

Cranberry Eagle

February 14, 2009

A former U.S. Naval officer and township resident Capt. (Ret.) J. Randall "Randy" Stapleford was honored by U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire for his efforts in fighting the war on terrorism. At a recent ceremony at the Cranberry Township Municipal Building, Altmire, D-4th, presented Stapleford with the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

"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," Altmire said. "I am honored to have Randy on my staff and to be able to present him with this distinguished 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.

"It is an honor to serve my county, and recognition in any form is always appreciated," Stapleford said. "It was a privilege to have my Congressman and my boss pin on my medal. It's a rare thing to have a congressman like Jason Altmire who is so focused on helping our veterans," he said.

Stapleford, a naval aviator, retired from the U.S. Navy in 2003 with more than 31 years of active duty service. He flew more than 7,000 flight hours and accumulated more than 700 carrier 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 in 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 U.S. President.