



Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America

Chartered By an Act of Congress

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Greetings!

As the current national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S. A., it is a great pleasure to welcome you to this website regarding American Jewish military heritage. The JWV—established in 1896 as the Hebrew Union Veterans Association to counter anti-Semitism and support Jewish veterans and their families—is the oldest active veterans service organization in the U.S.

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History was founded to protect the legacy of the JWV and the hundreds of thousands of Jews who have served in the American armed forces. The mission of the NMAJMH is to: *document and preserve the contributions of Jewish Americans to the peace and freedom of the United States, educate the public concerning the courage, heroism, and sacrifices made by Jewish Americans who served in the armed forces, and work to combat anti-Semitism.* The information available in the following websites and documents will aid us in fulfilling that mission by helping you to develop an understanding of the important contributions of Jewish service men and women—from recruits and privates to generals and admirals—have made in the defense of the United States.

This program will enlighten you on the distinguished military service of many American Jews, including these notable individuals:

- Asser Levy, who, in 1655, filed petitions with the colonial court of New Amsterdam asking that Jews either be allowed to stand watch with the other citizens or relieved of the special tax that Jews were required to pay for others to serve in their place. After an initial rejection and a two-year fight, Levy won the right to stand watch.
- Lieutenant Colonel Solomon Bush, who was seriously wounded during a skirmish against the British in September 1777, and taken prisoner. Freed, Bush was made a lieutenant colonel in the Continental army (1779), the highest rank held by a Jewish officer in the Revolutionary army.
- Commodore Uriah Phillips Levy, who had a storied career in the U.S. Navy and is credited as being the driving force behind the navy's abolition of corporal punishment. Levy, an ardent admirer of Thomas Jefferson, purchased Monticello, the late President's estate in 1836 and publicly announced that he intended to restore the property to its original condition and open it for visitation. The house and grounds remained in the Levy family until the estate was sold to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation in 1923.
- Abraham Cohn, Leopold Karpeles, Benjamin Levy and David Urbansky – Jewish recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Civil War
- Admiral Hyman Rickover, known as the “Father of the Nuclear Navy”
- Tibor “Ted” Rubin, a survivor of 14 months in the Mauthausen concentration camp during World War II, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his life saving activities during the Korean War. Corporal Rubin risked his life to provide not only food to the starving soldiers, but also desperately needed medical care and moral support for the sick and wounded of the POW camp.

There is a wealth of information waiting for you. We hope the links to resources we have provided will be useful to all who visit it. If you have questions, new information, or updates for us to consider posting, please email us at nmajmh@nmajmh.org.

If you would like to learn more about the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, please visit www.nmajmh.org.

Thank you.

Lawrence Schulman
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