

# Veterans Affairs Newsletter

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

## Veterans Club Spreads Holiday Cheer

On December 17, a small group of Veterans Club members traveled to the Hampton VA Medical Center to spread a little holiday cheer. The members were greeted by Joe Lewis, VA Recreation Therapist, who introduced the members to the staff and residents. Veterans Club member Rosena Johnson reflected on the visit. "We wanted to brighten up the veterans' holiday season. Many of these veterans are elderly or disabled

patients who are residents of the VA Medical Center Nursing Home Care Unit. We volunteered to assist in the feeding of the residents during the two-shift lunch period. Club members worked diligently under the direction of Clifton Mercer, VA Nursing Assistant. During this time we met, fed and talked with veterans

about their experiences. We listened intently as veterans told their war stories. It was touching to see how sharing their stories with us still moved them. Prior to leaving, we distributed holiday greeting cards to the residents.

Visiting the retired service members provided us with a link to military history. Many veterans have paid the ultimate price in paving the way for us to have the freedom in which we enjoy today. They did their part then, now it is our turn to do our part and to show our gratitude for their sacrifice and service to our country."

The veterans were happy to see the smiling and friendly faces of the NSU students. It was a pleasant visit as students and veterans shared stories and kind words. The students let the veterans know that they were not forgotten and that NSU students would come again to visit them. (Please see, VA Medical Center Visit by Karen English, page 2.)



Veterans Club members pictured, front row (l to r) Rosena Johnson, Tanya Thomas and Veronica Palomino. Pictured back row (l to r) are Brad Gregory, Karen English and LeShe Hunter.

### ATTENTION

**CHAPTER 30, 30AD  
& 1606 STUDENTS**

**Verification of  
Enrollment Important  
to Receive Payments**

Remember: You **must** verify your enrollment on the last day of every month that you are enrolled in order to receive payment if you are receiving either the Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty or Selected Reserve benefit. This verification can be done either by using:

- The Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) application on the GI Bill web site [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov), or
- An automated telephone system (IVR) at 1-877-823-2378 and follow the prompts.

## AVOID DEBT - REPORT CHANGES IN REGISTRATION

A major goal of the Veterans Administration (VA) and the campus veteran affairs advisors is to ensure that students are paid on-time and in the correct amount. Every effort is made to avoid overpayments that a student will be required to refund to the VA. Our success in this effort is dependent on the student keeping the campus veteran advisors informed of any changes made in their registration schedule. **Report changes promptly.** Students should report enrollment changes to the Office of

Veterans Affairs. Whenever there is any change in the student's enrollment status from what had been previously reported to the VA, the University's VA Certifying Official will report such change promptly and the student's benefits will be adjusted by the VA. Changes in the student's enrollment that occur after the initial enrollment certification is submitted to the VA may increase or decrease their entitlement to monetary benefits. If a student (continued on page 2, AVOID DEBT)

**Office of Veterans Affairs** Phone: 757.823.2586  
 700 Park Avenue Fax: 757.823.8803  
 Norfolk, VA 23504 Email: [veteransaffairs@nsu.edu](mailto:veteransaffairs@nsu.edu)

(continued from AVOID DEBT, page 1) makes certain enrollment changes such as failing to continue attendance after VA enrollment certification, completing a course and receiving a grade that is not considered when determining progress toward fulfillment of graduation requirements (i.e., a non-punitive grade), etc., the student may receive one or more benefit checks in amounts that exceed their actual entitlement. When this occurs, the VA will make a retroactive adjustment to the student's award and the student will be charged with a debt to the U.S. Government.

Legitimate debts that are the result of benefit overpayment should be paid in full by the student within 30 days after the VA sends notification of the debt to the student. If the debt is not repaid promptly, the debtor will be charged interest and administrative collection costs on the outstanding indebtedness.

**AVOID DEBT! REPORT ANY CHANGES IN ENROLLMENT PROMPTLY!**

**DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS - CHAPTER 35**

If you are a dependent or surviving dependent a war-disabled veteran, you may be eligible for entitlements under the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP), formerly the Virginia War Orphans Program. The purpose of VMSDEP is to provide tuition-free post secondary education benefits to qualified spouses and dependents. Applicants must meet certain Virginia residency requirements. Applications are available in the Office of Veterans Affairs, Room 324, Godwin Student Center or on the Virginia Department of Veterans Services website at: [www.vdva.vipnet.org/education\\_benefits.htm](http://www.vdva.vipnet.org/education_benefits.htm)

**YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR CHAPTER 31 BENEFITS**

A veteran may be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31) benefits if he or she:

- ◆Received, or will receive a discharge under other than dishonorable conditions;
- ◆Incurred or aggravated a service-connected disability on or after September 16, 1940, which entitles him or her to VA disability compensation; and
- ◆Is in need of vocational rehabilitation because his or her disability creates an employment handicap.

Entitlement for these services is determined on an individual basis following an evaluation of the veteran's unique interests, aptitudes, education, work experience, and vocational abilities. Tutoring, reading services, other special help in training, if needed; job development, placement, and, post placement services after training phase of the program. Vocational rehabilitation may be provided for up to 48 months. An eligible veteran generally has 12 years from the date he or she is notified of entitlement to VA compensation in which to use these benefits.

**Hampton VA Medical Visit...**" I had the pleasure to meet the oldest and youngest residents housed at the VA Medical Center. The oldest member, Mr. Cook, was very friendly and was concise about his days in the military, and he told a few jokes...Although we were there to bring joy into their lives during the holiday season, truly the pleasure was all mine."  
 Karen English, NSU Veterans Club

**NSU VETERANS CLUB UPDATE**

A Valentine Day fundraiser was held by the Veterans Club on Thursday, February 14, 2007. The fundraiser volunteers were: Shawn Delk, Alicia Morrison, Shante Atkins, Courtney Brown, Tanya Thomas, Rosena Johnson, Helen Istre and Deandra Smith. The fundraiser was very successful. Proceeds from the fundraiser will help support The Fisher House at the Portsmouth Naval Regional Medical Center and Vetshouse.Inc, located in Virginia Beach.



**Thank You For Your Support of Our Valentine Fundraiser**



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**



**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VETERANS CLUB**  
 Tuesday,  
 February 26, 2008  
 12:30 P.M.  
 Godwin Student Center Ballroom