

## INTERVIEW

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to the fact that many communities were being hurt by inefficient transportation ... There is only one 24-hr. route in our present busing system and that is the strip ... The rest of the community did not have access to buses after a certain time. What about those who had no other means of transportation? What could they do? ... There was one busdriver who was accosted for example in West Las Vegas, he gave up his entire "bank" (fares collected) to the robber ... After this incident West Las Vegas was "stigmatized" as a "high risk" area routes severely cut back ... This was unfair due to the fact that buses continued to be made available on the strip and other areas even after several robberies and one homicide..."

"... To remedy this situation and to bring about a more efficient system, the city of Las Vegas has contracted with another transit firm that will be "government funded" and "government operated" that will offer "24-hour transit" throughout the city and will consist of 100 buses and 14 routes ... I believe that this will increase the efficiency of our transit system and help all citizens who depend solely on our transit systems to reach their jobs, medical appointments and other activities ... This will be a great plus for all of us..."

## BLACK WARRIORS

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helped win the battle of Saipan, black tank units defeated German troops in Austria, and black soldiers helped win the Battle of the Bulge. The most famous black fighting unit of World War I was probably the 99th Pursuit Squadron, the air force unit that helped bomb the Germans into submission. Many of the "Tuskegee Airmen," as they were called since they began their training at Tuskegee Institute, went on to assume key leadership roles in the postwar world.

America in the 1940's asked African Americans to risk their lives under the banner of freedom and democracy while withholding both from blacks. And blacks rallied round that tarnished flag, not only to fight the enemy, but to fight for the respect denied them in a racist society.

They were in a long line of earlier black generations who believed their sacrifices on the

battlefield would win a greater measure of freedom and respect.

When the Civil War began, Frederick Douglass urged blacks to join the Union Army despite the Constitution's enshrinement of slavery and the government's refusal to attack slavery until long after the start of the war.

His advice, as strange as it seemed to many, was vindicated by outstanding black battlefield performance that helped lead to the abolition of slavery and the adoption of the Reconstruction amendments to the Constitution.

So too, the sterling performance of blacks in World War II played a role in leading President Truman to issue an executive order integrating the armed forces in 1948 - a measure that was also made possible by black voting strength in the north.

It's hard today to see General Powell smoothly running a press conference or to see our integrated fighting units, without realizing what a long road black people have travelled - and how far we have yet to go.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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saddened to see the media give so much attention to the small number of anti-war protesters who have sprung into action. It seems that every time a few protesters pick up their signs, the cameras swarm around them, and they end up on the news.

Our soldiers have said that they have a job to do and are going to get it done. I feel I have a job to do, too. And that's to stand up in strong support of our troops.

I want them to know that I and the American people are very proud of them. We are all inspired by their bravery.

I hope that you'll print my letter, and others like it, in the days ahead. Thousands of local American newspapers are reaching our men and women in uniform every day. Your newspaper may be one of them. I want the troops to know that we hold them in our thoughts and prayers every day.

Sincerely,  
Melvin Reed

## TARKANIAN'S SPORTS CLUB JOINS FORCES WITH OPERATION HOME FRONT

Tarkanian's Celebrity Sports Club of America, Inc. and Operation Home Front are joining forces to benefit the families of our freedom fighters in the Middle East.

February 11 through February 18th will be designated yellow ribbon week at Tarkanian's. A full schedule of events and specials are planned to raise funds that will be distributed by Clark County social services and matched by the local United Way.

If you wish to make a donation or attend one of our weeks events, please make your check payable to "Operation Home Front" or drop by for a personal donation at Tarkanian's Celebrity Sports Club, 4550 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89109

For further information contact Grant Adair at 795-4667

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