

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 2022, Issue 3**

DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022 SILVER LAKES CLUBHOUSE 13035 Lakehurst Ct., Ft. Myers, FL 33913

Note: Silver Lakes is located in Gateway Area. The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM. Breakfast will be served beginning at 9:30 AM for those attending in person.

Directions:

From the North:

Head SOUTH on Interstate 75 to EXIT #138 -- FL 82. Head EAST (Left) onto FL 82. Make a RIGHT TURN onto Griffin Drive and continue past the traffic circle. Make a RIGHT TURN onto Lakeland Circle, and make the next LEFT TURN to stay on Lakeland Circle. Make a RIGHT TURN onto Lakehurst Ct., and the destination will be on the RIGHT SIDE.

From the South:

Head NORTH on Interstate 75 to EXIT #131 -- DANIELS PKWY. Head EAST (Right) onto DANIELS PKWY. Turn LEFT onto Gateway Blvd. Continue through the traffic circle until turning RIGHT onto Griffin Drive. Turn LEFT onto Lakeland Circle, and continue LEFT to stay on Lakeland Circle. Make a RIGHT TURN onto Lakehurst Ct., and the destination will be on the RIGHT SIDE.

10:00 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/5348041177>

**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.

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FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

We are finally able to hold a meeting on the West Coast of Florida! I hope many of those who normally attend department meetings on the East Coast will make the trip to Fort Myers.

JWV, at least the Department of Florida, will also be making a trip to Capitol Hill on May 4th to meet with Florida Congressional and Senate members. If you are interested in joining the delegation, please let me know. This will be in conjunction with the museum and dinner to be held on May 5th.

As most of you know, Herb Rosenbleeth served as JWV's National Executive Director for many years. Herb was our voice on Capitol Hill as well as managing our national staff. Herb recently retired and we will honor him at the dinner on May 5th. Earlier that day we will attend the opening of the Vietnam War Exhibit at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

The Florida Legislature, in the recently closed session, passed 17 bills into law which funded projects that benefit veterans. These totaled over 10 million dollars to support veterans. A list of these is included in this newsletter.

The Florida Veterans Council, on which I represent JWV, has been instrumental in getting many pieces of veteran legislation introduced and passed. We meet monthly when the legislature is preparing and meeting, and every other month in between sessions. We also take a trip to Tallahassee every year to meet with legislators and make our collective voices heard.

The Fire Watch is an organization in Florida dedicated to reducing veteran suicide. They provide free training to anyone, especially veterans, to teach how to identify a veteran who may be in crisis. The training also teaches what you should do to help defuse an immediate situation. The training is free, it is virtual, and you can find more information and the training at:

<https://www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers> or at:
https://learn.psycharmor.org/courses/fire-watch-for-civilians-veteran-champion?th__ug=1fafbc4d

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.

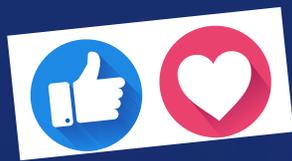
Important Links

(Click on the links below:)



- The Jewish Veteran, Vol. 76, No. 1— 2022
- JWV Online Membership Application
- JWV Online Store
- Dept of Florida Online Donation Page
- Post Management/Forms

If you encounter a Veteran who is struggling, call the Veteran Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and select option 1



find us on
facebook

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

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

DC's MESSAGE — from page 2

I encourage everyone to sign up for the training. You never know when you may face a situation where you can save a life.

It is time for elections, Not national, for the department. Please consider volunteering for a position. Every organization needs to have “new blood” on an ongoing basis in order to survive. We are no different. The current officers of the department have done a tremendous job, especially dealing with all the issues surrounding Covid. I would be pleased to have all of them remain in their positions, but I am sure many of them would be glad to see fresh faces step up. At the upcoming meeting we will accept nominations. If you are unable to attend and would like to be considered for a position let me know. Elections will be held at the Department Convention in June.

Mark your calendar for the Department of Florida Annual Convention to be held in Delray Beach on June 26th.

The National Convention will be held in Savannah, GA, August 7-12. This year will be a first – the convention will be offered in person as well as virtual. Details will be coming soon. At the convention we will elect our new National Commander and National Vice Commander. So far, the names placed in nomination are NVC Nelson Mellitz from New Jersey for National Commander and PDC Barry Lischinsky from Massachusetts for National Vice Commander. Plan to attend if you can!

Hope to see many of you in Fort Myers!

L'Shalom,

Larry

Distracted driving crashes resulted in 333 fatalities in 2021 – the highest recorded in Florida in at least 8 years.

More than 56,000 distracted driving crashes happened last year in Florida alone, and 75% of those crashes were caused by the driver being inattentive behind the wheel. On average, there were more than 1,000 distracted driving crashes every week across our state last year.



DID YOU KNOW?

Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Department of Florida Quarterly Meeting Agenda

April 10th, 2022



Opening of Meeting and Welcome:	DC Larry Jasper
Opening Prayer	Chaplain Richard Berg
Introduction of Officers and Guests:	DC Larry Jasper
Roll Call	Jennifer Brande
Quartermaster's Report	Ike Heller
Committee Reports:	
National Policy Committee	PNC Ferdie
NEC	PNC Magidson
Trustees	Jules Golumbik
Archives	Debra Stern
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
4th Jr. Vice Commander	Rabbi Mark Golub
Chief of Staff	PDC Michael Corbett
Veterans Service Officer	Gerald Rennert
Chaplain	Chaplain Richard Berg
Department Endorsement of Candidates for NC and NVC	DC Larry Jasper
11 O'Clock Ceremony:	PNC David Magidson
	Chaplain Richard Berg
	DC Larry Jasper
Old and Unfinished Business:	
1. National Consituion and By-Laws	
2. Convention Site Selection	
3. 2022 National Membership Contest	
4. Any Other:	All
New Business:	DC Larry Jasper
1. Nominations for Department Officers	PNC Ainslee Ferdie/DC Larry Jasper
2 Fire Watch	DC Larry Jasper
3. Our Community Salutes	DC Larry Jasper
4. May 4th and 5th in D.C.	PNC David Magidson/DC Larry Jasper
5. Merger of Post 440 into Post 321; Name to be: Steinberg Erven Post 321?	PDC Michael Corbett/ Bernard Nachimson
6. Merger of Post 265 into Post 606; Name to be: West Broward Post 606?	Richard Berg/Gerald Rennert
7. Next Meeting — Department Convention and Elections, June 26, 2022 — Delray Beach Golf Club	
8. National Convention — August 7-12 in Savannah, GA	
9. Any Additional New Business	All
Good and Welfare	All
Closing Ceremony	DC Larry Jasper

Agenda is Subject to Change

Why Israel Is Mediating Between Russia, Ukraine

6 Mar 2022 | Associated Press | By TIA GOLDENBERG

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — With his surprise visit to Moscow, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett is assuming the unlikely role of mediator between Russia and Ukraine.

Bennett, who has helmed the country for less than a year and is largely untested on the world stage, positioned Israel in an uncomfortable middle ground between Russia and Ukraine in the lead up to the war, creating a launching pad from which to emerge as a player in diplomatic efforts.

But wading into international mediation in the midst of war could be a minefield for Israel. It relies on its ties with the Kremlin for security coordination in Syria, and with Moscow sitting at the negotiating table with Iran over its nuclear program, Israel cannot afford to anger President Vladimir Putin. What's more, it's unclear whether the efforts, said to have been coordinated with the U.S., will bear fruit.

Bennett came to power last year as part of a pact by eight ideologically disparate parties bent on ousting former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

A religious Jew who made millions in the country's hi-tech sector, Bennett has served in various Cabinet positions in the past but lacks the charisma and the international experience of his predecessor. Mediating between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Putin, a former KGB agent, will test him like never before.

Opponents at home see Bennett's rule as illegitimate because they disapprove of the way he was brought to power and public opinion has in recent months not been in his favor. Additional criticism mounted in the lead-up to Russia's war with Ukraine over Bennett's reticence to censure Russia — breaking with Israel's allies in the West who were stepping up sanctions.

While Bennett repeatedly expressed his support for the Ukrainian people, he stopped short of condemning Russia's invasion.

As Western sanctions mounted, Bennett was maintaining contact with both Putin and Zelenskyy, who reportedly asked Bennett to begin mediating between the sides. With his visit to Moscow, he became the only Western leader to meet the Russian president since the war erupted.

His involvement in such a high-profile, high stakes conflict



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett chairs a cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem, Sunday, March 6, 2022. (Ronen Zvulun/Pool via AP)

could breathe life into his political fortunes.

Israel is one of the few countries that has good working relations with both Russia and Ukraine. It has delivered 100 tons of humanitarian aid to the country and has announced it will be setting up a field hospital there. Ukraine is also home to some 200,000 Jews, hundreds of whom have already fled to Israel, with many more expected.

If Israel's outreach morphs into outright mediation, Israel will have to maintain that neutral position, breaking from the West, even if Russia's onslaught intensifies. Any wrong move and relations with Putin could sour. If talks fail, Bennett could appear to have been outsmarted by Putin's cunning and could be blamed for the conflict having worsened.

Hours after returning from his trip, Bennett told his Cabinet that it was Israel's moral duty to step in, "even if the chance is not great." With that, a country that has traditionally been a beneficiary of international mediation with the Palestinians and Arab nations was inching toward becoming the mediator.

Russia's Invasion Drives NATO Rethink of Europe Force Stance

16 Mar 2022 | Associated Press | By Lorne Cook

BRUSSELS — In an underground archive below NATO's headquarters lies a key document that sets out the vision of both NATO and Russia about their future ties, as it was shaped almost a quarter of a century ago. The room is sealed. White gloves must be worn to handle the text.

“NATO and Russia do not consider each other as adversaries. They share the goal of overcoming the vestiges of earlier confrontation and competition and of strengthening mutual trust and cooperation,” reads the preamble of the NATO-Russia Founding Act, signed in May 1997.

Things looked brighter then, less than a decade after the Iron Curtain collapsed and relations between Moscow and the West had thawed. Today, with thousands of Ukrainians sheltering in bunkers across the country and with millions forced from their homes, the document appears to be a dead letter.

Lamenting Russia's “brutal invasion” of Ukraine, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that Europe's biggest land war in decades will “change our security environment” and will have “long-lasting consequences for our security, and for all NATO allies.”

In talks at NATO's Brussels headquarters, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and his counterparts are weighing what defenses to set up on the organization's eastern flank, from Estonia in the north through Latvia, Lithuania and Poland down to Bulgaria and Romania on the Black Sea.

The aim is to deter President Vladimir Putin from ordering an invasion any of the 30 allies; not just for the duration of



A police helicopter flies over NATO member country flags during a meeting of NATO defense ministers at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Wednesday, March 16, 2022. (AP Photo/Olivier Matthys)

this war but for the next 5-10 years. Before launching it, Putin had demanded that NATO stop expanding and withdraw its forces from the east. The opposite is happening.

“We are reinforcing our collective defense – hundreds of thousands of troops on heightened alert, 100,000 U.S. troops in Europe, and then 40,000 troops under direct NATO command, mostly in the eastern part of the alliance, supported by naval and air forces,” Stoltenberg said.

The ministers are expected to task NATO military commanders with drawing up options for stationing troops more permanently and in greater number in the east – unlike the rotating battle groups totaling around 5,000 troops that were deployed to the Baltic states and Poland in recent years.

Those options will be studied by NATO leaders at their next major summit in Madrid in June.

**JWV Department of Florida
Convention
in Delray Beach**



American Veterans Joining the Ukrainian Army May Run Afoul of Federal Law and Could Lose Benefits or US Citizenship

11 Mar 2022 | Military.com | By Sean Timmons

The opinions expressed in this op-ed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Military.com. If you would like to submit your own commentary, please send your article to opinions@military.com for consideration.

Sean Timmons is the managing partner of Tully Rinckey PLLC's Houston office, concentrating his practice on military law.

Since the Russian Federation launched, in its words, a "special military operation" on Feb. 24, there has been a steady stream of footage of heartbreaking mass atrocities inflicted by the invading Russian military. Much of the world has looked on in shock. These are unfolding events the world has not seen coming out of Europe since the tragic collapse and disintegration of Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

Many American veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have had sleepless nights, filled with intense anxiety from viewing the ongoing atrocities. In response to calls from Ukrainian officials for foreign fighters to join a newly formed foreign legion, many American veterans have shown interest in joining the fight in Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has ordered a temporary lift on visas for foreign fighters and has taken to social media to actively encourage everyone with military experience and training willing to join his countrymen to help his nation resist the Russian war effort.

But do American veterans risk losing their earned benefits by joining a foreign army? The answer, sadly, is yes.

A key limitation on the participation of retired United States military personnel is found in the Constitution itself. It lies in Article I, Section 9, Clause 8. This constitutional provision, known in American legal doctrine as the "Emoluments Clause," specifically prohibits any person "holding any office of profit or trust" in the federal government from accepting any gift, emolument, office or title of any kind from any king, prince or foreign state without the consent of Congress.

As interpreted by the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel, the Emoluments Clause prohibits the receipt of any form of compensation, including consulting fees, gifts, travel expenses, honoraria or salary by all retired military personnel -- officer and enlisted, regular and Reserve -- from a foreign government unless Congress consents. Consent, arguably, is provided by Congress in 37 U.S.C. § 908, which has delegated approval to the military branches and requires advance consent from the relevant service secretary and the secretary of state before accepting anything from any foreign government.

This limitation would apply equally to United States military veterans agreeing to fight for Ukraine, Russia or any other country engaged in any other armed conflict around the world.



Ukrainian servicemen attend a training session outside Kharkiv, Ukraine, Friday, March 11, 2022. (AP Photo/Andrew Marienko)

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has given the smaller nation's embassy in Washington an unexpected role: recruitment center for Americans who want to join the fight. (Associated Press)

Fullscreen

Thus far Ukraine has said that it will not offer to compensate Americans who join its new foreign legion, but that position could well change.

Additionally, receipt of retirement pay from the United States government is conditioned on maintaining citizenship and availability to be recalled in the event of a national emergency. Fighting for a foreign government in some limited circumstances can result in the loss of American citizenship, imperiling those benefits.

Furthermore, the Department of Defense may suspend retirement pay up to the amount of any foreign salary earned or obtained as a result of fighting for a foreign government, such as Ukraine.

Congress could pass legislation making an exception to this rule prohibiting military retirees and veterans from active foreign armed conflict participation to specifically encourage American military veterans to fight for Ukraine; however, the prospect of Russian soldiers being killed by skilled American combat veterans may be seen as an escalation and provocation of the existing conflict and could drag America closer to an actual war with Russia.

Additionally, there are significant security clearance implications and other potential legal issues for veterans who might join the fight. Many may wish to fight for Ukraine, but they must consider whether to forfeit their ability to pay the rent or mortgage for their own family in America. Those same veterans should consider whether to risk their retirement benefits and request permission before voluntarily deploying to assist.

China Says Military Development of Islands Within its Rights

22 Mar 2022 | Associated Press

BEIJING — China on Tuesday said it has the right to develop South China Sea islands as it sees fit in the wake of U.S. accusations that it has fully militarized at least three of several islands it built

Aquilino said the hostile actions were in stark contrast to Chinese President Xi Jinping's past assurances that Beijing would not transform the artificial islands in contested waters into military bases. The efforts were part of China's flexing of its military



An airstrip made by China is seen beside structures and buildings at the man-made island on Mischief Reef at the Spratlys group of islands in the South China Sea are seen on Sunday March 20, 2022. (AP Photo/ Aaron Favila)

in the disputed waterway in violation of a previous commitment.

China's deployment of "necessary national defense facilities on its own territory is a right entitled to every sovereign country and is in line with international law, which is beyond reproach," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters at a daily briefing.

U.S. military activities in the area aimed to "stir up trouble and make provocations," Wang said. "That seriously threatens the sovereignty and security of coastal countries and undermines the order and navigation safety in the South China Sea."

U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander Adm. John C. Aquilino said China had armed the islands with anti-ship and anti-aircraft missile systems, laser and jamming equipment, and fighter jets, in an increasingly aggressive move that threatens all nations operating nearby.

muscle, he said.

China claims as its own territory virtually the entire South China Sea, home to fish stocks and undersea minerals, along with sea lanes through which an estimated \$5 trillion in global trade travels each year.

China refuses to acknowledge claims from five other governments to some or all of the waterway and dismissed the findings of a U.N.-backed arbitration tribunal that invalidated China's sweeping historical claims under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The fully militarized islands are among seven China has constructed in recent years by piling sand and concrete atop coral reefs, causing heavy damage to the marine environment.

China War a Disaster Regardless of Outcome, Taiwan Minister Says

10 Mar 2022 | Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — A conflict with China, which threatens to invade Taiwan, would be a disaster for all sides regardless of the outcome, the island's defense minister said.

China has largely backed Russia in invading Ukraine, a conflict that has echoes in Beijing's approach to Taiwan, the self-governing island democracy that it claims as Chinese territory, to be annexed by force if necessary.

At the annual meetings of China's rubber-stamp legislature, the National People's Congress, and its advisory body this week in Beijing, delegates criticized what they called foreign influence and separatism in Taiwan while increasing China's legal and financial might to counter Taiwan support.

Separately, a member of the advisory body to China's

ceremonial legislature proposed strengthening a 2005 secession law spelling out the grounds for an attack on Taiwan. Zhang Liangqi said new legislation was needed to target those promoting Taiwan's formal and permanent independence from China, from which it split during a civil war in 1949.



In this image made from video, Taiwan's Defense Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng speaks in Taipei, Taiwan, Thursday, March 10, 2022. A conflict with China, which threatens to invade Taiwan, would be a disaster for all sides regardless of the outcome, the island's defense minister said Thursday. (EBC via AP)

In what it calls a warning to Taiwan independence supporters and their foreign allies, China has been staging threatening exercises and flying military planes near the island's airspace, including on Feb. 24, the day Russia began its invasion of Ukraine.

Despite that, Chinese officials including leader Xi Jinping say they are committed

to using peaceful means to bring Taiwan under Beijing's control. The U.S. has consistently expressed its support for ensuring that Taiwan can defend itself, and Chinese military action against the island in the short to medium term is generally considered a remote possibility.

**Next
National Convention
in Savannah, GA**



North Korea's Kim Vows to Develop More Powerful Means of Attack

28 Mar 2022 | Associated Press | By Hyung-jin Kim

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to develop more powerful means of attack, days after the country's first intercontinental ballistic missile launch in more than four years.

The statement suggests North Korea might perform additional launches or even test a nuclear device soon as it pushes to modernize its arsenal and increase pressure on the Biden administration while nuclear diplomacy remains stalled. The North performed its 12th round of weapons tests this year, launching the newly developed, long-range Hwasong-17, which analysts say was designed to reach anywhere in the U.S. mainland.

During a photo session with scientists and others involved in the Hwasong-17 test, Kim expressed a resolve to build up the country's attack capability to cope with threats, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

“Only when one is equipped with the formidable striking capabilities, overwhelming military power that cannot be stopped by anyone, one can prevent a war, guarantee the security of the country and contain and put under control all threats and blackmails by the imperialists,” KCNA quoted Kim as saying.

North Korea said the Hwasong-17 flew to a maximum altitude of 6,248 kilometers (3,880 miles) and traveled 1,090 kilometers (680 miles) during a 67-minute flight before landing in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. Outside experts said if the missile is fired on a standard trajectory, flatter than the steep test angle, it could fly as far as 15,000 kilometers (9,320 miles), enough to reach anywhere in the U.S. mainland and beyond.

Believed to be about 25 meters (82 feet) long, the Hwasong-17 is the North's longest-range weapon and, by some estimates, the world's biggest road-mobile ballistic missile system. Its size suggests the missile is meant to carry multiple nuclear warheads, given the North already has single-warhead ICBMs that could also hit most of the U.S.

U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at convincing North Korea to denuclearize in return for economic and political benefits largely has stalled since 2019. The Biden administration has urged North Korea to return to talks without any preconditions, but Pyongyang has responded Washington must drop its hostility first and has taken steps to expand his weapons arsenals.

South Korea reiterated a previous assessment that there are signs that North Korea is restoring previously demolished tunnels at its underground nuclear testing site. Lee Jong-joo, a spokesperson at Seoul's Unification Ministry, said that a nuclear test by North



In this photo distributed by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, walks around what it says is a Hwasong-17 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on the launcher, at an undisclosed location in North Korea on March 24, 2022. (Korean Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP)

Korea would pose “a serious threat” to international security and that the North must halt any related acts immediately and return to talks.

The Hwasong-17 liftoff was the North's most serious weapons launch since it tested a previously developed ICBM in November 2017. Its last nuclear test, its sixth overall, was in September 2017.

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4 Important Things to Know About Vietnam Veterans

Military.com | By Blake Stilwell

The Vietnam Era was one of the most turbulent times in American history, with the war abroad and mass civil unrest at home. As a result, Vietnam veterans returned to a homecoming unlike any generation of veterans before or since. Simply put, the “welcome home” wasn’t always welcoming due to opposition toward the war.

Nearly nine million Americans served during the Vietnam War Era, and as of the 2020 Census, they are the largest cohort of veterans in America, with an estimated 6.4 million living vets at a median age of 71. In honor of their service and of March 29 being National Vietnam Veterans Day, here are a few important things to know about the Vietnam generation.

1. Most Vietnam War Veterans Were Volunteers.

Media and pop culture often like to portray Vietnam veterans as a generation of men sent over to fight a war they didn’t understand against their will, but the reality is most of those who fought in Vietnam volunteered to be there.

Of the 8.7 million troops who served in the Vietnam Era between 1964 to 1973, 3.4 million deployed to Southeast Asia and 2.7 million served in South Vietnam. Out of all the people on active duty at the time, only 2.2 million were drafted, and only 25% of the total number of troops in combat zones were drafted.

2. It Was the First Major Conflict Fought by a Fully Integrated Military.

President Harry S. Truman signed an executive order that integrated America’s armed forces in 1948. Although the Korean War was fought between 1950 and 1953, the U.S. military was still experiencing growing pains with the new policy.

By the time the United States began increasing its involvement in South Vietnam, American military units were fully integrated, with an estimated 340,000 African Americans, 80,000 Latinos, 42,000 Native Americans and 35,000 Asian Americans serving in Vietnam.



Vietnam Veterans bow their heads during the invocation during the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration ceremony at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland, N.J., May 20, 2016. (U.S. Army/ Master Sgt. Mark Olsen)

3. There Are Still Service Members Missing in Action in Vietnam.

Not all Vietnam veterans made it back home; 2,646 Americans were unaccounted for at the end of the Vietnam War, in all theaters of operations. Since the end of the war and the repatriation of American prisoners of war in 1973, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has recovered or identified 1,062 of those. That means 1,584 U.S. service members are still waiting to come home.

4. Vietnam Veterans Today Are Largely Like Any Other American.

An estimated 30% of Vietnam veterans suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder during their lifetime, according to the 1988 National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study, the last time such a study was done. Still, 97% of Vietnam vets hold honorable discharges, and the unemployment rate for veterans of the Vietnam War was only 4.8% in 1987, compared to the 6.2% rate for the rest of America.

As Vietnam vets began to reach retirement age in 2018, the Congressional Budget Office looked at their long-term prosperity. They had the similar median incomes as nonveterans of the same age. The only disparity found that nonveterans took in more income from investments, while veterans took in income from VA disability compensation.

Veteran-Related Bills Approved by the Current Session of the Florida State Legislature

1. SOF Missions Suicide Prevention (HB 4829) (Senate Form 1554)	\$500,000
2. Quantum Leap Farm Equine Assisted Therapy for Veterans (HB 3485) (Senate Form 1884)	\$190,000
3. K9s For Warriors – Lifetime Care & Mental Health Support (HB 3473) (Senate Form 1579)	\$750,000
4. K9 Partners for Patriots Mental Health Expansion (HB 9207) (Senate Form 2310)	\$175,000
5. Five Star Veterans Center Homeless Housing and Reintegration Project (HB 3041) (Senate Form 1407)	\$374,000
6. University of South Florida – Alternative Treatment Options for Veterans (Senate Form 2560)	\$500,000
7. The Fire Watch Project Inc. (HB 3399) (Senate Form 1296)	\$540,000
8. Northeast Florida Women Veterans – Women Veterans Ignited (HB 4201) (Senate Form 1239)	\$497,005
9. Blue Angels Foundation – Post Traumatic Stress Protocol to Reduce Veteran Suicide (Senate Form 2505)	\$500,000
10. Florida Veterans Foundation (HB 2291) (Senate Form 1552)	\$250,000
11. Florida Veterans Legal Help Line (HB 2165) (Senate Form 1826)	\$750,000
12. Home Base Florida Veterans & Family Care (HB 4625) (Senate Form 1211)	\$1,000,000
13. Mid Florida Community Services Inc. – Veterans Ride Program (HB 9201) (Senate Form 2316)	\$150,000
14. Veterans Helping Veterans – Veterans Outreach Program (HB 3269)	\$160,000
15. Sunrise Senior, Veterans and Children Educational and Wellness Center (HB 2891) (Senate Form 1644)	\$300,000
16. K9s For Warriors Center for Operations and Training (HB 9049) (Senate Form 1538)	\$2,500,000
17. Victory Village Senior Living Community (Senate Form 2637)	\$1,000,000
TOTAL FOR VETERAN PROJECTS/PROGRAMS:	\$10,136,000

VA Opens Providence Research Center to Improve Care of Vets

21 Mar 2022 | Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A new research center that will focus on improving the care of veterans opened in Providence.

The VA Providence Healthcare System marked the opening of the Capt. John H. Harwood Research Center.

The VA said the research aims to improve care for veterans challenged by aging, disease or disability. Lawrence Connell, the VA director in Providence, said they are doing “groundbreaking medical research,” in large part because of their partnership with Brown University.

Researchers in Providence are working on new interventions to reduce veteran suicide and substance abuse after hospitalization, and ways to reduce depression among elderly veterans living in community living centers. They’re also identifying risk factors for food insecurity among veterans, assessing for Alzheimer’s disease and dementia among homeless veterans and looking at how veterans respond to COVID-19 vaccines and booster doses.



The seal of the Department of Veterans Affairs is seen on the building in Washington, Friday, June 21, 2013. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

Veteran and Military Charities Get \$100 Million Windfall from Amazon Billionaire

25 Mar 2022 | Military.com | By Rebecca Kheel

A dozen nonprofit organizations connected to veterans and military causes have received upward of \$100 million from billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, who helped start Amazon with her ex-husband Jeff Bezos.

The donations were among \$3.9 billion given to 465 organizations Scott announced Wednesday as part of her pledge to give away at least half of her personal fortune of tens of billions of dollars.

Several of the groups described their “gift,” in Scott’s words, as the largest single donation they’ve ever received and believe the money will be “transformational.” In some cases, the donations were more than the organizations typically receive in an entire year.

The not-for-profit groups plan to use the funding to expand programs to improve veterans’ mental health care, provide more educational opportunities and give veterans more chances to continue serving their communities, among other things.

The donations are unrestricted, meaning the organizations can use the money any way they want and in any timeframe.



In this March 4, 2018 photo, MacKenzie Scott arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, Calif. (Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP)

VA Wants to Make Telephone Appointments for Mental Health Care Permanent

17 Mar 2022 | Medill News Service | By Maia Pandey

A typical therapist's waiting room may contain a few unremarkable chairs, a handful of outdated magazines and the quiet bustle of a receptionist's desk.

But at Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, patients

just memories of their time in the service.

Last year, the VA provided 5.6 million telemental health visits, up from 3.2 million in 2020. The pandemic proved a turning point, with the department switching from providing



Responders field calls at the Veterans Crisis Line call center. (*Dept. of Veterans Affairs*)

can sometimes be bombarded by swaths of military paraphernalia and fellow service members milling around -- potential triggers that could deter them from seeking mental health support.

As Congress and the White House zero in on mental health legislation, some advocates and lawmakers are pushing specifically to establish more robust telemental health care, providing services like psychiatry appointments conducted over the phone, to better serve veterans reluctant to receive in-person care.

Telemental health can be particularly helpful for veterans with lingering negative associations from their time in the military. There are also veterans who maybe didn't have the best experience during their military service, and they don't like to come into a VA facility. They don't want to sit in a waiting room with other veterans and maybe see regalia or

80% of its care in-person to 80% virtually.

While some veterans may be deterred from seeking help by the intimidating experience of obtaining services at the VA, others may carry lingering worries about how talking with an expert is viewed in the military. They might feel more comfortable engaging in a telemental health appointment from the comfort of their home, especially if there's a certain level of anxiety or even some PTSD symptoms that could potentially flare up by going to the clinic.

The largest barrier to expanding telemental health services is ensuring veterans have the technology to access virtual appointments. The VA has launched programs to loan veteran's phones and computers, as well as support services for users to familiarize themselves with the technology ahead of their first telehealth appointment.

Groundbreaking Held in Texas For Medal of Honor Museum

25 Mar 2022 | Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Ground was broken Friday for a new museum in Texas to honor those who have been awarded the nation's highest military honor.

The National Medal of Honor Museum will be built in Arlington, just west of Dallas. The museum will tell the stories of the recipients of the medal, which is awarded by Congress for risking life in combat beyond the call of duty.

“When you look at the Medal of Honor recipient, you are looking at someone who has demonstrated gallantry under impossible odds, you are looking at someone who has placed duty above self, you are looking at someone who understands the meaning of sacrifice in the most profound way,” former President George W. Bush said at the groundbreaking ceremony. “And you are looking at a person of integrity, fortitude and patriotism. You are looking at honor.”

Fifteen Medal of Honor recipients attended the ceremony, including 98-year-old Hershel Woodrow “Woody” Williams, who is the nation's last living recipient from World War II.

About 3,500 service members have received the award.

The museum, which will have permanent and rotating exhibits, is expected to open in 2024.



Hershel Woodrow Williams, a World War II veteran and recipient of the Medal of Honor, salutes the flag during the national anthem at the groundbreaking ceremony for the National Medal of Honor Museum, March 25, 2022, in Arlington, Texas. *(Amanda McCoy/Star-Telegram via AP)*

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



Click on our banner below to go to our website!



Reports

Department of Florida Commander's Report for April 2022

1. In January I attended the NEC meeting in Orlando.
2. I have conducted monthly meetings with my post virtually and in person.
3. I have represented the Department of Florida at the bi-monthly meetings of the Florida Veterans Council. See list of veteran bills that passed this session in this newsletter.
4. I am part of the committee working on re-writing the National Constitution and By-Laws. We meet every 2 weeks.
5. I participated in Marketing Committee virtual meetings every 2 weeks.
6. I participated in Gulf War Committee virtual meetings every month.
7. I participated as part of the JWV Coordinating Committee, virtual meeting.
8. I participated in meetings of the Board of Directors of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History and am on the exhibits committee. The Vietnam exhibit will be opening May 5th.
9. I am working with the Miami Marlins to hold a Jewish Community Celebration on Sunday August 14th. Game will be against the Atlanta Braves; game time will be 1:10pm. More details to come.
10. I am working with the Convention Committee to finalize plans for the National Convention in August and for the next NEC in January of 2023 in D.C.
11. My proposal to allow posts and departments to submit proposals to host future National Conventions has been approved by the NEC and the proposal requirements will be sent out shortly.
12. During the past quarter we continued to hold a Department Commander's Committee under the leadership of NVC Mellitz. The purpose of this committee is to share concerns, issues, and solutions. I have been responsible for setting the agenda and Zoom meeting.
13. I continue to update our membership roster. We are still missing about 50% of our members email addresses and phone numbers. I am requesting that all posts send me updated lists. About half of our members are receiving mailings directly and conversely about half are not. Post Commanders are responsible for getting copies of the Quarterly Newsletter and other pertinent information to those members without listed email addresses. While some of our older members may not use email, I do not believe that is half of our membership. According to national, nearly half our members do not have a phone number listed.
14. Please assist in getting the rosters updated and accurate.

Attention ORLANDO area eligible veterans:

Past Department Commander, Mike Corbett, now resides in that area and will be working on establishing one or more new Posts there.

If you are a former member whose dues have lapsed or, have never been a member of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, please contact Mike to either join or reinstate. And, if you are a LIFE member without a Post, this is your opportunity to help us bring the dynamic capabilities of the JWV to your community.

Send an e-mail to Mike, today and let him know you're ready to build that new Post, at:

ocusmc@hotmail.com

ALSO:

The JWV National Recreation & Rehabilitation Stamp Program needs used or new US and foreign stamps for hospitalized veterans to get much needed manual dexterity therapy. E-mail our National Program Chair, PDC Mike Corbett to get the address to send your stamps.

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.

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.
2022 - **Department of Florida Quarterly Meeting.**
- 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 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 8: 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 30: 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.
1944 - 77th Anniversary of D-Day invasion at Normandy, France.
- June 11:** 1994 - Soviet occupation of East German 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.
2022 - **Department of Florida Annual Convention** to take place at Delray Beach Golf Club.
- June 28:** 1919 - Treaty of Versailles signed formally, ending WWI.