

# CONNECTIONS

## JEWISH WAR VETERANS POST #373

ALBERT ARONOWITZ CHAPTER, Tampa, Florida

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OCTOBER 2023

### NEXT POST MEETING

Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am Breakfast at

Apex Publix

16566 N. Nebraska Avenue

Lutz, FL 33549

9:30 am Meeting

In-Person and Also Available via **Zoom**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8248702308?pwd=WklnU29pV3haSEJqRU10ZiR1MDJYUT09>

Online Meeting ID: 824 870 2308

Passcode: N85SfE

If you plan on joining by phone (not recommended), you can find a phone number by clicking the link below (or check the list in your Post E-Mail):

Telephonic Meeting and Passcode:

Meeting ID: 824 870 2308

Passcode: 428712

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kepoiIGy7>



- Sunday October 29 0930\*\* Post Meeting at Apex Publix
- Sunday November 5 0200 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Tuesday November 7 Election Day
- Saturday November 11 Veterans Day
- Sunday November 19 0930\*\* Post Meeting at Apex Publix
- Thursday November 23 Thanksgiving
- Thursday December 7 Chanukah (Begins at Sundown)
- Saturday December 9 1800 JWV Chanukah Party
- Compton Park, Tampa Palms

\* Dates and Times are subject to change

\*\* Meeting begins at 0930 both in-person and virtually via Zoom, if necessary. Breakfast begins at 0900 at the Apex Publix.

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**For the latest updates:**

Check out all of our websites:

Post 373 — [www.jwvtampa.org](http://www.jwvtampa.org)

Dept of FL — [www.jwv-fl.org](http://www.jwv-fl.org)

JWV National — [www.jwv.org](http://www.jwv.org)



# COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Veterans, Patrons and friends of JWV Post 373 Tampa, FL,

Please take time to reflect on the terrible slaughter that occurred in our beloved Eretz Israel! Let us take a moment to Pray for the IDF members and innocent civilians massacred on October 7, 2023.

Our next Post meeting will be held this Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Apex Publix with breakfast at 9.00 am with our food being prepared by Larry Jasper! Thank you!

Our next donation collection will be Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. I have set up three (3) locations. I will have collection supplies at the meeting. If we have more participants, WE could have more sites to collect for SCU at the Haley VA Hospital and the Fisher House. Please help our fellow Vets in their time of need!!

We have been invited to be honored at Temples in Tampa, Brandon, and Pinellas for Veterans Day. EVERYONE wanting to participate please call me at 813-885-5001 and leave a message so I may get in touch with you. JWV Post 373 will only exist with YOUR participation !!!!

Please take care and I hope to see you this Sunday at Publix.

Bruce D. Shur  
Commander

**If you encounter a Veteran  
who is struggling,  
call the  
Veteran Crisis Line  
at  
988  
Press 1**



## IMPORTANT RESOURCES TO SUPPORT OUR NATION'S HEROES

(Click on any of the links below or head to [www.jwv-fl.org](http://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](#)



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# RUSSIAN LAWMAKERS WILL CONSIDER RESCINDING RATIFICATION OF GLOBAL NUCLEAR TEST BAN, SPEAKER SAYS

6 Oct 2023 | Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian lawmakers will consider revoking the ratification of a global nuclear test ban, the parliament speaker said Friday.

The statement from Vyacheslav Volodin, the speaker of the lower house, the State Duma, followed Russian President Vladimir Putin's warning that Moscow could consider rescinding the ratification of the international pact banning nuclear tests since the United States has never ratified it.

There are widespread concerns that Russia could move to resume nuclear tests to try to discourage the West from continuing to offer military support to Ukraine. Many Russian hawks have spoken in favor of resuming the tests.

Volodin reaffirmed Moscow's claim that Western military support for Ukraine means the U.S. and its allies are engaged in the conflict.

"Washington and Brussels have unleashed a war against our country," Volodin said. "Today's challenges require new decisions."

He said that senior lawmakers will discuss recalling the 2000 ratification of the nuclear test ban at the next meeting of the agenda-setting house council.

"It conforms with our national interests," Volodin said. "And it will come as a quid pro quo response to the United States, which has still failed to ratify the treaty."

Speaking Thursday at a forum with foreign affairs experts, Putin noted the United States has signed but not ratified the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, while Russia has signed and ratified it. He argued that Russia could act in kind.

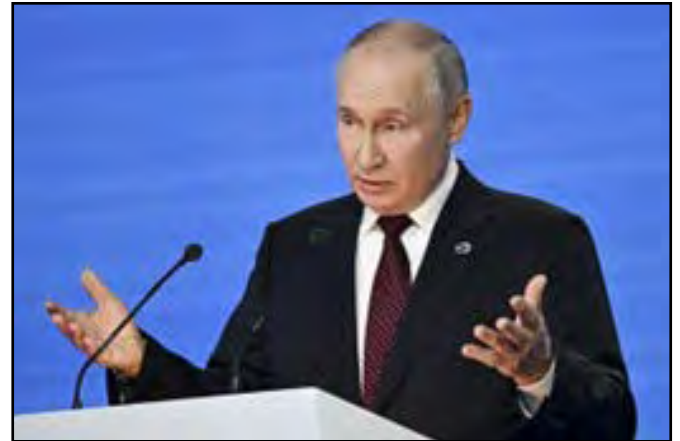
"Theoretically, we may revoke the ratification," he said. "It's up to the State Duma members."

Putin said that while some experts have talked about the need to conduct nuclear tests, he hasn't yet formed an opinion on the issue.

"I'm not ready to say yet whether it's necessary for us to conduct tests or not," he said.

Asked Friday if rescinding the ban could pave the way for the resumption of tests, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that "it doesn't mean a statement about the intention to resume nuclear tests."

He noted that a possible move to revoke Russia's ratification of the ban would "bring the situation to a common denominator" with the U.S.



Russian President Vladimir Putin gestures while speaking at the annual meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia, Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023. (Grigory Sysoyev, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)

Russia's defense doctrine envisages a nuclear response to an atomic strike or even to an attack with conventional weapons that "threatens the very existence of the Russian state." That vague wording has led some Russian hawks to urge the Kremlin to sharpen it, in order to force the West to take the warnings more seriously.

Responding to a question from an expert who suggested rewriting the nuclear doctrine to lower the threshold of nuclear weapons use to force the West to stop backing Ukraine, Putin said he sees no need to change the document.

"There is no situation in which anything would threaten Russian statehood and the existence of the Russian state," he said. "I think that no person of sober mind and clear memory could have an idea to use nuclear weapons against Russia."

Putin also announced Thursday that Russia has effectively completed the development of the Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile and the Sarmat heavy intercontinental ballistic missile and will work on putting them into production.

Putin didn't elaborate on his statement, and Peskov refused to say when the test of the Burevestnik was conducted or offer any other details.

Little is known about the Burevestnik, which could carry a nuclear or a conventional warhead and potentially stay aloft for a much longer time and cover a longer distance than other missiles thanks to nuclear propulsion.

When Putin first revealed that Russia was working on the weapon in 2018, he claimed it would have an unlimited range, allowing it to circle the globe undetected by missile defense systems. Many Western experts have been skeptical about that, noting that a nuclear engine could be highly unreliable.

# NORTH KOREAN LEADER URGES GREATER NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION IN RESPONSE TO A 'NEW COLD WAR'

28 Sep 2023 | Associated Press | By Kim Tong-Hyung

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for an exponential increase in production of nuclear weapons and for his country to play a larger role in a coalition of nations confronting the United States in a “new Cold War,” state media said Thursday.

The Korean Central News Agency said Kim made the comments during a two-day session of the country’s rubber-stamp parliament which amended the constitution to include his policy of expanding the country’s nuclear weapons program.

The Supreme People’s Assembly’s session came after Kim traveled to Russia’s Far East this month to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and visit military and technology sites.

The trip sparked Western concerns about a possible arms alliance in which North Korea would supply Putin with badly needed munitions to fuel his war on Ukraine in exchange for economic aid and advanced Russian technologies to enhance North Korea’s nuclear and missile systems.

As North Korea slowly ends its pandemic lockdown, Kim has been actively boosting his partnerships with Moscow and Beijing as he attempts to break out of diplomatic isolation and join a united front against Washington. He has described the world as entering a “new Cold War” and that North Korea should advance its nuclear capabilities in response.

Kim’s comments came a day after North Korea confirmed the release of U.S. Army Pvt. Travis King, who is now being flown back to America, two months after he sprinted across the heavily fortified border into the North.

King’s relatively swift expulsion defied speculation that North Korea might drag out his detention to squeeze concessions from the United States, and possibly reflected the North’s disinterest in diplomacy with Washington.

KCNA said members of the assembly gave unanimous approval to a new clause in the constitution to “ensure the country’s right to existence and development, deter war and protect regional and global peace by rapidly developing nuclear weapons to a higher level.”

North Korea’s “nuclear force-building policy has been made permanent as the basic law of the state, which no one is allowed to flout with anything,” Kim said in a speech at the assembly. He stressed the need to “push ahead with the work for exponentially boosting the production of nuclear weapons and diversifying the nuclear strike means,” KCNA said.

Kim pointed to what he described as a growing threat posed by a hostile United States and its expanding military cooperation

In this photo taken during a two-day session on Sept. 26-27, 2023 and provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un speaks at a meeting of the country’s parliament in Pyongyang, North Korea. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. *(Korean Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP)*



with South Korea and Japan, accusing them of creating the “Asian version of NATO, the root cause of war and aggression.”

Kim urged his diplomats to “further promote solidarity with the nations standing against the U.S. and the West’s strategy for hegemony.”

South Korea’s Unification Ministry, which handles relations with North Korea, said the North Korean constitutional amendment confirms Kim’s unwillingness to relinquish his nuclear weapons program and his unwavering commitment to advancing that arsenal. It said in a statement that South Korea will continue to expand its military cooperation with the U.S. and Japan and work closer with other international partners to increase pressure on North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest level in years as North Korea has test-fired more than 100 missiles since the start of 2022 and the U.S. has expanded its military exercises with its Asian allies, in tit-for-tat responses.

Last year, the assembly passed a new nuclear doctrine into law which authorizes pre-emptive nuclear strikes if North Korea’s leadership is perceived as under threat.

# TURKISH WARPLANES HIT KURDISH MILITIA TARGETS IN NORTH SYRIA AFTER US DOWNS TURKISH ARMED DRONE

6 Oct 2023 | Associated Press | By Suzan Fraser

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkish warplanes have carried out airstrikes on sites believed to be used by U.S.-backed Kurdish militant groups in northern Syria after the U.S. military shot down an armed Turkish drone that came within 500 meters (yards) of American troops.

A Turkish defense ministry statement said the Turkish jets targeted some 30 sites in the Tal Rifat, Jazeera and Derik regions, destroying caves, bunkers, shelters and warehouses used by Kurdistan Workers' Party, PKK, or its affiliated Kurdish militia group in Syria, which is known as People's Defense Units, or YPG.

Turkey has been carrying out strikes on Kurdish militant targets in Iraq and Syria following a suicide attack outside the Interior Ministry building in the Turkish capital earlier this week.

The PKK claimed the attack in which one attacker blew himself up and another would-be bomber was killed in a shootout with police. Two police officers were wounded.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said the two assailants had arrived from Syria, where they had been trained. He said PKK and YPG positions in Iraq and Syria had now become legitimate targets.

Kurdish authorities in northeast Syria said Thursday evening that Turkish bombing had struck 21 sites and 11 people were killed by the “Turkish aggression” — five civilians and six members of the local government's Internal Security Forces.

The U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces in northeast Syria have denied any relationship to the Ankara attack and accused Turkey of using the attack as a pretext for a new military incursion.

In Washington, the Pentagon said Thursday that the Turkish drone bombed targets near the U.S. troops in Syria, forcing them to go to bunkers for safety. Air Force Brig. Gen. Patrick Ryder, the Pentagon press secretary, said the decision to shoot down the drone of a NATO ally “was made out of due diligence and the inherent right of self-defense to take appropriate action to protect U.S. forces.” There was no indication that Turkey was intentionally targeting U.S. forces, he said.

Turkey's Foreign Ministry on Friday blamed the downing of the drone on conflicting evaluations of what it called a “de-escalation mechanism” operated between the sides. Necessary measures were being taken to ensure a “more effective operation” of the mechanism, the ministry said without elaborating.



Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan attends a joint press conference with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow, Russia, on Aug. 31, 2023. (Maxim Shemetov/Pool Photo via AP)

“The incident did in no way affect the execution of the ongoing operation and the strikes against targets that were identified,” the ministry said.

The U.S. has about 900 troops in Syria conducting missions to counter Islamic State group militants.

The incident occurred on the same day as a drone attack killed at least 89 people in the Syrian government-controlled city of Homs, where explosive-laden drones were detonated during a military graduation ceremony attended by young officers and their families. An additional 277 people were injured, according to Syria's health ministry.

Syria's military blamed insurgents “backed by known international forces,” without naming any particular group, and threatened to respond with “full force.”

The Turkish defense ministry said Thursday's aerial operation in Syria was aimed at securing Turkey's borders from threats from the PKK and YPG.

Separately, the ministry said Turkey had retaliated to an attack by militants on a Turkish base in the Dabik region late on Thursday, “neutralizing” 26 militants.

The PKK has led a decades-long insurgency in Turkey and is considered a terror organization by Turkey's Western allies, including the United States. Tens of thousands of people have died since the start of the conflict in 1984.

The U.S., however, regards the YPG as a key partner in the fight against the Islamic State group in northern Syria and does not believe the group presents a threat to Turkey.

which authorizes pre-emptive nuclear strikes if North Korea's leadership is perceived as under threat.

# US FEARS CANADA-INDIA ROW OVER SIKH ACTIVIST'S KILLING COULD UPEND STRATEGY FOR COUNTERING CHINA

8 Oct 2023 | Associated Press | By MATTHEW LEE

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration is nervously watching a dispute between Canada and India, with some officials concerned it could upend the U.S. strategy toward the Indo-Pacific that is directed at blunting China's influence there and elsewhere.

Publicly, the administration has maintained that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations that the Indian government may have been involved in the killing of a Sikh separatist near Vancouver are a matter between the two countries.

But U.S. officials have also repeatedly urged India to cooperate in the investigation. Those calls have been ignored thus far by India, which denies the allegations.

Behind the scenes, U.S. officials say they believe Trudeau's claims are true. And they are worried that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi may be adopting tactics to silence opposition figures on foreign soil akin to those used by Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and North Korea, all of which have faced similar accusations.

Perhaps of more concern, though, is that the Canada-India dispute could have major implications for one of the administration's main foreign policy priorities: the Indo-Pacific strategy, which seeks to counter China's increasing assertiveness in the region, according to numerous U.S. officials who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the extreme sensitivity of the matter.

Both Canada, a Pacific country and key NATO ally that shares with the United States the longest undefended border in the world, and India are critical to U.S.-led efforts to present a united and democratic front against growing Chinese assertiveness.

Aside from countering Russia's war in Ukraine, the administration has been most focused on dealing with China as a competitor and the potential international threat it poses. To that end it has boosted its diplomatic efforts in the Indo-Pacific, including by creating a leaders group that brings together Australia, Japan, India and the United States. President Joe Biden has hailed the formation of the so-called Quad as a key part of that effort.

Shortly after Trudeau made public his allegations last month and expelled a senior Indian diplomat, U.S. officials began to fret over the possibility that Canada might decide to go "full Skripal" with mass diplomatic expulsions and make requests, as the British did in 2018, of its allies to do the same.

If asked by Canada to expel a large number of Indian diplomats, these officials said, the U.S. would have little choice but to



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau takes part in a bilateral meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the G20 Summit in New Delhi, India on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023. (Sean Kilpatrick/The Canadian Press via AP)

comply. That, in turn, could lead to a rupture in U.S.-Indian relations and the possibility that India might either narrow its cooperation with the Quad or drop out entirely.

At the moment, there's relief it hasn't escalated to that point yet — but that could still change.

The allegation of Indian involvement in the murder was supported by intelligence from the "Five Eyes" grouping of Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the U.S.

Even before Canada made the accusations public, Trudeau had frosty encounters with Modi during last month's Group of 20 meeting in New Delhi, and a few days later, Canada canceled a trade mission to India planned for the fall.

This week, India told Canada to remove 41 of its 62 diplomats in the country, ramping up the confrontation. Trudeau and other Canadian officials, including Foreign Minister Melanie Joly, have hinted that Canada won't take reciprocal measures.

Trudeau has appeared to try to calm the diplomatic clash, saying that Canada is "not looking to provoke or escalate," but officials said the concern in Washington persists.

# A SURGE IN RAIL TRAFFIC ON NORTH KOREA-RUSSIA BORDER SUGGESTS ARMS SUPPLY TO RUSSIA, THINK TANK SAYS

8 Oct 2023 | Associated Press | By HYUNG-JIN KIM

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Recent satellite photos show a sharp increase in rail traffic along the North Korea-Russia border, indicating the North is supplying munitions to Russia, according to a U.S. think tank.

Speculation about a possible North Korean plan to refill Russia's munition stores drained in its protracted war with Ukraine flared last month, when North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traveled to Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin and visit key military sites. Foreign officials suspect Kim is seeking sophisticated Russian weapons technologies in return for the munition to boost his nuclear program.

“Given that Kim and Putin discussed some military exchanges and cooperation at their recent summit, the dramatic increase in rail traffic likely indicates North Korea's supply of arms and munitions to Russia,” Beyond Parallel, a website run by the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank, said in a report Friday.

“However, the extensive use of tarps to cover the shipping crates/containers and equipment makes it impossible to conclusively identify what is seen at the Tumangang Rail Facility” on the border, it said.

The report said satellite images as of Oct. 5 captured “a dramatic and unprecedented level of freight railcar traffic” at the Tumangang Rail Facility. It said images show approximately 73 railcars while a review of previous satellite images over the past five years shows about 20 railcars at this facility at most.

U.S. and South Korean officials have warned that North Korea and Russia would face consequences if they went ahead with the reported weapons transfer deal in violation with U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban all weapons trade involving North Korea.

Since last year, the U.S. has accused North Korea of providing ammunition, artillery shells and rockets to Russia, likely much of them copies of Soviet-era munitions. South Korean officials said North Korean weapons provided to Russia had already been used in Ukraine.

Joly, have hinted that Canada won't take reciprocal measures.

Trudeau has appeared to try to calm the diplomatic clash, saying that Canada is “not looking to provoke or escalate,” but officials said the concern in Washington persists.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un shake hands during their meeting at the Vostochny cosmodrome outside the city of Tsiolkovsky, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) from the city of Blagoveshchensk in the far eastern Amur region, Russia, on Sept. 13, 2023. North Korea on Monday, Sept. 25 called South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol “a guy with a trash-like brain” and “a diplomatic idiot” as it slammed him for using a U.N. speech to issue a warning over the North's deepening military ties with Russia. (Vladimir Smirnov, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)

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# VA LEANING IN ON MOLLY, MUSHROOMS AS PSYCHEDELICS SHOW PROMISE FOR TREATING POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

5 Oct 2023 | Military.com | By Patricia Kime

For eight years, Marine and Army veteran Jonathan Lubecky suffered flashbacks and nightmares, got rip-roaring drunk to quell his troubled mind, took 42 pills a day to address various medical conditions, and attempted suicide multiple times.

An emergency visit to the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2014 changed his life, not because he was able to get treatment -- no inpatient psychiatric beds were available that day -- but because an intern slipped him a note.

It said, “Google MDMA/PTSD.”

The intern knew that in Charleston, a researcher for the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies, or MAPS, was conducting a safety trial on the use of MDMA -- 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as ecstasy or molly -- for treatment-resistant post-traumatic stress disorder.

Nine years later, having enrolled in the study and received three MDMA-assisted therapy sessions, Lubecky has no thoughts of suicide. He has founded his own company, traveled to Ukraine three times for humanitarian work, and lived through several personal traumas without recurrence of his PTSD.

MDMA and the psychotherapy he underwent while using the drug have led him to where he is today.

“I’m now PTSD-free longer than I had it,” said Lubecky during the VA’s inaugural New Horizons in Health podcast. “It’s like doing therapy while being hugged by everyone who loves you with a basketful of puppies licking your face.”

Since 2011, MAPS has studied the potential of MDMA to put PTSD in remission, most recently releasing the results of Phase 3 clinical trials in the journal *Nature* that confirmed its safety and efficacy in patients with PTSD.

With those promising results and the organization preparing to file a new drug application with the Food and Drug Administration later this year, the VA is exploring ways to expand research into psychedelic drugs like MDMA and psilocybin -- the active drug in psychedelic mushrooms -- to treat PTSD, depression, substance use disorder and more across the veteran population.

The VA is restricted from conducting large-scale studies of these medications because MDMA and psilocybin are illegal in most states and at the federal level, where they are listed as Schedule 1 drugs by the Drug Enforcement Agency.



In this photo made with a long exposure, a man is silhouetted against lights reflected in the waters off Cape Neddick in Maine on Dec. 11, 2017. A study published Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023, in the journal *Nature Medicine* has found that the psychedelic drug MDMA, combined with talk therapy, can reduce PTSD symptoms. (*Robert F. Bukaty*)

But according to VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Shereef Elnahal, department researchers have received waivers to support ongoing studies and have conducted research funded with private donations rather than federal money.

VA scientists are interested in exploring the protocols for psychedelics-assisted therapy and how the department can support the research nationwide, as well as build the infrastructure needed for larger clinical trials, according to Elnahal.

The VA is invested in novel approaches to treat mental health conditions in former service members because such conditions can be debilitating or even life-threatening. Studies show that PTSD, either alone or when diagnosed with other mental health conditions, is associated with suicide.

Data released last year showed 6,146 veterans took their own lives in 2020, 342 fewer deaths than 2019 and 650 fewer deaths than in 2018. Data for 2021 is expected in the coming weeks.

According to the VA, of the 6 million veterans enrolled in VA health care in 2021, 10% of male veterans and 19% of female veterans were diagnosed with PTSD.

Standard treatments for PTSD include cognitive processing therapy, prolonged exposure therapy, and eye

SEE PTSD TREATMENTS — PAGE II



# 4 SHIPWRECKS FOUND IN NEW JERSEY RIVER TELL TALE OF EPIC REVOLUTIONARY WAR BATTLE

6 Oct 2023 | nj.com | By Nyah Marshall

Beneath an unassuming Garden State Parkway bridge over the Mullica River is a hidden piece of history -- the remnants of an epic battle launched by the British in October 1778 in one of the first South Jersey attacks from the water during the Revolutionary War.

Today, the remains of the historic battle -- fought 245 years ago this Friday -- are found in four shipwrecks in the river uncovered by local researchers, scuba divers and Stockton University students.

It's been a fight with time, decay and tidal currents for Steve Nagiewicz, a researcher who has spent almost a decade documenting and preserving what's hidden in the Atlantic County river from the little-known Battle of Chestnut Neck.

Nagiewicz, an adjunct professor of marine science at Stockton University, began teaching an underwater archaeology course and working with students in 2015 to collect and process information needed to reconstruct the sunken ships from the battle.

The history is still out there, but the shipwrecks are breaking up in the river, said Nagiewicz, who is also a trustee with the New Jersey Maritime Museum.

"We're trying to document them so that when people come here to see the battle, they'll know what the ships look like before they disappear," he said.

So far, researchers have identified four centuries-old schooners at depths ranging from 14 to 40 feet underwater in the Mullica River about 10 miles from Atlantic City. Divers have also been able to retrieve artifacts from the decaying ships including beads, glass bottles and bricks.

The relics can be traced back to October 6, 1778, when two British fleets arrived in South Jersey to seize and attack privateers operating out of a port in Little Egg Harbor during the fight for American independence.

"It's probably one of the most unknown historic battles where a fleet of 10 British ships, 400 British marines came in to destroy a town and a privateering harbor that had been plaguing British shipping for the early part of the Revolutionary War," said Nagiewicz.

Privateers were essentially government-sanctioned pirates, according to Nagiewicz. They obtained letters of marque, or permission from the local government, to capture British ships and sell them at auctions to support George Washington's Continental Army.



Shipwreck artifacts from the Revolutionary War Battle of Chestnut Neck on the Mullica River in Atlantic County, N.J., are displayed at the New Jersey Maritime Museum in Beach Haven on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023. (Jim Lowney for N.J. Advanced Media)

Chestnut Neck was the largest privateering port between Boston and Charleston at the time, according to Norman Goos, a historian with the Atlantic County Historical Society.

"As crazy as it sounds, a little hole in the wall just did devastating damage to the British supply chain and tripled the insurance on shipping things in the British Empire," Goos said. "The British came to Chestnut Neck to try to salvage their supply routes."

The British burned about ten captured merchant ships, then moved into the village and killed nearly 50 men-- bayoneting them in their sleep -- in an attack known as the Little Egg Harbor Massacre, according to local historians.

The battle was a loss for the Continental Army, but the port was so resilient that within a month after the British departed the area on October 15, 1778, it was fully operational again, Goos said.

Today, in Port Republic, there is a 50-foot monument built in 1911 to commemorate the Battle of Chestnut Neck.

Over the past four decades, researchers have uncovered four shipwrecks from the historic battle: the Bead, the Cramer, the Phoel and the recently discovered Mullica.

There are at least 4,000 shipwrecks scattered along the New Jersey coast, according to Nagiewicz. However, the Revolutionary War schooners found in the Mullica River are the oldest, along with others located in Crosswicks Creek in Burlington County.

# CAPTAIN SOLOMON CLIFFORD JOSEPH — THE HIGHEST SCORING JEWISH ACE OF THE GREAT WAR

Scarce Distinguished Flying Cross awarded to highest scoring Jewish ace of the Great War up for auction at Noonans.

A fine and scarce 1918 Great War Sopwith Camel fighter ace's Distinguished Flying Cross and bar awarded to Captain Solomon Clifford Joseph of the Royal Naval Air Service and Royal Air Force - who was the highest scoring Jewish ace of the Great War - is to be included in a sale of Orders, Decorations, Medals and Militaria at Noonans Mayfair on Wednesday, October 13, 2023.

As Mark Quayle, Medal Specialist and Associate Director of Noonans commented: "Joseph was a "gung-ho" pilot, whose aggressive flying style and skill accounted for at least 13 aerial victories over the Western Front between May - October 1918. He was no stranger to taking risks, and was wounded in aerial combat, and nearly shot down on many occasions."

"Approximately 66 D.F.C. and Bars were awarded for the Great War.

In the London Gazette of September 21, 1918, for his DFC, it observed Joseph to be: "A gallant pilot who has accounted for eight enemy aircraft within the past four months. On many occasions the enemy, were numerically superior to Lieutenant Joseph's patrol, but this did not prevent his attaining success."

For his D.F.C. Second Award Bar, less than two months later on 2 November 1918, the London Gazette said: "A very gallant and skillful officer. He led his formation under a large force of enemy aircraft with a view to inducing them to descend to attack him."

Solomon Clifford Joseph was born in Birmingham, England in April 1893 and was the son of a fine art dealer who specialized in Jade.

Joseph joined the Royal Naval Air Service in August 1917, and carried out pilot training at Crystal Palace from 12 August 1917, and at Vendome from 15 September 1917. He trained on the Caudron Biplane at the British Flying School, Vendome, France, attaining his Royal Aero License (No.5475), 7 October 1917.

He was posted as a pilot for operational flying to 210 Squadron in March 1918 and transferred with the Squadron into the Royal Air Force the following month. Flying in Sopwith Camels from various bases in France, Joseph remained with the Squadron until 28 November 1918.

The Squadron, of which Joseph was to become a Flight Commander, were initially engaged on ground- attack duties to help stop the German Spring Offensive. They were subsequently engaged on offensive patrols and bomber escort missions over Belgium.



Joseph returned to Birmingham after the war and enjoyed a prosperous Manufacturing career. Using his middle name for inspiration he formed The Clifford Group, which by the time of his retirement in April 1960, consisted of up to 16 companies.

Captain Joseph died in the Queen Elizabeth hospital, Birmingham in March 1966, and is buried at Witton, Jewish Cemetery.

## SHIPWRECKS — FROM PAGE 9

"The only thing that remains are the old bones of the very bottom of the sailing ships," Nagiewicz said. "Yet, those wrecks are historic because of their age and what they did during the time."

In the mid-1980s, a group of local New Jersey divers located the shipwrecks of the Bead and the Cramer. The Bead was named after the dozens of glass trading beads found on the boat that were likely used to trade with Native Americans, according to local historians

The vessel researchers called the Phoel was discovered in 2008 and named after Stockton researcher William Phoel, who died unexpectedly on an expedition in the Amazon. In 2015, Nagiewicz picked up where Phoel left off and a few years later he and Stockton marine field station students used sonar technology to "see" and measure the wreck.

The Phoel is the largest of the discovered schooners -- about the length of 1 1/2 school buses.

The artifacts and information about the Battle of Chestnut Neck are on display at New Jersey Maritime Museum on the southern end of Long Beach Island.

# PTSD TREATMENTS — FROM PAGE 8

According to the results of the most recent Stage 3 clinical trial, nearly 87% of the patients who received MDMA-assisted therapy showed significant improvement in their PTSD symptoms more than four months after treatment.

By the study’s end, 71% no longer met the diagnostic criteria for having PTSD.

Two participants who received MDMA reported having serious thoughts of suicide, although no one involved in the study -- neither the MDMA or placebo group -- attempted suicide.

MDMA is not without its risks. It is linked to high blood pressure, seizures and kidney failure, and its use can cause negative aftereffects such as irritability, depression, anxiety and memory issues, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

With MAPS wrapping up more than 12 years of research on MDMA as a treatment for combat-related PTSD, the organization plans to seek approval of the therapy from the FDA in 2024. The agency granted a “breakthrough therapy” status to the treatment in 2017.

The Drug Enforcement Agency also will need to weigh in, removing it from the list of illicit controlled substances.

To date, the DEA has been reluctant to alter that list, known as Schedule 1, to include declassifying medical cannabis, which remains illegal under federal law but is now allowed either for medical or recreational use in 38 states.

Legislation currently under consideration by Congress includes amendments that would require the Department of Defense and VA to study the use of marijuana to treat PTSD, depression and chronic pain in service members and veterans.

The legislation, part of the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act, also would require the Pentagon to conduct clinical trials on the MDMA and psilocybin for PTSD, traumatic brain injury and chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

**Florida Veterans Support Line**  
**1-844-MyFLVet**  
**(1-844-693-5838)**  
**or dial 211**

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*Let us return your call:*  
**(727) 319-7440**

*Send us an email:*  
**VSO@fdva.state.fl.us**



## **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.

# Are you a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one?

## 24/7, confidential crisis support for Veterans and their loved ones

You're not alone—the Veterans Crisis Line is here for you.

You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to call.

Access free, confidential support 24/7, 365 days a year.



or Text [838255](tel:838255)

Or chat online: [veteranscrisisline.net](http://veteranscrisisline.net)  
Live Connection

**Connect with a real person qualified to support Veterans.**

Your call is free and confidential, you decide how much information to share  
Responders will connect you with resources that can help when you are in distress

The Veterans Crisis Line serves Veterans, service members, National Guard and Reserve members, and those who support them.

Suicide and depression is an ongoing social problem especially among veterans.

The Veterans Administration is working to provide treatments that work and explore mental health resources.

If you know of a veteran or their family that is in need of help in preventing suicide, grief after suicide, health psychology and post traumatic growth,  
Recovery is Possible.

Educating and empowering families and friends seeking care  
or services for veterans

Services are available 24/7

# **JWV POST 373 CHANUKAH PARTY SATURDAY, DEC. 9<sup>TH</sup> 6:00 PM**

**RSVP to Steve Falkowitz no later than Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>  
at [stevefalk@gmail.com](mailto:stevefalk@gmail.com) or (813) 928-8990**

## **MENU FEATURES**

### **Appetizers:**

**Pigs in the Blanket**

**Spanakopita**

**Cheese Tray**

**Veggie Tray with Dip**

### **Main Meal Buffet includes:**

**Eggplant Parmigiana**

**Chicken Parmigiana**

**Chicken Breast**

**Dirty Rice**

**White Rice**

**Tossed Salad and Dressing**

**Mixed Vegetables**

**Potato Latkes**

**Desserts**

### **Drink Options:**

**Water**

**Iced Tea**

**Lemonade**

**Coffee**

**Regular and Diet Sodas**

**\$30.<sup>00</sup>  
PER PERSON**



**Compton Park at Tampa Palms**

**16101 Compton Drive, Tampa, FL 33647**

**(click on the address to link  
to Google Maps)**