



# SEND HANUKKAH GREETINGS TO Lone Soldiers IN ISRAEL



## Send Hanukkah greetings to Lone Soldiers in Israel

Thank you for your interest in providing support for Lone Soldiers, who serve in the Israel Defense Forces with no immediate family in Israel to support their needs. About 7,000 lone soldiers are currently serving in the IDF, with about 60 percent coming from Jewish communities around the world, including the United States.

The Lone Soldier Project of the East Valley JCC is part of an effort to help provide emotional support to these soldiers, whose challenges include facing the extreme physical and psychological demands of the IDF, learning Hebrew, living in a foreign culture and experiencing loneliness from being so far away from home.

Holidays are particularly lonely and holiday greetings and letters of appreciation help them enjoy holidays and re-energize them to meet the constant demands of defending Israel and its people. For this reason, The Lone Soldier Project is collecting Hanukkah greetings letters to these Lone Soldiers.

### Guidelines

1. Write a letter on the attached Hanukkah Greeting Letter form. Feel free to express your appreciation for their commitment, personalize your message and share your connection to Israel.
2. Your letter will be collected with those from the seven congregations in the East Valley and sent to a Lone Soldier Center in Israel for distribution. The specific recipient will not be known, but they all speak English.
3. Their lives are very full, but if you want to include your e-mail for a response, go for it.
4. Return your letter by Oct. 20, 2018, to the designated box at the EVJCC.

You can be assured that your letter will bring a smile to the face of the recipient and give them a renewed sense of purpose when they realize that people around the world recognize the importance of what they are doing. Thank you for participating. We've learned that letters make them feel better, as we hope it makes you feel good, too. Call 480-895-4660 with any questions.

Michael Cohen, MD, Chair, Lone Soldier Project, EVJCC



*HAPPY*  
*Hanukkah*

Dear Lone Soldier,