

The Florida Veteran



***Jewish War Veterans of the United States
Department of Florida***

**The Voice of the Department of Florida Jewish War
Veterans of the USA • Volume 2021, Issue 2**

DEPARTMENT MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

**ONLINE — MEETING BEGINS AT 9:00 AM
FOLLOWED BY SPECIAL IDF PRESENTATION AT 10:00 AM
(SEE TWO SEPARATE LINKS BELOW TO JOIN)**

9:00 Meeting Instructions via Zoom

To join the online meeting,
click the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5348041177?pwd=SHRqMU5BRkZkRk9wMFh6ZHhCYkw0UT09>

Online Meeting and Passcode:

Meeting ID: 534 804 1177

Passcode: 1JTpm2

If you plan on joining by phone (not recommended), you can find a phone number by clicking the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kd655A9QhX>

Telephonic Meeting and Passcode:

Meeting ID: 534 804 1177

Passcode: 874451

There are also apps you can download for your phone or tablet in the Google Play or Apple App Stores, if you prefer.

Hope to have everyone on the call for the Department of Florida Quarterly Meeting. And even though we are not physically together, breakfast does not have to be "Virtual" - you can really eat!

10:00 Special IDF Presentation Instructions (see page 4)

(DIFFERENT LINK THAN 9:00 AM MEETING)

via **Zoom**

To join the online meeting,
click the link below:

<https://ausa.zoom.us/j/94035248214?pwd=RW1kYnVvQk1FTkE5vQUxqNU9CVUdRdz09>

Important Links

(Click on the links below:)



- The Jewish Veteran, Vol. 75, No. 1 — 2021
- JWV Online Membership Application
- JWV Online Store
- Dept of Florida Online Donation Page
- Post Management/Forms

JWV FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Commander: Larry Jasper (373)

C: 813-404-5616 • lmjasper@reagan.com

Sr. V. Commander: Harvey Charter (400)

H: 239-561-6535 • hbcharter@aol.com

1st Jr. V. Commander: Steve Jockers (243)

H: 954-383-5317 • stephenjockers@bellsouth.net

2nd Jr. V. Commander: Bernard Nachimson (321)

H: 561-866-2218 • docknock713@yahoo.com

3rd Jr. V. Commander: Richard Berg (265)

C: 908-296-8648 • richaberg@gmail.com

4th Jr. V. Commander: Vacant

Judge Advocate: PNC David Magidson (243)

C: 305-775-3051 • dlmagid@hotmail.com

Adjutant: Jennifer Brande (243)

C: 201-281-8037 • jennifer.l.brande@gmail.com

Chaplain: Richard Berg (265)

C: 908-296-8648 • richaberg@gmail.com

Quartermaster: Ike Heller (243)

H: 954-435-8087 • ikeheller@gmail.com

Veteran's Service Officer: Gerald Rennert

C: 954-415-4050 • vaclaimspro2@aol.com

Chief of Staff: Michael Corbett (440)

H: 561-742-8016 • ocusmc@hotmail.com

Auxiliary President: Verna Rosenzweig

H: 954-426-1960 • vr5240@yahoo.com



FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

I am pleased to announce that the Department of Florida will once again be open for business! On Sunday June 6th, we will hold our Annual Department Convention live and in person. We have reserved the Delray Beach Golf Club for the event. We will be joined by our National Commander Jeff Sacks. You should have received information already and there is detailed information in this Newsletter. We will exercise cautionary measures at the convention even though most members will have been vaccinated by then. We will also make the convention available virtually for those who cannot attend in person. I encourage all members to try and attend – after this year long period of isolation it will be good to see one another.

Since we still have issues keeping some posts from holding meeting, all Post Commanders should ensure that periodic wellness checks are being made to keep up with their members during these difficult times. New rosters were sent in early April. Please have your Alpha Roster handy when these calls are made so you can verify your membership/patron data. Please be sure to forward any changes to me so the Department roster can be kept up to date. Many email addresses and phone numbers are missing or incorrect. I recently sent out emails to 466 members and had 58 returned as no longer valid.

We are always seeking new ways to recruit new members, but we must remember that it is equally important to retain those we have. During this pandemic, Nationally, many posts, and some Departments, have not conducted any meetings, in person or virtual. This will undoubtedly have an impact on retention now that it is time to renew annual membership. Please stay in contact with your members. If any commander needs assistance setting up a virtual meeting, please contact me.

The numbers on the latest roster for the Department are troubling. Our Department strength is down to 886. Of that number 538 are annual paying members and patrons. Of the 538, only 305 are current on their dues. This means we could potentially lose 233 members or 27% of our strength. We all need to reach out to those who are not current and see why.

At the January meeting I opened the nomination process for Department positions. All of the existing officers volunteered to stand for re-election. If anyone else is interesting in serving please be prepared to make your intentions known at the upcoming meeting. Leadership at all levels needs new blood to remain vibrant and the Department is no exception. The current officers have worked hard and I commended them for their dedication. But no one should remain in one position forever, so please consider stepping up to accept new challenges. Elections will be held at the upcoming convention.

Media Outreach Efforts

Please ask the leader of your local Shul/Temple/Congregation/Synagogue/Chabad/Jewish Community Center (JCC) or your Jewish community partners if they can add the The Jewish Veteran link on their organization website, newsletter, or on their electronic bulletin board.

Click here to access the latest issue of The Jewish Veteran.

DC's MESSAGE *(Continued from page 2)*

On Sunday April 25th, we will hold our next quarterly meeting. This one will be different. We will begin our meeting at 0900 and at 1000 we will be joining with the Suncoast Chapter of the AUSA (Association of the United States Army) on a Zoom call with BG (R) Gideon Avidor and others from the IDF. They will be in Israel. The presentation will be on the 1973 Yom Kippur War. This will be a hugely different presentation as it will be presented by those who were on the ground during the war.

BG Avidor has a BA in History from Tel-Aviv University and a MA from Haifa University in Geography. He graduated from the US Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) in 1978 and from the Israeli National Defence College in 1982. He participated at various levels in the 1967, 1973 and 1982 wars. Between 1983 and 1986, he served as the Israeli Ministry of Defense and the IDF Defense Adviser to Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines. He retired in 1999 after 42 years of service.

From 2007 to 2011 he established and managed the Institute for land Warfare Studies in Latrun and in 2012 he established and managed the Institute for Advanced military Thinking as a non-profit private organization.

At the time of the 1973 war he was the IDF G3. He will give an overview of the war then open it up to Q&A. He will be followed by former Battalion and/or Brigade Commanders who were in the fight both on the Golan Heights and the Sinai. Each will give a presentation of the battle on their front followed by a Q&A session. We will also have former commanders from Syria and Egypt who will give their perspective on the fight. The presentation will be in 2 parts. April 25th will involve the Northern Front, the Golan Heights. Part 2 will be on May 16th and will involve the Southern Front, the Suez Canal Campaign.

Our Department meeting on April 25th will be concise to accommodate the presentation.

I hope to see many of you on the virtual meeting on the 25th and in person at the June 6th convention.

L'Shalom,

Larry



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been a difficult year, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. With so many people now vaccinated, we are finally able to get together again. I can't wait to see all of you at our Department of Florida Convention on June 6 at the Delray Beach Golf Club.

Please fill in your menu choices and send to Ike Heller, with a check. Also, buy some raffle tickets. This is our only fundraiser. As Uncle Sam said, "We need you!"

Verna Rosenzweig DP
JWVA Department of Florida

**find us on
facebook**

JWV National:
<https://www.facebook.com/JewishWarVeterans>

State of Florida:
<https://www.facebook.com/floridajwv>

Jewish War Veterans of the USA
Department of Florida
Quarterly Meeting Agenda
April 25th, 2021



Opening of Meeting and Welcome:	DC Larry Jasper
Introduction of Guests & Visitors:	DC Larry Jasper
Roll Call	Jennifer Brande
Adjutant's Report	Jennifer Brande
Quartermaster's Report	Ike Heller
Committee Reports:	
National Policy Committee	PNC Ferdie
NEC	PNC Magidson
Trustees	Jules Golumbik
Archives	Debra Stern
National Convention	PNC Goldwasser
Any other committees to report	
Officer Reports:	
Department Commander	Larry Jasper
Sr. Vice Commander	Harvey Charter
1st Jr. Vice Commander	Steve Jockers
2nd Jr. Vice Commander	Bernard Nachimson
3rd Jr. Vice Commander	Richard Berg
Chief of Staff	PDC Michael Corbett
Veterans Service Officer	Gerald Rennert
Chaplain	Richard Berg
Old and Unfinished Business:	
1. Status of Membership	
New Business:	
1. Vote to Endorse Nomination of Alan Paley and Nelson Mellitz as NC and NVC, respectively	
2. Department Convention — June 6, 2021	
3. Presentation of Slate of Officers — Any Additional Nominations?	
4. Posts are encouraged to go to the cemeteries to put out flags for Memorial Day	
5. Any Other New Business	
Good and Welfare	
11 O'Clock Ceremony (To Be Conducted Early): We will mention the loss of any departed comrades since the last Department meeting.	
Closing Ceremony	DC Larry Jasper

Agenda is Subject to Change



Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America



Middle East War History Spotlight Series Yom Kippur War: History and Perspectives

Zoom Webinars – 25 April 2021 [1000-1330 EDT] and 16 May 2021 [1000-1330 EDT]

Battle Run (in Israel) – 15-23 May 2022

Featured Panelists Include:



Uri Simhony (MG. Ret., IDF)
Former Col. J3 – Northern Command



Hayim Danon (Ltc. Ret., IDF)
Former Major – Co. Tank Btn.,
679 Bde., Golan Heights



Avraham Bar David (BG. Ret., IDF)
Former Ltc. – Chief of Artillery,
Northern Command



Gideon Avidor (BG. Ret., IDF)
Former Ltc. – G3 252 Div.,
Sinai



Amram Mizra (MG. Ret., IDF)
Former Ltc. – 196th Btn.,
14th Bde., Sinai



Emanuel Sakal (MG. Ret., IDF)
Former Ltc. – 52nd Btn.,
401st Bde., Sinai



Pesach Maluvani (Col.)
Former Major – Intelligence Analyst,
Syrian and Egyptian Armies

**For more details, use the QR code,
or log onto www.jwv-fl.org/yom-kippur**



Zoom Links:

25 April — <https://ausa.zoom.us/j/94035248214?pwd=RW1kYnVWQk1FTE5vQUxqNU9CVUdRdz09>

16 May — <https://ausa.zoom.us/j/99025103708?pwd=MGIbZWZsbklNkl1NmlscVZwV3VFQT09>

Proudly Sponsored By:



DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA



The Committee to Elect:

PNC Ainslie Ferdie (1973)
Honorary Chairman

NEC (FI) Ike Heller
Post 243, FL
National Campaign Chairman

PNC Michael Berman
National Campaign Treasurer

Honorary Co-Chairmen
Past National Commanders

Ainslie Ferdie (1973)
Nathan Goldberg (1978)
Joseph Zoldan (1983)
Samuel Greenberg (1984)
Edwin Goldwasser (1986)
Herb Greff (1988)
Warren Dohy (1992)
David Hymes (1993)
Michael Berman (1998)
Monroe Mayer (1999)
Louis Abramson (2004)
David Magidson (2005)
Norman Rosenshein (2006)
Lawrence Shulman (2007)
Ira Novoselsky (2008)
Steven Zeltz (2010)
Alan Falk (2011)
Sheldon Ohren (2012)
Robert Pickard (2013)
Maxwell Colon (2014)
Jerry Blum (2015)
Carl Singer (2016)
Paul Warner (2017)
Barry Schneider (2018)
Harvey Weiner (2019)

Committee in formation

NC Jeffrey Sacks
NJA Peter Nickitas, MN
DC Larry Jasper, FL
DC Howard Goldstein, IL
DC Steve Markman, OH
DC Lou Michaels, MN
DC Larry Rosenthal, NJ
DC Jeff Blonder, MA
DC Floyd Williams, TALO
DC Monroe Ginsburg, Midwest
NEC Jules Golumbik, FL
NA Michael Corbett, FL
NEC Gerald Rennert, FL

Alan Paley / Nelson Mellitz

***National Commander / National Vice Commander
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America***

Dear Comrade:

This Committee, The Department of Florida, and The Department of New Jersey take pride in endorsing NVC Alan Paley for National Commander and NQM Nelson Mellitz for National Vice Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America for the year 2021-2022.



These endorsements are based on their service to JWV, the US Armed Forces, and their communities. Brief Biographies follow:

Alan Paley enlisted in the US Air Force in 1966 and served as a Weapons Specialist on Phantom F-4D fighter aircraft at bases in West Germany, Italy, and Libya. He joined New Jersey JWV Post 651 in 1968 as an in-service member.

Following his honorable discharge in 1970 he became active in JWV and rose through the ranks of his post becoming one of the youngest Post Commanders in JWV. In 1979 he was elected Bergen County (NJ) Council Commander. He relocated to Florida in the early 1980s and later transferred to Florida Post 606 serving as Post Commander from 1996 to 2016. While serving as Post Commander, he was elected Commander of Broward, Palm Beach County Council in 1999. In 2015 he was elected the Commander of the Department of Florida and served in that capacity until 2019. Since 2016 he has been the National Budget Chairman and in 2019 was also appointed as the National Adjutant. In 2020, Alan was elected to the newly created position of National Vice Commander. He is a life member of both JWV and NMAJMH and has over 51 years of continuous service to JWV.

In civilian life, Alan is the Chief Financial Officer of Overseas Cargo, Inc., a 3rd party logistics and warehouse service provider specializing in the handling, storage, and exportation of perishable goods. He has three children and one grandchild. Alan serves on the Executive Board of Temple Beth Torah Sha'aray Tzedek and served as Vice President of Finance/Treasurer for eight years. He was honored as the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs Man of the Year in 2015. In 2016, Alan was named Chief Financial Officer of the Year by the South Florida Business Journal.



Colonel Nelson L. Mellitz, USAF, Retired, continues an over 80-year family legacy of serving in the Jewish War Veteran (JWV) of the United States of America. Nelson and Debbie's family have been active members of the JWV since the late 1930's or early 1940's in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. They both have grandfathers, fathers, aunts, uncles, and cousins that have proudly served in the U.S. military during war and peace and later in the Jewish War Veterans.

Nelson served 32 years in the United States Air Force. He has been based at more than 13 different locations domestic and overseas, during five major wars and many other combat operations. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1970 as an E-1 and was assigned to a Civil Engineering Unit as a Site Development Specialist. Over the next nine and half years he was promoted to Master Sergeant (E-7). He was awarded a direct commission to 2nd Lieutenant in 1980 and assigned to the Acquisition Career field with a specialty in U.S. Government Contracting. Nelson was promoted to full Colonel in 1998. He has received over 20 military awards and decorations including the U.S. Ambassador to Iraqi Meritorious Citation.

Nelson has held many leadership positions in JWW: National Quartermaster and National Chief of Staff; Commander of Post 126, Council Commander, Department of N.J Commander, among others.

Nelson has received numerous JWW National, Department, and local awards: National Murray L. Rosen Award; Edward D. Blatt Award; National Department Commander of the Year; National Judge Lawrence Gubow Memorial Award – Americanism; NJ Post Commander of the Year; NJ Person of the Year; NJ Council Commander of the Year; JWW Post 1 - LT COL Epstein, Vietnam Veteran Award (pending).

Colonel Mellitz is Vice President of World Wide Business Operations for Land Sea Air Security, LLC. LSA Security markets proven military defensive equipment (i.e., drone catcher, electronic sea and land based invisible fencing). He has been married to Debbie Markowitz Mellitz from Pittsburgh for 41 years and they are the proud parents of two successful daughters.

This Committee requests your personal support and if within your means, monetary contribution, to bring this election campaign to victory at the National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana in August.

Yours in Comradeship,

Ike Heller

Ike Heller, NEC-FL
Campaign Chairman

Please submit the coupon on the attached page with your donation via check payable to:

Department of New Jersey

In care of: PNC Michael Berman, Esq.
Campaign Treasurer
PO Box 1447
Lakewood, NJ 08701

Committee to Elect Alan Paley, NC, and Nelson Mellitz, NVC

Check One:

_____ **Yes**, please add my name to the Committee.

_____ **No**, please do not use my name.

Enclosed is my/our contribution to the campaign in the amount of \$ _____

Name: _____ Post # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ - _____



Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America

Chartered by an Act of Congress

Department of Florida

JWV-FL.Org

Larry Jasper

Department Commander

4469 Keyes Avenue, Spring Hill, FL 34606-1664, lmjasper@reagan.com, 813-404-5616

J.W.V./J.W.V.A. DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA 2021 STATE CONVENTION

Sunday June 6, 2021 0900

Delray Beach Golf Club, 2200 Highland Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33445

From: Larry Jasper, Department of Florida Commander & Verna Rosenzweig, Florida Auxiliary President

To: All members of the JWV Department of Florida and JWV Florida Auxiliary

We are returning to normal! A sufficient number of members have been vaccinated to reduce the risk so we can have an in-person Convention this year. **However:** For additional safety, everyone will be required to wear a mask at all times except when seated for breakfast and lunch.

We will not have an ad journal for this convention.

Instead, to help offset costs we will conduct a 50-25-25 at the convention.

How this works: 50% will go to the Department; there will be 2 winners picked, each will split the remaining 50%.

You can purchase tickets in advance or at the Convention.

You do not have to be present to win.

There are 2 ways purchase tickets in advance:

1. By using the online payment method at floridajwv.square.site (not .com).
2. By mailing a check to our Quartermaster, Ike Heller, 9620 NW 28th Street, Hollywood, FL 33024-8501 made payable to JWV Dept of Florida.

The cost of the tickets are as follows:

\$5 each ticket

With 5 tickets, you will get an additional **3 free**.

With 10 tickets, you will get an additional **5 free**.

With 15 or more, you will receive **an equal amount free**.

The more tickets you buy, the better your chances to win!

You have to be in it to win it!

Please help support the Department by buying additional tickets.

"The Patriotic Voice of American Jewry – 125 years of Jewish Pride and American Patriotism"

J.W.V./J.W.V.A. DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

2021 STATE CONVENTION



75th Annual JWV
State Convention



69th Annual JWVA
State Convention

June 6, 2021

Delray Beach Golf Club

2200 Highland Avenue - Delray Beach, FL 33445

Total Convention Cost is \$29.00 including 2 meals

THE PLANNED MEAL PROGRAM INCLUDES

- Breakfast -** Coffee, Tea, Bagels, Butter and or Margarine and Cream Cheese
- Buffet Lunch -**
- 1. Delray Trio Salad** - Albacore tuna salad, egg salad and homemade chicken salad placed on a bed of mixed greens with alfalfa sprouts and choice of dressings. Fresh rolls and butter.
 - 2. Cobb Salad** - Iceberg lettuce with roast turkey, avocado, crumbled bleu cheese, shredded cheddar cheese, cherry tomatoes, hardboiled egg and ripe olives. Choice of dressing.
- *All lunch choices are served with fresh rolls and butter. Coffee, Decaf and Iced Tea.*
- Dessert -** Lemon Raspberry Mousse Cake or Fruit Cup
- If not staying for Lunch, there is a charge of \$6.00 for Breakfast.

ORDER FORM

PLEASE SEND IN FULL PAYMENT OF \$29.00 NO LATER THAN MAY 22, 2021

YOUR NAME _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____ **ZIP** _____

POST # _____ **AUXILIARY #** _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING _____

IF MORE THAN ONE PERSON IS ATTENDING, PLEASE INDICATE WHICH PERSON GETS WHICH MEAL

DELRAY TRIO SALAD* _____ **COBB SALAD** _____

DO YOU REQUIRE SUGAR FREE DESSERTS? _____ If so, for how many people? _____

DO YOU REQUIRE GLUTEN-FREE MEAL? _____ If so, for how many people? _____

BREAKFAST ONLY _____ (\$6.00)

Preferred Payment: Online at floridajwv.square.site (not ".com")

If paying by check, make checks payable to **JWV Dept of Florida**, and mail to:

Ike Heller, 9620 NW 28th St., Hollywood, FL 33024-8501

PLEASE MAKE FULL PAYMENT OF \$29.00 NO LATER THAN MAY 22, 2021

SAVE THE DATE!

JWV 126th Annual National Convention

August 15-20, 2021

Omni Royal Orleans Hotel
621 St. Louis St., New Orleans, LA

(504) 529-5333

**[https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/
new-orleans-royal-orleans](https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/new-orleans-royal-orleans)**

**For more information and details about
the Convention, click the link below:**

**[https://www.jwv.org/programs/building-
membership/national-convention/?mc_
cid=64878b2f25&mc_eid=4e1ac33944](https://www.jwv.org/programs/building-membership/national-convention/?mc_cid=64878b2f25&mc_eid=4e1ac33944)**

Registration Form is on next page.



Annual National Convention

August 15-20, 2021 • New Orleans, LA

Omni Royal Orleans Hotel • 621 St. Louis Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
www.omnihotels.com/hotels/new-orleans-royal-orleans



**Hotel registration
deadline is
Wed., July 7**

**A one night
(\$165/single or
double) deposit
is required for all
hotel registrations.**

**A 3-night minimum
stay is required.**

**Hotel reservations
must be made
through JWV.**

**There is a \$175
Convention
surcharge for
JWV members
not staying at
the hotel.**

**Local members
living within a 50
mile radius are
exempt.**

**JWVA events are
open to everyone!**

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

JWV Member Name: _____ Post #: _____

JWVA Member Name: _____ Aux. #: _____

Address: _____ Dept.: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Room will be shared with: _____

Arriving on: ____/____/____ Departing on: ____/____/____ Total nights: _____

Registration for both JWV + JWVA		Cost	QTY.	Amount
Rooms Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> 2 beds <i>Please note that handicap rooms will be assigned by JWV on an as needed priority.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I need a Handicap room.		\$165.00 per night		
JWV Member Convention Registration Fee		\$50.00		
Convention Surcharge for those not staying at the Hotel		\$175.00 per member		
National Commander's Banquet • Thurs, Aug. 19 _____ Beef/Chicken _____ Fish _____ Sugar-free Dessert		\$50.00 per person		
National Ladies Auxiliary Registration Fee		\$50.00 per member		
Partners' Club (\$50 new members/\$25 renewal) • Mon, Aug. 16		\$50.00		
		\$25.00		
National President's Reception and Banquet • Tues, Aug. 17 _____ Beef/Chicken _____ Fish _____ Sugar-free Dessert		\$50.00 per person		
Double Chai Club Breakfast • Wed, Aug 18 _____ This is my first Double Chai Breakfast _____ I already have 15 stones on my pin _____ I am happy with the Double Chai Pin I have now I have _____ on my pin and will need one more (15 stones max)		\$36.00 per person		
		<i>You don't need to belong to the Ladies Auxiliary to attend our Double Chai Breakfast. Everyone is welcome! You will have a great time!</i>		
Raffle Tickets	\$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00	JWVA		
Raffle Tickets	\$5.00 Each or 3 for \$10.00	JWV		
Total				
All events must be pre-paid in full		Amount paying now:		
I am paying by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover				
Card No. _____		Exp. ____/____/____		
Signature _____				



This year in Jerusalem!

JWV's 33rd Mission to Israel

November 28 - December 7, 2021



Join us on our 33rd Mission to Israel! Witness the wonderful achievements of this small Jewish country, America's friend and ally. We visit places other groups do not visit. Get updated briefings. Meet Israelis and their leaders. Enjoy fun and comradeship with fellow veterans. Feel at home! You do not have to be Jewish or a veteran to travel with us, so bring your family and friends!

ITINERARY

Sunday, November 28: Depart for an overnight, non-stop flight on ELAL from JFK or Newark. Dinner,



inflight entertainment, and breakfast on board.

Monday, November 29: We arrive in Israel, at Ben Gurion airport, near **Tel Aviv**. Transfer to your beach-front Tel Aviv hotel. If time permits – on the way to the hotel – a panoramic city tour. Check-in and rest.

- We meet for dinner at the hotel.

Tuesday, November 30: After enjoying a hearty Israeli breakfast, we visit the hidden underground bullet factory from the British mandate time. Afterwards we are hosted by **TZEVET** (The JWV of Israel) for an Israeli Defense Force (IDF) briefing and lunch. Afternoon visit to **Palmach Museum**. Palmach was the pre-1948 military force Israel built during the British mandate time.

- Dinner and overnight in our Tel Aviv hotel.

Wednesday, December 1: After breakfast we depart Tel Aviv towards **Latroun** – the armored corps memorial center. See Israeli-made Merkava tanks. We shall lay a wreath to honor those who fell on the defense of Israel. We reach **Jerusalem** and visit **Ammunition Hill**, site of the fiercest battle in Jerusalem during the Six Day War.

- Check-in and dinner at our Jerusalem hotel.

Thursday, December 2: Today we enjoy a city tour of Jerusalem. We will visit **Mount of Olives** (the



famous stunning view of Jerusalem), **Shrine of the Book at**

Israel Museum – home to the **Dead Sea Scrolls**, **Mt. Herzl National Memorial Center**, and **Bethlehem**, a special place for Christian guests.

- Dinner and overnight in our Jerusalem hotel.

Friday, December 3: Today we visit **Yad Vashem** holocaust museum. Enjoy **Machne Yehuda** market and get the special feeling of last-minute food shopping for Shabbat. Afternoon visit to the **Jewish Quarter**, ending at the **Kotel (Western Wall)** where we conduct a unique Kabbalat Shabbat service.

- Shabbat dinner and overnight in our Jerusalem hotel.



Saturday, December 4: – Today we leave Jerusalem and head towards the **Dead**



Sea and Masada.

Enjoy floating on the Dead Sea – full of natural healing properties. The mud here is nature's gift to your skin. Visit **Masada** – the palace fortress King Herod built and where hundreds of Jews preferred a group suicide rather than falling into Roman hands. We head north through the **Jordan Valley** towards our Tiberias hotel. (Shomer Shabbat will have a day of rest at the Jerusalem hotel and will be transferred after Shabbat).

- Dinner and overnight in our Tiberias hotel.

Sunday, December 5: We start at **Misgav Am** overlooking Lebanon. Listen to a special briefing about this fragile northern border of Israel. Proceed to the **Golan Heights**. Visit the battle fields of the Yom Kippur War and the new city of **Katzrin**. Afternoon visit to **Kfar Naum** – the synagogue where Jesus preached. If time permits, we end the day at the **Donna Gracia Museum** – a unique story of a 16th century woman returning home from the Spanish – Portuguese inquisition.

- Dinner and overnight in our Tiberias hotel.



Monday, December 6: Visit **Nazareth** – hometown of Jesus. Proceed to a tree planting site where each of us can plant a tree and get a certificate. Drive to **Haifa** to see the **Bahai Gardens** and arrive to your Herzeliya marina hotel for relaxation, rest, and dinner.

Tuesday, December 7: – Enjoy a delicious Israeli breakfast. Transfer to the airport for your flight back home.

Evening arrival in JFK or Newark.

Welcome home! You have just returned from a lifetime experience!

**For registration information,
click on the link below:**

<https://www.jwv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/33rd-Mission-to-Israel-2021.pdf>

This year in Jerusalem!

Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)

Address

City State Zipcode

Cell Home

E-mail:

I prefer to share a room with:

Military rank if you were in the military:

Are you a member of JWV? If so, what Post?

Are you an Allied veteran guest?

If yes, what organization do you represent and what is your position?

Is this your first trip to Israel? First trip with JWV?

So that we are able to accommodate your needs, please let us know of physical conditions or disabilities which may require special assistance.

Passport No.

Date of Birth: mm / dd / yyyy

Date Issued: mm / dd / yyyy Expiration Date: mm / dd / yyyy

Please send your completed registration form along with payment, signed release, and color copy of your passport to:

Jewish War Veterans of the USA
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009
Attn: Christy Turner

Passports must be valid at least until June 8, 2022

JWV's 33rd Annual Mission To Israel November 28 - December 7, 2021	Cost	Qty	Total
Basic Tour departing on EL AL from JFK-NY or Newark-NJ. * Airline seat upgrades will be subject to market rate.	\$3889.00		
Land Charge only (trip excluding air fare)	\$2995.00		
Single Supplement	\$890.00		
Travel Insurance - Insurance purchased when paying first deposit avoids limitations due to pre-existing medical conditions. Travel insurance is non-refundable.	\$174.00		
	Total Amount:		

If you pay by check:

• You may deduct \$155.00 from the Basic Tour

• You may deduct \$120.00 from the Land only

Final payment must be made by August 28, 2021, to take advantage of deduction. Discount will be applied to final payment.

Total Amount Due:

- A \$350.00 deposit is required at time of registration.
- 2nd payment of \$500.00 is due May 28, 2021.
- Full payment is due no later than August 28, 2021, to avoid a \$75.00 late fee charge.
- You can still sign up to travel with us after the final payment due date, but be advised that price is guaranteed until tickets are issued.

☐ I have read the tour brochure and agree to its conditions.

I am paying this amount today:

☐ I have enclosed a check

Please make check out to Jewish War Veterans

☐ Please charge my credit card for the amount of:

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card #: Exp: /

Cardholder Signature:

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Christy Turner at: ctturner@jwv.org • (202) 265-6280

If you would like to upgrade your airplane seat, contact Mary Craddock at Aviatours: mary@aviatours.net • (800) 950-0747 • (516) 867-2200

Jewish American Heritage Month begins May 1st. Every member should contact Jewish Organizations in their area to see what is planned and how they can involve JWV.



Membership Committee



Jewish War Veterans of the USA

JEWSH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH (JAHM)

Why JAHM? Understanding that recruiting for all JWV Posts is a local activity. Every JWV Post should plan to be an active partner participate in their local JAHM events. This is an ideal opportunity for name recognition and recruiting potential new members.

Jewish American Heritage Month is a month to celebrate the contributions Jewish Americans have made to America since they first arrived in New Amsterdam in 1654. Jewish American Heritage Month had its origins in 1980 when Congress passed Pub. L. 96-237 which authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating a week in April or May as Jewish Heritage Week. There is no one better than the local JWV Members to show that **"Jews Served."**

Annual Post/Department Requirements

Post Elections: Between January and April each year.

Department Elections: Held at Department Convention, warrant to National Attn: Harrison Heller following Department Convention.

Post Installations: Within 60 days of election; send Warrant to National Attn: Harrison Heller, due by end of **June**.

Financial Board Report: Sent to posts by end of February and returned to National Attn: Harrison Heller no later than **May 1st**.

990N: Sent to IRS with copy to National Attn: Harrison Heller by **May 1st** along with the Financial Board Report.

Fidelity Bond: Bill is sent by National to Post in December and payment is due by **February**. Send to National Attn: Christy Turner.

Liability Insurance: Can be purchased through National or separately and proof of insurance should be sent at the same time as the Financial Board Report by **May 1st** to National Attn: Christy Turner.

Dues update: is sent to posts and departments between April and June and needs to be returned before **July 1st** when dues are set for the year. Send to national Attn: Harrison Heller.

Membership Updates: Should be sent as they occur to the National Membership Department, Department Adjutant, and Department Commander and should include address, phone, and email updates; deaths; transfers; and post contact information.

Delegate form for National Convention: Sent to each post between May and June and needs to be returned to National Membership Department at least 15 days prior to the National Convention. Each post gets 1 delegate for every 10 members who are current on their dues status. Copy should be sent to Department Commander and Adjutant.

Report of Convention Form: Department submit to National Attn: Harrison Heller not later than 15 days prior to convention.



VA Now Has One Centralized Phone Number for all Customer Service

The agency currently has several dozen customer service lines, each set to address a different issue. That has now changed with the addition of the new single access telephone contact point that VA officials say will alleviate confusion and make it easier for veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors to reach a live agent that can provide assistance.

The new number is

800-MyVA411

(800-698-2411)

and provides a single access point to all VA contact centers. The number is available anytime 24/7/365. The other numbers are not going away. That means if you can't remember or lose the new number, the line you've been using for years to contact your desired division will still work.

Important Resources to Support Our Nation's Heroes

(Click on any of the links below or head to www.jwv-fl.org and click on the link at the top of the page.)

Courtesy of: Ryan MacKenzie from Thankyouveteran.com

Matching Career Options with Personality Types

Veterans Employment Assistance

Career Advice for Veterans: Interviewing Tips

What is a VA Home Loan?

Mortgage Assistance Programs for Veterans

Moving Companies with Military Discounts

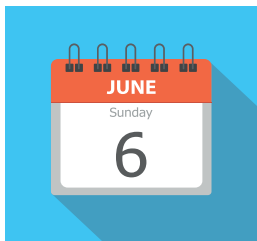
At-Home Services That Can Help Senior Veterans

Veterans' Health Care: Costs & Co-Payments

Military & Veterans Mental Health Issues

Counseling, Crisis Help, & Suicide Prevention for Our Military Community

75TH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA CONVENTION



@ 0900

**Meeting will be held in person
and via Zoom.**

As mentioned earlier, I am working with the AUSA and retired IDF members to bring an exciting presentation for our April meeting. This will be a firsthand look at the 1973 war from the Commanders who were on the ground. I plan to turn this into a recruiting event. I will very soon have a flyer developed and want every Post Commander to have it distributed to all Jewish entities in their area, inviting their members to join the presentation, thus giving us exposure and hopefully new members. I am planning to make this available to the entire JWV.

Help support the JWV with a USAA Visa Credit Card.



Go to JWV.org or USAA.com to apply.

JWV CELEBRATES 125 YEARS



2021 marks JWV's 125th anniversary. We are celebrating JWV every day this year with the #JWV125. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for fun facts about JWV history.

To celebrate this milestone, order the 125th Anniversary commemorative pin! The pins are \$5 each and a minimum of 5 pins per order is required. Post Commanders please consolidate your requests and e-mail or call Ben Kane at National: bkane@jwv.org; 202-448-5410.



Battle for Yemen Desert City Now a Key to Iran, US Tension



In this Feb. 2, 2018, file photo, Yemeni soldiers allied to the country's internationally recognized government stand guard in Marib, Yemen. (AP Photo/Jon Gambrell)

7 Apr 2021 | Associated Press | By JON GAMBRELL and ISABEL DEBRE

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The battle for an ancient desert city in war-torn Yemen has become a key to understanding wider tensions now inflaming the Middle East and the challenges facing any efforts by President Joe Biden's administration to shift U.S. troops out of the region.

Fighting has been raging in the mountains outside Marib as Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, who hold Yemen's capital of Sanaa, attempt to seize the city, which is crucial to the country's energy supplies.

Saudi Arabia, which has led a military coalition since 2015 backing Sanaa's exiled government, has launched airstrike after airstrike to blunt the Houthi advance toward Marib. The Houthis have retaliated with drone and missile attacks deep inside Saudi Arabia, roiling global oil markets.

The battle for Marib likely will determine the outline of any political settlement in Yemen's second civil war since the 1990s. If seized by the Houthis, the rebels can press that advantage in negotiations and even continue further south. If held, Yemen's internationally recognized government saves perhaps its only stronghold as secessionists challenge its authority elsewhere.

The fight also squeezes a pressure point on the most powerful

of America's Gulf Arab allies and ensnarls any U.S. return to Iran's nuclear deal. It even complicates efforts by Biden's administration to slowly shift the longtime mass U.S. military deployments to the Mideast to instead counter what it sees as the emerging threat of China and Russia.

Losing Marib would be "the final bullet in the head of the internationally recognized government," said Abdulghani al-Iryani, a senior researcher at the Sanaa Center for Strategic Studies. "You're looking at a generation of instability and humanitarian crisis. You also will look at a free-for-all theater for regional meddling."

Marib, 120 kilometers (75 miles) east of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, is now home to over 800,000 refugees fleeing the Houthis, according to the United Nations' refugee agency. The fighting disrupts their access to water, electricity, food and education for their children.

For a while, beginning in the fall of 2019, Saudi Arabia reached a detente with the Houthis, said Ahmed Nagi, a non-resident Yemen expert at the Carnegie Middle East Center. Citing two Houthi officials familiar with the discussions, Nagi said a back channel agreement saw both the Saudis and the rebels refrain from attacking populated areas.

But when the Houthis began to push again into Marib, the Saudis resumed a heavy bombing campaign.

For the Houthis, "they think they gain through war more than peace talks," Nagi said. For the Saudis, who increasingly signal they want an end to the conflict, "if they lose Marib, they'll have zero cards on the negotiating table."

Biden early in his term announced the U.S. would halt support for Saudi Arabia's offensive combat operations in Yemen, saying: "This war has to end." He also removed the Houthis from a list of "foreign terrorist organizations."

But fighting around Marib has only escalated. Iran's frustration over the Biden administration's failure to swiftly lift sanctions has contributed to "an intensification of attacks by groups in Iraq, and the same in Yemen," said Aniseh Bassiri Tabrizi, an Iran scholar at Britain's Royal United Services Institute.

"Iran is trying to deliver a message to the U.S.," Tabrizi said, "a message that the status quo is not sustainable."

Ukraine Urges NATO to Speed Membership in 'Signal' to Moscow



Map of Ukraine showing territory occupied by pro-Russian separatists in the east and Russian-annexed Crimea.

7 Apr 2021 | Agence France Presse | By Olga Shylenko

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday urged NATO to speed up his country's membership into the alliance, saying it was the only way to end fighting with pro-Russia separatists.

Zelensky spoke with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg after an increase in clashes and Russian military movements on the border raised fears of an escalation of the separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine.

In a tweet after the call, Zelensky said it was time for NATO to move forward with Ukraine's longstanding desire for membership. He said Kiev was committed to defence reforms requested by the alliance in exchange for membership.

"But reforms alone will not stop Russia," said Zelensky, whose government has said it hopes to be invited this year to join a NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP).

"NATO is the only way to end the war in Donbas. Ukraine's MAP will be a real signal for Russia."

Fears have been mounting of a major escalation of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, where government forces have battled separatists in the mainly Russian-speaking Donbas region since 2014.

Ukraine last week accused Russia of massing thousands of military personnel on its northern and eastern borders as well as on the Crimean peninsula annexed by Moscow.

The United States, the central power in NATO, stopped short of saying that Ukraine's membership had become more urgent and said Kiev must first complete reforms.

"We continue to urge the government of Ukraine to implement the deep, comprehensive and timely reforms necessary to build a more stable, democratic, prosperous and free country," State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters in Washington.

But he said President Joe Biden's administration supported the "open-door" policy of NATO and "the right of each sovereign country to choose for itself" whether to join the alliance.

Kiev's Western allies have rushed to its defense with a series of statements warning Russia against taking further action and seeking explanations for its troop buildup.

"We call on Russia to make their intentions more clear as to what they're doing with this array of forces along the border," Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told reporters. "NATO firmly supports Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We remain committed to our close partnership," he said.

The Kremlin has not denied the troop movements but insisted that Moscow was "not threatening anyone".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Tuesday that NATO membership for Ukraine would do no good in resolving the conflict.

"We very much doubt that this will help Ukraine settle its domestic problem," Peskov said. "From our point of view, it will only worsen the situation."

"If you ask the opinion of several million people living in the self-declared republics (in the east) you will see that for them NATO membership is deeply unacceptable," he said.

The reports of a Russian buildup follow a dramatic increase in clashes along the frontline in recent weeks, with Ukraine announcing new deaths of its soldiers almost daily.

At Ukrainian positions near Avdiivka on Tuesday, Kiev soldiers said that "retreat is not an option" in the event of an offensive.

"We'll kick the crap out of them", 35-year-old sergeant Vitaly, who goes by the nickname "Makhmud", told AFP.

Vitaly said that Western countries should stay alert because Russian President Vladimir Putin "wants to restore the USSR" and "Ukraine alone will not be enough for him."

Volodymyr, a 26-year-old soldier, said that the separatists had gone from firing "single shots" to now "systematically trying to destroy our positions" with shelling.

The conflict broke out in 2014 following Moscow's annexation of Crimea and has since claimed more than 13,000 lives.

The separatists are widely seen as having Russia's political and military backing, which Moscow denies.

Fighting had subsided before the recent outbreak of violence, with a ceasefire agreed last year having seen clashes drop to their lowest level in years.

Moscow and Kiev have accused each other of being behind the renewed clashes.

The Davao Dozen: How Americans First Learned About the Bataan Death March



The Bataan Death March. (Painting by Mukai Junkichi)

Military.com | By Blake Stilwell

On April 9, 1942, 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers who surrendered to the Imperial Japanese Army in the Philippines were forced to march more than 60 miles in the extreme heat of the Philippines. Hundreds of Americans and thousands of Filipinos died in the journey.

The reward for the survivors was brutal treatment in a Japanese prisoner of war camp for the next three years -- if they were lucky to live that long.

Americans back home might never have known about the harsh conditions for POWs in the Philippines if it weren't for 12 men who escaped from the enemy prison camp and made an arduous cross-country expedition to tell the world.

Japan invaded the Philippines just a few hours after it struck the Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor. With Japan in control of the Pacific, the American War Department focused on the Atlantic and the loss of U.S. aircraft in the Philippines, the island nation had little hope of repelling the invaders.

American and Filipino defenders did everything they could, but an estimated 75,000 defenders surrendered on April 9, 1942. The sheer number of prisoners overwhelmed the Japanese, who needed to move the POWs north but had no transport to do it. The Japanese Army forced those prisoners to walk 55 miles to San Fernando, hop on a train to Capas, then walk the remaining eight miles to Camp O'Donnell.

Not only did the Japanese have no transportation for the POWs, they also had no food, supplies or medicine. As they walked through the intense heat of the Philippines, the Japanese also prevented their prisoners from drinking water from nearby wells, killing anyone who tried to drink from them. Sometimes, they made the prisoners sit in the sun for hours.

If anyone dropped out of line during the march because of heat exhaustion, malnutrition or thirst, they were shot or bayoneted. Sometimes, they tortured, stabbed or outright killed prisoners for no reason.

Only 54,000 prisoners made it to Camp O'Donnell, which could be just as brutal as the walk there. There was one spigot of water for all 7,000 Americans at the camp, and the Japanese often turned it off to torture the prisoners. They were given one cup of rice gruel per day to sustain them, American doctors with no supplies and often had to sleep outdoors.

Some were transferred to other camps for use as slave labor, like the 969 POWs sent to Davao on the island Mindanao to work at a maximum security plantation called Dapecol. Ten of these men, representing the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Army Air Forces, were determined to escape the "escape-proof" prison by any means necessary.

They wanted to tell the world what happened to the prisoners who surrendered in the Philippines.

The POWs first recruited fellow prisoners who were natives of the islands. Since the camp was a prison before the war, there were plenty to choose from. The Americans selected two Filipinos who were serving life sentences for murder, Benigno de la Cruz and Victor Jumarong. They would help as guides and translators.

What made the prison escape proof in the eyes of their captors was that no one ever had done it. Getting outside the barbed-wire fence was just the beginning. The camp was surrounded by a deep, crocodile-infested swamp, then a thick, dark jungle allegedly filled with cannibalistic native tribes.

Along the way, escapees would have to contend with the insects, animals and deadly plants that come with the island's geography.

They began by surveilling the movements and habits of their Japanese guards, then they gathered supplies provided by the Filipino civilians who worked the camps. They bolted on a Sunday -- their day off work -- so they wouldn't be noticed as missing until Monday.

On Sunday, April 4, 1943, after the prisoners were sent to work in a rice paddy, the 12 men picked up their hoarded supplies and headed out into the swamps. After three days of moving through the chest-deep swamp and dense jungle, evading Japanese patrols and search parties the whole way, they were free.

It was the only time a large group of POWs escaped a Japanese prison camp in World War II.

But not only did they escape the prison, they linked up with Filipino guerrillas and made contact with the U.S. Army headquarters in Australia via radio.

The US Is Worried About its Critical Minerals Supply Chains, Which Are Essential for the Nation's Defense



A F-35A Lightning II jet fighter stands ready to depart RAF Fairford, England, for the United States on July 13, 2016. (Staff Sgt. Madelyn Brown/U.S. Air Force)

6 Apr 2021 | The Conversation | By Morgan Bazilian and Jordy Lee

(The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. Jordy Lee and Morgan Bazilian work at the Colorado School of Mines.)

When U.S. companies build military weapons systems, electric vehicle batteries, satellites and wind turbines, they rely heavily on a few dozen “critical minerals” -- many of which are mined and refined almost entirely by other countries. Building a single F-35A fighter jet, for example, requires at least 920 pounds of rare earth elements that come primarily from China.

That level of dependence on imports worries the U.S. government. Natural disasters, civil unrest, trade disputes and company failures can disrupt a mineral supply chain and the many products that depend on it -- making many critical minerals a national security priority.

The U.S. has increased its strategic planning and investment in reliable supply chains in recent years, particularly as China has moved to increase control over critical mineral exports, but the U.S.’s own mining and recycling of these minerals is still small. This is due in part to how environmentally destructive and polluting many mining and processing operations can be, but also because policy measures are only recently being explored and funded. The U.S. now has a review underway of critical mineral supply chains, and the Department of Energy recently pledged up to \$30 million, on top of funding included in the December pandemic aid package and a 2020 support package for mining.

Over the last 60 years, the U.S. has doubled the number of these minerals it is 100% reliant on other countries to provide. Of the 35 critical minerals identified by the U.S. in 2018, 28 are at least 50% imported.

The list today reflects the essential role that renewable energy, electric vehicles and advanced defense technologies have in the

U.S. economy -- and the specialized alloys, magnets and catalysts that enable them. These include batteries and electric motors, but also missile guidance systems, communications and even satellites.

Because of this, the Defense Department has been one of the strongest supporters for more resilient supply chains. In the last few years it has been proactive about strengthening domestic production, especially for rare earth elements. That includes new contracts with rare earth mining and production operations in California, Nebraska and Texas. The Defense Logistics Agency also has emergency stockpiles of 42 commodities with a market value of US\$1.1 billion at six different locations across the U.S.

Getting Serious About Supply Chains

The amounts of lithium, cobalt, graphene, indium and other critical minerals needed for low-carbon technologies alone are expected to increase anywhere from 100% to 1,000% by 2050.

These estimates are concerning on their own, but when combined with military needs, industrial needs and the decline of U.S. mining, it paints a troubling picture for U.S. supply shortages.

Countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, which made headlines in the past due to mineral sales that financed armed conflict, are not particularly appealing partners for U.S. companies. The DRC is responsible for producing more than 70% of the world’s cobalt, used in almost all rechargeable lithium ion batteries that power everything from cellphones and laptops to electric vehicles, and China has invested heavily in the region.

The ability of the United States to drive demand -- but hesitation to get involved with “risky” nations or commit to domestic production -- means the U.S. is reliant on countries that are more willing to accept those risks. China now controls 80% of the world’s lithium-ion battery material refining, 77% of the world’s battery cell capacity and 60% of the world’s battery component manufacturing.

How to Strengthen Critical Supply Chains

The U.S. can take several steps to avoid being left behind by shortages and to ensure a successful energy transition.

Expanding recycling and reuse of critical minerals can also increase sustainability and make minerals more available for U.S. use. One way to encourage recycling programs is to shift responsibility from waste managers to major producers like Apple and Samsung.

International agreements can also be written in ways that require responsible mining. U.S. companies, similarly, can do more to ensure that they aren’t purchasing from unsustainable sources or

Charles Coolidge, Medal of Honor Recipient Who Fought Boldly in WWII, Dead at 99

8 Apr 2021 | Military.com | By Stephen Losey

Charles Coolidge, one of the nation's most storied World War II veterans and a Medal of Honor recipient, has died at the age of 99.

Coolidge passed away Tuesday at Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee, while surrounded by his family, the Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center announced.

"Tennessee has lost a beloved son and one of its bravest men," Coolidge's grandson Brad wrote in the obituary posted by the center, also located in Chattanooga.

Before his death, Coolidge was the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient. There is now only one other living recipient who was recognized for actions during World War II, Iwo Jima veteran Marine Cpl. Hershel "Woody" Williams. According to the National World War II Museum's website, there were 473 Medal of Honor recipients from that war.

Coolidge, who was born in 1921 in Signal Mountain, Tennessee, served with the Army's 36th Infantry Division in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany as a technical sergeant during WWII. He received the Bronze Star and Silver Star in 1944 and the Medal of Honor the following year; in 2006, he was awarded France's highest honor, the Legion of Honor.



U.S. Army TSgt. Charles H. Coolidge, a World War II soldier from the 36th Infantry Division, received the Medal of Honor for valorous actions east of Belmont-sur-Buttant in France from October 24-27, 1944. *(Photo courtesy of the Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center)*

He joined the Army in June 1942, trained in Georgia, Alabama and North Carolina, and then deployed to the European front in spring 1943.

Coolidge was part of the first American division to invade Europe during the war. He took part in the ill-fated attempt to cross the Rapido River, and the fierce Battle of Monte Cassino in early 1944, as the Allies sought to take Rome from the Axis powers.

That May, he landed at Anzio along with the rest of the 36th and helped open the gates of Rome for the 5th Army, earning the Silver Star. His division was then pulled out of Italy. In August,

Charles H. Coolidge, the oldest living recipient of the Medal of Honor, is joined by U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. (Ret.) Kyle Carpenter, who is the youngest living Medal of Honor recipient on Feb. 22, 2020. *(Lt. Col. Randall Stillinger/U.S. Army)*



they redeployed to southern France and began marching toward the Siegfried Line, a notorious German defensive line riddled with thousands of bunkers and pillboxes.

In October 1944, Coolidge stepped up and took the lead during a fierce, four-day forest battle near the French village of Belmont-sur-Battant, for which he was later presented the Medal of Honor.

The fighting erupted on Oct. 24, as Coolidge led a section of heavy machine guns, supported by a platoon from Company K. His force was ordered to support the 3rd Battalion's action and cover its right flank, according to the citation for his award.

Coolidge and a sergeant from the company moved forward in the woods to reconnoiter positions to coordinate machine gun fires, when they ran into a large force of enemy infantry -- perhaps as much as an entire company, the citation states.

Vastly outnumbered and outgunned, Coolidge thought quickly -- and boldly. He tried to bluff the Germans with a show of confidence and called on them to surrender.

His audacious gambit didn't hold, though; the Germans opened fire. Coolidge returned fire with his carbine and wounded two of them.

With no officer present, Coolidge assumed command of the force, and they fought back. Many of those troops in the force were fresh replacements and were under fire for the first time. But Coolidge -- unfazed by the close-range enemy fire erupting around him -- rallied his jittery men, walking along the position, calming and encouraging them and directing their fire until that attack was repulsed.

The Germans hadn't given up, however. Later that day, through Oct. 26, they launched one attack after another on the group's position. All were foiled under Coolidge's leadership.

But on Oct. 27, the Germans began their most determined attack yet on the Americans' position, sending infantry supported by two tanks. The area was swept by small-arms, machine gun and tank fire.

Radio contact allowed three of them to connect with the submarine USS Trout and make their way back to Brisbane, where the Army first learned of the Bataan Death March, the conditions at Camp O'Donnell and the forced labor camps in the islands.

Only one of the men, Army Air Forces Lt. Leo A. Boelens, was killed by the Japanese. The other 11 men eventually were returned to the United States. The U.S. government kept the information quiet until January 1944, in time to arouse public outrage before the invasion of the Gilbert and Marshall Islands.

The story of the “Davao Dozen” stunned Americans at a time when they were beginning to get weary of the war without much good news on either front. War bond sales were boosted, as were new enlistments.

The invasion of the Gilbert and Marshall Islands became the first effort at a two-pronged, island-hopping campaign that wrecked Japan's ability to defend or resupply islands and put American B-29 bombers ever closer to the mainland.

Gen. Masaharu Homma, the Japanese commander who ordered the Bataan Death March, was arrested after the war and extradited to the Philippines. There, the U.S. Army gave him the most inexperienced lawyers it could find. He was convicted of 48 counts “violating the international rules of war” and executed by firing squad.

DEFENSE — from page 19

The U.S. can also expand its exploration for critical minerals. Rio Tinto recently announced plans for a new plant to recover tellurium, a critical mineral used in solar panels, from its copper refining operations in Utah. Lithium mining in the California desert has also started to attract investors, as have rare earth projects in Colorado and Nevada.

Discussions of clean energy technologies should also include industrial policy, such as how mines are permitted, funding for processing plants and advanced manufacturing research. How the U.S. shapes the path for critical minerals will have important consequences for everything from the environment to national security.

Once again, Coolidge took the lead. According to his citation, he armed himself with a bazooka and advanced to within 25 yards of the tanks. But his plan of attack hit a major snag: The bazooka failed.

Coolidge threw the busted bazooka aside and improvised. He grabbed as many hand grenades as he could carry and crawled forward, hurling grenade after grenade and inflicting heavy casualties on the advancing German infantry.

But Coolidge's men could hold out against the superior, tank-supported German force for only so long. When it became clear the Germans would overrun their position, the citation states that Coolidge -- “displaying great coolness and courage” -- organized his men into an orderly withdrawal. He was the last to leave the position.

“As a result of TSgt Coolidge's heroic and superior leadership, the mission of his combat group was accomplished throughout four days of continuous fighting against numerically superior enemy troops in rain and cold and amid dense woods,” his award citation reads.

After the war, Coolidge returned to Tennessee, got married and started a family. One of his three sons is retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Charles Coolidge Jr., who flew in Vietnam and served as vice commander of Air Force Materiel Command before his 2004 retirement.

His funeral will be held April 16 at First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga, with burial following at the National Cemetery of Chattanooga.

Telling the Story of the Jewish American Warrior



Chartered by an act of Congress in 1958, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, under the auspices of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., documents and preserves the contributions of Jewish Americans to the peace and freedom of the United States, educates the public concerning the courage, heroism and sacrifices made by Jewish Americans who served in the armed forces, and works to combat anti-Semitism.

The purpose of the Museum is to preserve a record of the patriotic contributions of the men and women of the Jewish faith who served during and between times of

war in the Armed Forces of the United States and as veterans thereof, from the time of the founding of this country to the present, for future generations by illustration through public education utilizing the Museum's collections for exhibits, publications, and educational programs.

The Museum was founded in 1958 by a group of Jewish War Veterans, who saw the value in telling the story of American Jewish Warriors. It is located at 1811 R Street NW, in the historic Dupont Circle area, and it is near the Dupont Circle Metro Station, as well as having a Capital Bikeshare station directly in front of the museum.

The Museum is open Monday through Friday 9-5, Sundays by appointment, and admission is free. If you wish to schedule a group tour, please call 202-265-6280 or email nmajmh@hmajmh.org. Membership information is below and also available at nmajmh.org.

HOW ABOUT JOINING OUR MUSEUM?

Many of you know that housed in the same building as JWV National headquarters in the National Museum of American Jewish Military History. Our museum is a separate entity, and membership in the Jewish War Veterans does not include membership in the museum. Many of our members do not know that.

JOIN THE MUSEUM

Please fill out the information below to get started on your NMAJMH membership. We appreciate your support and thank you for joining!

CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

- ☐ Student and Active Military Personnel.....\$10
- ☐ Single Membership.....\$25
- ☐ Three-Year Single Membership.....\$60
- ☐ Family.....\$36
- ☐ Friend.....\$50
- ☐ Single Sustaining.....\$75
- ☐ Guardian.....\$100
- ☐ Organization or Echelon.....\$100
- ☐ Life Member (Individual).....\$1000
- ☐ Life Member (Family - Member & Spouse).....\$1000
- ☐ Sponsor.....\$2500
- ☐ I am unable to join but wish to support the NMAJMH programs and enclose a contribution of \$ _____.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Member of: ☐ JWV Post # _____ ☐ JWVA # _____

Method of Payment

☐ Check Enclosed: Make payable to *NMAJMH*

☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

Please send your completed membership application to:

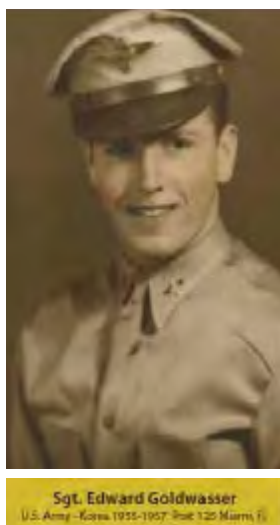
NMAJMH
Attn: Membership
1811 R Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009



Our Heroes Photos

For a **limited time only**, the NMAJMH is offering a special discount for you to honor your hero by including his or her photo on the **Our Heroes** photo display in the museum.

For only \$100, your hero's photo will be displayed for everyone to see that Jews serve with honor in defense of this nation. This is a savings of \$80 off the regular cost of \$180.



Display includes:

- 1 4" x 6" photo
B+W or color
- 1 Brass ID plate that lists your hero's:
 - Name
 - Branch of Service
 - Area of Service
 - Years of Service
 - JWV Post # and location(your hero does not need to be a JWV member to be included on the display)

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

PAYMENT: Make checks payable to NMAJMH or provide credit card information:

Credit Card # _____ Exp. _____ MC ___ VISA ___ DISC ___ AMEX

Name: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Area of Service: _____

Years of Service: _____

JWV Post: _____

Location of Post: _____

• Attach photo or email image to nmajmh@nmajmh.org



The National Museum of American Jewish Military History is creating a Deceased Registry of American Jewish Veterans and has requested the following information:

Veterans Name: _____

Date of Death: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Branch of Service: _____ Rank: _____

Conflict: _____ Male () Female ()

Cemetery Name: _____

Section #: _____ Grave/Plot #: _____

Cemetery City & State: _____

Killed in Action: () No () Yes

Home State when Enlisted: _____

Medals: _____

Jewish War Veteran: () No () Yes

Mail to:
Ms. Debra Stern
Apt. 601-D
5103 NW 35th Street
Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33319

Recruiting New Members and Patrons Is Everyone's Job!

Why you should join JWV

1. We support American military service and the contribution of Jews in the US Armed Forces.
2. We directly help, provide assistance to, and advocate for, ALL American veterans (all ages, races and creeds).
3. We strengthen the network of American Jewish servicemembers and build community.

JWV Membership provides:



- **Comradery** – connecting members and patrons through local Posts across the USA, in Israel and online
- **Network** to share and record the story of American Jewish military service; explore the greatest accomplishment of JWV, **The National Museum of American Jewish Military History**, in Washington, DC, to view the story!
- **Advocacy** for veteran rights and benefits, civil rights, and Jewish issues at all levels of government, including local veteran coalitions, state legislatures, and US Congress. JWV's National Executive Director is President of The Military Coalition, a collaborative lobbying group of 32 VSOs
- **Access to National Service Officers** that help you navigate the Department of Veterans Affairs, access your veteran benefits and assist in benefit disputes
- **The Jewish Veteran**, our national publication reporting on Jewish and veterans' issues
- **Financial services** through our long-standing partner USAA

JWV Services and Programs include:

- **A network of volunteers** – JWV volunteered 33,000 hours in over 80 VA facilities in 2016!
- Annual **Mission to Israel**
- Special **attention to active duty Jewish service persons** including donations of Jewish Bibles, ritual needs and foodstuffs to members of the Armed Forces
- **Education grants** for active duty and veterans, as well as qualifying descendants of JWV members
- **Fight for earned recognition**, awards, and medals for deserving service persons, including posthumous recognition
- Sponsorship of **Boy Scout Troops and Girl Scout Troops**; recognition of Eagle Scouts and Gold Award winners
- Graduation gifts and **recognition for military cadets**



To join, email membership@jwv.org or call (202) 265-6280!

To fill out an online application for membership, click here.

To fill out an paper application for patron status, click here.

HISTORICAL EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL

April 1: 1945 - US Forces land on Okinawa.
1968 - Operation Pegasus, the relief of the Marines at Khe Sanh.
1865 - Confederate troops of General Pick defeated at Five Forks, VA.
April 2: 1513 - Ponce De Leon landed at present-day St. Augustine.
1792 - Congress established first US Mint at Philadelphia.
1942 - India-Burma Campaign begins.
1982 - Falkland Islands War begins.
April 4: 1945 - North Apennines Campaign ends.
1949 - NATO created by 12 nations.
1968 - Martin Luther King, Jr., killed in Memphis, TN.
April 5: 1945 - Po Valley Campaign begins.
April 6: 1896 - First Olympics in 1,500 years held in Athens, Greece.
1917 - US enters WWI.
April 9: 1865 - General Robert E. Lee surrenders at Appomattox Court House, effectively ending Civil War.
1942 - US Forces on Bataan surrender.
April 10: 1945 - Nazi Concentration Camp at Buchenwald liberated.
1998 - War in Northern Ireland ends after 30 years.
April 12: 1861 - American Civil War begins at Fort Sumter.
1961 - Yuri Gagarin becomes 1st human in space.
1981 - Launching of first US Space Shuttle flight (Columbia).
April 14: 1865 - President Abraham Lincoln shot at Ford's Theater.
April 15: 1912 - Titanic sinks.
April 17: 1961 - Bay of Pigs.
April 18: 1942 - Doolittle raid on Tokyo.
April 19: 1755 - The "Shot Heard Around the World" began the American Revolution.
April 21: 1918 - The Red Baron (Manfred Von Richtofen shot down and killed).
April 23: 1959 - Israel's Knesset establishes Holocaust Day.
April 24: 1800 - Library of Congress established.
April 25: 2021 - **Department of Florida Quarterly Meeting and Part 1 of IDF Presentation.**
April 26: 1986 - Chernobyl nuclear plant meltdown.
April 28: 1945 - Dictator Benito Mussolini shot and killed, ending Fascist rule in Italy.
1952 - Occupation of Japan ends.
April 29: 1970 - US Forces invade Cambodia.
April 30: 1789 - George Washington sworn in as 1st US President in New York City.
1965 - US Forces invade Dominican Republic.

MAY

May 1: 1960 - Frances Gary Powers, in a U-2 Spy Plane, shot down over Russia.
May 2: 1945 - Axis forces in Italy surrender.
2011 - Osama Bin Laden killed by US Special Operations Forces in Pakistan.
May 4: 1970 - Shooting at Kent State University in Ohio.
May 5: 1955 - Occupation of Germany ends.
May 7: 1945 - German General Alfred Jodl signs unconditional surrender of all German forces.
May 8: 1945 - Second German surrender document signed because Joseph Stalin refused to recognize first.
May 9: Mother's Day.
May 11: 1969 - Battle of Hamburger Hill in Viet Nam began.

May 12: 1949 - Berlin air lift ends
May 13: 1943 - Axis forces surrender in North Africa..
May 14: 1942 - Act of Congress allows women to serve in non-combat roles in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Services (WAVES), Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and Semper Paratus Always Ready Service (SPARS), the women's reserve of the Marine Corps.
1948 - State of Israel declared.
May 17: 1792 - New York Stock Exchange established.
1875 - First Kentucky Derby run.
May 18: 1980 - Mt. St. Helens volcano in Washington State erupts for the first time since 1857.
May 20: 1927 - Charles Lindbergh took off from New York for the first solo flight to Paris.
1932 - Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.
1969 - Battle of Hamburger Hill ends.
May 21: 1881 - American Red Cross founded by Clara Barton.
May 24: 1844 - Samuel Morse sends the first telegraph message from Washington, DC, to Baltimore.
May 25: 1787 - Constitutional Convention begins in Philadelphia with delegates from seven states.
May 26: 1940 - Dunkirk evacuation began in order to evacuate British troops trapped by advancing German armies.
May 27: 1937 - Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco opens.
May 30: 1922 - The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, is dedicated.
May 31: Memorial Day — name changed from Decoration Day in 1917 to include dead from all American wars. Originally observed on May 30th. Congress passed the Uniform Holiday Act on June 28 1968, to change Holiday observances to a Monday, effective in 1971.

JUNE

June 4: 1989 - The Chinese government orders troops to open fire on protestors in Tiananmen Square.
June 5: 1968 - Robert F. Kennedy shot and mortally wounded in Los Angeles.
June 6: 2021 - **Department of Florida Annual Convention to take place at Delray Beach Golf Club.**
1944 - 77th Anniversary of D-Day invasion at Normandy, France.
June 11: 1994 - Soviet occupation of East Germany ends after 49 years.
June 13: 1966 - US Supreme Court establishes Miranda rights.
June 14: 1775 - US Army Birthday — established by 2nd Continental Congress.
1949 - Flag Day — John Adams introduced to Congress that a flag be established with 13 stripes and 13 stars; celebration established by Proclamation of Woodrow Wilson (1916), by Act of Congress.
June 17: 1972 - Watergate break-in, which led to the eventual resignation of President Richard Nixon.
June 20: 1782 - US Congress officially adopted the Great Seal of the United States of America.
June 25: 1876 - Custer's Last Stand at Little Big Horn — 250 soldiers attacked 2,000-4,000 Indians.
1950 - Korean War began as North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel.
June 26: 1945 - UN Charter signed in San Francisco by 50 nations.
June 28: 1919 - Treaty of Versailles signed formally, ending WWI.