FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF DENTAL VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL HONORS
CAPTAIN BEN L. SALOMON, AN AMERICAN HERO

NEW YORK, N.Y., September 6, 2016 – American Friends of Dental Volunteers for Israel (AFDVI), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization announced today that it will honor the memory of U.S. Army Captain Ben L. Salomon -- an American hero, dentist and posthumous Congressional Medal of Honor recipient at an event to benefit the Dental Volunteers for Israel Trudi Birger Dental Clinic. The event will be held at 5:00PM on Sunday, November 20, 2016 in the Septodont Lecture Hall of New York University’s College of Dentistry.

Among the speakers will be Colonel Jack Jacobs (Ret), himself a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient and an NBC News Military Analyst; and Major General Patrick Sculley (Ret), former Army Deputy Surgeon General and Chief of the Army Dental Corps.

“The story of Captain Salomon is almost too incredible to be believed and his courage and sacrifice must not be forgotten,” said Dr. Scott Dubowsky, President of AFDVI. “We are delighted to have the opportunity to hear from two dynamic speakers who will help us understand Captain Salomon’s story and what it means to us today. It will be a privilege and an honor to share the story of this American hero with our supporters this November.”

The event is being supported by companies, such as Henry Schein, which has been the primary supporter of DVI since 1997, donating supplies to DVI each year through Henry Schein Cares, the company's global social responsibility program. Henry Schein Cares also has provided financial support to DVI for specific activities and campaigns, as well as marketing and promotional support for fundraising and educational programs. Keith Drayer, Henry Schein's Vice President and General Manager of Henry Schein Financial Services, serves on the Board of the American Friends of DVI.
About American Friends of Dental Volunteers for Israel

The mission of American Friends of Dental Volunteers for Israel (AFDVI) is to promote oral health and prevent suffering among children and at-risk youth and to promote volunteerism and cross-cultural understanding. Through fundraising and volunteer recruitment efforts in the United States, AFDVI supports the work of Dental Volunteers for Israel at the Trudi Birger Dental Clinic, which provides free dental care and oral health education to Jerusalem’s underprivileged children and youth regardless of racial, ethnic, or religious background. For more information about American Friends of Dental Volunteers for Israel and the Trudi Birger Dental Clinic please visit www.americanfriendsofdvi.org.

About Dental Volunteers for Israel and the Trudi Birger Dental Clinic

Since its founding in 1980, Dental Volunteers for Israel has been providing free dental care to Jerusalem's most underprivileged children. At the state-of-the-art Trudi Birger Dental Clinic, children and young adults of all faiths referred by the Department of Social Welfare and shelters are treated by dentists from around the world. Volunteering services range from routine to complex dental procedures. DVI also runs a comprehensive preventative dental care program to help young patients develop good, long-term oral health habits. This worldwide work is made possible not only by the dentists who come to Israel and donate their time and expertise, but also by businesses and individuals who donate supplies, equipment, and financial resources for DVI's operating budget. Although oral care is a key contributor to overall health, it is often considered an unaffordable luxury to underserved people who have little choice but to do without it. The situation is dire in Israel. Right now there are over 200,000 children living in poverty in Jerusalem and the numbers are continuing to rise. DVI treats thousands of these children and youth each year at the clinic, yet there are still thousands more who need help.

There is no other organization that provides comprehensive free dental care and education to disadvantaged children in Israel. DVI has won awards from the Mayor of Jerusalem, the Israel Ministry of Health, and the Movement for a Better Israel, which notably lauded DVI for encouraging brotherhood and tolerance between Jews and Arabs.

CONTACT: Martha Rodriguez
Executive Administrator
americanfriendsofdvi@gmail.com
(201) 336-0230 Office
(646) 525-7749 Mobile
www.americanfriendsofdvi.org

#   #   #
AMERICAN FRIENDS OF DENTAL VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

HONORS THE MEMORY OF

CAPTAIN BEN L. SALOMON
American Hero, dentist, and Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient

Date: Sunday, November 20, 2016

Time: 5 pm – 8 pm
• 5 PM Reception
• 6 PM - Presentation followed by Q&A session
  o Keynote Speaker – Colonel Jack H. Jacobs, Retired
    Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient and NBC News Military Analyst
  o Major General Patrick Sculley, Retired
    Former Chief of the US Army Dental Corps

Location: Septodont Lecture Hall
NYU College of Dentistry
345 E. 24th Street
New York, NY

Registration: www.americanfriendsofdvi.org/event
AMERICAN FRIENDS OF DENTAL VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

AT-A-GLANCE

American Friends of Dental Volunteers for Israel (AFDVI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that creates awareness of and supports the Dental Volunteers for Israel Trudi Birger Dental Clinic in Jerusalem, Israel through volunteer recruitment and fundraising efforts.

Dental Volunteers for Israel (DVI) was founded by Trudi Birger z”l in 1980. A holocaust survivor, she devoted her life to preventing the suffering of children. Because of her efforts, tens of thousands of underprivileged children have received dental care over the past 36 years.

DVI operates the only free dental clinic of its kind in Israel. It looks after the needs of Jerusalem’s underprivileged children, regardless of their religious and cultural backgrounds. Each year over 100 volunteer dentists from around the world treat an average of 2,700 at-risk children and youth at the DVI clinic.

The modern, state-of-the-art center is staffed by volunteer dentists and multi-lingual dental assistants under the supervision of Dr. Roy Petel, a pediatric dentist. The clinic also has a full-time hygiene program where patients have access to oral health education and resources including posters, models, games, books, activities, and videos.

Having a venue where dentists from across the globe come together for a common purpose and having a clinic that treats children of all religions and ethnicities is what makes DVI unique.

AFDVI Board President, Dr. Scott Dubowsky with his patient and dental assistant Michal at the Trudi Birger Dental Clinic
AMERICAN FRIENDS OF DENTAL VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

Board of Directors

Dr. Allen R. Helfer, Chairman
Dr. Allen Helfer has been the Chairman of American Friends of DVI for nearly a decade. He is a graduate of the Columbia University Dental School and Boston University, School of Graduate Dentistry. Dr. Helfer has taught as a Clinical Professor of Endodontics at Columbia Dental School and acted as the Endodontic Director of AEGD and GPR Residency Program at Columbia Dental School. He continues to teach at both Columbia University School of Dentistry in New York and Nova University Dental School in Florida. He is a member of many influential organizations including the William Jarvie Honor Society, Connecticut Dental Society, Diplomat of American Board of Endodontics among many others. Dr. Helfer has traveled the world giving lectures and seminars on general dentistry and endodontics. He has been involved with DVI and Trudi Birger for many years and has contributed much of his time, energy, and gracious leadership to ensuring that the DVI clinic in Jerusalem runs successfully.

Dr. Scott M. Dubowsky, President
Dr. Scott Dubowsky is a 1975 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, School of Dental Medicine. He received a teaching fellowship in periodontics from the University of Pennsylvania and completed his hospital residency training at Metropolitan Hospital Center in New York City in 1976. Dr. Dubowsky has received fellowships from the Academy of General Dentistry (FAGD) and The Pierre Fauchard Academy. He has held national positions in both the American Dental Association and the Academy of General Dentistry at the council and taskforce level and has been Chairman of the AGD’s Council on Dental Care. He is a past president of the New Jersey Academy of General Dentistry and has also served as a reviewer for the US Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health in America. Dr. Dubowsky was a clinical assistant professor at the NYU College of Dentistry for over 25 years, is currently an attending dentist at Bayonne Medical Center, and is an evaluator for “Clinician’s Report,” an independent dental research and evaluation organization. Dr. Dubowsky has received a commendation from the New York City Medical Examiner’s office for his work as a member of the dental ID team following the World Trade Center tragedy.

Mr. Keith D. Drayer, Vice President
Mr. Keith D. Drayer is Vice President and General Manager of Henry Schein Financial Services. He is responsible for Henry Schein Financial Services (“HSFS”), Henry Schein Professional Practice Transitions “HS PPT”) and Henry Schein Associate Dentist Placements. Keith leads and manages a team of more than 90 members spanning fourteen countries.

Keith is an active contributor to many facets of the dental industry. He is Treasurer of the Dr. Edward Shils Entrepreneurial Education Fund and has been a participant of the Alpha Omega Corporate Roundtable, Dental Trade Alliance and has worked with the National Dental Association and Hispanic Dental Association on matters of healthcare industry diversity.

Keith has lectured nationwide to dental and medical school students and Residents. Keith has taught at New York University’s Dental School Continuing Education program, Columbia University College of Dental

American Friends of Dental Volunteers for Israel
P.O. Box 127, New York, NY 10185
Telephone: (201) 336-0230 E-mail: info@americanfriendsofdvi.org Website: www.americanfriendsofdvi.org
Dr. David Weinstein, Vice President
Dr. David Weinstein is a periodontist who specializes in the placement of dental implants with offices in Manhattan and New Jersey. He received his doctorate in Dental Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania and completed a general practice residency at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Dr. Weinstein is a former Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Implant Dentistry at Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery where he instructed students on dental implantology. He is a member of the American Academy of Periodontology and the Northeast Society of Periodontists. Dr. Weinstein first volunteered at the Trudi Birger clinic in 1992. Since then, he has returned to the clinic over ten times. Dr. Weinstein has served as the Chairman of the New York annual fundraising events.

Dr. Don Simkin, Treasurer
Dr. Don Simkin is a graduate of NYU College of Dentistry. After managing his own private practice in Livingston Manor for over three decades, he is recently retired from forty years of active practice after associating with Great Expressions Dental Centers in Liberty, New York. He is a lifetime member of the American Dental Association as well as a member of both the Academy of General Dentistry and the International Academy of Dento-Facial Esthetics. Dr. Simkin has served as the director of Dentistry at Catskill Regional Medical Center for over a decade and also assists as a Dental Consultant for the United States Luge Association. His many community endeavors include Board Member and three times past-President of the Livingston Manor Rotary Club, past President of the Sullivan County Health Advisory Council, founding member and past President of the Livingston Manor Community Center. Recently, Dr. Simkin was named to the Board of Trustees of the National Sports Academy in Lake Placid, NY. Dr. Simkin has been an active volunteer in American Friends of DVI since 1987.

Dr. Saul Pressner, Secretary
Dr. Saul Pressner is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. He completed a 2-year Family Dentistry Residency at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. He is a Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry. Dr. Pressner has been a Clinical Associate Professor at the NYU School of Dentistry, Bellevue Residency.

In 2015 Dr. Pressner was the President of the Academy of Biomimetic Dentistry. He has authored two articles on Biomimetic Dentistry in the PAGD Journal and has lectured on the subject at the University of Pennsylvania and at Columbia University.

Please visit https://americanfriendsofdvi.org/about-us/board-of-directors-honorary-council/ for a complete list of Board Members and Honorary Council Members.
Captain Ben L. Salomon

On November 20th, 2016, the American Friends of Dental Volunteers for Israel (AFDVI) will honor the memory of Captain Ben L. Salomon, an unsung hero of World War II who saved the lives of many fellow soldiers, as well as the life of a commanding officer during a bloody battle in Saipan in the Pacific. He is one of three Jewish servicemen remembered in Yad VaShem and the only dentist.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1914, Ben Salomon first attended Marquette University and then the University of Southern California, from which he graduated. He then went on to attend USC’s Dental College and to practice dentistry.

As with other men of his age, he was drafted into the Army as World War II broke out, and he became Dr. Ben Salomon, an infantry private. He was a natural soldier and leader and won awards for his expertise in rifle and pistol marksmanship. Within a year he had risen to the rank of sergeant and then was made an officer in the Dental Corps, in spite of trying to stay with his infantry.

In June 1944, newly promoted to captain, he was sent to Saipan and had his first taste of battle. Since there was little work for a dentist in Saipan, when the battalion’s surgeon was wounded, he volunteered to step in as the acting surgeon.

When the Japanese made a final advance to kill off the Americans where Captain Salomon was located, he ordered the evacuation of patients from his aid station, using his expert marksmanship to hold off (and kill) the enemy, thus allowing for the safe removal of patients and injured soldiers. Even when he had been severely injured and was bleeding to death, he had continued to fight the enemy to allow time for additional soldiers to be saved. Captain Salomon was never seen alive again but was responsible for saving the lives of many of the other men.

Recommendations for Medals of Honor were made for three soldiers who had fought in the battle and saved many fellow soldiers, killing 98 enemy soldiers so that wounded patients could be evacuated. Two of the soldiers received the medals. Captain Salomon was not approved for the Congressional Medal of Honor because as a medical officer, and one who had ‘engaged in combat’, it was believed he was not eligible. At the time, the Major General who commanded the 27th Division said “I am deeply sorry that I cannot approve the award of this medal to Captain Salomon, although he richly deserves it.”

In spite of multiple attempts to resubmit the award recommendation in the 1960s and 1970s, which became more difficult over time, it wasn’t until 2002 that Captain Salomon finally received the recognition he deserved when the time limitation was waived. Finally, on May 1, 2002, President George W. Bush presented the Medal of Honor to Dr. Robert West, representing the USC School of Dentistry on Captain Salomon’s behalf. It was due to the unwavering commitment of several USC alumni, most notably Dr. West and Major General Patrick D. Sculley (Ret), former Surgeon General, U.S. Army and Chief of the Dental Corps, that the honor was finally bestowed on Captain Salomon, 58 years later.
Colonel Jack Jacobs (Ret)

Colonel Jack Jacobs entered military service through Rutgers University ROTC. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam as a member of the U.S. Army. It was during his second tour of duty that he earned the Medal of Honor for exceptional heroism on the battlefield. He also holds three Bronze Stars and two Silver Stars.

Colonel Jacobs received his Medal of Honor when he was serving as an adviser to a Vietnamese infantry battalion that came under fire during which the commander became disabled. Although bleeding from severe head wounds, Colonel Jacobs took command of the unit and withdrew the company to safety. He returned again and again to rescue the wounded and perform life-saving first aid. His efforts saved the lives of a U.S. advisor, wounded company commander, and 12 other allied soldiers.

Jacobs went on to serve on the faculty of the U.S. Military Academy of West Point and the National War College in Washington, D.C. After retirement he went on to found and be COO of the Auto Finance Group. He then went on to a career in Investment Banking where he led a global investment management business to $2.2 billion in assets for Bankers Trust Company and later co-founded a similar group for Lehman Brothers.

He is currently a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and is a director for the Medal of Honor Foundation. He is also a military analyst for NBC News and MSNBC.
Major General Patrick Sculley (Ret)

Major General Patrick Sculley attended Washington & Jefferson College where he was a member of the ROTC. Upon graduation, he went on to become a doctor of dental surgery, attending the program at the State University of New York at Buffalo before entering the U.S. Army in 1973.

In 1994, Dr. Sculley made history by becoming the first commander of the U.S. Army’s Dental Command, a newly created position. The creation of this position was an important step forward in improving dental care for soldiers.

His knowledge of health and medicine led to his promotion to the level of Major General and designation as Army Deputy Surgeon General. As the deputy surgeon general, Major General Sculley provided exceptional leadership and oversight of all Army healthcare facilities and biomedical research activities. He also served as Chief of the Army Dental Corps and Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Medical Command. Sculley was selected as the 2001 Federal Health Care Administrator of the Year by the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.

Major General Sculley retired from the U.S. Army after 29 years of service. Upon retirement, he began working in the private sector through Sigma Xi, a society that promotes and honors scientific achievement. Sculley later became involved with the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum Foundation, and is currently the VP for Development.

In July 2009 he joined the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences as Senior Vice President for University Programs. He established the Postgraduate Dental College (PDC) and became its Executive Dean. In June of 2016 he retired and was honored with appointment as Dean Emeritus of the PDC.