

# The Jewish VETERAN

Volume 62 • No. 4 • Fall 2009



Arthur Szyk illustration for October 1944 issue of the *The Jewish Veteran*. "Reproduced with the cooperation of The Arthur Szyk Society, Burlingame, CA [www.szyk.org](http://www.szyk.org)."

For more information about Arthur Szyk, see "Administratively Speaking" on page 27.

# JWV Applauds Signing of the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV) applauds the signing on Thursday, October 22, 2009, of the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, which guarantees a timely and predictable flow of funding for VA health care needs.

This act authorizes appropriations for the VA medical system one year in advance of each fiscal year so that the system can plan in advance for the needs of our wounded warriors who will no longer be at the mercy of late funding or underfunding of the VA's needs.

The JWV sees the passage of this legislation as an important first step toward the ultimate goal of mandatory funding, which would ensure that not only is the funding available when it is needed, but that what is available is always sufficient for the needs of all of those who so desperately need medical services for injuries received in service to their country.

As President Obama said in his remarks prior to signing the bill, "Today is a victory for all of the veterans' organizations that are represented on this stage who fought for years for reform." The JWV, represented by National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth, was proud to be among those groups with the President at the ceremony.

The JWV has worked tirelessly with the Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and with the



President Barack Obama signs the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House, Oct. 22, 2009. National Executive Director Herb Rosenbleeth is at far right, directly behind Senator Daniel Akaka, (D-HI), Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and recipient of the JWV Medal of Merit. Official White House Photo by Lawrence Jackson.

Military Coalition in the fight for passage of this historic measure and celebrates this victory for those who have earned the best possible medical care from a nation grateful for their service on the battlefields of today's wars and on those of past conflicts.

Today the JWV celebrates the passage of this historic legislation, but the fight for the rights of our veterans, rights they have earned, will continue until the goal of mandatory funding has been met.

## *Are you on the JWV E-mail list?*

In this time of both dwindling budgets and instant communication, the JWV will be using e-mail to send much of the information that was formerly sent through the Postal Service. Among mailings that will now be converted to e-mail are the upcoming mailings of most NEC materials, our scholarship and Olympiad award applications, and Finance Board report forms. All of these materials will be available also for downloading from our web site.

It is most important that all echelons have a designated member or members whose names are on our e-mail list to receive these materials and disseminate them to members who do not have their own e-mail. Please add your names to our e-mail list by going to our web site, [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org).

The JWV must take advantage of the resources available to us to keep our members as up-to-date as possible on the activities and priorities of the organization and to free our financial resources to provide needed services to our veterans.



# The Jewish VETERAN



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

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Advertising information and rates available from the Editorial Office. JWV assumes no responsibility for products and services advertised in this publication.

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.

Date	Material Due	Magazine in Mail
Winter 2010	Jan. 14	Feb. 8
Spring 2010	Apr. 15	May 4
Summer 2010	June 17	July 8
Fall 2010	Oct. 14	Nov. 9

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

Subscription price in the United States is \$5.00 per year, included in membership. Nonmember subscriptions: \$7.50. Single copies: \$2.50.

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 ISSN-047-2018.  
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## Upcoming JWV Teleconferences

All calls start at 8:00pm EDT or EST (unless otherwise noted)

All JWV members are encouraged to join in and participate by dialing the toll-free number:  
**Dial 1-866-266-3378 and enter the JWV Code Number 202 265 6280#.**  
**Enter the full number, including the # sign.**

November 19	Thurs.	Housing, Homeless, Women in the Military
December 2	Wed.	Foreign Affairs and Israel
December 17	Thurs.	Leadership
<b>2010</b>		
January 13	Wed.	Outreach
January 26	Tues.	Finance Board
February 18	Thurs.	NEC
March 24	Wed.	Museum
April 8	Thurs.	Leadership - Post Commanders

## Save the Date!

The date for National Commander Robins' upcoming testimony before the Joint House and Senate Veterans Committee has been set for Thursday, March 4, 2010.

The next semi-annual NEC meeting will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2010, at the Marriott Crystal City at Reagan National Airport.

# Commander's Corner

*A message from National Commander Edwin M. Robins*



Thirty years ago I attended my first national convention in New Orleans, never realizing what would culminate thirty years later in the same city at a different hotel—being elected the seventy-eighth National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

Four Past National Commanders made eloquent endorsements along with one Past Department Commander, and, as it penetrated into my cranium, I made a vow to myself that I would not forget the men and women who had prodded, encouraged, and assisted me to reach this goal, nor would I ever forget those still here who call on the phone, send wishes, smile, and even say, “Work the room, kid,” like a politician.

My wife and I have attended parties at the two veterans' hospitals in our area for over 30 years, assisting other Posts and Auxiliaries, as well as our own. Our gratification, though, is Christmas Eve, which we call “The Loneliest Night of the Year,” since either the veteran cannot get home or in some cases aren't wanted at home, so we adopt them that night. We serve potato chips, pop corn of various kinds, punch, coffee, and cake along with gifts of canteen books, T shirts, hats, wallets, and whatever of decent value we can obtain. Holiday music is played, and a warm hug, hand shake, or G-d Bless was said to all. But never on Friday night, as they knew from the past that it is our Sabbath, so that we may be a day early, and, as we exit the hall, look into the sky and thank Hashem for what we have and are.

With the economy in a downturn, the venom of those with hatred shows up. This January marks my twenty-first year of being a Service Officer. Under Title Six, every service officer serves all honorably discharged veterans—both men and women.

I do not proselytize or take those veterans whose claims have been turned down previously and are shopping for another service officer who they think can obtain a different outcome; yet 90% of my work consists of non-Jewish veterans and their families. All clearly stated phone calls are returned, and we try to assist

them all. As my motto says, “Serve those who served us so well.”

Now I have a favor to ask of everyone who reads this column. If you know an honorably discharged Jewish War Veteran, ask him or her to join, for you must understand that the WWII veterans are passing away at the rate of about 1,000 per day. And don't forget the women who have served this country—they count—they are equal.

At our National Headquarters, we have two charters, one for the JWV and one for the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. At the museum, we have a Yahrzeit program and a Tree of Honor, for which donations can be accepted by Jews and non-Jews alike.

When our grandchildren come to see where their boubies and zadies served this county, they can all be proud. This is our legacy.

As Elaine Cosner, the National Ladies Auxiliary President, and I make our rounds and try to enlighten others, may you join us. Thank you.



**The Jewish War Veterans Leadership Mission to Israel and Allied Veterans Mission, previously scheduled for February 4-14, 2010, have been cancelled.**

**Watch future issues of The Jewish Veteran and our web site, [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org), for information on rescheduled trips.**

# News From Capitol Hill

By Col Herb Rosenbleeth  
U.S. Army(Ret)  
Nat'l Executive Director



## Post 9/11 GI Bill

Beginning with the fall semester, the new GI Bill strongly advocated by JWV, went into effect. The Post 9/11 GI Bill is enabling servicemen and women who served in Iraq and Afghanistan to attend college. Under this bill, the VA reimburses colleges directly for tuition and fees for a full semester's coursework based on the highest in-state public college or university costs. The VA pays student-veterans a monthly housing rate for an E-5 with dependents at the school's zip code, plus an annual stipend of \$1,000 for full-time study.

As we go to press, the VA has paid more than 61,000 GI Bill benefits claims totaling \$50 million. And VA has authorized up to \$3,000 in emergency payments to veterans who should have received payment but have not.

JWV is most grateful to Congress for passage of the Post 9/11 GI Bill. The "Webb GI Bill" incorporates a number of major JWV goals for the GI Bill including benefits that match the cost of education, extension of the post-service usage period of 15 years, and cumulative credit for Guard-Reserve service on active duty.

## Tribute to American Legion National Commander Clarence Hill

On Thursday, September 10, National Commander Clarence Hill of the American Legion, presented that organization's legislative priorities to the Congress.

The Jewish War Veterans is a special friend of NC Hill. He has been a participant on our Allied Veterans Mission to Israel and joined with us at our Annual National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida, in 2003. A true friend, indeed!

NC Hill is a graduate of the US Naval Academy and has distinguished himself as a career naval officer, retiring as a US Navy Captain. He served 19 years on sea duty, including service aboard two destroyers, two cruisers, and as the officer-in-charge of a PT boat. Captain Hill also served on the guided missile frigate USS MCINERNEY for two years, including combat operations during Operation Desert Storm.

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA congratulates and applauds the selection of Clarence Hill as the National Commander of the American Legion for 2009-10.

JWV appreciates the support of Commander Hill, Legion Executive Director Peter Gayton, Legislative Director Steve Robertson, and National Security-Foreign Relations Director Phil Riley.

## JWV Service Officer Program

We are extremely proud that JWV National Commander Ed Robins is a certified VA National Service Officer. NC Robins has a wealth of knowledge concerning the VA disability system and the procedures for filing claims.

JWV Service Officers have been assisting veterans of all faiths for several decades. NC Robins carries on this outstanding tradition of service.

## Vice-President's Reception



Vice President Joe Biden invited leaders of the Jewish community to his home for a Rosh Hashana reception. My wife, Francie, and I were among those invited. On the left is Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren.

# Letters to the Editor

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## Thanks to the JWV

Dear Editor:

On Sunday, June 28, Nick Hernandez and I called Bingo for about 35 Veterans at the Dallas Veterans Administration Medical Center in South Dallas. Refreshments were served, prizes won, and the players joked around and had a good time. At the end of the session the Veterans came over to us, shook our hands and told us how much they appreciated us coming to see them.

I have been doing this for several years now because I enjoy it, and as a representative of JWV, I always start out by telling them we are here calling Bingo for them because we appreciate their service to our country. Sometimes we take for granted what we do. We do it because we enjoy it. Well, several weeks ago while at the Medical Center for my own medical reasons, a man in an orderly's scrubs pushing a hospital cart filled with fresh linens, stopped me and asked if I was with the Jewish War Veterans and do I call Bingo. Since I was not wearing my JWV cap, I was very surprised he recognized me. He said that, when he was a patient, he came to the Bingo games and had a great time. He shook my hand and thanked me AND the Jewish War Veterans. He knows who we are. As long as we continue to contribute to the greater good of the community our mission of helping Veterans and fighting anti-Semitism will succeed. That will be our legacy. So, on behalf of the Veteran pushing the hospital cart, consider yourselves thanked.

PDC Andy Lavigne,  
Dept. of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma

## Liberators

Dear Editor:

On April 30, 1945, I was liberated from Stalag-III in the area of Bavaria in Germany.

As a native of Hungary, I could not speak English, and the soldiers did not speak Hungarian. Some of the soldiers were from Brooklyn, and one soldier who worked in a salt mine with Hungarians spoke some of the language.

I did not get the names of these soldiers, but I would like to meet some of them. Do any of your readers remember being in this part of Germany on April 30, 1945?

Thanks and regards,  
Lilly W. Levinson

## More on Haym Salomon

Dear Editor:

It would be unfortunate and detrimental to the reputation of the JWV if our organization submitted a motion asking Congress "to mandate a National Holiday to honor" Haym Salomon, as was suggested in a letter by PDC Ed Elbaum in the summer issue of *The Jewish Veteran*.

There is absolutely no proof from any source that "much of the desperately needed funds for George Washington's Army came from Haym Salomon" as was claimed in the letter. Haym Salomon never claimed to loaning any of his money to the Continental Congress although his son Haym M. Salomon, born posthumously, petitioned Congress in 1829 making such a claim with no evidence whatsoever.

Salomon claimed that his father had loaned large amounts of money to the Continental Congress. If he had done so, Salomon would have been the wealthiest man in all of the thirteen colonies, which he was not. Despite prospering for a few years, he died insolvent in 1785, buried in Cong. Mikveh Israel's Spruce Street cemetery in Philadelphia. Not even a headstone marks his resting place other than a tablet on a wall in the burying ground. Leaving young children and his young widow remarrying not long afterwards, no one, not even his own congregation, of which he had been a leader, made any effort to honor his remains with a marker.

An expert in negotiating contracts, he spoke several languages and sold foreign bills of exchange for France, Holland, and Spain. Haym Salomon was the only broker authorized by Robert Morris to advertise as "Broker to the Office of Finance." He did loan some money to Robert Morris, James Madison, and Edmund Randolph, to name a few, helping those individuals to "stay afloat" during those precarious days in the fight to establish our nation. He was paid a percentage for selling foreign bills of exchange and worked tirelessly to raise funds for the fledgling Continental government, but some of the fictitious claims made by his son and others throughout the decades do nothing to honor his memory and should not be used to seek a National Holiday using his name.

As a footnote, I might add that for the very first time since Biblical days, Jews served in a national army not of [their] own creation. Lt. Col. Solomon Bush was wounded at Brandywine; Lt. Col. David Salisbury Franks was a staff officer with Gen. Benedict Arnold and was exonerated after the General's treacherous conduct; Ensign Isaac Franks was erroneously called "Colonel" in history books although that rank was conferred on him by a Pennsylvania governor in 1794.

*Continued on page 9*

# Editor's Corner

By PNC Paul Bernstein, National Editor

## Updates on Homeland Security

Securing our borders is one of the most important efforts our Country can make to prevent another terrorist attack. Normally this task falls to the Customs and Border Protection Agency, but since the Agency is understaffed, we would expect the military to pick up the slack--but no. Our military is stretched too thin to help. So our good thinkers in Washington are using private contractors—hired guns—to make up 51% of the Agency resources to augment border safety. There is an inherent problem with hired guns: Where is their loyalty--with those who pay them, or those who hired them? You can't have two masters. Heavy reliance on contract support leads to loss of control and accountability.

Speaking of accountability, remember the Blackwater Affair in Iraq? These hired guns were to protect VIPs in Iraq. It seems there was a little problem—they killed some civilians. Guess what? When things went wrong, the perpetrators were sent home, leaving the U.S. with a black eye and holding the bag--so much for accountability.

The Federal Protection Service is also failing to properly oversee its 13,000 guard force, causing gaps at federal buildings nationwide. A test at ten high security buildings successfully breached security. Bomb components were successfully brought into the buildings, proving that there is a problem in security. Once inside the buildings, the testers assembled a bomb and walked freely around with their briefcase containing the device; they were not challenged.

On July 17, Jakarta came under attack when bombs in suitcases exploded in two hotels. This underscores my talks about soft targets. Targeting of hotels and other soft targets is easy because of the use of smaller devices to circumvent physical security measures. Terrorists think small and mobile devices are best since they can bypass security. As I am writing this, there is a nationwide "terrorist note" issued by Homeland Security concerning possible attacks on transit facilities. As I mentioned before, theaters, stadiums, and transit systems are soft targets. All they need are backpacks.

Thank G-d that this season we did not have any terrorist attacks on a Jewish facility. I want you to be aware of things you can do to protect our Jewish way of life.

Terrorism has a singular goal, and it's not just killing innocent people. Killing people is only a byproduct of terrorism. Terrorism's main purpose is to cause terror.



The goal simply put is that terrorism wants to create terror and fear. Fear undermines faith in the establishment. This tends to weaken the foundation on which the establishment exists.

Terrorism is not an expression of rage, but a political weapon. If you remove the government's perception of infallibility, then you remove the faith the people have in the government. If you remove the faith that Government can protect you, then what do you have left? That's exactly what they want us to think--that we are helpless to stop them. Fear is their weapon.

We are not helpless. We can do something. I am not advocating we should put on our six-shooters and start roaming the street of Dodge City, but Riverdale and Washington indicated that we must be the extra eyes to protect our own.

### What to do?

The following is taken from a publication marked "For Official Use Only," issued by the Department of Homeland Security--Religious Facilities Protection.

First, let's review the weapons they might use.

- Explosives. By the way, explosives are the weapon of choice, for they can be hidden easily and are very effective.
- An improvised explosive device (IED) or homemade bomb is the easiest to make—just go on the Internet—and can be constructed using dynamite or military-grade explosives (C-4).
- An IED can be carried into a facility by a suicide bomber, or can be deposited in an unnoticed location for detonation by a time fuse or by remote control.
- Vehicle-borne IED's can be loaded into a car or truck. In Oklahoma City, Timothy McVeigh used a truck bomb. In Riverdale, they were going to use a car.
- Arson. Intentional fires can be set using highly flammable materials (i.e., gasoline) tossed into

*Continued on page 15*

# Award Winners

## DEPARTMENT AWARDS

### FEUREISEN AWARD

*Department that has done the most  
for hospitalized veterans*  
Department of Florida

### WOLFSON AWARD

*Outstanding Record in Community Relations*  
Department of New Jersey

### NATIONAL COMMANDER'S AWARD

*Department that has performed outstanding service*  
Department of New York

### JOSEPH DEMIANY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR SCOUTING

*Outstanding support for the Boy Scouts of America*  
Department of New Jersey

## POST AWARDS

### Ben Kaufman Award

*Doing the most for hospitalized veterans*  
Snyder Tokson Post 459, FL

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AWARD**  
*Outstanding Community Relations Record*

### Co-Winners:

Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126, NJ  
Snyder Tokson Post 459, FL

### NATIONAL COMMANDER'S AWARD

*Performing outstanding service*

### Co-Winners:

Furer-Barag-Wolf Post 126, NJ  
William Kretchman Post 730, Broward, FL

### BROTHERHOOD AWARD

*Doing the most to promote the  
concept of Brotherhood*  
Post 1, NY

### BRENNER - JAFFEE MEMORIAL AWARD

*Post Bulletins*

### Co-Winners:

Post 256, TX  
Post 652, NY



# Letters to the Editor

*Continued from page 6*

These are just a few individuals of our faith who fought for American independence. Let us inform the public that it was not only Jewish participation in finance during the American Revolution that we helped gain our nation's freedom.

Sincerely,  
Irwin J. Miller, Fred Robbins Post 142  
Historian, Jewish Historical Society of Lower Fairfield County, CT

## VA Hospital

Dear JWV:

This letter is in response to your recent gift for our Veterans.

Thank you and the Jewish War Veterans for the abundant supply of literature we received. Your donation will be well received and appreciated by our Veterans, families, and staff of the Jewish Faith Tradition.

Our Veterans are grateful as are all of us in the Chaplain Service for your outreach in giving this gift and in the well-being of all our Veterans. Your concern for our nation's heroes is commendable, and we welcome your involvement in ensuring they receive the finest consideration.

Sincerely,  
Alice D. Tramrie, M.Div, BCC  
Chief Chaplain Service  
Hunter Holmes McGuire Medical Center  
Richmond, VA

*[Editor's Note: The JWV has recently contributed pocket Torahs and magazines to the Hunter Holmes McGuire Medical Center in response to their request. This is the second request for pocket Torahs from this Center.]*

## INDIVIDUAL

Judge Lawrence Gubow Memorial Award  
*Outstanding contribution in advancing Americanism*  
Josie Anton, Post 459, FL

## POST MEMBERSHIP INCREASE AWARDS

*GROUP 1 • 4-99 members*  
Jules Lazard Post 580, Louisiana

*GROUP 2 • 100-174 members*  
Irving R. Rutstein Post 212, Pennsylvania

*GROUP 3 • 175-249 members*  
No Winner

*GROUP 4 • 250 members and up*  
Paul A. Rosenblum Post 44, Ohio

## SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

### Outstanding Effort to Recruit New Members

*This award is presented to the person who performed the most outstanding effort to recruit new members*

Judge Sol Gothard, Post 580, LA

### Membership Recruitment Award

*Signing up New Members*

Robert Richter, Post 126, NJ

## MURRAY L. ROSEN AWARD

*Member who best exemplifies outstanding service on behalf of veterans, Jews and his/her community.*

Sidney Singer, PA

PNC Sam Greenberg (at left) is shown with COL Steven Shapiro at a change-of-command ceremony at Letterkenny Army Depot in Pennsylvania. COL Shapiro will be going to Kuwait. PNC Greenberg presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation from the JWV and a sculpture of a Chai that he made himself to wish a long life to COL Shapiro and his family.





# My Path to Judaism:

By Carol Berman, Jules Lazard Post 580

[Editor's Note: Carol Berman was one of the featured speakers at the gala reception at the World War II Museum sponsored by the Jules Lazard Post 580 in New Orleans for delegates to the 114<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention. Below are excerpts from her speech at the reception.]



We know the title of this program, but the fundamental question for this speech is: “How does one who was raised in a Black Baptist family, went to a Jesuit

Catholic college, end up marrying into an Orthodox Jewish family and wanting to become a Jew?” Well, my mother always told me that I never took the easy way out of anything. However, I hope you will find at the end of this speech, at least an idea of why Judaism is the center of my world.

I have to admit that when I completed my last course at Loyola University and joined the military over fifteen years ago, I was not thinking about Judaism. As all newly recruited privates at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, did, I will admit that my line of thinking was how to get the drill sergeants not to notice me. However, I am sad to report that I was not successful in keeping a “low profile” at Fort Jackson. Yet, I learned to love the military and eventually went from enlisted to officer during my career and have had the opportunity to travel around the world since I raised my hand in 1994.

Since our War on Terrorism campaign began in 2001, I had been mobilized twice but never deployed overseas. Then on a Friday morning in March 2008, I received a phone call. By the following Friday, I was informed that I would be going that summer with a Michigan Reserve Military Police Battalion to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. I knew then I needed help to prepare for the unexpected for this mission.

Like many of you, I have many good friends who have been in the military at one time or another. One of my closest decided to help me prepare for this mission in a rather peculiar manner. Since he is more of a survival expert, he believed I should have the most up-to-date gear just in case. He went on-line and into his stash of gadgets and gizmos to provide the best for me. There was no Swiss-army knife good enough, and the GPS had to have the right programs. Then one day, we had the “dog-tag conversation.” He always knew that I considered myself to be Jewish, and I was going to a war-zone in an Islamic country. Even though I have not been to the mikvah yet, I have always adhered to the Jewish faith to the point that my identification tags say, “Jewish.” “If something bad goes down, those dog-tags get buried in the desert,” he said to me in the most serious tone possible. At the time, the reply was “I know.” Ladies and gentlemen, I have to say that answer has always bothered me, and later I will explain why it is the incorrect one, and what my answer to that question is now.

When I started to become ill in Afghanistan, I prayed to Hashem for relief and understanding. During Passover, I adjusted my diet to follow the tradition and only eat matzoh and other Kosher for Passover foods. The fish and meat kosher food packages that were sent to us from the states were my feasts during Pesach. When I sat around the table with my fellow Jews, my spirits were lifted tremendously. Both male and female rabbis, from Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform circles came between the changes in weather and mortar rockets to bring the holidays to Afghanistan to Jews in need. The packages from various organizations from home allowed us to adhere to and embrace the Jewish faith even more, and made things a lot easier when it was “Crab-leg night” in the Dining Facility. All of these things made me stronger emotionally and spiritually. However, I did not know that my days in Afghanistan were numbered.

Even though my symptoms were lessened during Pesach, I could not eliminate the constant thirst, having to use the bathroom constantly, and feeling weak. I finally relinquished my stubborn position and went to sick call that morning – April 15<sup>th</sup>, Tax Day. By the end of the day, the doc was telling me that I had adult-onset diabetes, and I was being Medical Evacuated from Afghanistan as soon as possible.

# A Woman Officer on Duty in a War Zone



Carol Berman on duty in Afghanistan

Ladies and Gentlemen, I equate being Jewish with being alive. It was Hashem who had brought me Passover that encouraged me to change my diet that week – this allowed me to have much lower blood sugar and to function better than I had been during previous weeks. I believe that through Judaism I have found my life, my place in the world, and my identity. Through Judaism, I have learned to be a better soldier and even more understanding individual. My experience in Afghanistan has allowed me a spiritual enlightenment that I would have not had any other way. I thank Hashem for allowing me to come home.

Now, I go back to addressing the “dog-tag question.” I understand that throughout history there have been Jews who have been afraid and those who have overcome their fear in many situations. After serious consideration, this is the conclusion I have reached. My intent in becoming Jewish is propelled by two reasons that are interconnected. The first is myself. I have realized more than anything that the closer I come to Judaism, the closer I come to G-d. Therefore, I ask myself, “How can I close my eyes to Hashem, since he has never closed his to me?” The second reason is my daughter. I married a wonderful, Jewish man, by the name of Benjamin Berman. We have a five-year-old daughter, Penina Sara; her grandfather was a Holocaust survivor from Poland who came to this country in the early 1950s. After studying with various rabbis and reading the history, I realize that, if my family was in Europe during the time of the Second World War, she would not be spared from torture or degradation, and possibly sent to her death. As a mother, “How can I tell my child that I am exempt, and you are not because of who your father is?” Moreover, I would demand that

she not hide from her Jewish identity, regardless of the period we are in. Due to our darker skin color, it would be easier for her to hide, but as I said earlier, “the easy way out” is not in our bloodline. Therefore, I have decided the “dog-tags” would not be buried in the desert; they will hang around my neck, as the true statement to my daughter to embrace her heritage and to engage the future. L’Dor v’ Dor.

I love the military; however, I do not think it is a secret to say it is hard to live a Jewish life when serving. Therefore, I relish the fact that there is the JWV that provides solace and sanctuary for Jews throughout the world. Most of all, you do not know how happy I am to be in this room with you. You have all demonstrated that, as Jews, you may have been afraid, but you did not allow that fear to stop you from your service or sacrifice. As you gather here tonight, know that your great work has helped build this historic place and made this country safer. What you have done will not go unnoticed. Thank you for making life easier for generations to come. L’Dor v’ Dor.



Albany Post 105 members Richard and Kelly Goldenberg present a \$1000 contribution to Col. Herb Rosenbleeth for the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington on July 15. Richard and Kelly are both Gulf War active duty veterans and Richard served more recently in Iraq in 2005. The contribution will inscribe the JWV Albany Post 105 members in the museum Tree of Honor. Photo by Mary Westley.

# Commentary

By PNC Bob Zweiman, Chairman, Coordinating Committee

## Follow The Yellow Brick Road

An election was had this past November. We had a choice between two candidates, or vote for neither. I felt I should vote for one of the two candidates. That candidate won. I don't really feel that I did.

Let me put it this way—one had a vice-president who, if he died or retired, you might wonder if she would become president or a replacement for Vanna White. The other came off as a traditional opportunist who was sticking to the script of a B movie. He spoke so well that you could almost feel that he believed in everything he was saying. He did, however, list names of experts in the fields who would become a part of his administration. So you didn't have to rely on him to develop approaches to problems. All he really needed was a well-informed teleprompter hopefully with some degree of consistency. He touted himself as the savior of Change.

The way it turned out the election was for all intents and purposes, as far as the victor was concerned, to merely be the conducting of a focus group. A lot of issues were discussed with minimal solutions or even attempts at any real solution. You had a choice of solutions to existing problems or those which could only be visualized—don't know who got a passing grade—we prayed that it would be the nation.

If you look at the issues which dominated the election, you will find one to be a health care program plan which was going to be a bipartisan product of the two parties. The President said that the two parties working together was the key ingredient to moving forward. What happened was that he left it to flounder between the congressional parties who acted like Sunnis and Shiites—except they weren't even that close—they made paranoid seem like a condition of brotherhood. Each stood its immovable ground based entirely on party loyalty. The people of the country are being held hostage to the elections of 2010 and 2012.

At this point, as I write this column, one of the health care bills has gotten out of committee with a Snowe job and contrary to the desires of the minority party [no one told them that they were minority and supposedly helpless]. The President apparently had decided not to get involved since it would appear that he was unable to realize that people will not willingly follow his eloquent presentations as they would have if he was the Pied Piper.

As long as he believes that two-party legislation must be the ultimate resolution, we can be assured that nothing will happen [he needs just one Republican]. Hopefully, by the time this magazine is received, you may have an answer—I won't bet on it. But, who knows—the majority party may wake up to the fact that they are the majority, and there are other procedural ways to pass legislation.

But all we hear is the endless repetitive statement that nothing can be accomplished in the Senate without 60 votes. Without the 60 there could be a filibuster—that's a debate on the merits. That would only screw up what the public learns about the issues and their senators. A real filibuster would prevent the senators from leaving on Thursday afternoons to go home for the week-end.

Unfortunately, we have been plagued with loads of public polling results. This adds another ingredient of unreality in coming up with a right answer. The result is controlled by how the questions are asked to accomplish the answer desired. Were it not for the polls, TV and cable news commentaries, our legislators would be stuck dealing with facts or in creating total fabrications to satisfy the wishes of their constituents.

Now for the key issues—Afghanistan and Pakistan, and, of course, Iraq. You could even add Iran to the regional mix. During the campaign, Afghanistan became the “necessary war” in place of Iraq.

Each of those nations brings to light a different set of facts on the ground. Iraq is fairly flat with three competing ethnic rivals who are dependent upon oil revenue allocation to sustain a degree of stability with a coalition of their parties. Afghanistan, on the other hand, is mountainous and apparently is the home of the al Qaeda and Taliban rebels, and is run in part by local warlords who are willing to change sides for money and power to be left alone in their fiefdom; stability would be just an illusion. Pakistan is a loose cannon with war lords, opposition parties and actual nuclear weapons and the ability to deliver them. There's only one aspect in which they're all equal—that is corruption. Of course, there is Iran, which threatens the entire region and the world community with nuclear weaponry—



# Commentary

BOOM!!!!—there go all game plans.

It's fascinating that the Middle East nations such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other regional nations whom we have protected over the last number of generations, have neither provided troops nor funding to the coalitions and have actually declared that our presence in Iraq is illegal while they continued to provide funding to the terrorists, such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and others. The old saying applies to their relationship with our country, that with friends like them, who needs enemies.

So, how do we approach that issue? Do we have a realizable mission which is supported by our allies and the region, a strategy for success and post-conflict organization and a doable exit strategy? Are we ready to commit our assets and our forces to what may be an abyss?

This he is handling as though he was conducting a college seminar in strategy. He has corralled opinions, a report from his General in the field and broad-based discussions. He is now waiting for the results of an Afghan election—just another few weeks. While the approach of getting as much information as possible is necessary to arrive at a strategy, it has resulted in public confusion and fear.

His commander says to bring in more troops—anywhere from 20,000 to 40,000 to 80,000—sort of a replay of the Bush surge. Others go from withdraw to status quo. Then goes the question of why we are there—destroy Taliban and al Qaeda to nation-building. Then I read that one day four of our troops were killed, and two civilians were also killed. Guess what, the great concern was—the death of two civilians—collateral damage was the primary concern. In other words—the terrorists can do whatever they damn want to do while we must pursue the civilized war under the Geneva Convention and whatever else would put us at a disadvantage or face conviction in an International Court of Criminal Justice. The more we die the better is the war—we do not need dead and injured Americans to show how good and decent we are.

As I've written before, unless the Law of War and the Rules of Engagement are the same for all of those involved, we should withdraw all troops other than those required to train those nationals involved in the preservation of their nation and those needed as advisors. The war should be continued by us with missiles and other goodies to destroy the enemies' camps, target leadership, and whatever is "necessary" to eliminate the threat. We won the good war of WWII by seeking out

and eliminating the enemy without an extensive concern for collateral damage. The minefields of WWII do not compare with the threats of IED's on highways.

There are many other issues that must also be addressed and require incremental examination and action, but, frankly, the two and a half wars, together with our troops in South Korea and Germany and NATO having to serve extended tours and duty and possibly two or three or four more tours of duty placing them in harm's way—and for what? That answer will be a turning point to our economy and our way of life without our being beholden to any other nation.

The question is "Why?" – The answer does not require a Pied Piper to follow the Yellow Brick Road.



From left, Selwyn Goldberg, Jack Cohen and Ed Kranson, all volunteers from Jewish War Veterans Post 65, get together at the Wildhorse Golf Club in Henderson. They led the effort to help veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan by sponsoring the "Welcome Home" event June 5 at the Gold Coast. Photo by Craig L. Moran.

Since The Jewish Veteran is now being published 4 times/year (please see back cover for more news about our new look for 2010), our post-convention and November issues have been combined in this Fall 2009 issue. Copies of our 2009-2010 National Officers List and the Resolutions passed at the 2009 National Convention, both previously published in our post-Convention issue, are now available on our web site, [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org). If you need either of these items in hard copy form, please contact national headquarters at 202-265-6280, or write to JWV, 1811 R St., NW, Washington, DC 20009

## The Amazing Career of “Mickey” Marcus

By Fred L. Borch, Regimental Historian & Archivist, the Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School, Charlottesville, VA

Almost forgotten today, David Daniel “Mickey” Marcus had an amazing career in uniform as an Army lawyer and as the Israeli Army’s first brigadier general.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1902, “Mick” or “Mickey” Marcus was a self-described “tough street kid” who learned to box to defend himself against local bullies. His stellar high school record as an athlete and student helped him obtain an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he immediately made a name for himself. Mickey excelled in boxing as a cadet and “had a pile driving left hand punch that he usually started from the floor,” and it made him inter-collegiate welterweight champion in 1923.

After graduating in 1924, 2nd Lt. Marcus reported to the 16th Infantry Regiment at Ft. Jay on Governor’s Island. He also decided to study law at night, and enrolled in the Brooklyn Law School. Balancing his military duties with night law school classes, he managed to earn his LL.B. in 1927 and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1928.

Marcus resigned from the Regular Army in 1929 and, by 1931, was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in New York City. Then, in 1934, he was appointed First Deputy Commissioner of Correction of the City of New York. Within three weeks, his name was front page news as he battled two gangster mobs that had practically taken over the local prisons.

With outbreak of war in Europe in September 1939---and suspecting that America might soon be involved in the fighting---Marcus decided that he should be more active in military affairs. He had stayed in the Army Reserve when he had left active duty and now applied for a transfer to the Judge Advocate General’s Department (JAGD) in the New York National Guard. The result was that Marcus was appointed as a captain on November 30, 1939. Promotions were fast after that: major on August 17, 1940 and lieutenant colonel on September 6, 1940.

When Marcus pinned on his silver oak leaves, he also was appointed the Staff Judge Advocate of the 27th Division and, when that unit was activated for federal service on October 15, 1940, Marcus also was inducted into the active Army.

Although he was the division’s top lawyer, Marcus quickly showed that he was a talented staff officer and



he was soon doing other jobs, including serving as Headquarters Commandant and Provost Marshal.

After the 27th Division deployed to Hawaii in April 1942, Lt. Col. Marcus was the Executive for the Military Government and Island Provost Court, and was the direct contact between his commanding general and the representatives of all sorts of civilian agencies.

Additionally, when the division established a Ranger School, Marcus was given the job of running it. In April 1943, when Marcus left the 27th and Hawaii to return to Washington, D.C., the division commander wrote:

Your most outstanding achievement is the superior work you have done in organizing and directing the 27th Division Ranger School. Your own splendid leadership and personal example of physical prowess made this school a great success. You have shown that you know the business of soldiering and tactical leading of troops.

One wonders what infantry officers thought of an Army lawyer organizing and running Ranger training!

When he arrived in Washington, Marcus was assigned to the newly created Civil Affairs Division of the War Department. He worked as the Chief of the Planning Branch and, after a promotion to colonel in July 1943, Marcus helped formulate Civil Affairs policies and represented the Civil Affairs Division at high level meetings, including the Teheran Conference in November 1943.

But, although he was a superb staff officer, Marcus “was at heart a man of action,” and, some months before the June 6, 1944, invasion of Normandy, Marcus persuaded his boss to send him to England “to tie up loose ends before D-Day.”

Col. Marcus arrived in England on May 10 and by the end of the month had arranged to accompany the 101st Airborne Division in the invasion. While the division parachuted into Normandy on June 6, 1944, Marcus crossed the channel on a ship on June 8. He waded ashore at Utah Beach---under fire---and then linked up with the 101st. Marcus remained with the division in France for several weeks, until he was ordered to return to his Civil Affairs job in Washington.

*Continued on page 18*

Continued from page 7

a facility. Accelerants that promote the spread and intensity of a fire can be applied for maximum affect.

- Small Arms Attacks. Attacks using conventional firearms, automatic weapons, or shoulder-carried rocket-grenades can be aimed at indiscriminate shooting of people, such as happened at the Washington D.C. Holocaust Museum.
- Religious facilities have employed a series of controls, such as a receptionist who can greet all visitors, or the use of CCTV to view visitors before allowing entry. However, during religious services, facilities are wide open with little or no access control, allowing free access to anyone.

**We don't expect you to guard or be a policeman, but we have eyes, and we can be aware of indicators. We can use our cell phones. Be on guard for the following:**

- Persons in crowded areas wearing unusually bulky clothing. Guns, explosives, or flammable materials can be hidden under the clothing.
- Persons or teams of people spotted in or around the religious facilities.
- Vehicles illegally parked near religious facility buildings, or vehicles parked at night alone in a dark area.
- Unattended packages (backpacks, boxes, etc.) hidden in obscure places or way off the beaten path.
- Recent damage (e.g., significant holes or cuts) in a perimeter fence or gate.
- Persons using or carrying video/camera in or near the facility over an extended period of time.
- Persons parking, standing or loitering in same area over a multiple-day period.

**What you can do:**

- Consider hiring off-duty police as part of your security program.
- Talk to ushers and greeters to identify suspicious behavior/persons. Focus on interacting with strangers and unfamiliar persons.
- Talk to officials in the temple about evacuations or lockdown procedures.

- Walk with your eyes open.

Here in the U.S. there are many people who say "it can't happen here," but recent events proved the opposite. Practicing awareness and paying attention to people approaching or inside is very important in stopping a terrorism attack. Your military experience can perceive things that would otherwise be missed by others. In other words, practicing situational awareness provides an excellent opportunity for you as a member of the congregation to focus on the safety of others. We need you to report what you see--if you see something suspicious, report it.



Members of the JWV of Massachusetts participated in a stand-down for homeless veterans in Clifford Park, Boston, MA, on Aug. 28, 2009, where they gave away more than 2000 pairs of socks. Shown from left are Barry Sobel, George Marshal, Department Commander David I. Westerman, and Max Simen.

## *The End of an Era*

As this issue of The Jewish Veteran goes to press, we have just learned that Mrs. Y. Bailor, JWV's Membership Coordinator for over 50 years, will be retiring on Dec. 31, 2009. Whether on the phone, answering letters, or at National Conventions and NEC meetings, Mrs. B, as she is known to all, has been the face and voice of JWV. We wish her the best as she retires. She will be missed!

# Convention Highlights



# Convention Highlights



## *“Mickey” Marcus*

*Continued from page 14*

In the summer of 1944, Mick Marcus participated in the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, which framed the charter of the United Nations. In September, he attended the Roosevelt-Churchill Conference in Quebec. For his work at both meetings, Col. Marcus was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal---a very high honor for a judge advocate field grade officer since the decoration is usually awarded only to general officers.

After the war, Col. Marcus was transferred from Civil Affairs to Headquarters, US Forces, European Theater, where he worked on municipal government issues in occupied Germany. In July 1945, he was appointed as Deputy to the Assistant Military Governor in Berlin, where he worked closely with the French, British and Soviet representatives in the Four-Power Control Council. For his superb work, Marcus was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the newly created Army Commendation Ribbon. The British Government, incredibly impressed with his work, also awarded him the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Commander).

In February 1946, Marcus was called back to Washington to organize and operate the War Crimes Branch of the Civil Affairs Division. The head of the Division, Maj. Gen. John H. Hilldring, later said of Marcus:

I needed a man with an unusual combination of talents to head it up. Marcus was the man. In eight months, he recruited hundreds of judges, prosecutors, court officials, and lawyers for the war crimes trials.

Marcus, who also was responsible for supervising these war crimes courts, made a number of inspection trips to Germany, and one to the Philippines, Korea, Japan and China.

In 1946, as the Army demobilized, released Reserve officers from active duty, and re-organized into a Regular force, Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Greene, The Judge Advocate General, urged Marcus to apply for a Regular Army commission as a judge advocate. The result was that Mick Marcus was commissioned a major, JAGD, on July 5, 1946.

But a year later, Marcus decided to return to Brooklyn, N.Y. He resigned his Regular commission, accepted commission as a Col., JAGD Reserve Corps, and went into private law practice in Manhattan.

In 1947, the U.N. General Assembly voted a partition

of Palestine, but no military force was provided to carry out the plan. Israeli officials came to the U.S. to find a leader for their irregular forces who could transform them into a modern Army. They were told by many that Mickey Marcus was their man. When they found him, Marcus dropped everything, and left for Palestine in January 1948. (The United States gave Marcus permission to serve in Israel provided he disguised his identity and military record---consequently, Marcus arrived in Tel Aviv as “Michael Stone!”)

Working day and night, he established a training school for officers, supervised field training, and organized a general staff. Marcus returned to the U.S. in April, but, when the Arab states invaded Israel on May 15, 1948, Israel was ready on every front---thanks to Marcus’ hard work.

After the Arab attack the Israeli government begged Marcus to return to Israel to make sure that the plans he had made were properly carried out. He agreed, and, when he returned to Israel, Marcus was appointed a brigadier general and the supreme commander of Israeli forces on the Jerusalem front. When the Jewish section of Jerusalem was about to fall, Marcus ordered the construction of a road to bring additional men and materiel to successfully break the Arab siege just days before the U.N. negotiated a cease fire.

Sadly, Marcus never lived to see peace. On June 10, 1948, six hours before the cease fire was to take effect, Marcus was accidentally killed by a Jewish sentry who, not understanding Marcus’ response to his challenge, shot him with a single, fatal shot. He was only 47 years old, and his death was a great shock to all who knew him.

Marcus was the first general officer in the Israeli Army and the only graduate of West Point to die fighting for another nation. A Hollywood movie “Cast a Giant Shadow” (1966) tells the Mickey Marcus story (with Kirk Douglas playing the lead role), and he certainly will always be one of our Regiment’s most remarkable members.

***JWV's 115<sup>th</sup> Annual  
National Convention!***

***August 8 - 15, 2010  
Savannah, Georgia***

# Winners of JWV Educational Grants for Academic Year 2009-2010

The JWV Scholarship committee under the leadership of its Chairman, Steve Lodgen, faced the daunting task of selecting three winners from among the outstanding group of applicants for the JWV Educational Grants for Academic Year 2009-2010. All applicants for Educational Grants must be direct descendants of JWV members in good standing, be in the top 25% of their class, and be active in extra-curricular activities and in the Jewish community.

After difficult deliberations, the committee awarded the Bernard Rotberg Memorial Scholarship Fund grant of \$1,000 to Alexis Wise of Los Altos Hills, CA. The Louis S. Silvey Grant of \$750 went to Joel Goldman of

Merrick, NY, and the JWV Grant of \$500 was awarded to Matthew Spring of Westborough, MA.

We congratulate all of the winners, and wish them continued academic success as they begin their college careers.

Information on the competition for next year's grants to be awarded to outstanding high school seniors who will be attending 4-year colleges in the fall of 2010 will be available on our web site, [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org), or from National Headquarters at 1811 R St., NW, Washington, DC, 202-265-6280, ext. 504, or [cwaldman@jwv.org](mailto:cwaldman@jwv.org), by the end of 2009.

# JWV Announces 2009-2010 Olympiad Award Winners

The Jewish War Veterans of the USA is proud to present to a worthy High School Senior its Olympiad Award in memory of the Israeli athletes murdered at the Munich Olympics in 1972. All student athletes, whether or not they have ties to the Jewish community, are eligible for this award. The Olympiad Committee, under the leadership of Chairman Harry Ettlinger, has awarded three cash prizes to this year's winners.

The winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> prize award of \$1,000 is Travis Upham of Richardson, TX. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place award of \$300 goes to Alyssa Mayo of Bayville, NJ, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place

award of \$200 goes to Cindy Loaiza of Parsippany, NJ.

The achievements of each of these student athletes-leaders impressed the committee greatly, and the JWV wishes them the best as they begin their college careers.

Information on the competition for next year's awards will be available on our web site, [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org), or from National Headquarters at 1811 R St., NW, Washington, DC, 202-265-6280, ext. 504, or [cwaldman@jwv.org](mailto:cwaldman@jwv.org), by the end of 2009.

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

1. Publication Title: The Jewish Veteran

2. Publication Number: 0047-2018

3. Filing Date: Sept. 25, 2009

4. Issue Frequency: Winter, Spring, Summer, Autumn

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 4

6. Annual Subscription Price: \$7.50

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®):  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
1811 R St. NW  
Washington, DC 20009-1659

Contact Person: Cheryl Waldman  
Telephone (include area code): 202-265-6280

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer):  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
1811 R St. NW  
Washington, DC 20009-1659

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):  
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address):  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
1811 R St. NW  
Washington, DC 20009-1659  
Editor (Name and complete mailing address):  
Paul Bernstein  
1811 R St. NW  
Washington, DC 20009-1659  
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address):  
Cheryl Waldman  
1811 R St. NW  
Washington, DC 20009-1659

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)  
Full Name: Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
Complete Mailing Address: 1811 R St. NW  
Washington, DC 20009-1659

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box  None.  
Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Complete Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)  
 For-profit, not changed during preceding 12 months  
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 1 of 3) (Instructions Page 3) | PSN 7530-01-000-9931 | PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)

13. Publication Title: The Jewish Veteran

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: Summer 2009

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
		30,000	30,130
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above normal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	29,000	29,417
(2)	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above normal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		
(3)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		
(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)		
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		29,000	29,417
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
(2)	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
(3)	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	100	96
(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		100	96
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		29,100	29,513
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		900	617
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		30,000	30,130
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		99.00	99.00

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership  
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the Autumn 2009 issue of this publication.  Publication not required.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner  
Cheryl Waldman, Managing Editor  
Date: Sept. 25, 2009

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)



PDC Tom Shaw of Minnesota (at left) was honored by MN Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Clark Dyrod (at right) and the United Veterans Legislative Council for his dedication and service to helping veterans



Atlanta Post 112 donated a new grill to the Atlanta VA Medical Center Therapeutic Rehabilitation Activities program. Shown at the presentation from left are: Don Bloom, Myra Medintz, and Raymond Yarfitz.

## *San Antonio JWV Post Works to Identify Grave Sites of Jewish Veterans*

Post 753, San Antonio, TX, recently completed identifying the grave sites of Jewish veterans buried in San Antonio. The survey included the cemeteries of Temple Beth-El, Congregations Agudas Achim and Rodfi Sholom, a non-sectarian cemetery where one Jewish veteran is buried, as well as the three local VA cemeteries that come under the supervision of Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery (Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio National Cemetery and Kerrville National Cemetery). Of the three VA cemeteries only Ft. Sam Houston has identified Jewish Veterans buried within its grounds.

To date, the project has identified 465 grave sites (102 in the local Jewish cemeteries, 363 at Ft. Sam Houston and one at a local non-sectarian cemetery). As news of the project spreads among the San Antonio population, we expect more to be identified, particularly at the Jewish cemeteries.

How is the Post using this information?

First, Post members place a small American flag on each grave site not located in one of the national cemeteries (the VA takes care of placing flags on those graves) on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Second, the names of veterans buried in each Jewish cemetery are sent to the respective Temple and Synagogues, and the names of veterans buried at the national cemeteries plus the non-sectarian cemetery are sent to the Jewish Community Center. Each organization is asked to publish the names in their bulletin that comes out just before Memorial Day, along with a



Cemetery Committee Chairperson Herschel L. Sheiness placed a flag on Memorial Day on the grave of his cousin, CAPT Haskell Rabinowitz, who served in WWII and Korea.

request from JWV Post 753 asking everyone to take a moment on that day to remember all deceased veterans, and Jewish veterans in particular.

Third, the names will be sent to the Texas Jewish Historical Society for inclusion in the latest update of their publication, *Texas Jewish Burials*, now being compiled.

The information is also being sent to our own National Museum of American Jewish Military History for inclusion in the database of Jewish veterans' burial locations throughout the world.



Martin Levinson, Beth Kane, and Jack Lewis of the Kew-Forest-Woodside Loitz Post 250 (Forest Hills, NY) laid a wreath at Capt. Gerald McDonald Park on July 4, 2009.

The Korean Church Ministry recently honored Korean War veterans. Shown from left: San Fernando Valley Post 603's Martin Lipin, Harvey Glasheim, Maurice Starr, and PPC Seymour Bloom. Photo by Marvin Hirsch



PC Martin Levinson of the Kew Forest Post 250, Forest Hills, NY, was welcomed to Gracie Mansion by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg at a celebration of Jewish Heritage Month on May 19, 2009.

Sammy S. Weiner (center) recently received his decorations and awards, including the Prisoner of War Medal, from the National Archives and Records Administration. Sammy was shot down over German and was a POW for a year. He is a member of San Fernando Valley JWV Post 603 and is currently a patient at the Sepulveda VA Nursing Home. Shown with Sammy on the left is Mort Schechter, Commander of JWV Post 113, Los Angeles, and at right is Nathan Benjamin, Hospital Chairman of JWV Post 603.



Three Village Post 336 attended the annual Korean War Anniversary ceremonies on June 25 in Hauppauge, NY, where South Korean government officials thanked the United States for our participation in the War. Shown from left: PC Robert Sandberg, David Stein, Bernard Jacobs, Leon Margolis, and Harold Lilie.



Friedman-Paul Post 201, Tucson, AZ, donated eight large rocking chairs to the Tucson Veterans Hospital. Shown at the presentation, standing from left, are: Sam Stolts, Bob Epstein, Norman Bass, Murray Baker, Commander Irwin Brewster, and Alan Winner, seated.



Paul A. Rosenblum Post 44, Cleveland, OH, welcomed Dr. Murray Altose, Chief of Staff of the Stokes VA Hospital, as their guest speaker. Shown presenting Dr. Altose (center) with checks for the Hospital are Auxiliary President Bernice Rothman and Commander Sidney Wakser.



Members of Penny Whitman Post 300, Volusia/Flagler County, FL, attended Memorial Day Services. Shown from left are Quartermaster Stan Kates, PC Seymour Karens, Retired USAF General Will Hessert, Commander Donald Song, and Good and Welfare Chairman Aaron Weiss.



Commander Mort Beroza of Hempstead Post 312 representing the Nassau-Suffolk District Council presented a "Friend of the Veteran" award to real estate developer Wilbur Breslin, in honor of his major support for JWV.



Nathan Kline (at left) of Post 239, Allentown, PA, was honored by the Government of France in a ceremony in Paris in which he was named a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. He also attended the ceremonies at Omaha Beach commemorating the 65th anniversary of D-Day. He is shown being congratulated by (from left) Maury Berry, Jerome Ginsburg, and Norman Miller.



Comrades of Post 191, White Plains, NY, and its Ladies Auxiliary continued their more than 50 year tradition of assisting veterans at the FDR Veterans Administration Hospital at Montrose in Westchester County, NY. Shown at one of two cookouts held on the VA grounds this summer are, left to right, Milt Hoffman, Ralph Harrison, Marion Gordon, Roger Nadel, Sam Hassen, Herb Simon, Post Commander Aaron Silver and Herb Tenzer. Member Larry Barnett, also attended.



Members of Skokie Post 328 attended the Eagle Scout Honor Court for Bradley Gordon, grandson of Bill Gordon, Official Bugler for the Post and the Department of Illinois. Shown from left: Grandparents Florence and Bill Gordon, Eagle Scout Bradley Gordon, PDP Lillian Rovner, Morris Ferstein, PDC Harvey Saper, and Irma Spielberg.



Jewish service people from several commands and staff from the US Embassy in Afghanistan gathered in Kabul to celebrate Rosh Hashanah 5770. Kneeling in front is RDML (Sel) Paul Becker, USN (in Army uniform).



Melvin Kaplan, Commander of the LT James I. Platt Post 651, Fair Lawn, NJ) (at right) received a plaque from the Department of New Jersey at their annual convention as Commander of the year for 2008-09. Shown at left is incoming Department Commander Bernard Epworth

PNC David Hymes was Master of Ceremonies at the JWV Memorial Day Service in Shalom Memorial Park in Illinois where MG Julius Klein and PNC Herman Moses are buried. PNC Hymes (at left) is shown saluting at MG Klein's burial site. In the center is DC Jerome Berns, who delivered remarks at the ceremony.



## Post 755, Fort Worth, TX, Supports Local Veterans



On Sunday, September 27, Ron Slotter, Senior Vice Commander, Jewish War Veterans Post 755, Fort Worth presented a check to Nikkie Hatley, Executive Director of MHMR Visions to purchase bedroom furnishings for Liberty House, a project of MHMR Tarrant County and the VA that will provide 30 beds and transitional services for homeless veterans. Almost one-fourth of all homeless in Tarrant County are veterans, of whom nearly ninety per cent were honorably discharged.

According to Post Commander Julian Haber, other projects supported by Post 755 include welcoming service men and women returning to DFW Airport from Iraq and Afghanistan and Operation Freezer Pops, which distributed more than 3,000 popsicles to troops at Camp Taji, Iraq. The post has a "Mitzvah of the Month" project that has

provided magazines for the waiting room at the Fort Worth Veterans Clinic and will provide books and CDs for the library at the Dallas Veterans Hospital.

The Post also gives a copy of the book *They Were Soldiers in Peace and War* to Bar and Bat Mitzvahs of five congregations in the Tarrant and Denton County area. The book contains the stories of 54 North Texas veterans who served their country from World War II through today.

## Department at Large

Harvey Levine-99 • Milton Cohen-100 • Harold Jacobs-100 • Stanley Mand-100 • Leon Newman-100 • Martin Rabunsky-100 • Betty A. Sutnick-100

## Department of California

George L. Hecker-113 • Abraham Weiner-113 • Raymond Feinberg-118 • Stanley Misel-123 • Herbert Freinberg-152 • Harold Gorewit-385 • Jack J. Newman-385 • Sidney H. Chester-595 • Gerald Gess-617 • Sidney Glass-617 • Eugene Kramsky-617 • Herman Katz-688 • David G. Levy-688 • Daniel Morafka-688 • William Sandy-688 • William Guralnick-752

## Department of Connecticut

Herman S. Bercowetz-45 • Edward Herzig-56 • Paul Fine-92

## Department of Delaware

Gerald Goldberg-747

## Department of Florida

Irving Deutsch-177 • David Schlenger-177 • Hyman Herman-266 • Joel H. Nussman-266 • Joseph Young-266 • Nathan Zeitlin-266 • Murray Rubin-477 • Albert Shaffer-501 • Lawrence S. Katz-505 • Solomon Sackner-505 • Howard Lasher-506 • Marvin Fox-519 • Harold Ratner-520 • Edward Kerzner-606 • Rodney F. Felperin-631 • Mitchell A. Rosenfeld-639 • Fred Weinberg-639 • Albert Langweiler-684 • Philip I. Rothman-705 • Alvin Rose-778 • Frank Touby-780 • Everett Wolfson-780

## Department of Illinois

Abraham Lincoln Marovitz-710 • Burton Margolis-800 • Seymour Primer-800 • Asher Reizman-800

## Department of Iowa & Nebraska

Maurice I. Greenspan-260

## Department of Maryland

Marvin Levy-167 • Abraham Meyers-167 • Eddie Freedman-567 • David Schreiber-567 • Philip W. Deckelbaum-692 • Carl Schechter-692

## Department of Massachusetts

Russell Bernstein-26 • Alan F. Kaye-26 • George Stambovsky-26 • Samuel Freeland-32 • Leonard B. Price-32 • David A. Somers-35 • I. Glick-74 • Leonard Hamberg-74 • Meyer Garbarsky-140 • Daniel Miller-140 • Herman Mindlin-140 • Irving R. Snyder-154 • Samuel Walder-154 • Sumner Bortman-157 • Kurt M. Kolben-157 • Nathan W. Talbot-157 • Alfred Yonda-157 • Ben Goldenberg-161 • Lawrence Levine-211 • Fred Ross-211 • Herbert Braverman-735

## Department of Michigan

Irving Feldman-135 • Moe Handleman-135 • Howard A. Parven-474 • Herbert Rosenberg-510 • Julius Schluskel-510

## Department of Minnesota

Ben Blizen-162 • Sam Rosenthal-162 • Milton Smith-162 • James Dorfsman-354 • Norman Kozberg-354

## Department of Missouri/Kansas

Arthur Jaffe-346 • Bernard Levin-346 • Sidney Lefkovitz-605 • John Weil Uhlmann-605

## Department of Nevada

Morton Drexler-21 • Morey Friedman-21 • Frank Goodman-21

• Seymour Epstein-64 • Jos. Fogler-65 • Harvey Husney-65 • Samuel Roth-65 • Irving J. Schwartz-711

## Department of New Jersey

Maxwell M. Schneider-10 • Howard G. Sklower-10 • Stanley Crane-39 • Seymour M. Rosen-39 • Sam Daichman-43 • Albert Polinsky-76 • Robert Kaufman-78 • Lester E. Eiferman-126 • James H. Goodman-126 • Herbert L. Liftman-126 • George Solot-126 • Barry Weinberg-126 • Philip W. Rabinowitz-133 • Maxwell Cobert-146 • Sidney Gordon-178 • Kalman Roey-178 • Seymour Brody-213 • Irwin Levee-273 • Joseph Tammam-273 • Joseph Tordres-273 • Barney Miller-359 • Samuel Guberman-395 • David Bolson-498 • Al Schaffer-536 • Jack Hendler-569 • George Zellman-569 • Isidore Goldstein-609 • Stanley Kohnberg-609 • Howard Kronberg-609 • William Rabinowitz-609 • Ernest R. Kaufman-651 • Mort Goldman-657 • Seymour Posner-657 • Stanley Schaechter-657 • Jack Streich-689 • Robert H. Bacon-695 • Roy Geneslaw-695 • Fred Goldstein-695 • George Rosen-695 • Stanley Goldberg, MD-741 • Morton I. Levin-741 • Arnold Oshin-741 • Jack Jackel-773

## Department of New York

Irwin Bier-1 • David Minski-1 • Seymour Kugielska-2 • Herbert N. Schoen-2 • Martin R. Bates-25 • Harold Kaplan-41 • Melvin Shapiro-41 • Melvin H. Furman-42 • Abraham Kezner-42 • Stanley Rimler-42 • Harold Shields-42 • Maurice Gherman-50 • Walter Gelman-69 • Judah Rosenfeld-69 • Robert M. Stillman-69 • Charles Frank-105 • Harvey M. Friedman-105 • Harold Shugar-105 • David Kashdan-110 • Milton Bloom-129 • Marvin Malikow-131 • Leonard Newman-191 • Lester Edelman-250 • Frederic D. Camras-297 • Harold Nusbaum-335 • Edward Schwimmer-335 • Louis L. Stutman-389 • Samuel L. Srago-413 • Mark M. Kaplan-425 • Hal Rubenstein-425 • Roland Lesser-648 • Alvin Schnitzer-648 • Ira Goldfine-655 • Jerry Hellman-724 • B. M. Rosamofsky-758 • Meyer Mazon-764 • Michael P. Firestone-770

## Department of Ohio

Sanford Arnold-33 • Marvin Golden-33 • E. Kammer-33 • Morton Marks-33 • Jay Barron-44 • Samuel J. Burlin-44 • Lawrence D. Davis-44 • Merle Frieder-44 • Murray Haber-44 • Jack Lazarus-44 • Paul Nagelbush-44 • Irving Sheer-44 • Seymour H. Slater-44 • Sigmund Warner-44 • Jerry Wasserman-44 • Jerrold L. Lockshin-73 • Walter Baum-122 • Herbert Grossman-122 • Daniel Waitzman-122 • Alan Klein-248 • Aaron B. Peters-248 • Arvin Trope-248

## Department of Pennsylvania

Benson Polin-98 • Harold Engelmyer-165 • Alex Singer-165 • Manuel M. Gordon-212 • Arnold H. Nachlis-212 • Marvin Arkan-215 • Alan Benson-215 • Sidney Gottesfeld-215 • Edward Jaffe-215 • Emanuel Rasper-215 • Milton Berman-239 • Albert L. Wedner-499 • Alfred Beck-697 • Matthew Levenson-718

## Department of Rhode Island

Murray J. Cohen-369 • Albert J. Ross-533

## Department of the Southeast-GA/AL/SC/TN

Marvin Kaplan-112 • Sol J. Stein-112 • Joseph M. Slade-121 • Daniel Frankel-976

*Continued on next page*

# People and Places

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• Department Commander of Missouri-Kansas **Charles Sandroff**, PDC **Jack Lite**, and Department Quartermaster **Leslie Birenbaum** represented the National Commander at the memorial service for **1LT Roslyn L. Schulte**, who was killed recently in Afghanistan.

• Members of San Antonio, TX, **Post 753**, in conjunction with the San Antonio Jewish Federation, were volunteer hosts to over 200 people at the BAMC Warrior Support Center at Ft. Sam Houston. Among the volunteers were Frank Aleman, Marcy and Ken Ashworth, Irwin Barath, Leo Greenblum, Jeffry Hoffman, Jill and Joel Rosen, Emily and Ronnie Sparks, Joyce and Herschel Sheiness, Angelica Lomas, and Lucille Bexar Metrani.

• **Clarence Gomberg** of Pittsburgh, PA, a member of **JWV Post 499** and a member of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum participated in a recent program at the Hall for 130 ninth-grade students to learn about WWII. Mr. Gomberg served in a medical detachment on a hospital train and participated in the Battle of the Bulge.

• **Charles Finkelstein** of **Pvt. Robert H. Rafelson Post 431**, Michigan, participated in a trip to Washington, DC, sponsored by Honor Flight Michigan, an organization that stages one-day, all-expense-paid trips to fly WWII veterans to visit the memorial dedicated to them. Finkelstein served in the Asiatic Pacific Theatre in WWII.

• **PFC Joseph L. Bale Post 474**, Bloomfield Hills, MI, recently inducted Spanish-American War Veteran Benjamin Shiffman into its ranks. Earlier, Mr. Shiffman's service-related photographs, correspondence, scrapbooks and awards had been donated to the Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Township, MI.

• **Post 601**, Vineland, NJ, held its 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Olympiad Awards Breakfast at Beth Israel Congregation in Vineland, NJ. Awards were presented to the top scholar/athletes from the five county high schools by Post Awards Chairman **Sigmond Ronis**.

• **Howard Lasker** of **Post 105**, Albany, NY, a veteran of the Flying Tigers, has been named Veteran of the Year by the New York State Military Heritage Institute. He was the Commanding Officer of the 317<sup>th</sup> Fighter Control Squadron, part of the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force and received the Bronze Star and the Chinese Medal of Honor. He served for many years as JWV National Scouting Chairman and is now Co-Chairman Emeritus.

• **Post 692** member **Fred A. Kahn** was profiled on *The Huffington Post* web site on Aug. 25, 2009. Mr. Kahn, who had been a refugee from Nazi Germany, was highlighted as the person who had originally developed the idea of Presidential debates as a college student at the University of Maryland, which he attended on the G.I. Bill. Mr. Kahn,

who served in military intelligence in the U.S. Army, became a political economist who helped to create the Job Corps for the U. S. Office of Economic Opportunity.

• The Government of France has honored many veterans of WWII for their contributions to the liberation of France during WWII. Among those named as Chevaliers of the Legion of Honor are:

• **Sam Warm**, a long-time member of **Post 125**, Asbury Park, NJ. Mr. Warm, a member of General George Patton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Army, Hq. 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, the last major Nazi offensive against the Allies.

• **Robert Schatz** of **Chwatsky-Farber Post 717**, Oceanside, NY.

• PDC **Ralph Shear** of **Post 459**.

• **Arno Heller**, a Holocaust survivor who participated in the Invasion of Normandy.

• The **JWV Department of Delaware** recently contributed over \$2,000 to the Wilmington VA Medical Center. The funds were used to purchase a VitaGlide Pro Wheelchair Exercise Machine and Stamina InStride Cycle XL, both with accessories.

• **E. Edward Gerstein** has been honored by the Senate of the State of New Jersey for his longtime service to the community, including service to **Cherry Hill Post 126** of the JWV, the Mercer County Veterans Council, the New Jersey State Blood Bank, the Boy Scouts of America, the United Way, the March of Dimes, the Brotherhood Program and the J.F. Kennedy Memorial Concert.

• **Milton (Micky) P. Shayowitz**, of **Bell-Oak Post 648**, NY, was recently featured in *Snapshots*, published by the VA NY Harbor Health Care System. Mr. Shayowitz, who has been a volunteer at St. Albans Hospital for 26 years, recently assisted at a barbecue sponsored by the Nutrition and Food Service at the Hospital.

## Taps

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### Department of the Southwest AZ-NM

Eve Levine-201 • Gerd Strauss-201 • Norman Walter-210 • Stanley B. Berlin-619 • Jack Rzepnik-619 • Leo Schneider-619 • Bernard D. Shames-619

### Department of TALO

Rudolf Baum-256 • David Samuel Glassman-256 • Gerald S. Reisberg-256 • Max Rich-256 • Emanuel Glinky-580 • Joe Wilk-753 • Manuel Filreis-757 • Ralph S. Marvin-757 • Derald S. Rosen-757

### Department of VA/NC

Charles B. Levitin-158 • Leon S. Geoffrey-579

### Department of Wisconsin

Tibor Moses-145 • Marvin Lechter-487

## President's Message *By PNC David L. Magidson*

### THE NEXT TIME YOU, YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS ARE IN WASHINGTON, DC, VISIT OUR MUSEUM!

A few weeks ago I visited Washington DC, with a special person. The purpose of the trip, in part, was to show her the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. I “kvell” about our Museum, but I did not know what her reaction would be. I should have had more confidence in what our members have created and sustained.

We exited the red-line Dupont Circle subway and walked the two blocks to 18<sup>th</sup> Street. We looked up, and the street signs signaled with pride the name of our Museum and its direction. Several more feet and we were in front of a beautiful edifice, entitled “Jewish War Veterans of the USA/Memorial and Museum.”

We entered and immediately our view was channeled toward the exhibit halls. Rather than follow our eyes we proceeded to the Honorial Wall to pay homage to friends and family - some of whom were no longer with us.

Thereafter, we returned to the exhibit halls and met with Richard Rozenzweig, a docent, whose love for the

Museum is contagious. In intimate and researched detail he told us about Jewish Americans in the United States Military, and the role that the Jewish War Veterans of the USA played in our history.

He then took us on a tour of the first exhibit “Women in the Military.” While my friend relished the formal acknowledgement of female accomplishments, I wandered over to a photograph of fellow Post member Adah S. Jaffer, age 95. There she was leading her WAC jazz band during World War II.

Next were the emotional, visual exhibits of Jewish GI's liberating our brethren from the horror of the German Concentration Camps.

We then went downstairs and toured the Captain Joshua Goldberg Chapel, the Major General Julius

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## From the Archives *By Pamela Elbe, Collections Manager/Archivist NMAJMH*

Many people possess some sort of heirloom textile—be it their great-grandmother's handmade quilt, their grandfather's military uniform, or their mother's wedding gown. While many people have items such as these, how many of us actually take the necessary steps to preserve them for future generations? Here is some info that will help you do your part to preserve your family's history.

In addition to the normal wear and tear of use, all textiles become fragile with age and improper environmental conditions. Light, temperature, relative humidity, and air pollution (including airborne dust and dirt) promote deterioration. Deterioration can also be caused by insects, animals, molds and mildew, physical or mechanical stress, and improper repairs. Thus, it is necessary to handle, store and display textiles properly. As the owner, preventative care and maintenance are the most important things you can do.

When storing your textiles, choose an area that has a stable environment, such as the main living area in your home. Basements can be damp, causing mold and mildew, and invite insects such as silverfish. Attics are usually hot and dry, which will cause textiles to become brittle. The temperature and humidity level that is com-

fortable for you to live in is also the level best for your textiles. Keep your heirlooms in bedroom closets rather than attics or basements.

Ideally, all textiles should be stored flat. The goal is to protect your textiles from the stress of hanging while also providing a barrier from the environment (mainly dust and insects). A barrier can be made with acid-free materials (boxes and tissue paper), washed cotton muslin, or clean cotton sheets. If you do decide to hang clothing, pad the hanger (polyester batting covered by washed cotton muslin). Avoid using plastic storage materials (including dry cleaning bags) as most plastics are unstable and can release damaging fumes. Large textiles such as quilts and flags should be folded as few times as possible. At least once a year, check your textiles for insect infestations and re-fold them in different places.

If you decide to display your textiles, they must be protected from excessive light. Light, both artificial and sunlight, can cause fading of dyes and also destroy the structure of fibers, creating splits and tears. The damage caused by light is accumulative, irreversible, and often takes place slowly without being noticed before

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## Administratively Speaking

By Mary Westley, Assistant Administrator

Our summer months rolled by quickly and were filled with a special tribute to Dads and Zadies in the month of June,

noontime lectures on the American Jewish Military Experience in July, and in September a book signing by nationally known author Alison Buckholtz, a special visit from Post 167(MD), and a visit from Ring House (MD) and its sister senior center Revitz House (MD).

With the help of two summer interns, Sam Geselowitz and Kirsten Kersey, we were able to update our contact lists with a number of additional groups outside of the immediate metropolitan area, an active retiree group of historians, and friends and family of one of the famous “Ritchie Boys” from Camp Ritchie, Maryland.

The fall season is upon us and our calendar is once again filling up with museum tours and special events. The museum opened the season with a repeat tour from Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School, Northridge, CA, on October 20. The students enjoyed an afternoon of fun things to do at our museum – a museum exhibits’ treasure hunt quiz, having their pictures taken wearing

deaccessioned military uniforms, and presenting oral histories of their military family members.

On Veterans Day, November 11, children and their families from the religious school of Congregation Etz Hayim (Arlington, VA) also found fun with our museum treasure hunt quiz, had their pictures taken wearing our deaccessioned uniforms and presented oral histories of two military service personnel who are actively serving. We will share their stories with StoryCorps, one of the largest web/ public radio projects of its kind.

Also on Veterans Day, the Museum hosted a presentation -- ARTHUR SZYK: Soldier in Art. Rabbi Irvin Ungar of the Arthur Szyk Society (CA) introduced Szyk’s World War II art within its historical context with special emphasis on the moving works Szyk created especially for the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. We continue to provide a venue to and for local history groups, authors, lecturers, scholars, students and historians.

Do you have a group that would like to visit the Museum? Contact me at [mwestley@nmajmh.org](mailto:mwestley@nmajmh.org) for more information.

## Jerome Steigmann’s Donated World War II Dog Tags

By Mike Rugel, Collections Assistant, NMAJMH

The “H” on the front of PFC Jerome Steigmann’s Marine Corps dog tags labeled him as a Jew. The Magen David with the Hebrew word “Zion” on the back identified him as a Zionist. The star was designed as a pendant for a chain, but Steigmann affixed it to the back of his dog tag to make a statement about his belief in the need for a Jewish homeland. Steigmann wasn’t alone in carrying a Zionist emblem.



There are several dog tags with similar fixtures in the collection of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. For many Jewish servicemen, both secular and religious, Zionism represented an important part of their Jewish identity and wearing it on their ID

tags just made sense.

The realization of the state of Israel was about five years away when Steigmann was issued this dog tag. The British White Paper policy was still in effect, limiting Jewish immigration to Palestine. For many American Jews, knowledge of Nazi atrocities was growing as the war progressed, and the Zionist cause became linked to the war effort. Many Jewish Americans had enlisted specifically to fight for the cause of European Jews whose situation didn’t allow them to fight the Nazis for themselves.

For Steigmann, while fighting the Japanese in the Pacific, the star and the Hebrew characters may have reminded him of the European effort and the importance of the cause there. For the Zionist, creating a Jewish homeland was the logical solution to the problems in Europe. Countless American soldiers who went to Europe without commitment to the cause of a Jewish homeland became devoted to Zionism after seeing the condition of European Jewry in the wake of the Holocaust.

*Continued on page 29*

# Museum Member Profile: *Richard Rosenzweig*

“Good morning, welcome to our museum,” is the greeting with which I welcome visitors to the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, “our” museum.

Like many of you, I have always been interested in American history--wondering how a handful of men and women came together to create this magnificent country out of such a diverse mixture of immigrants!

Later, as I dealt with my own experience with anti-Semitism, I became curious about the American Jewish experience. I attended rallies in support of Jewish causes, starting with those against George Lincoln Rockwell, founder of the American Nazi Party, and the neo-Nazis, in Arlington, Va.; the vigil for Soviet Jewry near the Soviet Embassy; and in recent times, against the Palestinians and the Arab World’s determination to destroy Israel.

I served in the US Naval Submarine Reserves for eight years, from 1955 thru 1963, during which time I served aboard numerous submarines from New London, CT, to Key West, FL.

In 1968, I was approached by a friend to attend a meeting in our neighborhood, where I learned about an organization, the Jewish War Veterans. I had no idea of its history or goals, but joined and have been a member since. I was not very active, until I attended a meeting of Post 381 in 2000, when I was informed I was elected Post Commander.

In 2004, the Jewish War Veterans Department of D.C. sent me to my first National Convention in New Orleans. It was there that I met National Historian Albert Lerner.

As I listened to him, I learned he was not only a docent at the National Museum in Washington, but the

ONLY docent. I wondered who was going to carry on if something happened to this WWII vet. So began an extension of my volunteer career. I have truly enjoyed the past five years, learning from Al Lerner and others at the Museum about our incredible American Jewish Military History, intertwined with our American Jewish experience.

I have since met untold numbers of our members at NEC meetings, National Conventions, and, of course, through tours of our museum! The greatest satisfaction I receive is the appreciation of those visitors who remark at how wonderful our museum is and how much they learned about the American Jewish Military experience.

Through the Museum and the JWV, I have also had the pleasure of attending events at the Capitol Rotunda for Yom HaShoah, the Pentagon for POW-MIA Programs, the House and Senate Office Buildings to meet with our local Representatives and Senators, and representing the JWV at Gold Star Mothers’ and Wives’ events; carrying our National Flag at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day and Memorial Day; attending functions at the Israeli Embassy, the French Embassy, the State Department, the Embassy of Bosnia- Herzegovina, and the new Pentagon Chapel, at the spot where one of the hijacked airliners on 9-11 crashed into the building, for the dedication of a new Torah. This is a sampling of activities that are part of the scene in Washington!

Currently, we have only three part-time Docents at the Museum, who cover only part of our open daily hours. We sometimes have special tours on Sundays and evenings. It is our hope that others may come forward and volunteer, and in doing so, gain the same insights and enjoyment as I have.

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## President’s Message

*Continued from page 26*

Klein Collection, “A Mother’s Grief,” and “Hidden Treasures” of the Jewish War Veterans. In front of us was the “Tree of Honor,” (listing many of our current members) and to the side the video and illustrations of our 1933 JWV Protest March Against Nazi Germany.

Not to be forgotten is our, “HALL OF HEROES”--our remembrance of the sacrifice for our country, by the numerous Jewish Americans who have been presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor. My thoughts focused on the poster of a wonderful man, Tibor Rubin. I met Tibor for the first time at the White House four years ago, when, as National Commander, I witnessed Tibor formally and finally being justly honored.

We concluded our stay at the Museum by attend-

ing a review of the recent and highly successful book by Alison Buckholtz, “*Standing By: The Making of an American Military Family in Time of War.*”

Approximately 25 of us were enthralled as Alison described the effect on herself and her small children – on a Jewish Family – of the constant deployments of her husband, a Navy pilot.

If anything I have written interests you, please include the NATIONAL MUSEUM OF JEWISH MILITARY HISTORY the next time you, your family or friends visit Washington, DC. It could make you “kvell,” too. To arrange a tour of the Museum, please contact Mary Westley at 202-265-6280 x 511 or at [mwestley@jwv.org](mailto:mwestley@jwv.org).

# Open Letter to Comrades, Sisters, Members and Friends

## From Iris Goldwasser, Chairperson, Development Programs

At last reporting, prior to the National Convention, I reported that a total of 589 leaves and 11 acorns and stones had been inscribed on our Tree of Honor. I am happy to report that as of September 30, all leaves have been inscribed and the total raised is up to \$119,500.90. There are 2 small acorns (\$3000 each), 1 medium sized acorn (\$4000) and 2 medium sized stones (\$2000 each) that remain un-inscribed. Perhaps by the end of the 2009 calendar year those will be inscribed as well – thinking of an anniversary gift for someone who has everything? Why not buy that person a stone on our tree instead of a stone for a ring! All proceeds benefit the museum’s operating fund, and with tough times ahead – we need to be committed to making sure the doors remain open. Thank you

all for your dedicated efforts on the part of the museum.

I would also like to turn your attention to another program in need of your support. As you know the NMAJMH also hopes to include you and your family in the Memorial Candle Program. Similar to the Yahrzeit Computer program in that it memorializes a loved one, the Memorial Candle fund honors a deceased loved one by sending to the family a candle to be lit the evening before, as Jewish custom requires. There is no charge to participate in this program; however we do anticipate a donation that would benefit your museum and at the same time enable us to continue this service. To register your loved one in this program, please complete the form below.

### Memorial Project

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post/Aux \_\_\_\_\_

Deceased \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death (Jewish) \_\_\_\_\_ (English) \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year Month Day Year

Before or After Sunset? Y/N \_\_\_\_\_

*To Expedite Processing, Please Provide Full And Complete Information.*

## From the Archives

*Continued from page 26*

it is too late.

Of the different types of light, sunlight and fluorescent light can cause the most damage due to their high amounts of ultraviolet (UV) radiation. UV filtering film and sleeves are available from some retailers, but the easiest and most cost-efficient way to protect items is to avoid UV exposure. Keep curtains or shades drawn or use fewer artificial lights at lower wattage. No antique textile should ever be exposed to direct sunlight. Also consider limiting display time—hang great-grandmother’s quilt for a year, then let it rest in an acid-free box for two.

Finally, one of the most important was to preserve and item is to tell its story. Don’t leave your descendants

in the dark—identify the heirloom, record its condition, and take pictures. Explain what you know about the item and its owner or maker, and add the story to your family history. The story behind an object is almost more important than the object itself.

## World War II Dog Tags

*Continued from page 27*

Zionism also linked Jews in the American military with Jews throughout the world in a common cause. Military service provided the first exposure for many servicemen to the world and the Zionist cause. It reinforced Jewish identity and earned its place on the identifier issued by the military. A Marine, a Jew, and a Zionist: it can all be seen on the dog tag of PFC Jerome Steigmann.

# New Members

*The JWV welcomes our newest members to our fold. We hope you will join with us and participate in our many programs and activities.*

## Department at Large

Herman Chasin-100 • Don Douglas-100 • Sol Gabay-100 • Robert Michael Glasser-100 • Steve M. Goldsmith-100 • Michael J. Hoffman-100 • Ilene Kaplan-100 • James W. Petersen-100 • C. David Platkin-100 • Donald S. Rein-er-100 • Marvin Shindelman-100 • Burton D. Strumpf-100 • Jerry Zabel-100

## Department of California

Jack A. Levin-595 • Max Gordon-603 • Piotr Izdebski-603 • Kenneth Dorian Mayer-603 • Ned Moore-603 • Lew Silver-  
man-603 • David C. Redmond-617

## Department of Connecticut

Howard R. Hoffman-45 • Ronald M. Nadler-45

## Department of Delaware

Fay Galperin-525 • Bernard Freimark-747 • Jack Goldfed-  
er-747 • Martin Zukoff-767

## Department of District of Columbia

Avrom David Spevack-381

## Department of Florida

Maurice Beyer-199 • Lawrance K. Harris-202 • Daniel  
J. Fischer-243 • Herman R. Greenberg-373 • Harvey B.  
Charter-400 • Alvin Sirota-440 • Seymour Weinberg-440  
• Norman N. Bernstein-502 • Dowling F. Yon-505 • Mort  
Gelberd-519 • Monte J. Schwartz-519 • Marvin Fogel-549 •  
Donald A. Rozansky-549 • Thomas Alfred Wooster-639

## Department of Illinois

Irving F. Gordon-29 • Oscar Stewart-328 • Irving N.  
Stone-328 • Michael R. Lowenstein-407 • Lawrence B.  
Malis-407 • Charles M. Cohn-800

## Department of Maryland

Melvin Blatt-167 • Robert Becker-567 • Richard Blum-  
stein-567 • Gerald Ehrenstein-692 • Samuel J. Holtz-  
man-888

## Department of Massachusetts

Steven S. Greenwald-211 • David Lilly-211 • Alvin J. Fo-  
gel-220 • Paul J. Berber-735

## Department of Michigan

Leonard Louis Wolson-135 • Sydney Harris-333 • Wilbert  
Simkovitz-333 • Louis Wonboy-333 • Phillip Blinder-474

## Department of Missouri/Kansas

Erwin La Pine-605 • Rodney T. Minkin-605 • Seymour  
Robbins-605

## Department of New Jersey

Meyer Philip Diamond-125 • Sidney Marshall-125 • Wil-  
liam P. Hoffman-126 • Ryan McBeth-126 • Richard Mer-  
ritt Chopin-273 • Louis C. Miceli-536 • Harvey Braaf-569

• Victor J. Goldfarb-569 • Joe Schwartz-569 • Raymond  
Feld-609 • Stuart M. Bolkin-741 • Morrie Lieb-741 • Ber-  
nard Rotsky-741

## Department of New York

David A. Goldstein-1 • Charles Freeman-41 • Neil Rapp-  
41 • Harold Becker-46 • Leon Berliner-46 • Laurence  
A. Silverman-46 • Gerald Millman-068 • Bernard H.  
Slosberg-069 • Anthony T. Linsk-105 • Hatti L. Wang-  
105 • Harry Manis-191 • Paul N. Baer-336 • Howard A.  
Marwin-336 • Robert M. Bieber-425 • Manny Vider-488  
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# Happy Chanukah

**CMDR. Allan Abramson & Wife Sheila**  
*Happy Days and Good Health*

**PNC Louis & Gloria Abramson**  
Jerry & Sara Alperstein

**Howard M. Barmad • Post 76-NJ**  
*Chag Sameach*

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

**Pres. Adele & Cmdr. Stanton Bilker**  
Dept. of PA • *L'Chaim*

**PNatl. Adj. Izzy & PDP Harriet Brosbe**  
PDC Jack & Ruja Cohen • Post 749

**Harvey Deutsch**  
*In Honor of My Dad, a Loyal JWV*

**Sidney M. Gluck, Mesa, AZ**

**PPC Norman & Phyliss Goldberg • Post 98**

**Nat. Inspector Sidney & Fay Goldman**

**Irving & Dena Goldberg**

**Al Gorman, Post 128, AZ • Canada WW2**  
*A Happy & Healthy Holiday To All*



**National Officer of the Day**  
**Martin & Sandy Greenberg**

**PNC Sam & PNP Barb Greenberg**  
*Happy Holidays to All*

**PCC-PNEC Arthur H. Greenwald • Post 69**  
**PCP Mildred Pirkowsky • Aux 3**

**PDC Roland Greenwald • Holiday Greetings**

**Cmdr. Charles & Irene Greinsky**  
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**In Service to a Higher Calling**  
Larry & Debbie Holman

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**Beth Kane Wishes You Good Health**  
*Enjoy Your Health!*

**PPC Mel & Bernice Levine • Post 740**

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**PNC Ira & Shelley Novoselsky**  
*Happy Holidays*

**PNEC Mort & Shirley Ozur**  
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**LT. J. I. Platt Post 651 • Fairlawn, NJ**

**Ben Podger • Post 112, Atlanta**

**Queens County Council**  
*Queens, New York*

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



**Herb & Francie Rosenbleeth**  
*Happy Holiday to You and Yours!*

**Lillian Rovner, PDP • IL**

**Murray Runin, PDC/PNEC**

**Charles Greinsky & Martin Satloff**  
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## *Watch for exciting changes in 2010!*

Starting with the Winter 2010 issue, *The Jewish Veteran* will have a new look to go along with our new quarterly publication schedule. The magazine will be published in an 11"/14" newspaper size, on high-quality newsprint to ensure excellent photographic quality. All of the features you enjoy will still be included, and our increased page size will allow for even more news and information than we have had room for in our current format at a significant cost savings to JWV.

## *We want to hear from you!*

This is your magazine, and we want to hear from you! Please send us your suggestions for format, features, and content that you would like to see in the magazine. We can't guarantee that we will be able to use all of the suggestions, but, we will seek to make it responsive to your needs and desires.

## *Three ways you can send us your ideas*

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2

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