A few years ago, Vietnam veteran and author Albert French was frustrated, depressed and generally down. He decided to discuss his problems with a friend.

Looking to comfort him, his friend said that God would take care of him.

“I can’t wait on God,” French replied.

Thus the title to French’s fourth novel was born. French, whose work, including novels Billy and Holly, is currently being studied by multiple Rider classes, spoke about the recently released I Can’t Wait On God along with his other works to members of the Rider University community on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Dr. Pearlie Peters, who introduced French, said that as part of Black History Month French had been invited to discuss African-Americans at war.

“I personally found his memoir, Patches of Fire, captivating,” she said. “I read it nonstop despite the amount of student papers that needed my attention.”

French, grasping his novel in one hand and a flask in the other, said that it always humbles him to hear what others have to say about his writing.

“They usually don’t talk about the other things I’ve done with my life,” he said. “I hope nobody else does either.”

French, who joined the Marines voluntarily two years before the Vietnam War started, said that he realized why his life was the way it is when he was watching Saving Private Ryan.

“In the end so many deaths have occurred and Tom Hanks’ character is dying,” French said. “He looks at Private Ryan and says ‘Earn this.’ To me, that means earn this time, earn this opportunity. There is always a tiny inner feeling that tells me to earn this extra 30 or 40 years, which means to do something.”

French went on to read excerpts from Patches of Fire. The novel, based on his experiences during and after the Vietnam War, speaks frankly about the horrors of war, French said.

“I could see hands lying in the mud and frozen looks on the faces of those who were attached to them,” he read. “I hope nobody else does either.”

French, who joined the Marines voluntarily two years before the Vietnam War started, said that he realized why his life was the way it is when he was watching Saving Private Ryan.

“In the end so many deaths have occurred and Tom Hanks’ character is dying,” French said. “He looks at Private Ryan and says ‘Earn this.’ To me, that means earn this time, earn this opportunity. There is always a tiny inner feeling that tells me to earn this extra 30 or 40 years, which means to do something.”

French went on to read excerpts from Patches of Fire. The novel, based on his experiences during and after the Vietnam War, speaks frankly about the horrors of war, French said.

“I could see hands lying in the mud and frozen looks on the faces of those who were attached to them,” he read. “I hope nobody else does either.”

French, who joined the Marines voluntarily two years before the Vietnam War started, said that he realized why his life was the way it is when he was watching Saving Private Ryan.

“In the end so many deaths have occurred and Tom Hanks’ character is dying,” French said. “He looks at Private Ryan and says ‘Earn this.’ To me, that means earn this time, earn this opportunity. There is always a tiny inner feeling that tells me to earn this extra 30 or 40 years, which means to do something.”

French went on to read excerpts from Patches of Fire. The novel, based on his experiences during and after the Vietnam War, speaks frankly about the horrors of war, French said.

“I could see hands lying in the mud and frozen looks on the faces of those who were attached to them,” he read. “I hope nobody else does either.”