

# D.C. veterans: No more war, peace needed

By Sam Doku and  
Sonsyrea Tate

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WASHINGTON (NNPA)—Long after wars are over and victories are declared, the brave men and women who went to the battlefronts and survived live with chilling memories of the devastations they experienced.

Some of those terrifying memories have haunted these war veterans over the years and will haunt them until their dying days. When terrorists hijacked four planes and crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, in what President Bush called "the first act of war," another gruesome chapter was added to the nation's historic war annals.

It was a day on which America was awakened with the horrific and tragic news that simultaneous attacks on the WTC towers in New York and on the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia left more than 5,000 people from 40 countries missing or dead and many more injured.

Decorated Vietnam veteran Raymond Woods, the popular "More Better Man" announcer of 1450 WOL-AM's oldies-but-goodies show, said the war President Bush says the country is now in is a different kind of war and should be avoided if possible.

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"(Vietnam) was a different type of warfare. We knew who we were fighting," Woods said. "These people fighting now hit and run like cowards, using terrorists attacks." He said in Vietnam American soldiers were attacked by suicide soldiers who strapped explosives to themselves and jumped into American bunkers, but they were expected. "We called them zappers," Woods said. They had agreed to war and this was war's engagement.

Woods, who earned a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star and several other medals in what turned out to be America's most unpopular war, also thinks war is not the answer. "I don't think the president should go over there and level the place because a lot of innocent people would get hurt," he said. "These people didn't have anything to do with it.

They should catch the perpetrators and punish them in a world court and try to help bring peace to the Middle East."

Veterans Edward Payne, 82; Edward Blaha, 75; David Whittle, 64; Edward Harris Jr., 64; and Fred Whittlock, 86 all agreed the perpetrators should be caught and punished.

Another veteran, Bob Lautman, 77, also thinks war

is not the solution.

"War is not going to help anybody. I can't think of any country being wiped out from the face of the earth looking at what happened in WWII," Lautman said. "If those who did it are found, they should be brought to trial."

A World War II veteran of the U.S. Retired Soldiers' & Airmen's Home, Francis Stueve, 84, who was in the dining room having breakfast with his colleagues when Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941 recalled vivid memo-

ries of the attack that officially brought America into WW II.

"We have never been an aggressive nation," he said. "In the eyes of the (Japanese), they wanted to control Hawaii because of two things: their pineapple and sugarcane, which were the best in the world at that time. They started bombing the Harbor around 7:00 a.m. and it lasted for about two hours. What we should know now is that there is no place in the U.S. where security cannot be im-

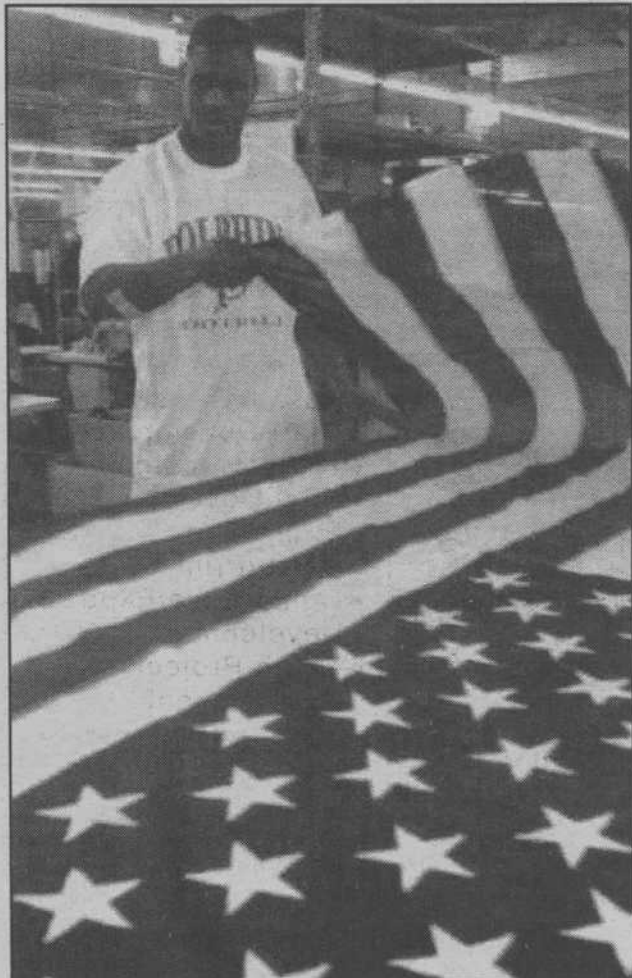
proved."

William Woods, 71, a Korean and Viet Nam war veteran and now assistant public relations officer at the U.S. Retired Soldiers' & Airmen's Home in Northwest Washington drew an analogy between Pearl Harbor and last week's attack on America.

"It's a shock, absolute shock," said Woods. "It happened in such a way you would think you have just awoken from a bad dream. Pearl Harbor was far away and besides nobody knew

where it was. But here, we can see the smoke from the Pentagon and we know where New York is. That's what makes it devastating. I was 11 when Pearl Harbor was bombed and when I asked my father [about it], he could not tell me. It's stunning."

Regarding Osama bin Laden, who President Bush calls the main suspect in the terrorist attacks in which commercial aircrafts were used as weapons of mass destruction, Woods said: "If he (See Veterans, Page 18)



## HELPING HANDS

Miami Dolphins Twain Russell folds an U.S. flag while volunteering with other teammates at the Goodwill Industries in Miami Tuesday. The flags made for the American Veteran Administration will be used for military funeral services.

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On behalf of the more than 2,000 Wells Fargo employees in Nevada,  
we extend our thoughts and prayers to all those  
touched by the recent tragedy.

**We Honor** those who lost their lives in the  
recent attacks against America.

**We Support** the families, friends and all  
those affected by the tragedy.

**We Salute** the heroes working diligently to  
bring relief and resolve to the nation.