

# Veterans Affairs Newsletter

Norfolk State University ■ Office of Veterans Affairs ■ Norfolk, Virginia 23504

## *Holiday Food Drive Held for Veterans*

Prior to end of the 2008 spring semester, the NSU Veterans Club community service activity was Project Holiday Food Drive. They sought the assistance of the Army ROTC Department for the project. Collection containers, provided by Capt. Sidney Cutshaw, were placed in well-traveled areas on campus, members of the Veterans Club advertised the event and helped to collect and store the donations during the drive held in November and December 2008. Army ROTC Capt. Sean Vergott provided the van to deliver the items. Capt. Vergott and members of the Veterans Club, Jennifer Castillo, vice president, Courtney Brown and Philandas Moore, joined by NSU Veterans Affairs administrative advisors, Frederick Irvis and Sandra Williamson-Ashe, presented Willard Smith, executive director of VetsHouse, Inc., with boxes filled to capacity with food items and a monetary donation to purchase bus passes.

VetsHouse, Inc. is a non-profit program designed to assist veterans who are homeless, suffering from drug or alcohol addition, alienated from family members due to their difficult adjustment to re-enter society. The

program is structured and the executive director, a veteran himself, establishes very high expectations for the residents and

their plight. Mr. Smith, who was very appreciative of the donations said, "I am glad to see organizations helping our veterans during their period of transition." He shared a brief history of the VetsHouse, Inc., and provided a tour of the residency of the campus.



provides them with a variety of resources while during the transition. They are provided clothing, a room, food, job leads, mandatory group counseling among the residents, participatory fund raisers for themselves, transportation, and most important, a camaraderie of those who best understand

### **A Spartan "Thank You"**

The Veterans Club and Army ROTC would like to thank the Norfolk State University community for the generous donations to the 2008 Holiday Food Drive to benefit VetsHouse, Inc.

---

## **Obama Appoints Veterans Affairs Secretary**



*Eric Ken Shinseki,  
Veterans Affairs  
Secretary appointee*

President Barack Obama appointed retired Army general Eric Ken Shinseki as Secretary of Veterans Affairs on December 8, 2008. Shinseki is an American politician and retired four-star general who will be serving as the 7th United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Previously, he served as a four-star general in the United States Army and as the 34th Chief of Staff of the Army. He is a veteran of combat

in Vietnam, having been left with a maimed foot. During his tenure as Army Chief of Staff, Shinseki initiated an innovative but controversial plan to make the Army more strategically deployable and mobile in urban terrain by creating Stryker Interim-Force Brigade Combat Teams. He conceived a long term strategic plan for the Army dubbed Objective Force, which included a program he designed, Future Combat Systems. Shinseki was the first Asian American to be a four-star general.

---

# Make a difference, Join the NSU VETERANS CLUB

We are a Community Service based non-profit organization designed to support local Veterans and their families....

Anyone with an interest in helping local Veterans can join, and there are **NO CLUB DUES**....

Enhance your resume, and increase your chances of success by becoming a dedicated member.....

We will be volunteering and hosting Fundraisers for CHKD, The Fisher House, The Vets House, and more....

**Contact: Jennifer Castillo    [j.c.castillo@nsu.edu](mailto:j.c.castillo@nsu.edu)**

