

Veterans share memories with younger generation

Holly Creek Retirement Community residents who served and survived World War II shared their memories with high school students and their good wishes with those serving in the War in Afghanistan.

Those who gave their time include three veterans and one civilian, a woman who was at Peal Harbor when it was attacked.

The retirees visited Littleton High School the morning of Nov. 11 to participate in the school's Veterans Day ceremony and then were interviewed and videotaped by a team of students, who are creating a video memoir of the WWII veterans' experiences.

The four veterans are:

- **Ralph Crawford**, who served in the 10th Mountain Division, which trained at Camp Hale near Leadville. He fought in Italy and received The Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart.
- **Don Frensley**, who flew 37 missions over Japan in a B-29 Bomber and his plane was

struck by a kamikaze pilot.

Frensley, a radio operator, said the Japanese plane crashed into the bomber's No. 3 engine. The co-pilot knew exactly what to do, shutting down the engine so the plane didn't catch fire. The kamikaze pilot's plane cart wheeled into oblivion while Frensley's plane, *Forbidden Fruit*, safely made it back to base.

• **Dick Raiter**, who served in the Navy as a supply and dispersing officer. One time, he ran out of money, so he had to fly to the Philippines to pick up \$300,000 cash in \$20 bills.

"I wasn't worried about being robbed," he said. "I was in the middle of the Pacific and there was nowhere for a robber to go."

He was onboard a ship bound for Pearl Harbor when he learned the war ended. He received another reward that day – "an extra dish of ice cream."

• The civilian, **Daphne Lovelace**, was 16 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. She and her family were on their way to church. A neighbor's house

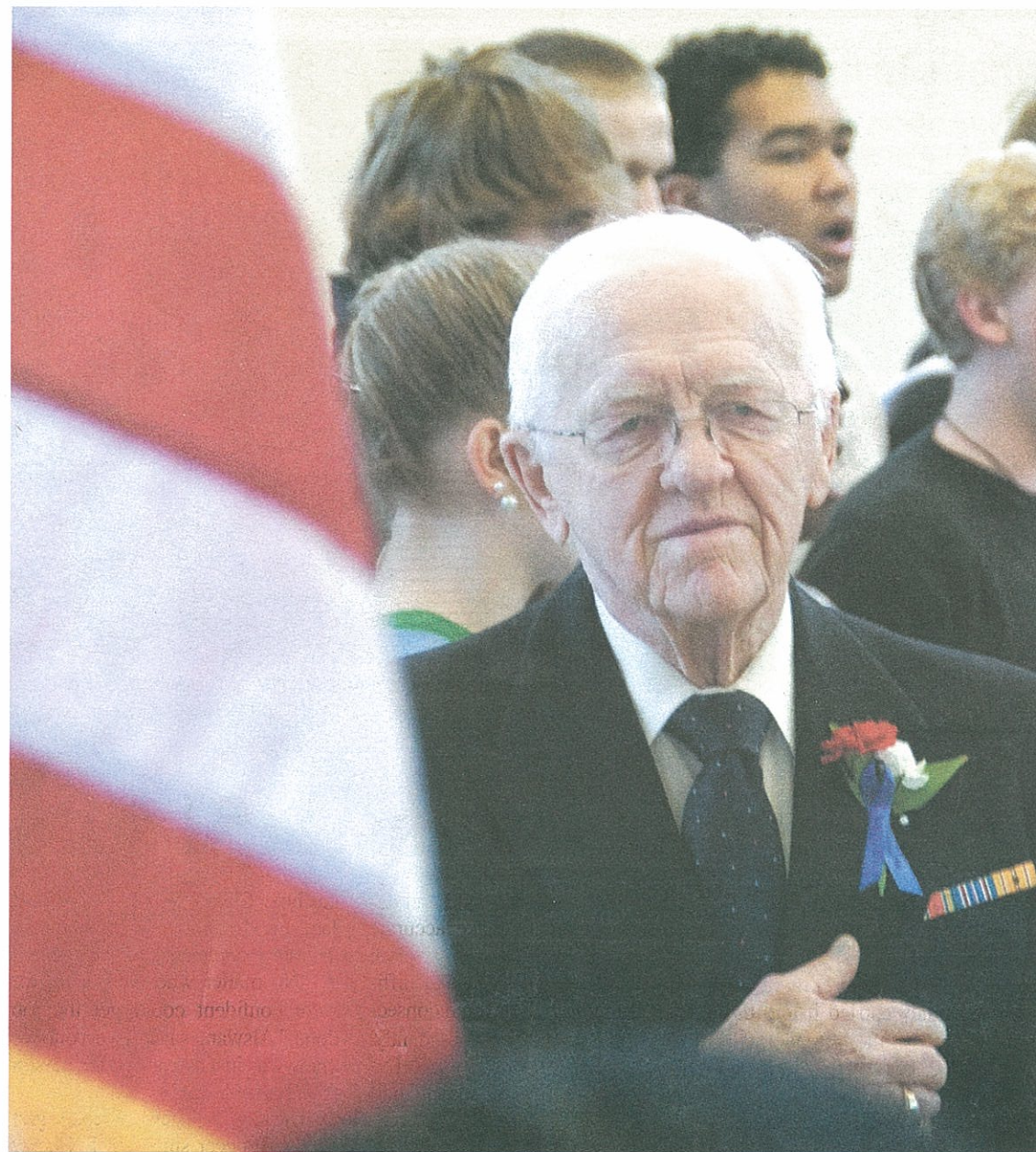
was hit by a bomb, and the 7-year-old daughter of the neighbor lost her arm.

Holly Creek residents also have adopted a company of Army engineers serving in Afghanistan. And they linked up with them via

Skype from computers in the retirement facility at 5500 E. Peakview Ave. in Centennial.

The residents have collected and sent personal care products to the unit, giving them a touch of home in the war zone.

That done, residents gathered for a dinner honoring multiple generations of veterans and celebrated with a USO-style dance with live band and "cigarette girls" walked around the tables.



Dick Raiter, who still fits in his WWII Navy uniform, salutes the flag during Veterans Day observances at Holly Creek Retirement Community.

Photo courtesy of Chuck Montera