
Coronado Eagle and Journal, Volume 97, Number 42, 17 October 2007 — Sybil Stockdale Honored With Rose Garden At Liberty Station [ARTICLE+ILLUSTRATION]

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Sybil Stockdale Honored With Rose Garden At Liberty Station

Coronado's first family was honored at the Naval Training Center Foundation on Monday, Oct. 8. The foundation paid tribute to American heroes Jim and Sybil Stockdale at the NTC Command Center at the former Naval Training Center, now called Liberty Station.

Present at the dedication ceremony were Sybil Stockdale and three of her four sons Stan, Sidney and Taylor. Numerous prisoners of war and Medal of Honor recipients were in attendance to honor the Stockdales on this day.

Vice Adm. James Stockdale was honored as one of the most highly decorated officers in the history of the U.S. Navy, a remarkable hero and leader who spent more than seven years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. He

returned to his home in Coronado to continue his writing and service to his country. He also served as presidential candidate Ross Perot's running mate.

More than 100 supporters, civic and military leaders, family and friends were on hand at the

dedication of the Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Board Room, the Sybil Stockdale Rose Garden (in honor of Navy families) and the Stockdale Family Exhibit at

the Stockdale Family Exhibit at the historic NTC Command Center building.

Photo courtesy Naval Training Center Foundation

The rose garden was an appropriate tribute, as roses played a significant role in the code which allowed POW Stockdale to communicate with his wife during those difficult years in captivity.

Throughout his life, the love and support Jim Stockdale received from his wife Sybil were an essential part of his many accomplishments and were documented in their book, "In Love and War: the Story of a Family's Ordeal and Sacrifice During the Vietnam War."

Politicians, friends and admirers delivered numerous accolades. As the ceremony drew to a close, Lamb's Players Theater's Robert and Deborah Smyth treated the crowd to a special theatrical reading of portions of "In

Love and War." It was a passionate reading that clearly affected everyone in attendance and prompted more than one guest to ask why this book had not been made into a stage play.

Some of the Coronado residents there to honor the Stockdales included Vice Adm. Ed and Sherry Martin, (Ed was in captivity with Stockdale.) Kathy McDonald, Karin Copp, Mark, Scott and Susan McMillin, Blossom and George Sanger, Vice Admiral Jim and Kathy Zortman,

Admiral Bud and Margon Edney and Gerry and Ducky Loughlin also attended.

Dot Harms and Joe Ditler, directors of the Coronado Museum were there as well. The Coronado Museum of History & Art has offered to donate several large pho-

tographs from its collection to the NTC Stockdale Family Exhibit. The Coronado Museum has honored the Stockdales on five different occasions.

“The Stockdale Tribute has been a true community initiative, led by individuals and corpora-

tions dedicated to the transformation of the NTC Commanding Officer’s Headquarters into the new NTC Command Center,” said Alan Ziter, executive director of the NTC Foundation. “We are proud to have preserved this landmark building and to have the

opportunity to share this inspiring Stockdale family story with the community.”

For more information on the NTC Foundation or the restorations taking place at Liberty Station, call Alan Ziter at (619) 226-1491.





Sybil Stockdale at the Naval Training Center Foundation ceremony, surrounded by three of her four sons Stan, Sidney and Taylor.
Photo courtesy Naval Training Center Foundation

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