



COLONEL RALPH STAPLETON US Army, Retired

NDR Hall of Fame Induction: 2 May 2009

Colonel Stapleton hails from Elizabeth, LA. He graduated from Northwestern State College with a Bachelor of Science in Electronic Technology and commissioned through the ROTC program in 1969.

Colonel Stapleton served over three years on active duty at Fort Sill, OK, and Fort Polk, LA. He was released from active duty with the rank of Captain in 1972. He joined the US Army Reserve soon thereafter and, in 1974, transferred to the Louisiana Army National Guard. His leadership positions include Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Battalion Executive Officer, and Battalion Commander. During Operation Desert Storm, he was the Commander of the 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment. Later, he served as the Director of Logistics, Louisiana Army National Guard, until his retirement on 30 November 2003.

Colonel Stapleton's military education includes the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, Transportation Officer Advanced Course, Ordnance Officer Advanced Course, Armor Officer Advanced Course, and the Command and General Staff College.

His awards and decorations include the Army Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Louisiana War Cross, Louisiana Emergency Service Medal, Louisiana Longevity Ribbon, and the Louisiana General Excellence Ribbon.

Once retired, Colonel Stapleton was elected to serve on the Oakdale City Council. He continues to stay busy with his church and numerous volunteer activities.

Colonel Stapleton is married to the former Donna Lynn Merchant. They live in Oakdale and have two sons, Chad and Rodney, and two grandchildren, Carlie and Jordan.