**American Veterans of Israel Legacy Corporation**

 U.S. and Canadian Volunteers in Israel’s War of Independence

 11 East 44th Street (Suite 1505), New York, NY 10017

 

**50TH MICKEY MARCUS MEMORIAL EVENT**

**HELD AT USMA – WEST POINT, APRIL 17, 2016**

The 50th Anniversary Mickey Marcus Memorial, held on Sunday, April 17, 2016, at West Point was a memorable and moving event. The weather could not have been better and the large turnout of congregants exceeded the seating capacity of the Jewish Chapel. The chapel service was led by Chaplain (MAJ) Henry Soussan, the Garrison Jewish Chaplain, whose son currently serves in the IDF as a Lone Soldier volunteer. Chaplain (COL) Mathew Pawlikowski, Rabbi (COL) Jacob Goldstein and Rabbi (LTC) Doniel Kramer participated in the service.  The Shapiro Family Choir and the SAR High School Choir graced the event with choral interludes, as they have done for many years now. The Jewish War Veterans (JWV) Color Guard carried the flags for the opening and closing of the program.

We were honored to have LG Robert Caslen, Superintendent of the Academy at West Point, address the gathering.  High-ranking Consular officials present included: Amir Sagie of the State of Israel, Jana Trnovcova of Slovakia and Martin Dvorak of The Czech Republic.  Also present this jubilee year was Commissioner Joseph Ponte of the NYC Department of Corrections, paying tribute to Mickey Marcus who served in the same position in 1940. Many members of the Marcus family attended, in addition to MACHAL stalwarts.  Among the IDF veterans present were Marcel Berkowitz, Arthur Bernstein, Dick Cohen, Harold Kraushar, Paul Kaye, Duke Labaczewski, Ralph Lowenstein, Rafi Marom, Russ Poker, Si Spiegelman, and Marcie Wolman.

**A 14-panel MACHAL exhibition, funded by The American Jewish Historical Society and available for loan through The American Veterans of Israel Legacy Corporation, was in the hallway outside the chapel displaying the saga of the first volunteers in the creation and defense of the Jewish State.**  **A recently returned Lone Soldier, Harrison Adler, represented the continuing role of North American Volunteers in the Israeli army, and honored the memory of three American IDF Lone Soldiers who fell in action in recent years.**

The chapel service was followed by a graveside tribute that included the call-out of the War of Independence fallen by name, a wreath laying ceremony at the graves of Col. David "Mickey" and Emma Marcus, Kaddish recitation, and military rites bestowing honor and remembrance to fallen comrades.

The highlight of the event was the tribute to Czechoslovakia, recognizing the arms support during Israel’s 1948 War of Independence, when nations stood back and offered scant help. The Consuls General in New York representing the Czech Republic and Slovakia were honored with a proclamation signed by Israel's President Reuven Rivlin on behalf of the State of Israel which is displayed below.

 **THE PROCLAMATION FROM THE STATE OF ISRAEL**

**ADDRESSING THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA**

**(Please see the attachment)**