

*The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo, Member of Congress
&
The Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy
Welcome You to the*

*Military Award Presentation
In Honor of
Carl E. Clark*



*The Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal
with the Combat Distinguishing Device*

17 January 2012



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY HAS AWARDED THE

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL

(WITH COMBAT "V")

TO

STEWART FIRST CLASS CARL E. CLARK, UNITED STATES NAVY

FOR

HEROIC ACHIEVEMENT WHILE SERVING ABOARD THE USS AARON WARD ON 3 MAY 1945 DURING THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA. DURING THE ONSET OF ATTACKS BY JAPANESE KAMIKAZE PLANES, PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS CLARK RAN TO HIS BATTLE STATION. AFTER THE FIRST KAMIKAZE PLANE'S IMPACT SLAMMED HIM AGAINST THE OVERHEAD, HE HEADED OUT OF THE PASSAGEWAY AND WATCHED THE SECOND KAMIKAZE PILOT'S FACE AS IT SLAMMED INTO PORTSIDE. UNAWARE THAT THE OTHER MEN IN HIS DAMAGE CONTROL TEAM WERE KILLED, HE MANNED A FIRE HOSE FIGHTING RAGING FIRES WHILE KAMIKAZE PLANES CONTINUED TO CRASH INTO THE DECK AND INFRASTRUCTURE. HE FOUGHT THE FIRES WELL INTO THE NIGHT UNTIL THEY WERE ALL EXTINGUISHED EXCEPT ONE FIRE BELOW DECK IN THE ENGINE ROOM. HE THEN BEGAN TAKING THE WOUNDED TO THE FIRST AID STATION AND GATHERED THE CASUALTIES. BY HIS UNSWERVING DETERMINATION, DECISIVENESS, AND COMPLETE DEDICATION TO DUTY, PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS CLARK REFLECTED CREDIT UPON HIMSELF AND UPHOLD THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL SERVICE.

GIVEN THIS 12th day of December 2011


SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

"HEROIC ACHIEVEMENT WHILE SERVING ABOARD THE USS AARON WARD ON 3 MAY 1945, DURING THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA. DURING THE ONSET OF ATTACKS BY JAPANESE KAMIKAZE PLANES, PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS CLARK RAN TO HIS BATTLE STATION. AFTER THE FIRST KAMIKAZE PLANE'S IMPACT SLAMMED HIM AGAINST THE OVERHEAD, HE HEADED OUT OF THE PASSAGEWAY AND WATCHED THE SECOND KAMIKAZE PILOT'S FACE AS IT SLAMMED INTO PORTSIDE. UNAWARE THAT THE OTHER MEN IN HIS DAMAGE CONTROL TEAM WERE KILLED, HE MANNED A FIRE HOSE FIGHTING RAGING FIRES WHILE KAMIKAZE PLANES CONTINUED TO CRASH INTO THE DECK AND INFRASTRUCTURE. HE FOUGHT THE FIRES WELL INTO THE NIGHT UNTIL THEY WERE ALL EXTINGUISHED EXCEPT ONE FIRE BELOW DECK IN THE ENGINE ROOM. HE THEN BEGAN TAKING THE WOUNDED TO THE FIRST AID STATION AND GATHERED THE CASUALTIES. BY HIS UNSWERVING DETERMINATION, DECISIVENESS, AND COMPLETE DEDICATION TO DUTY, PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS CLARK REFLECTED CREDIT UPON HIMSELF AND UPHOLD THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL SERVICE."



On May 3, 1945, the U.S.S. Aaron Ward survived a horrendous attack by six Japanese kamikaze aircraft in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. Carl E. Clark was an E-6, Steward First Class. He was in charge of the Officers' Mess on the U.S.S. Aaron Ward and was the only one of his eight man damage control team to survive the attack on his ship near Okinawa. Despite a broken collarbone, Mr. Clark worked all night to put out the fires, including the ammunition locker which prevented a fatal explosion that would have surely split the ship in half. After putting out the fires, Mr. Clark saved the lives of his shipmates by single-handedly carrying wounded sailors to the Aid Station for medical treatment. His heroic actions on the night of May 3, 1945, are the reason why so many sailors survived the attack and why the ship did not capsize.

Mr. Clark was awarded the Purple Heart and the Presidential Unit Citation. Today, we honor him for his heroic efforts with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with the Combat Distinguishing Device.





Anna G. Eshoo

Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo was first sworn in as a Member of the United States House of Representatives in 1993, after serving on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors for 10 years. For almost two decades in Congress she has defended consumers, promoted American competitiveness and innovation, fought for access to health care for families and children, protected the environment, and encouraged development of clean energy technology.

Rep. Eshoo has served on the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee since 1995 and is Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, which has primary jurisdiction over the Internet and Telecommunications.

The Energy and Commerce Committee is responsible for legislation affecting Medicare, Medicaid, the National Institutes of Health, telecommunications, energy, the Internet, health-based environmental laws, children's health, biotechnology, high technology, bioterrorism, interstate commerce, consumer protection, and food and drug safety. As a member of the Committee, Rep. Eshoo has influenced major initiatives such as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the healthcare reform bill.

Rep. Eshoo also co-chairs the Congressional Internet Caucus, the E-911 Caucus and the House Medical Technology Caucus, and serves as Vice Chair of the 21st Century Health Care Caucus. As an Assyrian and Armenian American, she is also co-chair and co-founder of the Religious Minorities in the Middle East Caucus.

From 2002 through 2010, Rep. Eshoo served on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. From 2007 to 2010, she chaired the Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management which focuses on policies and management challenges affecting all 16 agencies that comprise the nation's intelligence community. She has authored legislation to protect our national security and our civil liberties, improve Congressional oversight of the intelligence community, prevent conflicts of interest, and better meet the domestic and international security challenges of the 21st Century.



Ray Mabus

Secretary of the Navy



Ray Mabus is the 75th United States Secretary of the Navy and leads America's Navy and Marine Corps.

As Secretary of the Navy, Mabus is responsible for conducting the affairs of the Department of the Navy, including recruiting, organizing, equipping, training, and mobilizing. Additionally, he oversees the construction and repair of naval ships, aircraft, and facilities, and is responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies and programs consistent with the national security policies established by the President and the Secretary of Defense. Secretary Mabus is responsible for an annual budget in excess of \$160 billion and leadership of almost 900,000 people.

Upon assumption of office and throughout his tenure, Mabus has prioritized improving the quality of life of Sailors, Marines, and their families. He has also directed the Navy and Marine Corps to change the way they use, produce and acquire energy, setting aggressive goals that will move the Navy and Marine Corps to use at least 50% alternative energy no later than 2020. Secretary Mabus has improved the acquisition process within the Department, and has stressed Navy and Marine Corps leadership in development of unmanned systems.

In June 2010, as an additional duty, Mabus was appointed by President Obama to prepare the long-term recovery plan for the Gulf of Mexico in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. His report, "America's Gulf Coast: A Long-Term Recovery Plan After the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill" was released in September 2010. The report was met with broad bi-partisan support.

Before his appointment, Mabus served in a variety of leadership positions. From 1988 to 1992, Mabus served as Governor of Mississippi, the youngest elected to that office in more than 150 years. Mabus served as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 1994-1996 and later was Chairman and CEO of a manufacturing company.

Secretary Mabus is a native of Ackerman, Mississippi, and received a Bachelor's Degree, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Mississippi, a Master's Degree from Johns Hopkins University, and a Law Degree, *magna cum laude*, from Harvard Law School. After Johns Hopkins, Mabus served in the Navy as an officer aboard the cruiser USS Little Rock.

Master of Ceremonies
Commander Robert Simone

Invocation
Commander Robert Thomas

Introduction
Representative Anna G. Eshoo

Remarks
Secretary Ray Mabus

Presentation of
The Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal
with
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