

THE VOICE

FOR STUDENTS, BY STUDENTS

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Veterans find support at FSU

By John Caldwell
Voice Staff Writer

"A veteran is simply someone who has served their country in an honorable way," said Charles Stevens, a retired Army Command Sergeant Major who served with the Triple Nickel, Parachute Infantry Battalion - the U.S. Army's first African-American Paratroopers

It's hard to explain the sense of togetherness that former military members experience. It's even harder to explain the sense of loss after leaving the military. Members share a connection that is beyond service to their country.

Whichever branch of the military they served, they answered the call which began when Dr. David Allen, Special Advisor to the Provost at Fayetteville State University, arranged the first interest meeting Jan 12.

In little over a month the newly formed Fayetteville State Veterans of America (FSVA) was officially chartered as a university organization on Feb 18. Just 10 days later on Feb 28, FSVA hosted its first official program presenting the 555th (Triple Nickel)- for its inaugural event.

At the event a film was shown which introduce several of the original members of the Triple Nickel. It expressed the hardships and triumphs they experienced. The film depicted that within even months prior to President Harry S. Truman Executive Order 9981 which is credited with desegregating the military services, the Triple Nickel was deactivated Dec. 15, 1947. Most of the members were absorbed by the previously all-white 82nd Airborne Division's 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

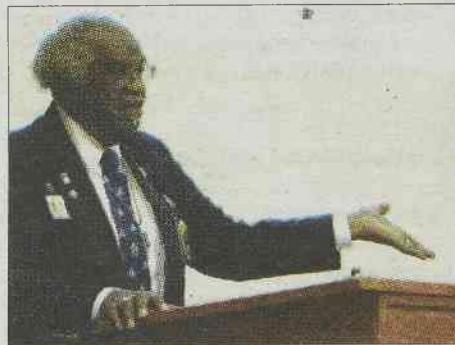
An emotional CSM Stevens said "if I could just tell you how I really feel about Triple Nickles and when I saw this film here this afternoon, it's an honor to be an American Soldier."

Dr. Allen, a retired US Army Colonel and Iraq/Afghanistan Veteran, says the idea for a student vets organization began on November 12, when Chancellor James Anderson was contacted by Jason Lindsay, a former North Carolina State University student and Iraq Veteran in Washington D.C.



555th Triple Nickle National Association (with permission)

Above, Paratroopers of the all-Black 555th "Triple Nickles" Parachute Infantry Battalion await inspection prior to a 1945 jump. Below, Command Sergeant Major (Ret) Charles Stevens, member of Samuel Council Chapter of the 555th Nickles Association addresses the audience at the 'Triple Nickles' Program hosted by the Fayetteville State Veterans of America" on Feb 28 at Shaw Auditorium.



Voice photo by Dorien Caldwell

The FSVA Chapter was officially recognized by the university. The organization's president Daniel Ramos, a junior biology major, served three tours in Iraq during his 13 years in the Army. Mr. Ramos said he was shocked to learn a campus with so many veteran students coupled with its proximity to Ft. Bragg did not have a veterans group.

According to Mr. Ramos he agreed to take the lead role during the first interest

meeting because he knows the potential all vets possess in executing a mission, goals and tasks. In addition to his full time course load, he is the VP of the BioPhiChem Club, and secretary of the HOSA Club. He also aspires to become an Army medical doctor.

As of March 1, the FSVA is a chapter member of the National Student Veterans of America, which was founded in 2008. This is the first SVA Chapter to organize at an HBCU in North Carolina. Yet FSU's past has intertwined with the military to include a veterans club as early as 1947 said Dr. Bertha Miller, Special Assistant to the Chancellor and FSU Historian.

"Increased enrollment of veterans at the college after World War II was so great, that trailers had to be used, establishing an

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OPEC: Gas Prices on the Rise

By Naadiya Hopkins
Voice Staff Writer

Imagine if you had to pay six dollars a gallon for gas. Around the world there are some countries paying over six dollars a gallon for gas. In Fayetteville gas prices are now three dollars and fifty-seven cents a gallon. We may be headed in that direction.

There are many factors that influence gas prices, from international and domestic issues to, civil and political issues around the world. Other factors include financial situations affecting stock markets, and supply and demand. Upheaval throughout the Middle East and North Africa has greatly affected the confidence of the crude oil supply throughout the world. A major contributor of crude oil internationally is the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The mission of OPEC is to coordinate and unify petroleum policies among the member countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers and make it efficient for the regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations. They also create a fair investment return for countries in the petroleum industry.

Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela are the five founding countries of OPEC. Between the 1970's and 1980's a lot of the member countries took control of their petroleum industries when gas prices began to rise because of the Arab Oil embargo and the Iranian Revolution.

As the violence continues in oil prices will continue to go up.

Not long after unrest began to spread across several OPEC member countries Lybia was also suddenly embroiled in an uprising against its leader Moammar Qadhafi who has been in power since 1969. Citizens of Libya want him to step down and leave the country. Libya is an oil-rich country that holds the most oil reserves in North Africa. Yet the majority of the population lives in poverty. In Lybia the population is impoverished. There are no jobs created to help the country's economy.

In Libya the price of crude oil is now \$105

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