

The INSIDE



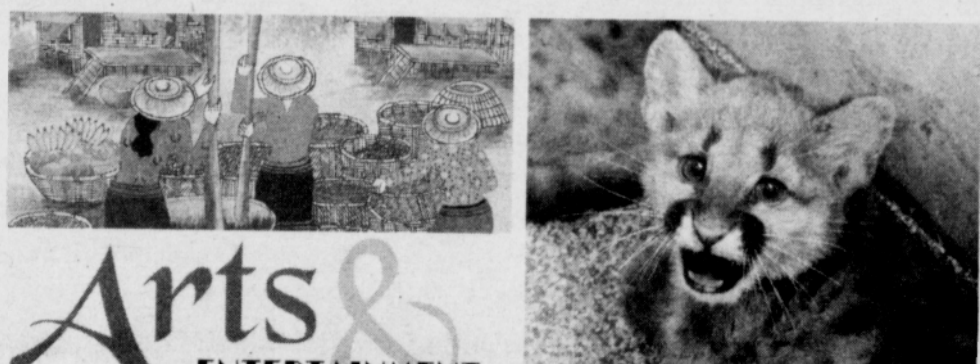
Salute to Our Veterans

The Portland Observer gives thanks to all current and former members of the Armed Forces on this Veterans Day 2012.

We deeply appreciate the sacrifices you have made and honor your dedicated and loyal service to the country.

The Week in Review page 4

RELIGION page 11




Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

pages 14-18

METRO

page 13



CALENDAR page 20

CLASSIFIEDS page 21

OPINION

pages 22-23



FOOD



page 24

This page Sponsored by: **Fred Meyer**

What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS

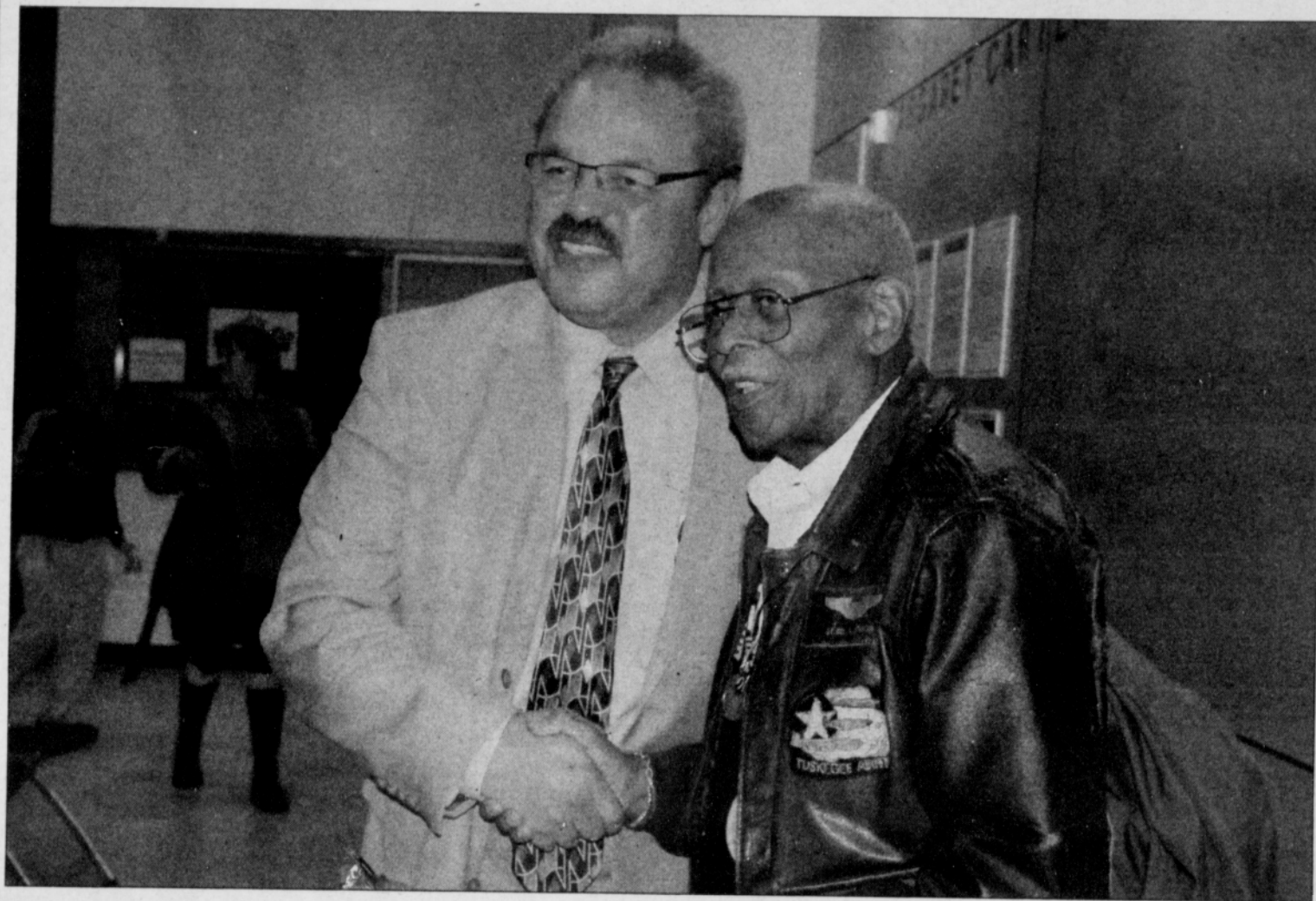


PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Alexander Jefferson, 92 (right), a member of the historic Tuskegee Airmen joins State Rep. Lew Frederick during a Veterans forum at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus. Jefferson recounted several moments of racism and countless war deaths during his tenure of service in World War II, but the Detroit-native still heralds the United States of America as "the greatest country in the world."

Surviving Hell

Tuskegee Airman recalls horrors of World War II

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"War is hell," that was the constant reframe from Alexander Jefferson, one of the last living members of the historic all-black military air-squad, the Tuskegee Airmen. During a veterans forum at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland, Jefferson shared his World War II accounts of seeing heaps of human bodies set aflame, friends being torn away by gunfire before his eyes, and even be-

coming a prison of war where worms and sawdust were not an uncommon part of his diet.

Jefferson, 92, also shared his thoughts on civil rights and serving a county that was divided along racial lines during the war, and where he was treated as a second rate citizen due to his skin color, even as he put his life on the line for the nation daily. Still, he manages to hail the United States of America as "the greatest country in the world."

The great grandson of an en-

slaved man, Jefferson was born in Detroit on Nov. 15, 1921. By the time World War II was beginning to engulf the world he had earned his Bachelor's degree in science from the highly regarded historically black institution Clark College in Atlanta and a Masters in education from Wayne State University in his hometown.

Despite an impressive educational background, Jefferson would enroll into the U. S. Army

continued ▼ on page 6

Local Charity Mobilizes Typhoon Help

Portland based Medical Teams International is mobilizing shipments of medicines and medical supplies to care for those affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful typhoons on record.

The storm has left widespread devastation affecting 4.3 million

people, including 800,000 who fled their homes in the Philippines. In Tacloban, the provincial capital of Leyte Island, it is feared at least 10,000 people are dead. Those numbers are expected to rise as the hardest hit areas become more accessible to rescue and relief efforts.

Medical Teams International,

working with International Medical Corps, will ship emergency health kits containing pharmaceuticals and medical items that cover the basic needs of people for three months in emergency situations.

Those seeking to support the effort may donate online at medicalteams.org/typhoon.