



**JWB Jewish
Chaplains Council**
Serving Jews Who Serve

a signature program of



**JCC Association
of North America**

**Jewish Welfare Board
Jewish Chaplains Council**

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19 October, 2018

Dear Colleague,

JWB Jewish Chaplains Council was founded more than 100 years, and over that time, in times of peace and war, JWB's mission has been to serve Jewish men and women who serve in the United States military. We ensure that every Jewish member of the U.S. armed forces has the opportunity to practice Judaism in a meaningful and fulfilling way no matter where they are stationed, and serve as the officially designated representatives of the American Jewish community to the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs.

Prior to this year, the American Jewish community did not have a singular chanted prayer for members of the U.S. military. With the publication of the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council **Prayer Book for Personnel in the Armed Forces**, JWB seeks to change that. This year, JWB held a contest, inviting cantors, rabbis, musicians and others to submit entries, putting to music the words of the Prayer for the Armed Forces that appears in the *siddur*. Earlier this year, a composition by noted New York musician Danny Mendelsohn was chosen as the official Jewish prayer for the U.S. armed forces.

JWB Jewish Chaplains Council has chosen the Shabbat immediately prior to Veteran's Day 2018 to debut **A Song of Service: A Prayer for the US Armed Forces**. On that Shabbat we would like to invite you and your congregation to join synagogues of all denominations and Jewish communities across the United States in adding this moving prayer, set to Danny's soaring music, for the first time to your Shabbat services as a weekly addition.

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JWB Jewish Chaplains Council is a signature program of JCC Association, which is a recipient of funds from the National Federation/Agency Alliance through its supporting federations and Jewish Federations of North America.

Attached you will find the prayer, the sheet music and a link to the digital audio file of the prayer. With this act of unity and faith, we will demonstrate once again, the great support the American Jewish community gives to our men and women of all faiths serving in our U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at ielson@jcca.org.

Shalom and thank you!

Rabbi Irv Elson, CAPT, USN (Ret)
Director, JWB Jewish Chaplains Council

Please click on links below for the audio/video files of the prayer:

http://jcca.org/app/uploads/2018/09/Daniel-Mendelson-Armed-Forces-Prayer-1_18.mp3

Prayer for America's Military Personnel

Rabbi Gerald C. Skolnik

Daniel Mendelson

Freely (♩ = c. 96)

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 1-5) features a vocal line with a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure and a piano accompaniment with chords. The second system (measures 6-10) continues the vocal line with a triplet of eighth notes in the final measure and a piano accompaniment with chords. The third system (measures 11-15) includes a 'Rit.' (ritardando) marking over measures 11-13 and an 'A tempo' marking over measure 14, which contains a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment in the third system features chords and a melodic line in the bass clef.

Rib-bo-no shel o-lam! Rib - bo-no shel o-lam! A - nu kor-'im l'-vir'-kat - cha al cha-ya-

6 lei tz'-vah ar'-tzot ha - b'rit, ha-na - shim v'-hag' - va - rim ha'a-mi - tzim sheg'-vu - ra -

11 tam um'-si-ru - tam lim'-di-na - tei - nu m'-gi - nah al ku - la - nu. Rib-bo-no shel

16 More rhythmic

o-lam! Rib - bo - no shel o-lam! Yo - teir mi-kol a - nu nos' - im t'-fi -

The musical score for measures 16-21 features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 8/8 to 2/4, then to 4/4, and finally to 3/4. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

lah she-yiz' - ku la - shuv b'-sha - lom bim' - hei - rah u-viv' - ri -

The musical score for measures 22-26 continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature remains one flat. The time signature is 3/4. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet in the right hand in measure 26.

'ut to - vah l' - mish' - p' - cho - tei - hem ul' - ar' - tzam. Wheth - er by

Rit. A tempo

The musical score for measures 27-30 concludes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat. The time signature is 3/4. The tempo marking changes from 'Rit.' to 'A tempo' between measures 28 and 29. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet in the right hand in measure 27.

31

air, land or sea, wher - ev - er their or - ders take them, we _ ask, dear

Choir oohs:

36

God, that they be pro-tec - ted with - in your shel - ter - ing Pre - sence. Rib - bo - no shel

A tempo

40

Rit.

o - lam! Rib - bo - no shel o - lam! Rib - bo - no shel o - lam! _____