

## Muslim group salutes U.S. veterans

by UPI

ST. LOUIS - The American Muslim Coalition engaged in its first event, honoring veterans at Missouri's Jefferson Barracks during a Memorial Day celebration.

With more than 20 volunteers on hand, the newly formed group honored the former soldiers at the site's Veterans Affairs Medical Center buildings and offered their support to troops currently overseas, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch said Monday.

Event organizer Dr. Zia Moiz Ahmad said Sunday's celebration was to show the Muslim community in the United States could still support the nation's military despite members' opinions regarding the war in Iraq.

That supportive statement was echoed by many who attended the VA hospital's first event led by a Muslim group.

"It's kind of the least we can do for all they have done," 12-year-old volunteer Shad Issa said.

The Post-Dispatch said a recent Pew Research Center survey found most Muslim Americans follow that exact view as their population becomes increasing assimilated into the U.S. culture.

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