



The Society of American Military Engineers

Dedicated to National Defense

NEWS

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U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Honorable Eric K. Shinseki Recognized with SAME Golden Eagle Award for Contributions to National Security

ALEXANDRIA, Va., December 2009 — Former U.S. Army Chief of Staff and current Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) Eric K. Shinseki, U.S. Army General (Ret.), has been selected as the Society of American Military Engineers' (SAME) Golden Eagle Award recipient for his dedication and contributions to national security. The award will be presented at the SAME 2010 Academy of Fellows Golden Eagle Awards Dinner on March 19, 2010, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Va.

Shinseki, a Vietnam veteran with 38 years of active-duty military service, has exhibited an unwavering commitment to national security during his active duty military service, as a teacher of military leadership and as Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

As Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Shinseki has tackled a massive backlog of veterans' claims, implemented programs to reduce wasteful spending and initiated a new program to end homelessness for veterans. He currently acts as a Visiting Professor at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

As Army Chief of Staff from 1999 to 2003, he led Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. During his tenure, he supervised the launch of a groundbreaking initiative—the Army Transformation campaign—which aims to keep the Army prepared amid ever-changing technological and national economic conditions. Shinseki integrated this campaign with the Global War on Terrorism, promoting the evolution and improvement of the Army during wartime. The Stryker Brigade Combat Team, an initiative that has become emblematic of his leadership, has proved an immensely successful military strategy.

“The best organizations must be prepared to meet the challenging times, evolving technology and, most importantly, evolving needs of clients,” Shinseki said in March in an open letter to veterans.

Before becoming Army Chief of Staff, Shinseki served as Vice Chief of Staff from 1998 to 1999. He previously served simultaneously as Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, and Commanding General, NATO Land Forces Central Europe, both headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany; and Commander of the NATO-led Stabilization Force, Bosnia-Herzegovina, headquartered in Sarajevo.

Shinseki has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, the Army Staff Identification Badge and the prestigious Distinguished Graduate Award from the US Military Academy.

Shinseki holds a Bachelor of Science from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a Master of Arts from Duke University, and is a graduate of the National War College. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Patricia Yoshinobu. They have two grown children, Lori and Ken.

The Golden Eagle Awards dinner—a black-tie event honoring outstanding professionals in the fields of engineering and national security—is open to all SAME members and invited guests. For more information, visit www.same.org/GoldenEagle.

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