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# ALL ABOUT THE DETAILS

## Decatur Native to work on Air Force One

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When Marine veteran and Decatur native **Yasir Waqaar** started his career as a detailer, he said he never could have imagined it would take him this far.

Waqaar, who graduated from Druid Hills High School, was selected out of hundreds of detailers nationwide for a team that will work on the Air Force One detailing team at Seattle's Museum of Flight.

Waqaar said he doesn't have any experience detailing an airplane, but said he's thankful for the opportunity to learn something new.

"It's doing something different. You can get in somewhat of a routine doing cars all the time," Waqaar said. "I'll be working with different materials. This opportunity is recognizing the accomplishment of what I'm striving for and they recognized my skills. It's a learning opportunity."

Waqaar is participating in a seven-day detailing event that started July 24 and will run through July 30. The annual detailing event is led by master automotive and aircraft detailer and trainer **Renny Doyle** of Detailing Success.

"To be a part of such a significant project as preserving Air Force One, that beautiful icon of our country's aviation heritage and history, is thrilling for me," Waqaar said. "How many chances do you get to work on preserving a piece of our country's history? It is an honor to be a part of this team and to share in this unique opportunity."

Waqaar wasn't always



Yasir Waqaar, who works at Decatur-based Red Clay Detailing, will work a detailing project on Air Force One at Seattle's Museum of Flight.

interested in detailing work, he said. In 2003, he was without a job and needed work. He said all he had at the time was a truck and a few supplies. From there, Waqaar went door to door on Candler Road in Decatur offering detailing and car wash services.

"I needed to make some money. I had some real estate but it wasn't making me any money. So I thought 'what can I do to generate income?'" Waqaar said. "I had a pickup truck and bought some supplies and went door to door. I've grown a lot since then."

Doyle said the Air Force One detailing project is one of the most prestigious detailing projects in the nation. According to Doyle,

it began 15 years ago under the Bush administration.

"A Bush administration official asked me to save this famous plane, which was falling into ruin on the tarmac at Seattle's Museum of Flight, I had only five detailers who had trained with me and with whom I trusted on such a project," said Doyle. "We were horrified at the condition of the aircraft, which had served as a flying Oval Office for Presidents **Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon**. Having been entrusted into the Team's care through 2020, there is no room for mistakes on multimillion-dollar aircraft, and today, Yasir [Waqaar] is one of the most skilled and talented detailers

in our network capable of helping us preserve her beauty."

This year, detailers will also clean, polish and apply protective coatings to 16 additional aircraft on display at the museum. The planes include a now-retired supersonic Concorde Alpha Golf—a remarkable WWII B-52 Stratofortress Bomber—and the first jumbo jet Boeing 747.

Waqaar will also have the opportunity of going up a lift to detail the American flag on the vertical stabilizer.

"Set your sights on something you want to do and keep working on it," Waqaar said. "I've wanted this project for over 10 years and now here I am."