



Honoring the Armed Forces and Veterans

Special edition coverage, inside



Remembering Joe Frazier
Epic fights earned him boxing immortality
 See story, page 2

The Portland Observer 42 years of community service
 Read back issues of the Portland Observer at www.portlandobserver.com Established in 1970
 'City of Roses' Volume XXXXI, Number 45 Wednesday • November 9, 2011 Committed to Cultural Diversity

Advocating for Those Who Served

Veterans group helps with benefits

BY MINDY COOPER
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Portland chapter of the National Association of Black Veterans is working diligently to help former members of the military. The group works with the community to end homelessness, empower low-income and minority veterans and increase the quality of life for disadvantaged youth.

Founded in 1969 in Wisconsin, the association began with a number of African-American veterans who were having difficulty accessing their benefits. "So they banded together and formed a group," said Lt. Coronel Leneld E. Brown, a retired U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officer and the founder of the Portland chapter.

"I started this organization to help the underserved populations in the community to apply for their benefits with the Veterans Administration," Brown said. "When I was



PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
 Retired Lt. Col. Leneld E. Brown (second from left) with other local veterans and volunteers of the Portland chapter of the National Association of Black Veterans. The group helps veterans obtain the benefits they are due after service in the military.

continued ▼ on page 6

PeoplePoll: With troops from Iraq coming home, but a decade of war still going strong in Afghanistan, what does Veterans Day mean to you?



"It means we need to get everyone home that is in Afghanistan and then bring peace and prosperity to this country."
 --Nancy Winter, 63



"When the vets come back, there's going to be no jobs and few resources. Where are they going to go? It's sad."
 --Randy Chambers, 56



"For anybody that has been to that monument in Washington D.C., when you see that wall, it is mind blowing. I find no honor. I don't understand people fighting for things that aren't necessarily good for the people."
 --Malcolm Jackson, 43

"I guess we can be happy. My co-worker did a tour, and he is back now, but it's only just recently."
 --Taylor Randolph, 22



"It means freedom to me, and justice. I just want all the soldiers home already."
 --Michelle Cole, 41

