

February 9, 2009

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- At a recent ceremony at the Cranberry Township Municipal Building, U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) presented Captain J. Randall "Randy" Stapleford with the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. Stapleford, who lives in Cranberry and serves as Congressman Altmire's Veterans and Military Outreach Coordinator, was awarded this medal for the training support he provided as a member of the U.S. Navy during the global war on terrorism.

Local high school students who applied to the nation's service academies were also honored at the event.

"Like many of our great Pennsylvania veterans, Randy Stapleford has devoted his life to serving his country," Altmire said. "After an impressive 31-year career in the U.S. Navy, Randy has now committed himself to ensuring that his fellow veterans can obtain the benefits they deserve. I am honored to have Randy on my staff and to be able to present him with this distinguished medal."

Stapleford, a Naval Aviator, retired from the U.S. Navy in 2003 with over 31 years of active duty service. He flew over 7000 flight hours and accumulated over 700 carrier-arrested landings.

After his military service, Stapleford served as the Iraq Country Coordinator for the U.S. Department of State's Office of Antiterrorism Assistance. He later served as Country Coordinator for the Republic of the Philippines and helped to establish the first National Antiterrorism Task Force fully supported by both the President of the Philippines and the President of the United States.

In addition to Stapleford, three other veterans serve on Congressman Altmire's staff. Greg Malinak served in the U.S. Navy for over 22 years and is now Altmire's Outreach Director. John Galanski served in the U.S. Army and the Pennsylvania Army National Guard for 37 years and is now Altmire's Veterans Representative. Nathan Robinson has served in the Army Reserves for more than five years and is now a legislative aide for Altmire in Washington D.C.