

Jewish War Veterans' national commander visits South Florida

Sergio Carmona South Florida Sun Sentinel Jan 17, 2020 | 5:01 PM



From left, Jewish War Veterans of the USA Florida Department Commander Larry Jasper of Land O Lakes greets National Commander Harvey Weiner of Boston at the organization's annual mid-Winter conference at the Delray Beach Golf Club. (Jewish War Veterans of the USA/Courtesy)

Harvey Weiner, the national commander of Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, was recently in South Florida where he spoke at a few events.

Weiner spoke at two local synagogues: Temple Torat Emet in Boynton Beach and Beth David Congregation in Miami. He also spoke at the annual mid-winter quarterly meeting of the Department of Florida JWV at Delray Beach Golf Club. "The Department of Florida has a very active group of committed members of JWV who do so much for the community and the organization in general," Weiner said.

Weiner is a Vietnam War combat veteran who as an Army captain was an intelligence advisor to the Vietnamese. His combat experience includes small raids, night ambushes, mortar and rocket attacks, sniper fire and land mines. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal among other decorations. He is a life member of the JWV, the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Disabled American Veterans. He has been the JWV representative on the Greater Boston Jewish Community Relations Council for 13 years.

Weiner had a different message at the two local synagogue appearances than he did at the annual mid-winter meeting

in Delray Beach.

"My main message at the two temples was that JWV exists and that there are many Jewish veterans out there who are not yet members of JWV and we would love them to join the organization. By joining, they will find like-minded people, they will do a lot for the general veterans community in an organized way and will also be able to spread the message, which is also the message of my national commandership, which is that Jews also served."

His message at the mid-winter quarterly meeting was that many Jewish veterans have not joined the organization because they were not asked.

"I told them that, if they find out that someone they know is a veteran and is Jewish, they shouldn't forget to ask them to join the organization."

Michael Corbett, post commander of JWV Post 440 in Boynton Beach praised Weiner.

"Current JWV National Commander Harvey Weiner of Boston, a Vietnam war combat veteran, is just another American hero in a long line of such brave men to lead the organization like Benjamin Kaufman, a World War I soldier who was awarded America's highest recognition, the Congressional Medal of Honor, for bravery while facing an enemy." Corbett continued, "Members of the JWV never seem to stop serving."

"Once honorably discharged from military service, they continue serving throughout the USA. These members along with those who support them continue serving their communities by applying the leadership acumen they gained from that military service."

Visit jwv.org for more information on the organization.