

הקשר היהודי שלך

Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee – *Written by Linda S Trapasso*

Celebrating Jewish American Veterans

Jewish Americans have a distinguished military legacy in the United States of America, having first served in the colonial militias before the American Revolutionary War. Jewish military personnel have served in all branches of the armed forces and in every major armed conflict to which the United States has been involved ([Wikipedia](#)).

In order to preserve this history and prove their service, Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America



(JWV) was established in 1896 and holds a Congressional charter under Title 36 of the United States Code. In an interesting side note, the reason the organization came about is because author Mark Twain claimed that no Jews served during the Civil War, and the Jewish

community responded by creating the JWV and talking about their experiences. To this day, JWV runs [Project Maggid](#), the JWV Storyteller program.

The JWV is the oldest veterans group in the United States. The JWV includes veterans, a ladies auxiliary, and a foundation, and oversees the management of the [National Museum of American Jewish Military History](#) (NMAJMH). The closest JWV Post to Nashua is in Leominster, Massachusetts. Note that the JWV Foundation offers grants to those attending college—see the [web site](#) for details. To keep up with the JWV, follow their Twitter account, @JewishWarVets, or Facebook page, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.

The NMAJMH tells the story of the American Jewish Warrior and preserves the story of American Jewish Fighters. Look at this list of [notable Jewish Americans](#) who served in the military, starting in colonial America and continuing to today, and see how many names you

recognize.

Recently Serve published the article [Being Jewish in the US Military](#).

This article describes the author's journey from living where he could find Jewish community by stepping outside his door, to no Jewish community in the military and having to search for it.

Another good article to read on Serve reminds us of boundaries when talking with veterans: [10 Things You Should Never Say to a Veteran](#). It describes how not to offend with inappropriate questions or misguided statements.

With Veterans Day in November, be sure to recognize the Jewish veterans and all veterans in your life, and participate in community events to honor them. It's the least we can do after all they did for us.

