



# Rhode Island Aviation Hall of Fame

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## **Rhode Island Aviation Hall of Fame announces 2014 induction; Naval Academy Superintendent and first American female pilot to fly in combat among those to be honored at November 22 dinner**

PROVIDENCE – Vice Admiral and career Naval Aviator Walter “Ted” Carter of Pascoag, now Superintendent of the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, will be inducted into the Rhode Island Aviation Hall of Fame on Saturday evening, November 22nd at the Scottish Rite Center in Cranston. Since earning his Naval Flight Officer wings in 1982, Admiral Carter, a record-setting "Top Gun" aviator, has made 2,016 landings (called “traps”) on aircraft carriers; that is more than anyone else in US Navy history.

Carter's call sign of “Slapshot” reflects his career as a star hockey player in college. He is the first Burrillville HS grad to ever attend the Naval Academy, graduating in 1981. He flew 125 combat missions in support of joint operations in Bosnia, Kosovo, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. Carter accumulated 6,150 flight hours in F-4, F-14, and F-18 aircraft during his career. He has commanded a strike fighter squadron, a fast combat support ship, the supercarrier USS Carl Vinson and a carrier strike group. Before President Obama nominated him to serve as the Naval Academy’s 62nd Superintendent, Carter was President of the Naval War College in Newport.

So far in his career he has earned a number of personal awards, to include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal (two awards), Legion of Merit (three awards), Distinguished Flying Cross with Combat V, Bronze Star, Air Medal (two with Combat V and five strike/flight), and Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two with Combat V). He was awarded the Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale Leadership Award and the U.S. Navy League’s John Paul Jones Award for Inspirational Leadership.

"Admiral Carter is one of the living giants of naval aviation history," said Hall of Fame founder Frank Lennon. "We are delighted that he will be able to join us on November 22 to accept this award."

Joining Carter at the honors ceremony will be retired Air Force Colonel Martha McSally from Warwick, a Distinguished Graduate of the US Air Force Academy who became the first US female fighter pilot to fly combat missions, and the first woman to command an American fighter squadron. In 2001-2002, McSally earned national recognition for filing a lawsuit and successfully overturning a military policy requiring all U.S. servicewomen to wear a Muslim abaya (a long cloak-like garment) and headscarf when off base in Saudi Arabia.

Martha McSally graduated from St. Mary's Academy - Bay View in 1984 as valedictorian of her class. Following her graduation from the Air Force Academy, she earned a Master's degree from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government before proceeding to flight school.

She was later assigned to a squadron flying the A-10 Thunderbolt and was deployed to Kuwait. In January 1995, she became the first woman in U.S. history to fly a combat aircraft into enemy territory when she flew her first sortie into Iraq in support of the United Nations no-fly zone enforcement.

She later graduated from the Air War College, first in her class of 261 future senior military leaders. Martha's last assignment was as a Division Chief at United States Africa Command, responsible for oversight of all U.S. military operations and activities on the continent of Africa, including counter-terrorism and counter-piracy operations. She retired from the Air Force in 2010 after 26 years in uniform as a command pilot with more than 2600 flight hours, including more than 325 combat hours.

After retiring from the Air Force in 2010, McSally served as a Professor of National Security Studies at the George C. Marshall Center in Germany. She resigned her professorship in 2012 to run for Congress from Arizona, losing by less than 1% after an 11-day "long count" of provisional and absentee ballots. It was one of the tightest elections in the country.

"Martha McSally is running for Congress again this year," said Lennon. "If the election goes her way, we will be inducting Congresswoman-elect McSally."

Names of the other 2014 honorees will be released at the end of October. "Based on the publicity from our previous inductions, we have received many nominations from the general public," said Lennon. "We now have a pool of well over 100 people under consideration for recognition."

Honorees are selected by an ad hoc committee representing a number of aviation groups. The committee includes previous inductees such as Robert Crandall, former chairman of American Airlines; Jennifer Murray, the first woman to fly a helicopter around the world; and Apollo 8 Astronaut Bill Anders.

"Thanks to the enthusiastic support of Rhode Island's aviation community, all eleven of our previous inductions were oversubscribed," said Lennon. "We expect this event will be another sellout."

Tickets to the event cost \$55 per person (\$100 per couple); reservations can be made by calling 401-398-1000 or by emailing [riahof@aol.com](mailto:riahof@aol.com). Details can be found at this website: [www.riahof.org](http://www.riahof.org)