



**For immediate release**

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*Historic photos available upon request*

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of “Shoot Down Day” Commemorates a Story of  
Heroism and Perseverance  
Stockdale Tribute at NTC Liberty Station Honors Courageous Navy Family

*Shoot Down Day Anniversary, September 9, 2015*

San Diego, CA- (August 31, 2015) - Did you know that the POW- MIA flag that has become so iconic in American history was created here in San Diego? That's just one part of the "story for the ages" chronicling how Coronado navy wife Sybil Stockdale worked tirelessly to fight for the rights of American prisoners missing in Southeast Asia. One soldier especially close to her heart was Vice Admiral James Stockdale, who was shot down behind enemy lines on **September 9, 1965**.

Retired Vice Admiral James Stockdale (December 23, 1923 – July 5, 2005) was one of the most highly decorated officers in the history of the US Navy and the highest ranking POW's in Vietnam. A remarkable hero and leader, he spent over seven years as a prisoner of war.

**The Stockdale Tribute at the Dick Laub NTC Command Center at NTC Liberty Station** - the former Naval Training Center- pays tribute to their story with memorabilia, photographs, and portraits. In addition, the Sybil Stockdale Rose Garden in honor of Navy Families invites guest to wander, enjoy and reminisce. Roses played an important role in secret messages that were shared between Sybil and Jim while he was imprisoned.

Throughout his life, the love and support of Adm. Stockdale shared with 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."

As a unique destination that both honors the region's Navy heritage and today showcases innovation and creativity, NTC@Liberty Station is the perfect place to celebrate the lives of a courageous American couple, Jim and Sybil Stockade. "For more than 75 years, this base served our nation with pride. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the day Vadm Stockade was shot down over North Vietnam, we honor and commemorate the lives of two Americans whose service to our country was truly remarkable," said **RADM Fran Holian**. RADM Holian is a NTC Foundation Board member and a former Navy Region Southwest Commander (sometimes referred to as the "Navy Mayor"). "We are proud to commemorate this historic day. The Stockdale's incredible story of heroism, trust and family commitment cannot be told enough. We're proud to share their family story with the community."

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The Stockdale Tribute, originally dedicated in 2008, has been a true community initiative, led by individuals and corporations dedicated to the transformation of the NTC Commanding Officer's Headquarters into the new NTC Command Center. Funders included Northrop Grumman, North Island Credit Union, Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems and the County of San Diego.

While at NTC, visitors can experience a wide range of exhibits celebrating Navy and Point Loma history that are free and open to the public. They include:

**Chow: Feeding a Navy**, Building 201

Naval Training Center San Diego was the first Navy training school for Mess Management and was recognized for "Outstanding Large Mess Ashore." See original recipes that fed thousands, sample menus and learn why the best time of a sailor's day was Chow Time!

**The Life of a Naval Training Center Recruit**, Barracks 19, 2690 Historic Decatur Road

An exhibit in an historic barracks building – now housing artist studios - that tells the story of the life of an NTC recruit from the time they stepped off the bus to graduation from bootcamp 12 weeks later.

**Point Loma Legacy Exhibit**, Dick Laub NTC Command Center, 2640 Historic Decatur Road

An exhibit telling the story of Point Loma and its role as the Gateway to San Diego.

An exhibit honoring Stockdale's Legacy will also be opening at the Coronado History Museum on September 18.

**The Stockdale Tribute** - Dick Laub NTC Command Center  
2640 Historic Decatur Road, Point Loma, San Diego 92106

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**ABOUT NTC AT LIBERTY STATION AND THE NTC FOUNDATION**



*NTC at Liberty Station is San Diego's largest Arts & Cultural District located in historic buildings at the former Naval Training Center in the new Liberty Station neighborhood. With 28 park-like acres and 16 of its 26 buildings complete, NTC is home to nearly 80 museums and galleries, artist studios, dance companies, educational groups, multidisciplinary arts, creative retail and other organizations that showcase San Diego's creative community and provide innovative experiences for the public. NTC is under the stewardship of the not-for-profit NTC Foundation: [www.ntclibertystation.com](http://www.ntclibertystation.com).*



*The NTC Foundation was established in 2000 by the City of San Diego as a 501(c)3 nonprofit foundation to enrich the lives of San Diegans by renovating 26 historic buildings at the former Naval Training Center to create, facilitate and operate a broad-based complex focused on experiencing the arts, culture, and creativity that are the hallmark of the San Diego region.*