



The Jewish Veteran

A Jewish Voice for Veterans and a Veteran's Voice for Jews

Facing Aging And Covid, Jewish Veterans Stay The Course, As They Did During Wartime

By Heather Robinson, Jewish News Syndicate
When they were young, some stormed the beaches, taking the fight to the enemy; some liberated Nazi concentration camps in Western Europe and forever bear the scars of having witnessed man's worst inhumanity to man. Still others sailed ships, sent radio signals, fixed machines and trained their fellow service members at home or overseas.

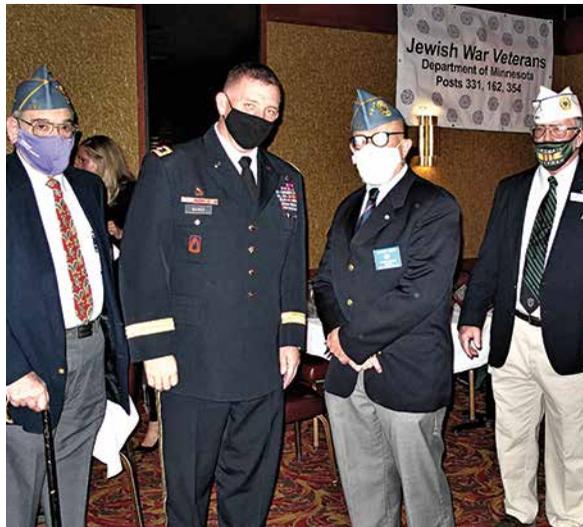
This Veterans Day, Jewish soldiers, sailors and Marines who served in World War II and Korea are, if they are still alive, in their late 80s, 90s and 100s, which makes them statistically at the highest risk of complications from COVID-19. With this in mind, JNS spoke with some Jewish veterans to hear stories of their service and how they are coping with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Having reached the winter of their lives, some are living with family and others in assisted-living facilities. Some still have surviving wives; others are alone. One recently died, but only after having beaten COVID-19.

All pride themselves on their ability to cope with the rigors of life, including the virus that has made the past seven months difficult and kept them from activities and family members.

Warren Dolny, 92, of Boynton Beach, Fla., a past national commander of Jewish War Veterans of America—the oldest continuously operating veteran service organization in the country—lives with his wife of 71 years, Violet, in a retirement community.

A former Marine, he served as a radio operator during the Korean War, communicating with



Department of Minnesota 75th Anniversary Celebration. From Left: JWV Chief of Staff Robert Nussbaum, Major General of the Minnesota National Guard Shawn Menke, JWV National Commander Jeffrey Sacks, and Department Commander of Wisconsin Kim Queen.

other Marines in combat overseas from his base at USMC Camp Lejeune, N.C. Dolny says he is dealing with the pandemic by “listening to what scientists have to say. I’m not completely quarantined, but we’re wearing masks and distancing.”

Thanks to their daughter, who decamped to their apartment from New York City and has stayed with the couple since March, Dolny doesn’t have to grocery shop, but says the threat of COVID-19 coupled with difficulty walking “doesn’t stop me from getting around”—by scooter. “If I have to go

out, I go out,” he says.

Dolny, who has three children, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, praised the racial integration of America’s armed forces when he served active duty in 1952 and 1953, in addition to the sense of camaraderie that Marines feel.

“We did the most to give our lives to our country, and unfortunately, some do give their lives,” he says.

Irving Rosenblum, 91, former JWV department commander for Minnesota, and his wife of 63 years, Toby, live independently in a condominium in Saint Louis Park, a suburb of Minneapolis. Retired from the furniture business, Rosenblum, who served in the National Guard and then the Army during the Korean War, regrets not being able to attend synagogue during these trying times.

“I have always gone to synagogue,” he shares, but because seniors are more vulnerable to the virus, “the rabbi told me to stay home.”

He and his wife have three children, five grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren scattered around the world, mostly in Israel.

Rosenblum hasn’t let COVID-19 stop him from getting out; in particular, he enjoyed last month’s Jewish War Veterans Department of Minnesota 75th annual membership dinner at Mancini’s Char House in Saint Paul, where he said attendees distanced, wore masks and had a blast.

“We invited everyone,” he said. “We sat not too close together, and as far as I know, everyone is healthy.”

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JWV Disaster Relief Makes A Difference

By Greg Lee

The evening of September 8, 2020 started out fairly routine here in the mountains of Northern California. We even checked the status of the wildfires in our area by visiting the local Fire Chief at the Station.

The fire was miles away and three crews were on it, so we figured there wasn’t much chance of it reaching my location anytime soon. So, we went

home, made dinner, and turned in early when the sun set at 8:30 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m. what sounded like a jet aircraft making low flybys disrupted my light sleep. I went outside to check things out. There were no aircraft, but the winds were whipping up. Soon I heard the sound of loud explosions.

I’m not a stranger to the sounds of exploding propane tanks, vehicle gas tanks, and power trans-

formers. I quickly jumped on my motorcycle and did a local recon. Everything seemed fine.

The only fire I could see was miles away and not an immediate threat.

But I didn’t know that officials were igniting back fires in our community. I’m not sure why they would light fires in high winds, and naturally, they soon got out of control.

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JWV IN THE COMMUNITY



On October 25, the **Department of Wisconsin** honored the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center (HERC) for its support of Jewish veterans and their activities. From Left: Ron Laux, Judy O'Hara, Arleen Peltz, and Kim Queen.



JWV and the South Jersey Men's Club continued its 30-year tradition of sending Hanukkah cards to Jewish men and women in the military. Michael Perloff and Nelson Mellitz are holding some of the 400 cards they sent U.S. service members and the Israeli Defense Forces as part of Operation Maccabee. Since 1990, JWV and the SJMC have sent more than 10,000 cards as part of this project.



Members of **Sharon, Massachusetts Post 735** attended a Veterans Day event in their town. Special markers were unveiled and dedicated to all branches of the U.S. Armed Services. From Left: Jeffrey Weitzenkorn, Sherman Palan, Paul Maltzman, and Warren Anastasia.

Department of Minnesota Celebrates 75th Anniversary



Members of the 2020 Class of the Senior Royalty of the Saint Paul Winter Carnival at the Knighting of National Commander Jeff Sacks and Chief of Staff Robert Nussbaum (Courtesy: Lou Michaels)

By Lou Michaels

The Department of Minnesota celebrated its 75th anniversary with a dinner at Mancini's Steakhouse in St. Paul, Minnesota on Wednesday, October 28. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, strict CDC guidelines were followed, including a restriction on the number of guests who attended in person. There were 85 people who attended the dinner in the main room, 25 in an outside room, and many more via Zoom.

JWV National Judge Advocate Peter Nickitas served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event which Department of Minnesota Commander Lou Michaels organized. The Department Chaplain Irving Rosenbloom offered opening and closing prayers.

A number of distinguished guests were pres-

ent in person, including National Commander Jeff Sacks, National Chief of Staff Robert Nussbaum, Department of Wisconsin Commander Kim Queen, Minnesota National Guard Adjutant General Shaun Menke, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Herke, DAV National Commander Stephen Whitehead, AMVETS State of Minnesota Commander John Flores, American Legion State of Minnesota Commander Mark Dovrak, Minnesota State Senator Sandy Pappas, and Prime Minister of the Winter Carnival Royal House of Spire Joe Johnston.

During the event, the Department received proclamations in honor of its 75th anniversary from St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter and Governor Tim Walz.

Royalty from the St. Paul Winter Carnival,

established in 1886, bestowed honors on some of the distinguished guests by "knighting" Sacks and Nussbaum. Sacks is the third consecutive National Commander to attend the annual dinner and receive this honor.

The day also happened to be Sacks' birthday and we celebrated by presenting him with a large cake at the close of dinner.



National Commander Jeff Sacks Cuts the first piece of his birthday cake. (Courtesy: Lou Michaels)