

## Veterans

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Vegas resident, are reflecting on what war is and the new types of warfare.

"It's an entirely different process. As a veteran, the same rules still apply. You fight the battle that you're able to fight. When you have to fire you have to fire. With this battle here at home, it makes things a little different because we have to be on the lookout and vigilant in everything that we do. It's not just anthrax, there's going to be other types of terrorist activities that occur. We have to look out for things that don't normally take place," said Peters.

Like many Americans, Peters supports the actions of our president.

"There's never been a battle like this," he said. "People have said that we should close our borders. With as many entry and exit points as there are in this country and as big as our borders are, I would continue to do things the same way. I'm sure we have intelligence networks working that have infiltrated the enemy."

"War is not a game. War is real," he said. "When you get there you need to be aware of your surroundings. It's the same thing with life. You have to be able to adjust."

Peters was interested to see how Las Vegas treats its veterans. "I heard that veterans are treated really well here and I wanted to see for myself. As difficult as things are on the job front, a lot of veterans are unemployed and a lot of veterans are homeless. I'd like to see what's going to be done about that."

Another proud black veteran, and president of the local chapter of the National Association of Black Veter-



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

**Veterans Val Johnson, left, and Sheila Tuttle, middle, converse with Theonna Ellison, a member of the Palo Verde High School ROTC program during the breakfast.**

ans, Sylvester Coleman, led a contingency of members to the event, and shared some of his perspectives on the war and how war, itself, has changed- or not changed.

"It's just another strategy. We're vulnerable to it, but we'll rise to the occasion. War is war, people are gonna get hurt, people are gonna get killed. I don't think you can do anything any differently other than to change the world order- and if you change the world order, people are still going to be disenfranchised, they're going to be grumbling. Put the United States in the Taliban's position. It would not be a fair- like the Boston Tea Party. The world order is the thing that creates wars," he said.

Coleman believes that the average person's lack of understanding for war comes from a deeper need for self-definition.

"There's too many people

that don't know themselves. It's not so much about war as it is about 'do you know you,' and 'what is your existence'? War is secondary. Too many people don't know themselves, and therefore they don't know the politics that causes these situations."

"If you understand the world order, you understand the world history, you understand the Bible. It doesn't come as a surprise to you. We've been vulnerable for it for years. The issue is, what is the world order?"

The Nevada Command Council of the National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS), a group that serves all veterans, will be hosting a "2001 Nevada Day of Honor" for minority veterans on Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Nellis Air Force Base Officers' Club. The keynote speaker is General Robert A. Cocroft, Deputy Secretary for the Wisconsin Department of

Veteran's Affairs.

NABVETS is a nationally certified Veterans Service Organization that works throughout the community to end homelessness, empower low-income and minority veterans, and work with disadvantaged youth.

For more information about NABVETS or the 2001 Nevada Day of Honor, call 891-9697.

## Exhibit recognizes Tuskegee Airmen

By John T. Stephens III  
Sentinel-Voice

A new museum exhibit, which is dedicated to the contributions of African-American war veterans and aerospace scientists, opens at the Lowden Veterans Center and Museum, 333 Cambridge, on Sunday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. The public is invited to attend a parade, rally and open house for the new Tuskegee Airman Exhibit.

"This is the first time in the state," said Thomas Washington, curator of the African-American historical display. "We hope for the opportunity to have our own facility."

The showcase will be located on the second floor of the Lowden Museum and will be open weekdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The project is the latest creation of the James B. Knighten chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. The James B Knighten chapter is one of 40 Tuskegee Airmen chapters across the country with at least 41 members. Established in 1999, the aviation group visits schools and senior citizens' centers to tell of the first men of color to take to the air in defense of America. Uniforms, photos and personal items belonging to original Tuskegee Airmen will be on display. The exhibit is conducted by Washington, artist Randy Proby, and the museum's directors, Ed and Caryl Gobel.

"An excellent first step," Washington said. "We plan to use the exhibit to reach out- make people aware of the contributions of the Tuskegee Airman. It's especially important for African-American children."

"It's going to be real good for the community- especially with what's going on today," said Sgt. Ronald Tann of the U.S. Air Force. "They sacrificed their lives for our livelihood and the way we live today."

John Locksley developed the idea for a veterans' wing for Blacks. Chapter president Issac Moore and vice president Barbara Knighten, widow of James B. Knighten, will welcome guests. For more information call 562-9274.

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**City Councilwoman Lynette Boggs McDonald converses with Korea War vet Sly Coleman, left, and Charles Johnson, a board member of the National Association of Black Veterans.**