efforts was a review of personnel serving as counselors, recruiters, and drill instructors. This program has led to the suspension of hundreds of servicemembers, and some of these individuals may ultimately be discharged from the military.

Congress is also paying attention to the issue. In December, Congress passed a bill which removes the ability of military commanders to overturn sexual assault convictions, requires civilian review when Commanders decline to move forward with a case, gives the victims of sexual assault an independent lawyer, and requires a

dishonorable discharge as the minimum sentence in any convictions in these types of cases.

Senator Kristen Gillibrand (D-NY), introduced legislation that went one step further – taking military sexual assault cases outside of the chain of command. This bill was defeated in March 2014.

In spite of these efforts, more cases of major sexual abuses are coming to light. Army Staff Sgt. Angel M. Sanchez, who was responsible for training female troops, was accused of sexually assaulting a dozen female soldiers, using his position to force these women into sexual acts. Sgt. 1st Class Gregory McQueen, who worked as a sexual-assault prevention and counseling officer, faces charges that he set up a prostitution ring of female soldiers who were experiencing financial difficulties. There are additional allegations that he used his position in order to evade detection for his prostitution scheme.

In response to the latest headlines, JWV National released a statement condemning two court decisions regarding sexual abuse in the military. This statement elicited a strong response from JWV members on all sides of the issue (see the Letters section for a sample of some of the comments received by the national organization). One thing, however, is clear – everyone wants military sexual assaults and abuses to stop – but the best way to achieve this objective is hotly debated.

One question remains: when and how will it end?

For years, the U.S. government has set up commissions, taskforces, and studies to try and combat this issue. Since the 1991 Tailhook scandal, when U.S. Navy and Marine Corps officers allegedly sexually assaulted 83 women and 7 men during a Tailhook Association meeting, the military has been enacting reforms to bring an end to sexual assaults. In the aftermath of Tailhook, the military announced a “zero tolerance” policy to end these assaults. But over two decades after that scandal rocked the military, the Pentagon is still struggling to prevent these problems in part because of a lack of oversight, accountability, and fear of reprisal.

For the men and women thinking about joining our armed forces, seeing this kind of press can turn them away from choosing a life of service to this country. It hurts recruiting and it hurts the public perception of what it's like to be in the military. As veterans and servicemembers, we know how rewarding it is to serve our nation, but with so little of our country joining the armed forces, this becomes the public view of those who wear the uniform.

While diverse opinions exist on how the Uniform Code of Military Justice should be reformed, it has become increasingly clear that something must be done soon. The problem of sexual assault and misconduct in the military is not going away. Until meaningful reforms are enacted, JWV will continue to stand at the forefront of this issue.



JEWISH WAR VETERANS of the USA

119th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

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Embassy Suites North Charleston – Airport/Hotel

5055 International Boulevard • North Charleston, SC 29418

TEL: 1-843-747-1882 • FAX: 1-843-747-1895

Join JWV for an exciting and fun week at the Annual National Convention. The keynote speaker at the Grand Opening ceremony at 11:00am on Wednesday, Aug. 20, will be Paul Rieckhoff, the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), who will discuss the needs of our newest veterans and what JWV can do to help. Other distinguished speakers include D. Wayne Robinson, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Student Veterans of America (SVA), and Thomas Domonoske, an expert on consumer law, who will speak on how to protect yourself from deceptive practices.

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 JWV 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

Mystery Theater and Dinner
Who Dunit?

Find out during this exciting mystery theater and sit-down dinner at the hotel.

Sunday, August 17 • \$50 per person

Tour of Historic Charleston
Monday, August 18 • \$47.00 per person

We will be taking a guided bus tour of historic Charleston and stopping at the Charleston Tea Plantation, the home of American Classic Tea.

Lunch on your own
Pickup at the hotel at 8:45 A.M.
Return to the hotel at 5:00 P.M.

JWVA National President's Banquet
Honoring
National President Joanne Blum

Thursday, August 22 • \$42.50 per person

Reception 6:00 P.M.
Dinner 7:00 P.M.

For details concerning the JWVA National President's Banquet, contact Sharon Williams at the Auxiliary Office at 202-667-9061

National Commander's Banquet

Please join us to honor
National Commander Dr. Robert E. Pickard
for his service and dedication to JWV

Saturday, August 23
\$42.50 per person
Reception 6:00 P.M.
Dinner 7:00 P.M.

Activity Registration	Cost	How Many?	Amount
Mystery Theater and Dinner • Sunday, Aug. 17 No. of: Chicken_____ Fish_____	\$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:		
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.			

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Members of the Department of Connecticut shared a Passover Seder with the Coast Guard Academy. First row (left to right): Mike and Joan Needle, Bob Kennedy, Cadet Tony Seleznick; Second row: PDC Jerry Blum, NP Joanne Blum, DC Marty Levitz; Third row: Cadet Rachel Ostrow and PC Joe Fleischmann.



On April 13, the Department of NJ held its annual Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Program at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home in Menlo Park, NJ. Ms. Regina Samuelson, the guest speaker, was a holocaust survivor who spent several years at the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp. Pictured: PDC Harvey Fox presenting Ms. Samuelson with a special gift at the conclusion of her presentation.



Post 575 PA hosts Shabbat services at the chapel of the Delaware Valley Veterans home in Philadelphia, PA. Left to right: Senior-Vice Commander Sol Stark, PDC Allan Abramson, PDC Stan Bilker, PDC Jerry Polonsky.



Post 757 TALO has partnered with Green Doors Austin which provides apartments for homeless veterans along with job training, counseling, and other support. The Post provided Green Doors with two PC projectors, a PC for the office, and six office chairs. Left to right: Emily Frenzel; Senior Vice Commander Chuck Mandelbaum; Barry Mann, Veterans Projects Coordinator; Allyson Randall; Post Commander Earle Sherrod; Andrea Garcia; and Allison Scharf.



Post 436 TALO members Steve Koenig (left) and Derek Mumford represented JWV at the Jewish Federation of Arkansas' Jewish Food Festival in April. Photo by Doris Krain.



PDC Jerry Alperstein, Rear Admiral Margaret Kibben, and Post 1 NY Commander Mort Weinstein on the USS Oak Hill LSD-51 during Fleet Week New York.



Post 125 NJ placed 144 flags on veterans' graves on Sunday, May 25 at the Congregation Brothers of Israel Cemetery in West Long Branch, NJ. Left to right: Leonard Needle, Henry Lewis, Buddy Rassas, Monty Fischer, Art Tauber, Gerald Levine, Burt Resnik, Sid Marshall. Photo by Jason Epstein.



Members of Post 380 MD participated in the annual Annapolis Memorial Day Parade. Left to right: Jody Goldsmith, Dr. Eric Kahn, Howard Pinskey, Post Commander Dr. Donna Kahn, Gilbert Gonzalez, Art Torf, Dr. Michael Monias, and Earl Diamond.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



On May 9, Post 972 NJ hosted a Day at the Races at the Freehold Raceway for residents of the Menlo Park Veterans Home. Left to right: James Mione, Adjutant Bernard Rothenberg, Quartermaster Bob Schwartz, Fred Sona, Senior-Vice Commander Tom Renna, and Post Commander Jeffrey Sohn. Photo by Alan Gurvitz.



Martin Yaffe, Post 126 NJ, participated in an Eagle Scout ceremony on February 15 in Cinnaminson, NJ. Left to right: Louis Deluca, Yaffe, Harrison Ball, and Akshay Patel.



PNC Michael Berman represented JWV's Vietnam era veterans at the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC during Memorial Day weekend. The JWV wreath was generously provided by Roger Gove, Vietnam Veterans Committee Chairman and member of Post 44 OH.



The physical and occupational therapy staff of the Fort Worth VA Outpatient Clinic accepts a Wii and Wii fit material from Dr. Julian Haber, Past Commander of Post 755 TALO. The TV in the background was also given to the clinic by the Post.



CAPT Mark A. Kobelja, the Commanding Officer of Camp Pendleton Base Naval Hospital, presents several "President of the USA Volunteer Awards" to Post 385 CA and its Auxiliary for their work with wounded warriors, families in need, and base personnel.



Members of the Department of NY marched in the annual Celebrate Israel Parade on June 1 in NYC. Left to right: Col. Jacob Goldstein, USA; PNC Shelly Ohren; PNC Jerome Cohen; Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, FDNY Chaplain; and Father Brian McWeeny. Photo by EM Hillock.



Past National Commander Nate Goldberg rides along for the Albany Memorial Day parade courtesy of Post 105 NY member Fred Simon. The Post had two cars in this year's parade.



For Memorial Day, members of Post 14 OH placed flags on the graves of fallen comrades at Zion Memorial Park's veterans section in Cleveland, OH. Left to right: Avi Goldman, Sylvia Blain, Michael Blain, Ted Hersh, and David Beckman. Photo by Judy Hersh.



Members of Post 46 NY marched in the annual Memorial Day Parade in Somers, NY.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Certificates Committee

By Chairman Hannah Deutch

I want to bring you up to date on our certificates program. The amount received from:

- NEC 2013 to NEC 2014 = \$3,974
- Convention 2013 to NEC 2014 = \$1,360
- September 2013 to May 2014 = \$502

I want to especially thank the Auxiliaries who have contributed \$196 out of the \$502.

It certainly is an improvement over previous years and I do want to thank everybody who contributed, but I hope that we can do even better in the future.

JROTC

By Chairman Michael Corbett, PDC

JWV Posts around the country are benefitting from exposure to the community through the award of the Americanism Medal to a youngster in a JROTC Detachment in their service area. This public appearance goes a long way, especially if it is covered by the local media, in opening the Post to new members, and introducing the Post to the larger Jewish community, the greater number of which otherwise does not know of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

All JWV Posts need to assign an individual to chair the JROTC committee because there are more than 1,400 JROTC Detachments around the country; the likelihood that there is one in your service area is significant. Department Commanders would do well to ensure each of their Posts has a JROTC liaison whenever a



Cadet Logan Dean receives JWV's Americanism Medal from Dr. Cale Stein.

JROTC Detachment representative calls to ask for the medal to be presented to a worthy cadet.

JROTC affiliation by JWV also provides the opportunity for genuine veterans to discuss military service at school functions. Again, speaking with youngsters provides many advantages not the least of which is the opportunity to show the

younger generations that Jews have honorably served and faithfully sacrificed for the freedom under which we live in the USA.

We get frequent calls at the national offices from JROTC Detachment Commanders for the presentation of our medal to a deserving cadet. You can imagine the difficulty in searching the maps to locate the high school then, all the work required in finding the closest JWV Post to handle the presentation.

Department Commanders should maintain a list of all Post JROTC liaisons and Post Commanders would fail their Post and their very own community by not assigning a member as that liaison. Let's take every opportunity to connect with our community and with the larger Jewish population. Besides, the individual assigned to doing this job will gain a great deal of personal satisfaction.



Cadet Amber Dennis receives the JWV Americanism Award at the Alvin C. York Institute's Awards Night.

Holocaust Committee

By Chairman Bernhard Storch

Hate has to be eliminated from the world's vocabulary as soon as possible. All my lectures are based on that principle. From day one, when I was invited to address students, or any institutions to speak. Since 1988, I've spoken on the Holocaust. I did not talk about it until one of the museum directors who knew my situation simply said now is the time. Indeed it is not an easy subject, but very vital to listen to someone who was a witness to those heinous crimes, as long as we still have those who witnessed them.

All my lectures were to teach the lesson that hate is evil, as I had seen it first hand while liberating thousands of innocent people in towns, villages, and cities in four European countries plus Concentration Camps, in the process losing my entire family and over 100 relatives, all because of Nazi hate for all others. The last camp we liberated was Sachsenhausen with thousands of people still alive in bad condition, crying uncontrollably, just skin and bones. Having had the

knowledge of four languages, I was able to assure them of their safety now. That camp was only 25 miles from Berlin, and when talking to the people outside the gates, they insisted they knew nothing of what was going on there since 1936. I just said few nasty words to them in German and let it go. The inmates there were mostly Christians, Gypsies, Jews, Hungarian, Polish, Russians, and also Germans.

During the past three months, I had to postpone many speaking lectures due to health problems, but now I am again on the road and will report them in my next report. On Yom HaShoah, I was invited to light the sixth candle hosted by the Holocaust Museum of Spring Valley, NY. These are my personal comments after lighting:

"I am lighting this candle in memory of the Storch Family, the Ebelstein Family, the Krause Family, the Lehrfeld Family, The Dunski Family, the Freiman Family, the Figh Family, the Warenhaupt family, the Zimbalist family, and my Jewish and my Christian brothers in arms who did not come back home with me to Poland from Berlin on the 9th of May 1945. And the only Chaplain we had, in blessed memory, who blessed me and all the other Jewish soldiers before our first engagement with the Nazi group center soldiers on October 12, 1943. His name was Hershel Zawada. He graduated from the Lublin yeshiva in 1936. Each time when I am in a synagogue, I say Kaddish for him and the 56 other Jewish soldiers plus 470 Christian soldiers who did not return from that two day engagement."

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Committee

By Chairman Larry Rosenthal

Last summer was the beginning of a change, a national committee for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans was formed. This was blessed by many individuals of different levels. The interested people had one meeting then and subsequently during the winter convention in Washington, DC.

This summer at our National Convention this group will meet again. I am asking at this time that all Department Commanders appoint one or two members who are Iraq and/or Afghanistan veterans within their state to head up a committee in their respective states. Have them try to recruit other veterans of that era to join them in enlarging this fine group. These proud men and women are the future of our organization. Department Commanders put this committee on your state's website with a point of contact.

This summer we will have another national committee meeting. I look forward to seeing and meeting your Department's Iraq and Afghanistan representative. I also ask any veteran who is of this era to step forward. You have the connec-



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tions, the ability to share common stories, issues, concerns, and most important you know who your peers are.

At the first meeting last year, I made a statement: “The same bewildered officers and dumb senior NCOs were around during WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and during Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom.” Basically, every war has given to its military personnel the same problems. So I say to all Jewish war veterans, please remember, a vet is a vet. Reach out to each other, to those older and younger to bring to the National Convention as your representative.

I would like to build a database of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans. If you know of someone who is or would like to get involved, please contact me at LSR1950@hotmail.com.

Development Committee

By Chairman Monroe Mayer, PNC

We were all relatively surprised, and certainly pleased, when President Obama awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor to the late Pfc. Leonard Kravitz. We were aware that after constant pressure by our organization, and other agencies, we would finally see another Jewish military hero honored in this matter. His memory will be enshrined in our Hall of Heroes, and take his rightful place there.

We were happy to see his story told, but we feel it is our function to tell the story of all Jewish men and women who have served in our military. Therefore, we look to you as you are reading this, and ask you to tell us your story. It needn’t be of the scope or caliber of the Medal of Honor recipients, but nevertheless, events occurred during the time of your service and we would all like to know about it, and share in the moment. We want your story – whether it’s a story of heroism under fire or a comic event that happened miles behind or a continent away from any conflict. I am sure that all of you reading this column have something to tell us, and also have a photograph possibly to accompany that story. Please take a moment to send it to us, so that we may consider including it in our yearly calendar, or any one of the other mailings that we utilize during the year. These stories must be told by us, because no one else will tell any of them. Please dig into those boxes, albums, or drawers, review what you have, and send it to us. I know they are there, and so do you.

Just a reminder, if you are not getting any of our mailings, then you have not sent your envelope back with a check. Conversely, if you are getting the mailings and not sending a check, you may not receive any future mailings. Please, make your donation if you appreciate what we send to you. What you donate will allow JWV USA to continue its necessary position here in the Nation’s Capital.

Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text.

Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

NEW MEMBERS

DEPARTMENT AT LARGE

Nicholas M. King-99 • Matthew Eanet-100 • Arnold W. Grossman-100 • Anita D. Kaminer-100 • Norman Merksamer-100 • Robert Rackleff-100 • Stuart Steinberg-100 • Richard Strouse-344 • Curtis A. Cooper-686

DEPARTMENT OF NEVADA

David P. Altman-21 • Bernard Schwartz-21 • Daniel L. Baraz-30 • Benjamin Albala-65

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Fred E. Muller-200 • James E. Banarer-603 • David M. Capelouto-603 • Murray Harrison-603 • Donald E. Klempnauer-603 • Sarena M. Rosenfeld-603 • Lawrence C. Schlesinger-603 • Cornelius N. Spinner-603 • Robert S. Lieber-688

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

Walter Poe-204

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Aaron Jacobs-199 • Luis Hernandez-223 • Lawrence H. Lentz-243 • Barry A. Schwartz-243 • Sid Birns-265 • Melvin Gerber-265 • Frederick-300 • Marvin Jasper-352 • Harvey Levitt-352 • Jack Rudowsky-373 • Robert D. Bernson-400 • Robert L. Vinikoor-400 • Martin Boltax-631 • Robert A. Felman-631 • Alex J. Rose-639

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

Larry I. Simon-407

DEPARTMENT OF MIDWEST

Mark W. Slatkin-605

DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND

Irvin Lieberman-167 • Gilbert P. Gonzalez-380 • Jack B. Ralph-567 • Ronald Baker-692 • William Landau-692 • Steve G. Plotkin-692 • Edward M. Horwitz-888 •

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Daniel I. Eskenazi-22 • Jerry Saslav-157 • Mark A. Tolpin-157 • Stephen B. Davis-211 • Martin Nellhaus-220

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Aaron Kraft-135

DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Jonathan D. Miller-76 • Sigmund Westerman-651 • Steven Fox-740

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Carl Wetzstein-41 • Joshua A. Gilly-105 • Howard Hershey-105 • Norman C. Massry-105 • Frank Guttman-191 • Edwin Brandes-336 • Jerry Schwartz-336 • Ronald Silverman-336 • Bernard L. Aronow-488 • Gerald Brown-488 • Eric Dorfman-488 • John A. Mancinelli-625 • Monroe Emanuel-652 • Allen Goldberg-652 • Leonard Honig-724 • Raymond Nacht-756

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO

Steven Bernie-14 • Clarence S. Vincent-44 • Helene M. Weinberger-44 • Scott M. Cole-222 • John L. Milling-587

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Robert N. Miller-98 • Alexander Lassoff-305 •

Jack Rubinlicht-575 • Allan Liss-697 • David S. Wisnia-697

DEPARTMENT OF RHODE ISLAND

Michael Thaler-23

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHEAST

Samuel Caldwell-112 • Daniel Jacobson-112 • Jacob Lemert-112 • Brandon A. McCotry-112 • Christopher Nelson-112 • Marco Sanchez-112 • William Sobel-112 • Jeremy Tennent-112 • Reuvain Travis-112 • Charles Vasher-112

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTHWEST

Scott Rifkin-194 • Donald N. Cherry-201 • Douglas A. Cherry-201 • Nickolas Larson-201 • Stephen H. Lipson-201 • Stanley Meyers-201 • Monroe Dingott-210 • Jerry G. Guttman-210 • Edward I. Carroll-619 • Marguerite Halttunen-619

DEPARTMENT OF TALO

James A. Walsh-256 • Jay W. Weinstein-256 • Peter Winston-256 • Richard A. Zweig-256 • Myron Goldberg-580 • Dani Flasterstein-749 • Nicholas Kilday-749 • Jeffery Kim-749 • Tedd Rosenthal-749 • George Standingbear-749 • Vicki B. Marks-755 • Christopher C. Jones-757 • Patrice Jones-757

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PEOPLE & PLACES

► The State of Texas Memorial to the 3,417 Texans who died in Vietnam was recently dedicated in a public ceremony on the capital grounds in Austin, TX. Present at the ceremony and representing **Post 753 TALO**, as well as the individual Post members who made a financial contribution toward the building of the monument, was Past Post Commander **Ken Ashworth**. Individual members of Post 753 were the only Jewish representatives, veteran or otherwise, in the state who made a financial donation to the building of the monument.

► **Al Moskin, Post 756 NY**, was inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame by State Senator David Carlucci in May 2014. The Veterans Hall of Fame was created to honor and recognize outstanding New York veterans who have distinguished themselves in military and civilian life.

► On May 2, **Alfred Zucker, Post 519 FL**, and 21 other Florida veterans of WWII were honored by the French Republic with the Legion of Honor Medal in a ceremony aboard the USS

New York at Port Everglades, FL.

► On July 7, 2014, representatives of **Post 735 MA** presented a check in the amount of \$1,625 to Richard Leeman, Assistant Chief, Voluntary Service at the Brockton Campus of the VA Boston Healthcare System. The post collected these funds during their Memorial Day solicitation at Shaw's Supermarket. These funds will be used for the benefit of hospitalized veterans who are undergoing treatment and extended care within the VA facility.

REUNIONS

► 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 ussiwjojimashipmates.cfns.net for more information.

► 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.

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

► Marine Air Groups Reunion, for Marines who flew, maintained, and supported USMC aircraft from WWII to the present, will be holding its 2014 reunion in Branson, MO on October 1-4. For more information, contact James Jordan at james.m.jordan@hughes.net, 417-535-4945 or Bob Miller at mbobsue13@gmail.com, 636-327-5854.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe that my three years as President of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History have almost come to an end.

During my time in office, we've had many accomplishments at NMAJMH. The new exhibit has moved from the fundraising stage to the planning stage, and a few months after I leave my position, it will finally become a reality. We've introduced new programs like the now annual Chanukah Party and a lecture series commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. We have also continued to build on the success of older programs like our annual participation in the Dupont-Kalorama Museums Consortium's Walk Weekend.

We've started new fundrais-

ing efforts like the Remembrance Walk, which has proved immensely popular with our members and has transformed the front of our building with elegantly designed personalized paver stones. We've also revamped older initiatives like our online Yahrzeit Program, which will soon re-launch with a completely redesigned website and user interface.

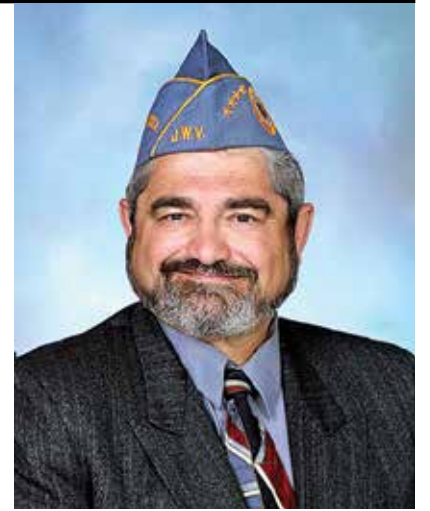
Under my successor, I know that the success and reputation of the Museum will continue to grow. This fall, we will finally unveil our new core exhibit to the public. Quatrefoil, the company helping NMAJMH design the new exhibit, has developed an amazing concept for us, and I know all of you will be impressed by the unique way our new space will tell the complete

story of the Jewish experience in America's military.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the continued support of members like you. It is your membership and donations that keep NMAJMH operating, and I hope that all of you continue your support of the Museum for many years to come.

I would like to thank the members of NMAJMH's Board who have helped me every step of the way throughout my term. I'd also like to thank the Museum staff members who make the day-to-day operations of the Museum possible. I wish the incoming President and Board members best wishes on a successful year. I look forward to working with all of you in the future.

Finally, I would like to give a



**PNC Norman Rosenshein
President, NMAJMH**

special thanks to Mary Westley, our longtime Museum Coordinator, who retired this year. Mary was a valued member of our staff who went out of her way to assist our members. We wish her well as she starts her new life in Texas. She will be missed.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES **By Pamela Elbe**

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

How Many Jews Have Received the Medal of Honor?

In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the bill creating the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration presented by the United States. A recipient must distinguish themselves at the risk of their own life "above and beyond the call of duty." Since its creation there have been 3,488 recipients; the number of American Jews who have received this honor is, however, a matter of some debate.

The number of Jewish recipients of the Medal of Honor varies by which source you consult. Wikipedia states that 27 Jews have received the Medal, though the site only lists 25 names. The NMAJMH recognizes 16 Jews as having received our nation's highest honor: Abraham Cohn, Leopold Karpeles, Benjamin Levy, David Urbansky, Samuel Marguiles, Simon Suhler, Sydney Gumpertz, Benjamin Kaufman, William Sawelson, Isadore Jachman, Ben Salomon, Raymond Zussman, Leonard Kravitz, Tibor Rubin, Jack Jacobs, and John Levitow. While it is possible, even likely, that more than 16 Jews have been awarded the Medal, those 9 individuals cited by Wikipedia do not appear to be valid candidates.

Isaac Gause, Abraham Greenwalt (also known as Abraham Grunwalt), and Henry Heller are included in Wikipedia's list of Jews who received the Medal of Honor during the Civil War.

In his book "Four Years with Five Armies: Army of the Frontier, Army of the Potomac, Army of the Missouri, Army of the Ohio, Army of the Shenandoah," Gause describes his upbringing in a Christian home and states that the uncle who raised him was a Quaker. This is backed up by genealogical research. In a biography of Abraham's son Emor in "A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans, 1919," Abraham is said to be "a member of the Methodist Church." Henry Heller is buried in a Baptist cemetery. Genealogical research into these individuals did not locate any Jewish ancestry.

Those listed as recipients during the Indian Wars include George Geiger, whose military records list his religion as Protestant. There is very little information available on David Goodman (Indian Wars) or William Zion (Battle of Peking), but none of our research has uncovered anything indicating that they were Jewish. Jacob Trautman (Indian Wars) has a Christian cross on his grave marker. Similarly, Louis C. Mosher, who received the Medal for his actions during the Philippine-American War, has a Christian cross on his grave marker and records state that his funeral was held at a church.

The final three Medal of Honor recipients listed by Wikipedia but not recognized as Jewish by the NMAJMH are all World War I veterans:

Edouard Izac, Samuel Sampler, and John Otto Siegel. Izac attended Catholic school and had a son who was ordained a Catholic priest. His grave is marked with a Christian cross. The same is true for Sampler's grave marker. Like Izac, John Otto Siegel was also Catholic, as verified by the 1901 Canadian census.

Uncovering someone's religious preference or background is not any easy task, and often the lack of information plays as much a part as anything else in making a determination. Hearsay seems to play a major role in listings like Wikipedia, leading to the inclusion of individuals not from primary source documentation but because some other list included them. At the NMAJMH we err on the side of caution, choosing not to include someone unless research has uncovered evidence that they were in fact Jewish. Possibly the best example of this is the case of John Levitow (Vietnam). He is not listed by Wikipedia, presumably because he is buried under a cross and his marriage was officiated by a Catholic priest. The NMAJMH includes him because he identified himself as Jewish and was a member of the Jewish War Veterans. His membership application is on display in the Museum's Hall of Heroes exhibition. Unfortunately, we seldom have the opportunity to ask the recipient if they were Jewish.

Administratively Speaking By Mike Rugel, Museum Coordinator

WWII nurse Lillian Krell Swerdlow and film producer Grace Guggenheim joined NMAJMH for the annual Family Stories program on June 8. The event is part of the Dupont-Kalorama Museum Consortium's Walk Weekend, a collaboration between seven "off-the mall" museums around our neighborhood. It's frequently one of our busiest days and this year was no exception.

The event opened with Lillian Krell Swerdlow appearing via video from her home in California. Our exhibit halls were filled with her friends and family as Swerdlow answered questions posed by historian Dr. Linda Dudik, author of the book "To Quiet the Fears of Others: The Story of a World War II Army Nurse." The book describes Swerdlow's service during the war. The former nurse spoke with a smile and humor as she told her story. A 1943 graduate of Mt. Sinai Nursing School, she arrived in England just before D-Day and treated the seemingly endless wounded coming from the invasion. She was among the first nurses administering the wonder drug penicillin and was a part of the team of orthopedists using

brand new bone grafting techniques. Her family testified to her wonderful spirit and remarkable postwar career in public health.

Producer Grace Guggenheim introduced a screening of the documentary film "Berga: Soldiers of Another War" in the Education Center. The film was directed and narrated by her father, four-time Academy Award winner Charles Guggenheim. Grace explained how her father devoted the final years of his life to uncovering the story of how these American troops ended up in a Nazi slave labor camp. Charles Guggenheim was inspired to find out what happened to some of his old buddies from the 106th Infantry Division. He found a little told aspect of World War II: 350 American servicemen, many of them Jewish, were captured at the Battle of the Bulge and later taken to Berga where they were subjected to the same brutal and inhuman treatment as the European civilian prisoners who were imprisoned in labor camps during the Holocaust.

Special thanks goes to Mary Westley who was coordinating her final event for the museum.

It was yet another example of Mary's tireless efforts for NMAJMH. She will be greatly missed.

With Convention fast approaching, please remember that all collection offers must be made in writing. Please do not bring items that you would like to donate along with you to Convention or send them to the Museum without first consulting the collections manager. While we appreciate your support of the NMAJMH, the Museum has a donation policy that needs to be adhered to.

If you have material that you are willing to donate to the NMAJMH, please contact Pamela Elbe at pelbe@nmajmh.org.

For more information about donating to the Museum and how our collection is used, visit our website: <http://www.nmajmh.org/collectionsAndResearch/collectionAndArchives.php>.

FROM OUR COLLECTION By Mike Rugel

Assistant Collections Manager/NMAJMH

For some, a single stint in the military is enough. Others join and don't leave for a lifetime. For Herman Gerofsky (who later changed his name to Charles Herman Gerard), it was in and out four times between 1907 and 1919. He initially joined the 12th Cavalry Regiment where he spent time at Fort William McKinley in Riyal, Philippines. Honorable discharge came on December 6, 1910. He returned to the U.S. and the native New Yorker found himself on the West Coast. On February 11, 1911, he enlisted for the second time at the Presidio as a private with the 13th Infantry Regiment.

He was sent to Fort William H. Seward in Haines, Alaska. Fort Steward was a good place to be stationed. Sure it was cold, but there were regular dances and social activities, and fishing and hunting were a part of the daily routine. There he trained as a non-commissioned officer and played in the band as a cornetist. In Alaska of the early twentieth century, everyone was excited about gold. So after his term of service was up, Gerofsky headed to the mines where lucky miners were finding gold nuggets worth thousands. But he wasn't able to make his fortune. Just as he arrived, the mines were shut down when World War One began in 1914.

Eight months after he'd left the Army, Gerofsky once again felt the call to serve. This

time he chose the Marine Corps. He enlisted at Portland, Oregon. Sergeant Gerofsky was sent to the Dominican Republic when revolution broke out in 1915. He saw action at Guayacanes before becoming a part of the military government being established in San Juan in 1916. In an interview with a newspaper reporter in 1932, Gerard recalled, "I was fully unprepared to rule a country... We didn't know anything about court order, so we ran it as we saw fit." He considered it great training for running a New Jersey delicatessen later in life.

He returned to the U.S. again after being discharged in 1918. But by this time, the U.S. had entered the World War. It was only four days of civilian life before enlisting in the Marine Corps one more time at Paris Island, South Carolina. Gerofsky was sent to France with the A.E.F. as a First Sergeant. He participated in the march to the Rhine River and the defense of the Coblenz bridgehead. For another ten months, he served with the Army of Occupation. In August of 1919, Gerofsky was out of the Marine Corps, discharged at Quantico before returning to New York and civilian life for good.

Herman Gerofsky seated for a studio portrait, circa 1912.



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Three Jewish Movements, One Prayer Book

Continued from page 1

for congregational use, said Rabbi Robinson. The goal was to create something that borrowed from source material from all streams of Judaism, and is exceptional in that rabbis across denomination have been authorized to use it, even with inclusion of liturgy from other denominations.

The siddur is the first major revision of the prayer book used by military chaplains since World War II. This version represents a unique collaboration between all three movements, which saw enormous value in coming together to create something of enduring worth for the men and women who serve their country. It incorporates Hebrew and English text from their existing prayer books expressly for use by the JWB.

The JWB Jewish Chaplains Council advisory board felt there was a need for the siddur because its chaplains were using a variety of prayer books depending on what the rabbi or trained lay person leading services chose to use. This was often the prayer book with which he or she was most

comfortable, or simply what was available at the base. This worked adequately for the rabbis, but wasn't as successful for Jewish service men and women, who had to get used to a new siddur as they moved around from base to base.

The first prayer books published by the JWB date back to World War II and many still exist. That edition was an abbreviated one. The Orthodox movement, at that time, then issued a companion edition to meet the needs of Orthodox military personnel. In the early 1980s, the prayer book was updated and reintroduced.

But since then, each major Jewish movement has published a new edition of its own prayer book and it was about time that JWB followed suit, Robinson said. The changes include gender-neutral language, Hebrew and English text, as well as transliterations of the Hebrew.

For more information about JWB Jewish Chaplains Council and the new JWB Jewish military siddur visit www.jcca.org/jwb.

New Regulations Automate Burial Payments for Veterans' Survivors

New burial regulations will allow VA to automatically pay the maximum amount allowable under law to most eligible surviving spouses more quickly and efficiently, without the need for a written application.

Under former regulations, VA paid burial benefits on a reimbursement basis, which required survivors to submit receipts for relatively small one-time payments that VA generally paid at the maximum amount permitted by law.

Surviving spouses will be paid upon notice of the Veteran's death using information already in VA systems. The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300, and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service.

For more information on monetary burial benefits, visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-special-burial.asp>.



Oxygen tent donated by JWV Post 194, 1931.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Back to our hotel for a rest, Kabbalat Shabbat and a Shabbat dinner.

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

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

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

Day 10-Tuesday, Mar. 3: 12:45AM Flight home. Early morning arrival in New York. ***Welcome home! You have just returned from a lifetime experience!***

For complete information, please contact
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