

## John Stagg receives prestigious award from Red Cross

by Michael G. Maness

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John Stagg received a prestigious life-time achievement award from the Red Cross on Thursday evening, June 20, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Jasper.

Stagg is the Red Cross' disaster assistance captain for Tyler County. As the emergencies may demand, he and his wife Annette have volunteered for years and have been on-call for many counties and the nation. They have travelled to help in hurricanes, tornados, flooding, and other disasters. For the county, they mostly help with house fires, providing food and lodging.

Chester Jourdan, executive director for the Southeast and Deep East Texas Chapter covering 11 counties, hosted the volunteer appreciation banquet in Jasper. Annette and several others were honored that night for 250 volunteer hours in the year. And John was honored with a group for 500-plus volunteer hours for the year.

However, there was more to come. There are four chapters in the larger Gulf Coast Region of the Red Cross which covers 51 counties, a huge area, and the Staggs have been all over. Representatives from the Region were present that night, in part, to specifically honor John Stagg with the distinguished award for 10,000 volunteer hours. Jourdan said it is a "life-time achievement award" in many ways. "Quite remarkable," Jourdan noted, "because Stagg is only the second person to receive this in the entire region!"

Stagg has done it all, it seems, from coordinating local emergency canvassing in mock crisis exercises, aiding many in a multitude of crises, to representing the Red Cross at a host of functions in multiple counties.

Jourdan said, "John spent a lot of time with me" as they managed a host of resources in Southeast Texas during Hurricane Harvey.

"Without our volunteers, there is no Red Cross," said Jourdan. "John epitomizes what it means to be a volunteer. He is mission oriented.... has a commitment to the community. John serves day-in and day-out for the Red Cross."



John Stagg received a prestigious life-time achievement award for 10,000 volunteer hours from the Red Cross on Thursday evening, June 20, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Jasper. Pictured are (L-R) Red Cross Regional Volunteer Service Manager Jake Peters, Stagg, Southeast Texas Chapter Disaster Program Manager Natalie Warren, and Chapter Executive Director Chester Jourdan.

