



THE JEWISH VETERAN

Volume 68 • Number 4

National Museum of American Jewish Military History Opens New Permanent Exhibit

Eight years, 49 artifacts, 400 photos, and \$750,000 later, the new National Museum of American Jewish Military History (NMAJMH) permanent exhibit opened Veterans Day. “Jews in the American Military” uses narratives, images, artifacts, and multimedia to explore the place of Jews in the military heritage of the United States, spanning from the colonial period to the present.

By means of President Roosevelt’s principles of Spirit, Conviction, and Purpose, the exhibition addresses the following questions: Why do people serve in the American armed forces? When – and in what contexts – did they serve? How did they serve?

The exhibit includes high-tech interactive elements and artifacts from the Museum’s collection, and each area of the exhibit has its own

the exhibit centers on Jewish military service in the Civil War through World War I. “Conviction” tells the story of those American Jews who fought and sacrificed in every branch of service and every theater during World War II. “Purpose” tells the story of Jewish service during the Cold War through the present day. “Leaving the Service” focuses on the transition to the civilian world and the mementos veterans keep to remember their time in the service.

The exhibit opening on Veterans Day, November 11, 2014, was well attended by JWV members and the general public. About 120 people attended the dedication ceremony while over 200 people explored the new exhibit throughout the day, including one school group from Montreal. Also in attendance was two-star Major General Stanley Hyman, a reserve Air Force chaplain who is also a local rabbi, and Gail Walsh, Julius Klein’s great grandniece. Academia was also represented; two attendees were from the Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Texas, Dallas.

“What’s great about this exhibit is that while it stretches from the Colonial Era to modern day, it also includes specific stories, ranging from Asher Levy to Daniel Agami,” said PNC and NMAJMH treasurer Norman Rosenshein, who emceed the event. “We can add stories, especially to the digital interactives, as time progresses to bring the exhibit with us into the future.”

NMAJMH began in 1954, and was chartered by Congress in 1958. In 1984, the museum purchased its current building. It took five years to



Photo by Christy Turner.



Photo by Joshua Marks.

unique multimedia element. The technologies make it easy to change content within the exhibit as new information and materials become available. Divided into five sections, the exhibit takes visitors through the emotional and historical process of joining the military and participating in global conflicts, and includes artifacts such as a brain surgery kit from the Civil War, a diary from a Jewish POW, and a Torah carried by a Jewish army chaplain on the Burma Trail.

In “Answering the Call,” a video depicts the story of the Jewish American men and women who answered the call to enlist in the military during World War I and World War II. In “Spirit,”

fundraise this new exhibit, the biggest project and the largest capital campaign the museum has even seen. In addition to an updated space, the exhibit also includes several touch screens, so visitors can further explore photographs and their corresponding stories. There is also a short video, an oral history listening station, and a Fallen Heroes kiosk that correlates to the NMAJMH Yahrzeit program.



Photo by Christy Turner.

Pamela Elbe, the Collections Manager and Archivist of NMAJMH, remarked that she was thrilled the exhibit has come to fruition after eight years of work. She also thanked PNC

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Upcoming JWV Teleconferences Your opinions and ideas count!

All JWV members are encouraged to join in and participate by calling this toll-free number: Dial 1-866-266-3378 and enter the JWV Code Number: 202 265 6280#. Enter the full number, including the # sign. All calls start at 8:00 PM ET.

NEC Plans and Preparation

Jan. 13, 2015

NEC Meeting
Feb. 11-15, 2015

Helping Our Museum

Mar. 17, 2015

Community Outreach

Apr. 14, 2015

Veterans Homelessness

May 14, 2015

Preparing for the National Convention

June 4, 2015

National Convention Review

Sept. 3, 2015

Outlook for the Coming Year

Oct. 13, 2015



THE JEWISH VETERAN

The Jewish Veteran is the Official Publication of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America

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

National Editor Monroe Mayer, PNC

National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth

Managing Editor Jordana Green

Graphics/Production Editor Christy Turner

Editorial Fellow Robert M. Zweiman, PNC

EDITORIAL OFFICE

1811 R Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20009

Telephone (202) 265-6280 x504

Fax (202) 234-5662

E-mail jwv@jwv.org

Web Site www.jwv.org

The Jewish Veteran is published 4 times a year:
Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall, by the
Jewish War Veterans
of the United States of America
at 1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Periodical postage paid at Washington, DC, and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to Jewish War Veterans, 1811 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Subscription price in the United States is \$5.00 per year, included in membership. Nonmember subscriptions: \$10.00. Single copies: \$2.50.

Photos and articles submitted to *The Jewish Veteran* shall be used at the discretion of the organization. The opinions expressed in signed articles and letters in this magazine are not necessarily those of JWV.

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NPA#112285
ISSN 047-2018.

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YOUR LETTERS

Dachau Name Spelling

The concentration camp's name as appears in the article, i.e. Daucau, is incorrect. The correct spelling is Dachau.

Having been born in Germany in 1931 within a short span of years, I myself along with my parents could have become "Holocaust Material," except for the fact that when we left Germany, we stayed in Havana, Cuba, for some thirteen months before entering the United States. (Departed Germany in April 1939 and arrived in USA in May 1940). Around the time of Kristallnacht, the Night of the Broken Glass, my father was arrested by the SS and sent to Dachau. I was 7 years of age at that time. My father escaped Dachau on or near the holiday of Epiphany recuperating from what I believe to have been Pneumonia. He had been very ill and bedridden for several weeks before ultimately recovering. Back in 1937 my brother, then 15, left for the USA, staying with an uncle and aunt in Kansas City, Missouri. My uncle was a brother of my father.

In Kansas City, I attended elementary school, junior high and then high school. Subsequently, I enlisted in the United States Air Force with straight through unbroken service, retiring after 20 and one-half year. After my Air Force retirement, I joined JWV as a member of the Lt. Sidney L. Sommer San Francisco Post 152, remaining a member thereof until Deactivation December 1, 2013.

Sincerely,
Martin T. Lyon

[Clarification: We received several comments from readers regarding the spelling of Dachau in an article which appeared in the last issue of The Jewish Veteran. In it, Dachau was spelled "Daucau." The article was a reprint and therefore JWV could not change or alter it in any way. We chose to run it as is, because we felt the story would be of great interest to our audience. We sincerely apologize for any confusion or offence this decision may have caused.]

Anti Semitic Incidents on Campus

Thank you for your letter of warning and information relating to anti-Semitic incidents on American college campuses resulting from this summer's war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, and of the "SJP".

I am happy to report that there have been no such incidents as those described in your letter, here at Westchester Community College, to my knowledge, and I feel certain that any such actions would not be tolerated by our administration. I am sure that if there ever are any in the

future, they would be handled as you advise in your letter, promptly and firmly.

I credit the academic and administrative leadership at our college for fostering and maintaining this tolerant, respectful, and safe environment.

Our institution remains opposed to any form of racial, religious, or ethnic bigotry or discrimination. In the 43 years that I have taught here as a full time instructor of psychology I have found the atmosphere to be one of great respect for all people, for all races, religions and ethnic groups. Our campus possesses a great diversity of students, faculty, administrators and staff from all over the world, representing all ethnic, racial and religious groups. It has been characterized by harmony and respect for one another in all the years I have been here, and exudes a sense of peace and security in that regard. I hope it will remain this way for decades to come.

We, nevertheless, appreciate the important information contained in your letter of alert and warning.

"To be forewarned is to be forearmed." We realize that we must always remain vigilant, and never forget the lessons of history.

Sincerely,
Sheldon Malev
Professor, Psychology
Behavioral and Social Sciences Department
Westchester Community College
Sr. Vice Commander, JWV Post 191

Thank You

On behalf of the Trustees, staff, and volunteers at the National Museum of American Jewish History, thank you for the National Museum of American Jewish Military History's generous artifact loan that has enabled us to present a meaningful exhibition to our visitors in our landmark building on Independence Mall in historic Philadelphia.

Real objects, related to the lives of real people, are essential to our presentation of the American Jewish story and without your generosity we would not be able to offer the level of engagement that we have been able to provide since we opened in 2010.

We truly appreciated the opportunity to share the gas mask, Torah scroll, and telegrams with our visitors. Claire Pingel, the Museum's Chief Registrar and Associate Curator, will work with Ms. Elbe to make appropriate arrangements for their safe return to your facility.

Sincerely,
Josh Perelman, PhD
Chief Curator & Director of Exhibitions
and Collections



JWV NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

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

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

The following grants will be awarded:

Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant
\$2,500
\$1,000

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

Leon Brooks Memorial Grant
\$1,500

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

Applications are due May 30, 2015.

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

Has your military service influenced your opinion on the current situations in Iraq, Syria, and the Middle East? We'd like to hear about it. Please send your response to the Editor for possible publication in an upcoming issue of *The Jewish Veteran*.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

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



I have recently returned home from an overwhelming week and a half in D.C., Maryland, and New Jersey. It was an honor to represent you and JWV as your National Commander. I enjoyed meeting with our full-time national staff and sharing thoughts on various ideas and subjects; I am very proud that each and every one of them work for our organization because they are truly professional in what they do.

Veterans Day was a real treat. I represented JWV at the White House and at the Arlington Cemetery ceremony. The greatest part of that day was the opening of the new NMAJMH exhibit, "Jews in the American Military," and having the honor to speak before all who were present. What a beautiful transition our Museum has accomplished.

I am so proud to be a member of this great organization and a member of NMAJMH. How many of you are members of both. If you're not, please consider joining. The Museum is a history of us and

a history that will endure for future generations.

I accomplished many firsts on my trip to the East Coast. The first was a visit to the JWV Department of D.C. accompanied by JWVA National President Petra Kaatz. Next, I visited the Dept. of Veterans Affairs & Health Care System in East Orange-NJ, the NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, and the Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs/Army National Guard. I spoke before the NJ Senate about veterans issues, went to the VA Clinic in Brick, NJ, and visited the Israeli General Consul in Philadelphia, PA. Other visits included the Chapel of the 4-Chaplains, Battleship New Jersey (BB-62), and the NJ Vietnam Memorial, which were all truly impressive beyond words.

I would like to encourage your participation on a few key fronts. The NEC is rapidly approaching; it will be from February 11-15, 2015. Our Annual National Convention will be August 2-9, 2015 in Tampa, FL. Additionally, JWV and

I ask for your support of our Medal of Honor celebration to be held during our NEC in Wash., D.C. on February 14.

Lastly, membership. Many of you know it is my "thing," so I am challenging each and every Post to increase its membership by 5-10 percent. If I can do it, I'm asking you to match me or exceed that percentage. Additionally, if you have not already paid your membership dues for 2015, please do so immediately. Keep in mind that your installation warrants, financial reports, and 990 forms are also due in 2015.

Linda and I sincerely wish to thank the JWV & JWVA leadership and members from the various areas who coordinated, took time out of their daily schedules, and traveled with us on our mission to promote the name of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

NEWS

FROM CAPITOL HILL



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



In Memory of Past National Commander Paul Bernstein

Following a difficult struggle, Past National Commander Paul Bernstein passed away a few weeks ago. It was a very sad day for each of us at the National Headquarters when we heard this terrible news.

In addition to his position as National Editor of this publication, Paul was JWV's Action/Homeland Security Chairman. He was a civil engineer, and had the technical qualifications and practical experience needed to serve effectively as JWV's Homeland Security Chairman. He worked very hard to bring awareness of our country's homeland security needs to all he could reach.

For the past several years, Paul was a leader of our Capitol Hill Action Day program. Every year, as part of our National Executive Committee mid-winter meeting, JWV members meet with their Senators and Representatives to convey JWV's priorities and concerns. Paul always kept homeland security among our top

concerns.

He saw to it that our members were briefed on cyber security, bio and nuclear security, intelligence capacity and information sharing, the threat of weapons of mass destruction, and the need for better security at airports.

Paul felt it was imperative that our computer network systems and national energy grid be secured against cyber-attacks. He believed that cyber threats had become one of the most serious economic and national security challenges we face. Paul advocated linking health-care providers, hospitals, and public health agencies so that outbreaks of possible bio attacks or pandemic diseases could be recognized early.

He saw the gathering, analyzing, and effective sharing of intelligence as vital to the security of our country. He believed that we need to strengthen intelligence collection to identify and interdict those who intend to do us harm.

The need for better security at our airports

was Paul's number one concern and priority. He believed that we must keep US air transportation safe and prevent the kind of terrorist attack that occurred on 9/11. Paul was emphatic that the TSA and the Department of Homeland Security must do a much better job of identifying and correcting all security flaws, whether they are bugs in software, outdated technology, or the absence of qualified people monitoring the monitors.

I will always remember accompanying Paul to Capitol Hill when he briefed key staff members of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security. I was extremely proud of Paul; proud to be with him and proud to listen as he presented his carefully thought-out ideas and his excellent recommendations.

PNC Paul Bernstein will always be remembered as a leader, a friend, a veteran, and as an expert in Homeland Security, and most importantly, as a loving husband and a wonderful father.

By PNC Monroe Mayer, National Editor



Dear Readers,

It was September 10, 2001. The Coordinating Council of the Department of New York has scheduled a meeting that evening at a restaurant in lower Manhattan. The downtown area was selected simply because members coming in from the various boroughs could reach this location without any difficulty. There was a good number of us there, including Paul Bernstein.

The dinner was easy for him to get to because he worked at the World Trade Center, and the restaurant was walking distance away. As a representative of the Bronx District Council, Paul joined the rest of us from the Rockland Orange District Council, Nassau-Suffolk District Council, Westchester County Council, Kings County, and Queens County as we discussed various JWV issues. I have no remembrance of what was discussed that evening, although I am sure at the time it was important. As we left the restau-

rant we looked at the tall buildings of the World Trade Center, and we all felt pretty good about our situation and where the meeting occurred.

What happened the next morning, no one can forget. I personally stayed in lower Manhattan at my youngest son's apartment, and while he went off to school, I was watching TV. Of course what happened next will be remembered for generations. I ran to the street, and from my location was able to see the damage that had been done. Later that day, it dawned on me that Paul was at work. We all heard afterward that Paul had been in the building as it was struck, and he was able to get down by staircase to the city streets amidst all of horror.

We all heaved a sigh of relief when we heard that Paul had gotten out safely before the building collapsed. He regaled us with the stories at our next several meetings, and then he went on about his business as Paul always did. We watched him

become Department Commander, National Executive Committeeman, and finally National Commander.

We never realized the toll that morning had taken on him. Paul always accomplished everything that has been set before him without question, and was always there when he was needed. He attended every function, convention, and meeting; and helped any way he could. We were all concerned the past many months when his health took a turn for the worst. We at the Department of New York looked to him as our new Executive Director, and as always, expected the best, and we constantly got it. He will be missed.

Sincerely,
Monroe Mayer

In Memoriam Past National Commander Paul Bernstein 1939-2014

Paul Bernstein was born in Manhattan, New York. His father worked in California as a welder in shipyards during World War Two and his Uncle Lewis Bernstein was in Greenland protecting our northern flank.

He joined the Army Engineers in 1960 and went to Construction School at Fort Belvoir, VA.

Paul was selected to serve in a unit that surveyed bridges in France to determine the strength and capacity of bridge crossings in the event that the Seven Army would have to cross the Rhine River back to France. He was also a member of a select team of Engineers that developed plans for our Forces' future involvement during the early days of the Vietnam War (1962-1963).

Paul graduated the City College of New York with a BCE and New Jersey Institute of Technology with a Master's of Science in Civil Engineering. He was also in the Doctor of Engineering Program at NJIT, and was a member of the American Society of Military Engineers. Paul was a licensed Professional Engineer in the States of New York and New Jersey and a Professional Planner in N.J. For many years, he was a consultant for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey at Newark Liberty International Airport until he retired in 2007.

Paul joined the Jewish War Veterans in 1973 and became Post



Paul Bernstein was a devoted husband and father. He is pictured here (from left) with son Michael, his wife Elaine, and daughter Megan.

Commander of Post 550 in 1976. In 1984, he became Bronx County Commander, and in 1990 he joined Bronx Post 3. Paul worked in the Department of New York as its Vietnam Chairman and Adjutant in 1987, and in 1999, Paul became the Commander of the Department of New York. From 1987 to 1991, and from 1994 to 1995, he was the National Executive Committeeman.

Since 1997, Paul has been active in National. He served on the NEC Rules Committee, National Convention Committee, and Board of Directors at Large for the NMAJMH, and since 2001, he was the National Inspector. In 2007, he became the National Editor of *The Jewish Veteran*, a title he proudly held until his passing.

Currently, he was the Executive Director of the Department of NY.

Paul passed away at the age of 75 on Monday, November 3, 2014 at JFK Medical Center, in Edison, NJ.

He is survived by his beloved wife Elaine, his devoted children Alissa (Jeff) Swedelson of Mahwah, NJ, Hope (Craig) Rosenfeld of Marmora, NJ, and Megan and Michael Bernstein of Sayreville, NJ. He is survived by siblings Rita Greenblatt of New City, NY, Eileen Blitz of Pompano Beach, FL and Barry (Rhoda) Bernstein of Boca Raton, FL. He is also survived by his adored grandchildren, Britney and Emily Swedelson.



Veterans Need Your Protection

This Nation was born of war. America went from being a colony of Great Britain to an independent nation. So it all began. Each government resulted in the creation of the same product- a veteran who has to be attended to and cared for, and made for an important part of a greater society. So, we all thought- turned out not to be so.

Using small scale military invasions, we commenced expanding and consolidating into one nation from East to West. The Civil War was a bloody binding conflict which assured that we would be one (albeit contentious) nation of states rather than a European mode of separate nations. Unfortunately it was, in great part, accomplished through military actions both here and abroad, involving a society of political, industrial, and financial complexities.

Slowly but surely we built our nation through military strength into becoming a “superpower,” secure through military power and two oceans. The illusion was that morality and democracy constituted the glue which put and held us together until 9/11.

For example, the Spanish-American war demonstrated that our world status was to be predicated not on becoming a colonial power but on some misguided concept of democratic “nation building” in a template arrogantly created from our American way. World Wars I and II involved “allies” who coordinated the conflict; they helped on the battle fields but, politically, their actions have created the Middle East’s economic presence and power which now has involved us in war.

Vietnam, Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, and anti-terrorist conflicts are basically a misuse of American power and result in American deaths, and more veterans who were and are our government’s obligation. The best example is Iraq, where our citizens were told that Iraqi oil fields and banks would fund the entire conflict- I hope that you’re not still holding your breath.

We have now started down the road from being responsible for the protection of our own citizens to what now appears to be a global obligation to protect others internationally when it is demanded of us. The unique demand, in many cases, is not being made by our own citizens or even a threat to our nation; but by some international organization in which we are a member by virtue of our superpower status and economic prowess. More significantly, our military wherewithal and competence sometimes appears to be available at the whim and caprice of world public opinion.

We can understand when the call for assistance comes as a result of natural disasters. My quandary comes when conflicts occur from attacks, ethnically created tribal conflicts, and the creation of refugees spilling over into neighboring nations. However, the security situation has slowly deteriorated. American public opinion has not responded immediately to the acceptance of our becoming the world’s police force. The major product of war- veterans- require your protection.

Thus it has now become more pronounced with the results of the 2015 mid-term elections and the placement of our Legislative branch in the hands of one political party and the Executive branch in the hands of the other. If you analyze the cause and effect, you must realize that it doesn’t make a difference. The same players, the same scenario, the same bipartisan thievery.

We just have another replay of the sequester conspiracy imposed on America’s citizens when both parties openly lied and screwed all of our citizens other than contributors (who have special interests- namely greed). They are going to do it again under the guise of compromise and bipartisanship. Look at your entitlements, pension, housing, and all of the social welfare benefits as they are slowly being traded off at reducing business requirements.

The high campaign donors will be given tax relief so that their tax savings can be used to fund campaign contributions. By the way, wouldn’t it be great to require that funds given by campaign contributors would be matched to finance infrastructure projects and social entitlements?

The middle class (assuming that one really exists) will be reclassified as an upper poverty class and will continue to vote to affirm their bondage to slogans. The assurance of equality will no longer be worthy of being a slogan or even an illusion of truth.

For example, before the last election both parties told veterans that they will again be guaranteed protection. We were told that the situation at the Phoenix VA will never occur again, that appointments and treatments would be made in an orderly manner. They dumped the few personnel incompetents who created the cover-ups to hide underfunding. Both parties repeated the same refrain over and over- especially the type of language we used when we sent our troops into non-American conflicts in the Middle East.

Phoenix VA was an insignificant lie that

was easily glossed over. Our two savior political parties passed bills and resolutions- but never really provided the funding necessary to provide an increase in the number of clerks required to receive and process applications, the number of doctors and nurses needed to treat patients, the research needed to fight back against PTSD and other conditions, or to comply with the promises that have Abe Lincoln turning over in his grave.

Sequestration will return under the guide of compromise. Defense spending will increase to carry on with the creation of more American veterans- but not for their protection and care, nor for the additional programs which can help educate families or prevent homelessness.

Protection of the veteran definitively entails the protection of both the veteran and his/her family. Large sums of money subsidized the elections, and the same sums must also support not just the 1 percent but America’s veterans who arrive home with battle fatigue that remains post-service.

It is bizarre that worldwide we are experiencing numerous protests- some staged, some organized through social media as responses to events. In Hong Kong, citizens are protesting the need for democracy to avoid colonialization by China. In Missouri, protests are racially inspired with a due process cover and have spread to many other cities throughout the nation. But whatever the cause or reason, these protests spring forth with vigor and conflict. In other areas, protests favor a religious or non-religious focus, or who should not be residents of a nation and participate in the governance of their new country. The streets have become a meaningful means of expression of dissent or opinions.

Thankfully, at this point, the protests have not degenerated into revolutions, although there have been some *coupe d’etats*. The United States fortunately has not even come close, although there has been destruction in the streets and some strong police reaction. So, it appears that I am getting close to where we started this piece of writing- but revolution is never an option as long as alternatives are dominant in our society.

Money has made our policy procedures cumbersome and at some times, irrational. So, I repeat as I have many times before- 25 million veterans plus their families need to be protected. If only people would realize the power of their vote and use it- shame they don’t seem to understand it.

Jewish War Veterans of the USA

MEDAL OF HONOR CELEBRATION

*An Evening To Honor Jewish Medal Of Honor Recipients
And All Medal Of Honor Recipients*

**Saturday, February 14, 2015
Crystal City Marriott Grand Ballroom
1999 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202**

**Cocktail Reception 7:00pm
Dinner 8:00pm**

Please add your support to this evening.

Your donation of a seat will enable us to invite a member of the military to attend in your place.

Table (10 seats)	\$5,000.00
Half table (5 seats)	\$2,500.00
2 seats	\$1,000.00
1 seat	\$500.00

To donate or reserve your place, go to:
http://www.jwv.org/medal_of_honor
or call JWV at 202-265-6280.



A Look at the 2013-2014 JWV National Achievement Award Winners

The Jewish War Veterans sponsors an annual essay contest for current service members and veterans who plan to attend or are currently attending an accredited Associates, Bachelor's, or Nursing degree program. This past year's winners, decided at the 119th Annual National Convention in August, are exemplary. JWV is proud to have awarded Ryan Korn the *Max R. & Irene Rubenstein Memorial Grant*, and Jacob Silver the *Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant*.

Ryan Korn was deployed twice to Iraq as a 35M Human Intelligence Collector, and spent four years with the 1st Cavalry Division in Ft. Hood, Texas. In his essay, he explained "My grandfather served in WWII as a proud Jew, and my great uncle was shot down over Germany...Both proud Jewish men who loved their country; this patriotic bloodline made its way down to me." As a NCO in the Army, Ryan was in charge of many soldiers and also had direct, daily contact with many Iraqis. This influenced him to go back to school and major in Middle Eastern Studies, so he could educate others on this area of the world and how what happens there affects us all.

However, Ryan recently contacted JWV to let us know that he could not accept this award because he decided to reenlist in the Army. He wrote that he feels there are things he left unfinished, and plans to continue his family's history of service to this nation as a Reservist in Maryland.

Jacob Silver joined the Marines at 18 and participated in various preparatory trainings as a member of the Maintenance Battalion. The purpose was to be prepared for anything, at any time. The drive and passion he brought to his life in the Marine Corps is the same dedication Jacob brings to his education. He wrote, "As a sergeant, I was invested in my Marines lives; I was responsible for their welfare and our accomplishments as a unit.



The Department of Wisconsin was able to officially present Meredith Gingold with the Seymour and Phyliss Shore Memorial Grant awarded by the Jewish War Veterans National Youth Achievement Program. From left: PDC Ronald Laux, Department Commander Paul Fine, grant winner Meredith Gingold, and Meredith's grandfather, PDC Sam Gingold.

As a student, I am investing in myself. I am disciplined and patient; I am willing and able to put forth every effort to earn the grades I need to separate myself from my peers." JWV is proud to have awarded Jacob the Charles Kosmutza Memorial Grant and wishes him success through his academic career.

Jewish Veterans Welcome New Leaders

By Richard Goldenberg, Post 105 NY

With a brief oath, the command of Albany Post 105 of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S. passed from one Iraq War veteran to another, another milestone in the “latest generation” of Jewish veterans.



PNC Nate Goldberg addressed the newly installed officers and audience at the Albany Post 105 Installation ceremony at the Albany JCC on Sunday, June 6, 2014. Looking on is outgoing commander Lance Allen Wang, an Iraq War veteran. Photo by Richard Goldenberg.

More than 40 members and families of the Jewish War Veterans from Albany Post 105, Schenectady Post 106 and Amsterdam Post 401 welcomed the new slate of officers and heard about the wartime experience from one of their newer veterans during the installation ceremony held at the Albany JCC on Sunday, June 1, 2014.

JWV Past National Commander Nate Goldberg served as installing officer for the 2014-



Newly installed post commander for Albany Post 105, Todd Rosenfield, an Iraq War veteran, speaks to the Capital District Council members and guests about his vision for JWV in the 2014-15 year.

15 year. The group includes Post Commander Todd Rosenfield, an Iraq War veteran, Senior Vice Commander Paul Zonderman, a Vietnam Veteran, Quartermaster Lance Allen Wang, a

retired Army officer and Iraq War veteran and Adjutant Richard Goldenberg, a serving Army National Guard officer and Iraq War veteran.

Outgoing commander Lance Allen Wang spoke to the group about the important role that JWV plays for Jewish veterans of all eras. He belongs to other veteran groups, he said, commanding his local American Legion post in Cambridge, N.Y. from 2011-13. But as a Jewish veteran, serving in JWV holds more meaning.

“There is something special about Jewish War Veterans of the United States that sets it apart from other veterans organizations,” he said. “Yes I know, it’s obvious, the word Jewish. But it’s more than that. What sets us apart? Theologically, it’s the concept of chosenness. Chronologically, we can talk about the first monotheistic religion. But it’s more than that. Our sense of social justice. Our appreciation of the pursuit of learning. Our visceral search for truth. These qualities, combined with our shared experience of service, shape who we are.”

Afghanistan veteran Joel Abelow, a serving Army National Guard Judge Advocate, spoke about his innate sense of duty to serve others, both in his civilian legal career and as a soldier.

“I’m proud to be a member of JWV,” Abelow said. “Like many Jews, I felt a need to give back,” Joel said to the group about his enlistment prior to beginning law school and his return to service after the events of 9/11. “I’ve always looked for ways to give back to the community,” he said.

After some eight years of enlisted service as a Military Police Soldier, Joel returned to the service after law school and was commissioned in 2003. He deployed in 2008 to Kabul, Afghanistan as part of a New York Army National Guard task force to train and mentor Afghan army and police units.

“I got to serve (overseas), and felt it was my duty. It was hard, it was long, but everyone here knows what that is like,” he said to group of veterans that span from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, and the Gulf War to Iraq and Afghanistan.

That deployment led to an increased effort to serve veterans, Joel said. Returning home he helped work with the Rensselaer County Veterans Peer to Peer mentoring program, providing support to those veterans most at need and most at risk.

“What was my sacrifice for? That’s what our veterans are going through.”

In his civilian career, Abelow is seeking election in Rensselaer County as the District Attorney, another aspect of his giving back to community.

Newly installed commander Todd Rosenfield spoke to the group about his vision for Albany Post 105 in the coming year.

“We have been fortunate to have a strong and committed outgoing and incoming slate of officers and dedicated members,” he said. “As your new commander I can only hope to live up to my predecessors with new ideas and new energy, while maintaining vigilance and keeping with



PPC Lance Allen Wang, right, presents the Albany Post 105 military challenge coin in appreciation of the talk from post member Joel Abelow, an Afghanistan veteran.

tradition and our core principles.”

Commander Rosenfield outlined key areas for the post to pursue as he recognized that the number of Jewish veterans in the future will never match those of the 20th Century’s conflicts.

“We need to look at new partnerships, of pluralism in our efforts, of getting outside of our comfort zone,” Rosenfield said. “We can’t go to the well with the same old answers of the past, because it ain’t working,” he noted.

Rosenfield discussed pluralizing and civilianizing JWV efforts, expanding on partnerships the post began with congregations’ brotherhoods, the Boy Scouts and fellow veteran organizations. He talked about reaching out beyond the Jewish community in JWV programs, encouraging new members from new places and calling for closer ties to the JWV Department of New York and national organization to better ensure that the voice of Capital Region Jewish veterans are heard by the wider organization.

Lastly, Rosenfield praised the tremendous work of volunteers in the post and encouraged more members to take on small tasks or projects.

“We don’t want to kvetch with members who can’t make meetings or only come out on occasion,” he said. “We want to praise and thank those veterans who decide to take on maybe one project a year, but take ownership of it for the post. So think about what you are passionate about and how you might join us as a “Go-To” post member and help carry our load,” Rosenfield said.

A recurring theme during Lance Allen Wang’s two-year tenure as post commander has been to stress the groups unique identity as a

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Long-Gone Veterans Receive Military Honors

By Robert Wiener, NJN Staff Writer

The cremated remains of 10 New Jersey veterans — five of them Jewish — were buried with full military honors Nov. 6 in a ceremony that began at the Bernheim-Apter-Kreitzman Suburban Funeral Chapel in Livingston.

Five hours later, small wooden boxes containing their ashes were buried at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown.

Richard Schuele, location manager at the funeral home, told NJ Jewish News that “the purpose of the ceremony is to give these 10 veterans a proper burial.”

The ashes of the men — who fought in World Wars I and II — had been unclaimed for as long as 55 years.

The services were sponsored by New Jersey’s Mission of Honor, an organization based in Lodi that has been searching for the unclaimed ashes of veterans since 2009. Their corps of volunteers examine military records to determine whether the vets they have located received honorable discharges.

“We have found hundreds of them,” said Francis Carrasco of Lodi, a Vietnam War Army veteran who chairs the Mission of Honor.



Three rifleman from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2856 in Livingston fire a salute to the men being honored. Photo by Robert Wiener.



90-year-old Marine Corps veteran Murray Sklar carries a wooden box with the ashes of a fellow veteran to a hearse outside the Bernheim-Apter-Kreitzman Suburban Funeral Chapel in Livingston. Photo by Robert Wiener.

To date his organization has located the ashes of 401 veterans and given 168 of them military burials.

“There was a very long process of attempting to contact family members,” said Schuele.

“We reunited 233 others with family members who never realized that their great-great-grandfather or their great-uncle was left abandoned in a funeral parlor.”

The reasons for such abandonments are varied. In some cases, next-of-kin had died before they could be located. Sometimes bitter ex-spouses or other estranged relatives declined to accept the ashes, said Schuele.

“Every veteran who has fought for their country has given their lives and time. For these veterans to be forgotten and have their ashes lying around on shelves in funeral parlors is disrespectful; it is unacceptable,” Carrasco said.

Among the 25 people who attended the cer-

emony was Murray Sklar, a 90-year-old Marine Corps veteran who fought in the Pacific during World War II. He is a member of the Jewish War Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. For 27 years he chaired veterans’ programs at Temple Beth Shalom in his hometown of Livingston.

“This day is a memory of the assaults and the friends I have lost,” he told NJN. “It is a very emotional time for me.”

Deborah Shapiro, a member of the Livingston City Council, said she was attending the observance because “I want to honor the veterans. My father was a Korean War vet, and we have people active in all of the veterans’ organizations in Livingston.

“This is a very important service and a very important thing that is being done.”

The organization’s chaplain, Jerry Skorch of Marlton, read aloud the names, hometowns, and occupations of each of the deceased veterans.

Among them were World War I Navy veteran Herbert Diamond of Caldwell and World War II Army veterans Sidney Grover of East Orange, Paul Konski of New Providence, Anson Rauschberg of Short Hills, and Milton Solnick of East Orange.

Then three riflemen from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2856 in Livingston stepped outside the funeral home to fire off three rounds apiece. A bugler played “Taps,” and a bagpiper dressed in kilts performed “Amazing Grace” and “God Bless America” as Sklar and other veterans solemnly carried wooden boxes containing the men’s ashes from the funeral parlor into waiting hearses.

Similar services took place at the Michael Hegarty Funeral Home in Old Bridge and Leber Funeral Home in Union City before the burials in the Wrightstown cemetery.

[Reprinted with permission from New Jersey Jewish News.]

Fewer Veterans Running For Congressional Office

By Leo Shane III

The number of veterans in Congress has been steadily dropping in recent election cycles, but the legislative branch’s meager military credentials could take a major hit this year.

According to an analysis from the nonpartisan Veterans Campaign, only 183 of the 865 major-party candidates up for election to Congress this year boast military experience. It’s the first time in recent memory that fewer than 200 veterans were on the campaign trail in the congressional races.

Based on recent polling data, those sparse figures could drop the total number of veterans in the House and Senate to under 100 for the

first time since the 1950s, when World War II veterans began seeking office for the first time.

The current Congress has only 106 lawmakers with military experience, and Veterans Campaign Executive Director Seth Lynn said he expects that number to drop by up to 10 percent next year.

“We’re used to seeing this steady decrease every two years, but this could be an even steeper drop than we normally expect,” he said. “This is going to be the election that puts us below earlier levels.”

Veterans of recent wars

That drop could come despite a rise in the num-

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NEC • Capitol Hill Action Day
February 11-15, 2015

Call 1-800-228-9290 or go online
to make your reservation at the
Crystal City Marriott at Reagan
National Airport.

The deadline to make your
reservation is Tuesday,
January 13, 2015.

Don't wait!
Make your reservation today.



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By PDC Bob Richter, National Membership Chairman & Cindy Chambers, JWV Membership Coordinator

We are pleased to announce a change in Membership staffing. Greg Byrne, who previously coordinated the Membership department, was promoted to Director of Operations. Cindy Chambers, a University of Virginia graduate and daughter of a naval officer, is now our Membership Coordinator. For everyday Membership questions, such as member status, notification of deceased member, or current Post rosters, contact her at headquarters by calling (202) 265-6280 or emailing cchambers@jwv.org. If she is unable to assist you “on the fly” she will get back to you in a timely manner. As always, I am here to help you through any major membership questions or disputes.

JWV hosts a monthly teleconference for members and National to share ideas and helpful information to strengthen the organization. In November our call explored a hot topic in membership: engaging younger members and recruits through social media. PNC Norman Rosenshein moderated and Will Hubbard, Vice President of Government Affairs for Student Veterans of America (SVA), and a JWV member, was our guest speaker.

Mr. Hubbard outlined the types of social media SVA uses and how they manage all of their media to keep a consistent message. Central to his talk was the idea of building an online network of blogs, websites, companies, and servicemen to learn about young vets’ interests. Even something as simple as reading daily articles on the veteran website, Task & Purpose (www.taskandpurpose.com), and sharing quotes on Facebook or Twitter will help you engage with younger members.

You can learn more about these types of topics every month on our teleconference. Keep an eye on your email for the date and time of the

next call. We always need more members to share strategies that are working in their communities.

Finally, here is the conclusion to our series about types of membership. Remember, you can read more about membership rules in the Constitution & By-Laws and Manual of Ceremonies.

Honorary Member

A citizen of the USA who is not eligible to be an active member of JWV, but has done distinguished or faithful service for the USA or our organization, may be eligible for honorary membership. A request has to be made at a National Convention with a committee appointed by the NEC to investigate and report before the title may be conferred.

Distinguished Life Membership

A veteran eligible for active, associate, or in-service membership, who has become paraplegic, a double-amputee, or totally blind in connection with his/her service, could receive a distinguished life membership. The NEC will investigate, report and recommend potential recipients. Once awarded, the recipient is relieved from paying dues.

Posthumous Membership

JWV, with the written consent of the next of kin of a Jewish member of the armed forces, may bestow a posthumous membership to this service member who died while serving active duty. She/he will be added to the JWV roster of deceased members.

Thank you for keeping an active membership. And, as you celebrate Chanukah this year, consider giving the gift of membership to keep us going strong!



Dear Comrades,

On behalf of the National Ladies Auxiliary JWV, I wish to congratulate our new National Commander Maxwell Colon and his staff. I look forward to working with him and all members of JWV and JWVA in order that we may both have a very successful year. My theme this year is “Together We Can Succeed,” and I firmly believe that by working together toward our common goals we both can prosper on behalf of our veterans and their families. As I travel the country visiting our various Auxiliaries, I will assure them that JWV and JWVA are alive and honoring those goals. I will also remind the Sisters of the importance of our support of the NMAJMH which honors veterans of all conflicts and is our legacy to our children and grandchildren. I know we all will have a wonderful and successful year.

Loyally,

Petra C. Kaatz

National President, JWVA

Why I Belong to Jewish War Veterans

By PNC Michael Berman, Post 178 NJ

Why am I such a JWVer? I guess it is for several reasons. First, I am proud to be a veteran. I am not necessarily proud of what I did during my time in the service, but I am proud to have served. That led me to join the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the AMVETS. However, I am, also, very proud to be a Jew. There is only one organization that combines these two areas of pride: the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

There is no other organization where I can clearly demonstrate that I am a Jewish veteran. However, I fear that someday the sacrifices of the men and women with whom I served and who served next to me, as well as those who served before me and who will serve after me, will be lost. Perhaps not in my generation or the next, but surely in the one after that or the one after that, it will all be lost. I cannot stand and allow that to occur.

Therefore, I am a member of the National Museum of American-

Jewish Military History, a completely separate and distinct organization from the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. This Museum, many eons ago, was simply known as The Shrine to the Jewish War Dead, “The Shrine.” In many ways, it still is. It memorializes and recognizes that Jews have served this Nation long before it was a country, independent from Great Britain. It belies every single anti-Semite and denier who says that we, you and I, did not serve this Nation in its time of need, during a time of war.

The Museum proves that we served and that friends, Jewish friends, died to preserve our way of life. Other museums may have exhibits on Jews in the military, but they are mostly small and are overshadowed by other exhibitions. However, our Museum is the only museum dedicated solely to exhibiting the trials and tribulations, the sacrifices and daily lives on us during our service as soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen. I am a proud American Jew.

Outreach to the Next Generation

Creating Seamless Connections between Jewish War Veterans Members and Veterans

By Col. Nelson L Mellitz

The JWV mission states, “We, citizens of the United States of America, of the Jewish faith, who served in the Wars of the United States of America, in order that we may be of greater service to our country and to one another, associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

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 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.”

The Jewish War Veterans (JWV) is continuously changing to adjust to new military and Veterans related situations in the United States. As JWV members, we must prepare, create, and implement a seamless and effective connection between active duty, reserve component/ national guard, veteran, and potential members. We can establish this connection by understanding the JWV mission and how it relates to our constituents. Then, we must align JWV individual and organization program goals and prepare members to reach out and partner with constituents.

Teleconference Guest Speaker

On November 19, JWV hosted its first teleconference speaker featuring William Hubbard, the Vice President of Government Affairs at Student Veterans of America (SVA), who discussed utilizing social media to engage younger members.

The first step, he said, is to identify your audience and think about how they consume content- what interests them most, and how is it relevant? For many young veterans using the GI Bill, employment assistance is a big help. A key piece is knowing what platforms are available (such as Facebook and Twitter) and how to bring

First, the JWV has numerous primary and secondary sources of information related to our organization mission and goals that are available at JWV headquarters, during member briefings, at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, etc. If in person and hardcopy information is not available to you, use the information on JWV’s website, Museum website, etc.

Second, senior members and JWV leaders can create opportunities to bridge the connection between members and non-members by intentionally mentoring other member and potential members. When planning outreach programs, it is important to implement new methods and document best practices. Leaders can also help to resolve problem situations and guide members to take on additional responsibility.

To successfully develop a seamless connection and accomplish outreach with potential members, it is important to have a working knowledge of JWV’s Mission, position on military situations, and current Veteran’s affairs. However, please keep in mind the following:

- Have Jewish Veterans and military members tell their military stories at Jewish Community Centers and other primarily Jewish gathering places. Also at the same gathering be available to talk about the JWV and our mission.
- Know what services are available for Veterans at JWV and government agencies – local, state, and federal.
- Many Veterans believe that their military service has contributed to our way of life and continuing freedom in the United States. Yes, they have directly and indirectly contributed to our continuing freedom. As JWV members, we need to show a potential member our appreciation for their service and why they should join.

Collectively, the JWV mission and strategy is clear; however, on an individual by individual,

them together so the content can be tailored to different audiences since not everyone uses same platform. SVA and JWV both use Hootsuite to disseminate information in multiple formats to different social media platforms.

Often underutilized by organizations are the free and easy to use analytics pages included in Facebook and Twitter. Based on what your audience clicks to, you can see what is working and what is not. This information can be used to create relevant content of interest to your audience.

The teleconference, moderated by PNC

new and continuing member basis, we must market our organization in the best light for the potential members. Please keep in mind when you work to create the seamless connection with Jewish military and Veterans that we have more similarities than differences and there is strength in numbers.

Many Veterans believe that their military service has contributed to our way of life and continuing freedom in the United States. Yes, they have directly and indirectly contributed to our continuing freedom. As JWV members, we need to show a potential member our appreciation for their service and why they should join. Collectively, the JWV mission and strategy is clear; however, on an individual by individual, new and continuing member basis, we must market our organization in the best way for the potential members. Please keep in mind when you work to create the seamless connection with Jewish military and Veterans that we have more similarities than differences and that there is strength in numbers.

Military And Veteran Usable Websites

Jewish War Veterans: www.jwv.org

Department of Veterans Affairs: www.va.gov

TRICARE: www.tricare.mil

The American Legion: www.legion.org

AMVETS: www.amvets.org

Gold Star Wives of America: www.goldstar-wives.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars: www.vfw.org

Wounded Warriors Project: www.wounded-warriorproject.org

This article is part of a series on JWV outreach. Your comments are welcome. We want to hear from you!

Norman Rosenshein, also included a question and answer session. Hubbard shed some light on important ways to catch your audience’s attention. Nothing can replace human contact; have conversations and find out what is effective. Over twenty people listened as Hubbard reflected on some methods that have worked for SVA in the past, including having a good graphic that will quickly grab you audience’s attention. He mentioned that social media content should be brief, easily shareable, and if possible include a quote.

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By Lt. Col. Jesse Arnstein (USAF)

“There are no atheists in foxholes” goes the adage. The randomness of life and death in combat almost always leads one closer to the Almighty.

But it’s not only the fear of dying that creates spirituality in a deployed environment. Rather, being deployed fosters unique introspection. Experiencing so many new emotions, cultures, people, and work routines often sparks creativity and encourages soldiers to examine life differently than previously accustomed to.

Many soldiers experience tremendous growth when deployed. You’re removed from distractions of modern life. Removed from your family. Removed from familiar surroundings. It’s a time for soul-searching, and a time for revelation.

Abraham, Jacob, and Moses all experienced life-altering spiritual growth when they left their homeland.

Below are the stories of two close friends who have undergone spiritual transformations.

Yoni Hernandez is a first-generation American, born to Mexican parents who settled down in the mid-west. Yoni was born Christian and baptized. He and his family were fairly observant growing up. But in his early 20s he began to have doubts about his Christian faith. He began exploring other religions and philosophies, and was drawn to Judaism.

Curiosity led to learning, which led to fervent passion. He began the Jewish conversion process in Indiana about a year ago, a few months before he deployed. In Afghanistan he always wears a yarmulka, studies tanach every day, dons talis and tefilin, plans to move to a Jewish neighborhood when he re-deploys and dreams of making Aliyah to Israel.

He’s always greets me with a bear hug and a hearty “Shalom Aleichem!” I think he’s too nice to be a trained killer gunner on top of an armored MRAP vehicle.

Each Friday night he reserved the chapel and prepares the Shabbat setting with a white tablecloth, candles, grape juice, prayer books, and challah (or purchases Afghan bread). I bring the study material. We say prayers and then light candles together, which is a bit awkward because this is normally a woman’s right, but it is spiritually uplifting to know we are honoring the Sabbath despite the austere conditions. Between his enthusiasm, and my knowledge of tradition, law, and pronunciation (he occasionally mispronounces words because he only reads them; poorim, becomes purrim), we make a fine team.

On Passover, we celebrated the Seder together in a wooden shed, but with much fervor (See photo). For Shavuot we read the 10 commandments and the Book of Ruth, for which his is particularly fond of because it prominently features

Ruth, a convert to Judaism.

Sometimes duty demands innovation. One Shabbat we spent studying in a break area just beyond a convoy of armored trucks being prepared for a mission. One evening we were in a 60-foot watch tower.



Lt. Col. Jesse Arnstein (USAF) blowing the Shofar during the High Holidays in Afghanistan.

He recognizes that it is unusual for him to have such a strong affinity for Judaism, and attributes it to a strong intuition that his ancestors were Jewish and converted to Christianity in the Spanish inquisition.

His faith, and fervor for Judaism inspires me to be more spiritual, and we are blessed to have each other on this Post. We share the belief that fate, as much as faith, has brought us together.

Bruce Miller grew up in Charlotte, NC in a rough environment. It was not a happy childhood. His mother was a drug addict and his father brought violence and fear to the house. School was an unfriendly environment. Bruce felt from a very early age had a special relationship with G-d. He thought about pursuing a career as a spiritual leader early in his life, but dismissed it.

He joined the Army and worked his way up the ranks. As a military policeman he deployed to Iraq for 15 months in 2007, training the Iraqi police and performing combat patrols throughout country. It was a dangerous assignment, where he lost two soldiers in the platoon he led, and saw several others maimed. It was a job where at any given moment tragedy could strike.

I asked him how the perilous situation affected him, and Bruce said he just tried to walk in peace, tried not to think about the possibilities.

Bruce is not a tough, rugged man. He’s very soft spoken and humble. We have grown very close- he is a former Division 1 collegiate runner and we train together (I go at 85% effort, he’s at 75% effort).

When we run often tells bible stories (focusing on the Old Testament for my sake), and cites

Psalms. It’s great inspiration for me, and talking also keeps his pace a bit slower.

15 years into his Army career he had a revelation and was drawn to Christ. He decided to leave the Army and go to seminary school. This is a very bold move 15 years into a career where 20 years grants a pension, and anything short of 20 gets you a hearty handshake.

Through a series of bureaucratic errors, which he feels is divine intervention, he was given the opportunity to deploy to Afghanistan instead of starting seminary school. He prayed very hard for guidance, and decided to take this deployment as the Almighty guided him this direction for three reasons: 1) There was something he had to learn; 2) There was someone he had to influence; 3) There was something he had to re-learn.

He compares this Afghanistan tour with the Israelites wandering through the desert. They journeyed through Sinai in order to grow, and to have the confidence and strength to successfully conquer and settle the Promised Land. Bruce feels very strongly that Afghanistan gives him



SGT. Jonathan “Yoni” Hernandez (US Army) and Lt. Col. Jesse Arnstein (USAF) count the 47th day of the Omer at Camp Phoenix Afghanistan in June, 2014.

spiritual growth. And I agree.

Bruce is troubled by a number of issues. A past failed relationship; forbidden temptations; a very demanding work schedule. He struggles with uncertainty. But he gains strength through prayer, and speaks of salvation through the Almighty. He has dreams that guide him to certain passages of the bible, and often wakes up with renewed confidence and guidance towards the correct path. The L-rd comes to him in dreams, or in one of the few peaceful places here. The other day he took me to the roof of our three story building with an amazing panoramic view of Kabul and the distant mountains. Indeed, it

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Members of Post 1 NY, held their third annual Veterans Day observance at the World War I monument on the grounds of the Manhattan VA Medical Center on November 11. Pictured from left: Mitchell Mernick, Lieutenant Colonel Eliot Goldman, Sidney and Frances Blank, Victor Struber, Gerard Petite Sara, National Executive Committee member Jerry Alperstein, and Post 1 Commander Mort Weinstein. Photo by Patron Max Alperstein.



David Charter (center, seated), Post 749 MA, was named a knight of the French Legion of Honor, the highest distinction in France for his service in WWII. The Boston native enlisted in the US Army Air Forces at 17; he flew 43 missions and participated in D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge. The 90 year-old was honored in a ceremony at the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center in Roslindale, MA. Photo by Francisco Urena, Commissioner of City of Boston Veterans' Services.



The Department of Massachusetts celebrated Veterans Day at the official government ceremony at the State House in Boston, Massachusetts. Pictured from left are Commander the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) Sean Kearns, Medal of Honor recipient Thomas Hudner, and Department Commander Barry Lischinsky.



PNC Michael Berman represented JWV and presented a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day.



National Commander Maxwell Colon with New Jersey Senator Loretta Weinberg (D) during his visit to the Garden State. NC Colon spent several days in New Jersey meeting with JWV members and visiting VA facilities.



Post 609 NJ Sr. Vice Commander Ralph Goodman, Commander Bernard Passer, and Board member Al Blumenfeld presented a check to the NJ Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, as "Veteran Haven North" representative Cheryl Bade accepted the donation of behalf of the facility.



Post 755 TX was honored with a luncheon for their contributions to Liberty House, a transitional housing facility for homeless veterans jointly run by Tarrant County Texas MHMR and the Veterans Administration. Pictured are veterans who live at Liberty House and members of Post 755.

JWV AROUND THE COUNTRY



Mel Brody, commander of the Department of Southwest, right, one of the 400 Arizona Korean War veterans from Arizona presented with the Ambassador for Peace Medal by representatives from the South Korean government on October 25, 2014.



Commander Charles Mandelbaum of Post 757 TX greeted a patient using one of the 12 new wheelchairs donated by Post 757 for patient use at the Austin VA Outpatient Clinic.



National Commander Maxwell Colon, PNC Dr. Robert Pickard, PNC Norman Rosenshein, NP Petra Kaatz, PNC David Magidson, and PNC Michael Berman attended the ceremonial opening of the NMAJMH's new permanent exhibit.



Post 26 MA Commander Stanley Light and member Bill Caplin proudly represented JWV in the Springfield Veteran's Day Parade. Photo by Mark Murray.



Members of the newly named Daniel Agami-Elizabeth Jacobson Post 265 FL held a special ceremony to commemorate the official re-naming of the Post on Veterans Day. Following Sheriff Scott J. Israel's talk, Post Commander Richard Rosenzweig, paid a special tribute to local members of the military who paid the supreme price: Specialist Daniel J. Agami, USA, AFC Elizabeth N. Jacobson, USAF, and Major Stuart A. Wolfer, USA.



Post 749 TX, at their monthly meeting, hosted students from the Temple Mount Sinai religious school as part of their Mitzvah Day project. The children listened an explanation and purpose of our organization, heard from the Posts members' about their service and participated in a question and answer session. The children presented a gift of chocolates to the Veterans in appreciation for their service.



Posts 14 and 44 OH participated in a Veterans Day Program at the Beachwood, Ohio Cemetery. The Beachwood Mayor and other dignitaries attended and listened to Ted Hersh, Commander of Post 14, speak about the occasion.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

Development Committee

By Chairman PNC Monroe Mayer

One of the major sources of fundraising at JWV is the mail you receive containing our premiums, which currently are the annual calendar, mailing labels, High Holiday cards, and other interesting items we can provide. We want to be assured that our members and friends are receiving our packages for the purpose of raising the funds. If you have made a donation recently and not received our later projects, we ask that you communicate with us by email or phone so we know that you are not receiving our current premium packages.

If you are a relatively new member and have not received our premium offers we also ask that you let us know. We are proud of the items we include in our mailings, and we certainly hope that our recipients enjoy them too. Enjoy them enough to make a donation, in order to maintain JWV USA, which is especially important for our aging veteran population.

We are always looking for interesting pictures and stories, provided by all of our members and friends which we can include in our calendar. One of the most important projects for JWV is the telling of the stories of Jewish men and women who have served in the military since the American story began. You can help us by submitting whatever information you or someone close to you experienced, as we are more than anxious to provide that story to the world.

Civil Rights Committee

By Chairman Jerome Berns

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

This time our focus is on the Jews in Alaska. Some background on Alaska first. Alaska is larger than the state of Texas. Most Jews live in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. I believe that Nome also has some Jews. The Jewish population in Alaska is a little over 6,000. There are a lot of interfaith marriages with Jews and the women tend to do more to keep Judaism alive. At this time, there are 5 synagogues in Alaska and a number of private homes used for places of worship. Two of the synagogues are located in Anchorage; one in Fairbanks; one in Juneau; one in Sterling.

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

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

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

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

Jews donated a lot of money to help in the efforts to gain Alaska's state hood as the 49th state. On July 3, 2013 The Alaska Jewish Museum and Cultural Center opened its doors. It's about Jewish contributions to Alaska's history and their own Jewish life.

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

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

Holocaust Committee

By Chairman Bernhard Storch

About two months ago, I received a copy of a letter issued by 14 organizations to more than 2,500 institutions of higher learning within the United States. It urged them to ensure that campus climates remain physically and emotionally safe for students in light of rising anti-Semitism in America and abroad. JWV joined with these organizations and calls for all colleges and universities to protect their students from anti-Semitism, especially under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

I decided to mail a letter to Vassar College, where my daughter, my son, and my two grandchildren all attended. Below is an excerpt of the letter sent to the president of Vassar College:

As a member of the oldest veterans organization in the United States, and as its National Holocaust Chairman, and as a survivor of Nazi terror in Poland and Europe, and the only survivor of my entire 100 member family, and knowing firsthand what "Hate" has done to Humanity, regardless of nationality or race, I know firsthand that it is imperative to fight against anti-Semitism.

All those who promote hate should be given a free ticket to visit a death camp to view the horrors of the Nazis. Majdanek was liberated by my Battery on July 23rd, 1944 and is fully intact

to this day. As we all know, there are not many eye witnesses left who can transmit their memories through an educational system.

As a member of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States and as a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, hate is out of the question. It has to be eliminated at homes and in schools though education in public and religious institutions, and by those who witnessed it.

Iraq and Afghanistan Committee

By Chairman Larry Rosenthal

Last week, our National Commander spoke in front of the NJ Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs. For the Committee, this was a first – to have the National Commander of a Veteran Service Organization speak in front of the committee. They listened intently to his remarks.

With the insistence of JWV and other veterans organizations, New Jersey has passed a law that Active Military personnel with the proper endorsements on their military driver's license can get a CDL endorsement on their NJ driver's license.

New Jersey's Assembly has passed a bill that three counties in southern New Jersey will pilot a program called "Veteran's Court." This court would be for minor tickets and arrests for DWIs or the like, so if there is a PTSD issue, etc., the Veteran will be handled a bit differently by the system. But, first the requirements must be passed. Next, it heads to the NJ Senate for approval before the Governor hopefully signs it. Illinois already has it in place.

If your state is doing positive things for our Veterans, pass it on, or perhaps a JWV member can suggest it to their legislator; don't keep it a secret.

If your Post, Council, or Department has an influx of Iraq or Afghanistan members, please pass on the recruitment program you use.

The Department of New Jersey has started to obtain email addresses so that certain information can be sent out in a timely fashion and to more members.

Communication is a vital part of any organization. Many of us only see each other at NEC or the Summer Convention, so through this column maybe we can share some ideas. Please contact me at LSR1950@Hotmail.com.

VAVS

By Chairman Jerome Berns

In the past years I brought up the fact that volunteering your time gives the Jewish War Veterans more exposure in the country. It shows others what we do and how we care for our men and women veterans. The patients, the hospitals, the

Continued on next page

staff, the doctors, the nurses, and the families get a chance to know who we are.

How can I help you ask?

Volunteering can include visiting patients, answering phones, delivering their mail, transporting out-patients to appointments, helping run organized events, and sharing and teaching others your special talents. Believe me, these patients and the V.A. staff are very grateful for your time and dedication.

Last September I visited the Greater Los Angeles Health Care System. I spent a gratifying afternoon at the Sepulveda ACC (clinic). While I was there I met Larry Wong, who was Volunteer Service Specialist and Marianne Davis, who was Chief Voluntary Service. It was nice to finally meet them in person since I talk to them on the phone. They gave me a tour of the facility and introduced me to a number of our JWV volunteers.

The clinic is huge. There is a big day room that is used for many different functions. There the veterans can socialize, eat, attend movies, or take part in other entertainment. This facility is a place of comfort for many homeless veterans who come there. They come in the afternoon for a place to spend the time. I am glad there is a place for them to go.

Recently I received an email for Beverly Lenesi, Chief Voluntary and Chaplain Services at the V.A. in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It read:

“Hi Mr. Berns:

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

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

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

Good Bless our Veterans and our Country.

New Leaders

Continued from page 17

Jewish group that advocates for veterans and Americanism and as a veterans association that embodies the Jewish tradition of Tikkun Olam, of repairing the world.

“In many ways, we have a unique outlook because who we are as Jews has been shaped by our military experience,” Lance said in his final remarks as post commander. “And it is our unique Jewish identity which we must perpetuate. That is why this organization must continue. Not because we need JWV. The Jewish People need JWV. Were it not for JWV, it is too easy to fall into the trap of seeing Jewish history as the chronology of Jews as passive victims.”

The installation marked 79 years of the post’s service to the Albany community. The post was instituted in 1935 and commemorates 80 years of service in 2015.

Teleconference Guest Speaker

Continued from page 11

It is important to point out that not all things happen quickly. Instead, take a look at what has been accomplished and pack it with numbers and statistics. He also noted that younger veterans often prefer to work together in small teams and see results, so it is helpful to have fundraisers or

events with a clear purpose and a message that ties into the local community. Hubbard used the example of a recent SVA coat drive and bar night to raise money for coats for kids in the DC area.

Thank you again to Mr. Hubbard for his participation and words of wisdom!

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JWV and Amicus Briefs

By Harvey Weiner, National Judge Advocate

From time to time, JWV is asked to submit an amicus curiae (“friend of the court”) legal brief when a party to a lawsuit believes that JWV and usually other veterans groups’ support may be helpful to its case. JWV will agree to do this if the issue it is asked to support is one that will further its mission, and if it is without cost to the organization.

In late October 2014, JWV was asked to submit an amicus brief in support of Marlene Juno, Respondent before the United States Supreme Court in the case of United States of America, Petitioner, v. Marlene June, Conservator, Respondent, No. 13-1075. It agreed to do so and was joined by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, National Veterans Legal Services Program, National Defense Committee and the National Coalition for Homeless. A law firm agreed to write the brief pro bono, for free.

The issue before the Supreme Court is a relatively simple one. If someone wants to sue the federal government for medical malpractice, there is a statutory requirement that imposes a strict time frame within which to make a presentment and to file a formal complaint with the proper court. Many times, a victim will not do this within the appropriate time frame for several reasons, including, but not limited to, lack of knowledge that something was done incorrectly or just being unable physically or mentally to bring a claim. Many courts have been sympathetic to these timing issues and have used the doctrine of “equitable tolling” to allow some claims to be brought late. Equitable tolling is a principle of law stating that a statute of limitations shall not bar a claim in cases where the plaintiff, despite use of due diligence, could not or failed to file his suit.

However, the Federal government has objected to the various lower courts’ use of equitable tolling and has convinced the United States Supreme Court (“SCOTUS”) to take on the issue. The present alignment of SCOTUS justices and the fact that they were willing, in their discretion, to take the case does not bode well for the equitable tolling doctrine.

According to our brief, veterans’ organizations have an interest in preserving the doctrine, while Congress supposedly has a record of supporting veterans. Each year, veterans submit thousands of medical malpractice claims against the Veterans Health Administration (“VHA”). The complexity of the VA system has created a confusing process that often results in veterans unwittingly failing to submit such claims properly and timely. Moreover, as recent publicity has indicated, the VHA has allegedly concealed and misrepresented failures of care. Veterans who are homeless and/or who have suffered some sort of service-connected mental health disorder or cognitive impairment are often unable to follow the procedural formalities scrupulously. Equitable tolling remedies these problems.

The case is still at the briefing stage and oral argument is scheduled for December 10, 2014.

PEOPLE & PLACES

► On November 8, **Post 211 MA** held its annual Veterans Shabbat, organized by Commander **George Marshall**. The Post also received an award from Department Commander **Barry Lischinsky** for being the largest and most active post in New England. Mazel Tov!

► **Post 256 TX** hosted retired Navy Captain Marc Liebman at their October 26 breakfast meeting. Capt. Liebman spoke about his experiences in Vietnam, Desert Storm, and Navy Seals operations.

► Special shout-out to **Post 305 PA** for a truly excellent and informative monthly newsletter!

REUNIONS

► Veterans of the Army’s 1st Infantry Division, known as “the Big Red One,” will hold their 97th Annual Reunion in Lombard, IL from June 17-21 at the Westin Lombard. The reunion will be conducted by the Society of the First Infantry Division. For more information, email SFIDPA@gmail.com, call 215-654-1969, or go to www.1stID.org.

► IN SEARCH OF ◀

The Mahalniks, 4000 volunteers from all over the world who helped Israel fight for its independence in 1948-49, are dying off. Their service, often heroic, has yet to be fully realized and truly recognized.

If you know a liberator, or a liberator’s family, who is living in Israel who would like to share his story, please contact Edward Snyder at essnyder1004@msn.com.



Leon Frankel of St. Paul, Minnesota served as a Navy pilot in the Pacific during World War II. He went on to organize the first air fighter squadron in Israel during the 1948 War of Independence. As a Machalnik, Frankel flew 25 missions for Israel before returning to the United States. From the collection of the NMAJMH.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for all your support of the NMJAMH over the last several years- it has paid off! We opened the new permanent exhibit last month. In particular, we are very excited about the possibilities the technology offers in terms of adding stories and photos as history progresses.

This is the only museum that tells the story of Jewish service members in this country, and we must keep it alive for future generations to enjoy. I encourage you to consider planned giving, charitable annuities, and bequest options as ways to give back to NMAJMH once we are gone. Additionally, if you are not already a member of NMJAMH, please considering joining. All members will receive membership cards, a subscription to The Jewish Veteran, invitations to exhibition openings and educational programs, and reduced rates on exhibit catalogs.

The new Yahrzeit program is up and running; the website has been redesigned with a new interface to help better remember your loved ones. To learn more, or to purchase a Yahrzeit for your loved one, go to <http://www.yahrzeitremembrance.org/>.

There is also plenty of space on the Remembrance Walk, where you can purchase a paver with a customized inscription commemorating a comrade, friend, or loved one. So far more than 250 beautiful commemorative bricks have been set on the pathway leading up to our door! There is also space on the bottom of Tree of Honor.

Lastly, the Museum permanently recognizes contributors to its Honorial Wall Program by listing their names on the Wall located in the lobby of the Museum, just outside the exhibi-

tion entrance. To participate in any of these programs, email nmajmh@nmajmh.org for more information.

I appeal to you to think about ways you can help—whether by donating, submitting your stories or photos, or visiting our new exhibit. NMAJMH is both our past and our legacy.



**PNC Joseph Zoldan
President, NMAJMH**

FROM OUR ARCHIVES **By Pamela Elbe**

Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH

It's Not Too Late to Be a Part of the Exhibit!

We are so excited that the NMAJMH's permanent exhibition has finally opened to the public! The opening celebration was very well attended—we are pleased to have been able to share that important day with so many of you.

One of the main goals of this exhibition was that it be flexible, with room for growth as new information and materials become available. One of the great things about using flexible technology is that we can continue to grow and update the exhibit content for years to come. This means that it is not too late to add your story to our interactive computer touch-table. The theme of this interactive map is post-WWII American military service around the world (1945 to the present) and it includes the personal stories and photographs of those who have served.

We need your help to show how Jews have contributed around the globe while serving in the American military. This includes the Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars, but we also want to include the many, many smaller operations that are so often overlooked. The Berlin Airlift, the Mayaguez Incident, Operation Just Cause, United Nations peacekeeping and humanitarian missions, and Operation Unified Assistance are examples of the smaller operations we seek to document. At the NMAJMH, we want to express just how varied Jewish military experience has been in the past 70 years. To have your story and photograph included, please send an email to Pamela Elbe ([\[nmajmh.org\]\(mailto:nmajmh.org\)\) with the following info:](mailto:pelbe@</p>
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- Your name and contact info
- Dates of service
- Location of service (country)
- Conflict name
- Specific Operation (if applicable)
- Your branch of service and rank at the time
- Include a brief story about your service. Describe a specific, memorable incident that occurred during your military service. How is it representative of your overall experience?
- Include at least one photo with caption

It is integral that you include a story (and not just your military résumé) and one or more quality photographs from your time of service. Your story does not need to be long—just a couple of paragraphs. In order to be able to use your images, we ask that the digital photo file be at least 1 MB.

Sample story:

Rabbi Jacob Goldberg –Army
Grenada – Operation Urgent Fury - 1983
In 1983, I received a phone call from the army: “It will be Hanukkah soon, and we have Jewish troops in Grenada. We would like to deploy you.” At that time, “Operation Urgent Fury” was tak-

ing place on the island, where the revolutionary government was overthrown in a military coup, and communist forces from Cuba seized control. U.S. forces entered Grenada to rid the island of its communist dictatorship. I was contacted by



the army to prepare for deployment, which would be up to six weeks. I arrived on the island just prior to Chanukah.

Less than a week after I arrived in Grenada, I was flying in a helicopter, on a mission, together with other soldiers. Mid-flight, the pilot instructed me to put on the headphones. Over the radio, I heard a voice telling me that the army, via the Pentagon, had just received a call from Lubavitch World Headquarters in Brooklyn, instructing

Continued on next page

Permanent Exhibit Opens

Continued from page 1

Robert Zweiman, who was a driving force behind this exhibit for so many years.

Next came remarks from David Stein, the Chairman of Project Welcome Home at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia.



Photo by Christy Turner.

Project Welcome Home is designed to better assist US servicemen and women, and their families, to re-engage with their communities, and is the joint effort of the chaplaincy of Jewish welfare organizations. He noted that “the sacrifices that made the ability to vote, as we did recently, are commemorated upstairs.”



A visitor learns about Jewish soldiers who served during the Civil War.

PNC and NMAJMH Vice President Michael Berman also had a message about the importance of voting:

“A short while ago, we voted. There is an important parallel to draw here- with the uniqueness of the United States with its elections and veterans days, we as Jewish veterans know the privilege of voting after being expelled from countries around the world for centuries. However, we were never expelled from here. We fought for the right to be a veteran and we are proud of our service. On Veterans Day, we walk tall.”

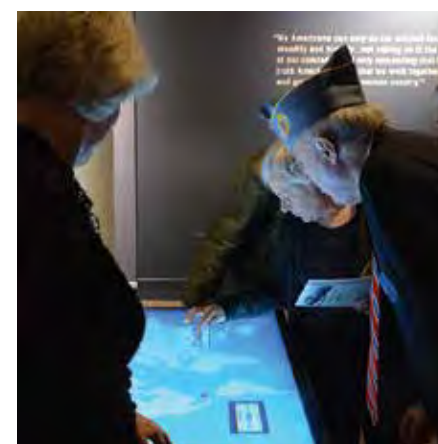
National Ladies Auxiliary President Petra Kaatz highlighted the importance of being a member of NMAJMH, regardless of whether or not you are already a member of JWV or the Auxiliary. The museum is a record of Jewish dedication to this country and must be preserved.

NMAJMH is the only Jewish museum dedicated to Jewish military service personnel in the United States, and represents a proud tradition of patriotism and service to this country, as does JWV. National Commander Maxwell Colon emphasized that “the museum is a record and history of what Jewish war veterans have accomplished. They have served with distinction and honor, and we must keep the museum alive through our donations, as it is an investment in our future.”

A ceremony followed the remarks and included a blessing by Chaplain Michael Bloom. PNC Michael Berman cut the ribbon that signified the official opening of the exhibit. Attendees were then encouraged to return to the Education Center for refreshments.



PNC Norman Rosenshein and Gail Walsh, great grandniece of Julius Klein.



Visitors enjoyed exploring one of the new interactive displays.

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JEWIS IN THE AMERICAN MILITARY

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It's Not Too Late to Be a Part of the Exhibit!

me to call Rabbi Yehudah Krinsky, one of the Rebbe's aides. When we landed, I called Rabbi Krinsky, who relayed to me that while he was in the car with the Rebbe, the Rebbe asked him if he had heard anything from Rabbi Goldstein. He responded that he had not. The Rebbe requested, “If you hear from him, please ask him to do three things. He should find out how the Jewish resi-

dents of Grenada are; make an effort to lay tefillin on every Jewish soldier; and, if possible, give the customary Chanukah gelt, gifts of money, to the soldiers.” Rabbi Krinsky told me that the Rebbe would reimburse me for all the money I would distribute.

That night, the fifth night of Chanukah, I organized a Chanukah party for the Jewish soldiers

stationed on the island. At the Chanukah celebration, we lit candles and distributed Chanukah gelt to everyone. Major General Jack Farris, Jr., commander of the US operation and forces in Grenada wrote the Rebbe, thanking him for my assistance to the American soldiers in Grenada, and asked the Rebbe to advise me to enroll in active duty as a full-time chaplain.

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Fewer Veterans Running For Congressional Office

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ber of candidates from the recent wars seeking national office. Of the 183 veterans running for Congress, 46 — about 25 percent of the field — served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Already, 17 recent war veterans are serving in the House and Senate. Most of them are favored in their re-election bids.

Rep. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., is leaving the House in an attempt to become the Senate's second Iraq War veteran. The first, Sen. John Walsh, D-Mont., opted not to seek re-election after he was found to have plagiarized his master's thesis at the Army War College.

Lynn said that among both younger and older veteran candidates, military experience is largely a résumé afterthought, not the linchpin of their campaigns.

That reflects public interest in nonmilitary issues leading up to November's vote. An Associated Press-GfK poll released earlier this month found the economy to be the top issue on voters' minds this cycle, with health care issues coming in second.

But the advance of Islamic State militants in the Middle East and concerns about domestic terrorism were in the top five, and Lynn said candidates with a military background could see some undecided voters give extra weight to their service on election day.

"All other things being equal, being a veteran is going to help," he said. "It's not the first thing voters will think about, but if they're worried about military action overseas, then a veteran is likely to pick up some extra votes because

of his or her knowledge."

One issue that hasn't caught voters' attention is the recent wait times scandals at the Veterans Affairs Department. Lynn said because it's difficult to pin problems with that bureaucracy on any individual lawmaker, few voters will be swayed by candidates' promises to fix the department.

But veterans groups have said that having lawmakers with first-hand knowledge of the VA system is critical in educating Congress about the need for continued reforms. If the number of veterans elected to office continues to drop, that work becomes more difficult.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015!



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Howard M. Barmad • Post 76 NJ
Chag Sameach

PNP Eleanore & PDC Ralph Bell

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PNC Paul & PNP Elaine Bernstein

NP Joanne & NEC Jerry Blum

PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749

Marshall & Diane Duberstein

Gerald H. Elkan • North Carolina

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

Sidney M. Gluck • Mesa, AZ

Nat. Inspector Sidney & Fay Goldman

PDC Herb & Beth Gopman • Dept. of FL

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

PNC Sam & PNP Barb Greenberg

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In Memory of PNP Jeanette Schneider

In Loving Memory of Harry & Yetta Israel



Couples dancing on New Year's Eve in Sydney, Australia, 1942. From Herman "Hy" Schwartz collection.

*Should Old Acquaintance be forgot,
and never thought upon;
The flames of Love extinguished,
and fully past and gone:
Is thy sweet Heart now grown so cold,
that loving Breast of thine;
That thou canst never once reflect
On Old long syne.*

In Memory of Sid & Florence Israel, USMC

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

Jewish War Veterans USA Post 1
Our Original Post

Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health
Happy Holiday!

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PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky
Happy Holidays

To all our Troops • Be safe, be well!

NC Sheldon & Judy Ohren
To Life!

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

Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth
Happy Holiday to You and Yours!

PDP Freda & PNC Norman Rosenshein
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Our Very Best Wishes to All

Shalom Alechem - Alechem Shalom

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In memory of Hal, Harry, and Harvey

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Toda Shalom & Good Health to all JWV

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(no more than 30 characters per line)

If not now, *when?*

Time is running out to sign up for JWV's Mission to Israel!

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

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

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

PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chairman, Israel Mission



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

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

Day 3-Tuesday, Feb. 24: Tel Aviv. After an abundant buffet breakfast - we'll meet with U.S. Military Attaché for a briefing. We depart for a panoramic tour of Tel Aviv and visit Independence Hall where David Ben Gurion announced the Independence of Israel in 1948. This is a very meaningful moment in the history of the Jewish people. Continue to visit Rabin Center where we'll learn of major events in the life of Israel during times of war and peace. Afternoon meeting with staff of 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 NY.

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

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

E-mail: cturner@jwv.org



If you would like to extend your stay in Israel, or take optional extensions to Petra (Jordan) or other side trips, please contact Aviatours directly.

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