

# TAPS



Today we mourn the passing of a great American and Humanitarian, “Mr. Agent Orange “of the Vietnam Veterans of America, our Brother Michael Eckstein. Michael Eckstein is one of the forefathers of the movement to fight for the rights of veterans and their families to successfully obtain treatment for exposure to dioxin “Agent Orange” and recently to all military exposures. From all of our Sisters and Brothers of VVA Chapter 327 we extend our deepest sympathy to the Eckstein family.

**FROM THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT VIETNAM  
VETERANS OF AMERICA NEW JERSEY STATE  
COUNCIL HARRY WEIMER**

Today on the eve our Agent Orange rally we lose another Hero and a really nice person. Mike, you are going to be missed my friend. This is the man that has given me support and kept me updated on Agent Orange. Mike, I and a lot of veterans and family members are going to miss you. I know everybody will say you are not in any pain anymore, which is true, but you are going

to the higher command and when you get there tell the new commander "Reporting to my new duty station".

THANK YOU, MIKE,  
SHAKEY

Please keep Mike in your prayers and he would want you to attend the rally tomorrow if you can. If not, I will understand, BUT WE NEED TO KEEP THIS FIGHT GOING PLEASE. I CAN NOT TAKE ANOTHER BROTHER OR SISTER DYING OR A CHILD

**The Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America** was created in 1894 in response to accusations that Jews had not contributed their fair share as part of America's armed forces. The site says Jewish participation goes way back to 1654 and Asher Levy, "one of the original 23 Jewish settlers in New Amsterdam, who demanded and secured for himself and fellow Jews the right to stand guard at the stockade. From Colonial time to the present, Jews have played an important role in the defense of the United States of America."

The great humanitarian Elie Wiesel once said, "If we have learned one thing from our past, it is that to live through dramatic events is not enough. One has to share them and transform them into acts of conscience."

Currently, there are 15,000 American Jews serving on active duty and an additional 5,000 serving in the Guard and the Reserves."

Remembering veterans past and present also means recalling their unintended consequences. As of the end of 2017, 56 Jewish Americans had died fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to statistics compiled by the Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

For those of us sent to war, most come to feel forgotten by the nation that sent us. That's true regardless of the war's name — Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan or Syria. As one veteran has written about Vietnam, it "succeeded only in leaving a legacy of bitterness and unacknowledged sacrifice."

What have we learned from the sacrifice of thousands of Americans? What will be the legacy of those of us who were sent to fight in foreign lands? What should we recall on Veterans Day?

Maybe, as long as we do not betray the ideals of those who have served, as long as we recognize their service with dignity and integrity, their spirit will live on.

The lives of those who have served our nation challenge us, not only to remember them, but to give meaning to their lives. For as a poet has suggested, their lives will mean what we make of them.









Greater love hath no man than this,



that a man lay down his life for his friends



*If they are remembered, they are not  
gone truly, they simply change duty  
assignments and are amongst our best.*

*Veteran's Reflections*