

OBITUARIES

Sybil Stockdale, outspoken leader of Vietnam POW wives, dies at 90

BY TONY PERRY
THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

SAN DIEGO — Sybil Stockdale, who organized the wives of American prisoners during the Vietnam War and brought international attention to the torture of POWs by the North Vietnamese, has died after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. She was 90.

Stockdale's husband, James, a Navy aviator, was shot down in 1965 and spent more than seven years as a prisoner, enduring repeated torture and long stretches in solitary confinement. At first, Sybil Stockdale conformed to the Navy's admonition not to talk publicly about the prisoners of war.

But soon she realized that silence was not helpful.

She brought other POW wives together, gave media interviews and lobbied then-President Richard Nixon and Henry A. Kissinger to demand that the North Vietnamese abide by the Geneva Convention. She was a co-founder of the National League of Families, which was established to work on behalf of the POWs and those missing in action.

"She was our anchor, our leader, our mentor," said Jenny Connell Robertson, 75, whose husband, Lt. Cmdr. James Connell, was shot down in 1966 and died five years later in captivity (a fact Robertson did not know until the surviving POWs were released in 1973).

Because of the work of Stockdale and her group, the treatment of the POWs became a major issue in the media, Congress, the White House and the Department of Defense. She even confronted a delegation from North Vietnam at the Paris peace talks.



GENARO MOLINA | THE LOS ANGELES TIMES | TNS
Sybil Stockdale, the widow of Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale, sits on the bow of the USS Stockdale, named in her husband's honor, shortly before the commissioning ceremony of the new destroyer in 2009 in Port Hueneme, California. Stockdale died after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. She was 90.

In May 1969, Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, at Stockdale's urging, publicly accused the North Vietnamese of violating the Geneva Convention and called for the release of U.S. prisoners. The North Vietnamese rejected the call but the U.S. military says the treatment of POWs improved after Laird's speech.

Despite the political rancor over the war at the time, the nearly 600 POWs released in 1973 were treated as heroes.

"Sybil was just indomitable, tireless," said Karen Butler, 77, whose husband, Lt. Phillip Butler, was shot down in 1965. "We accomplished so much and it all started around her dining room table in Coronado."

In 1976, James Stockdale was awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery and defiance while imprisoned. He was promoted to vice admiral and retired from the Navy in 1979. In 1992 he was

Ross Perot's running mate in an independent bid for the presidency. He died in 2005.

Adm. John Richardson, chief of Naval Operations, said the Stockdales were "the quintessential military couple — full partners in service to our nation."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who was a POW along with James Stockdale at the brutal prison that the Americans dubbed the "Hanoi Hilton," said Sybil Stockdale's work on behalf of prisoners inspired "hope of their safe return among military families" and left "an indelible mark on this nation that will never be forgotten."

Sybil and James Stockdale wrote a memoir, "In Love and War: The Story of a Family's Ordeal and Sacrifice During the Vietnam War," which became a best-seller and was adapted into an NBC movie starring James Woods and Jane Alexander.

Sybil Elizabeth Bailey was born Nov. 25, 1924, in East Haven, Conn. She worked at the family dairy as a girl, and later graduated from Mount Holyoke College and taught at a girls' school in Richmond, Va.

On a blind date, she met her future husband, then a young midshipman at the Naval Academy. They married in 1947 and she followed him to numerous duty stations.

While her husband was a POW and she was rallying other wives, she also taught at a school in San Ysidro, near San Diego. In the 1980s, when her husband was a research fellow at the Hoover Institute at Stanford University, she worked as a volunteer "pink lady" at the Stanford hospital. Her papers from the Vietnam era are kept at Stanford's Hoover library.

A group of POW wives continued to meet periodically at Stockdale's home even after Parkinson's disease robbed her of the ability to speak.

Still, Butler said, the women gathered strength just being near her. After the latest gathering, something happened for the first time.

"Her caregiver brought her outside," Butler said. "Sybil picked up her arm and waved us goodbye."

She died six days later — Oct. 10 — at a hospital in the San Diego-area city of Coronado.

She is survived by three sons, Jim Stockdale of Beaver, Pa., Sid Stockdale of Albuquerque and Taylor Stockdale of Claremont, Calif. A fourth son, Stanford Stockdale, died in 2014. Sybil Stockdale will be buried beside her husband at the Naval Academy.



EVELYN M. "JONI" HARPER

ORONO - Evelyn M. "Joni" Harper, 79, passed away peacefully at home, October 13, 2015, surrounded by her loving family. She was born May 16, 1936, in Orono, the daughter of Robert L. and Sylvia M. (Miles) Sinclair.

Joni graduated from Orono High School, class of 1954. She married Raymond J. Harper, the love of her life on December 19, 1959, with whom she celebrated 55 wonderful years of marriage together before Ray passed away in February 2015. Joni was a devoted "stay at home" mother to her two children, before starting a long 22 year career at Asa C. Adams School in Orono as a "baker" in the lunchroom. She will be remembered for her 'famous yeast rolls' by all who attended during her years there!

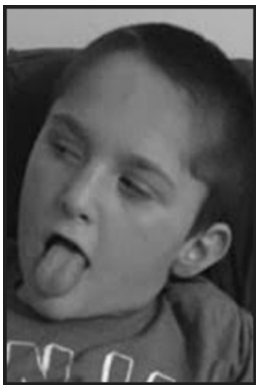
Joni had a special gift for making every child feel loved, not only those who were related to her, but every child in the Webster side neighborhood! Along with being a devoted 'daughter' to her mother, with whom she visited every night for a game of Scrabble and a cup of tea, Joni also had a deep passion for listening to Elvis Presley, and watching her beloved New York Yankees.

In addition to her husband and parents, Joni was predeceased by her brother, Robert C. Sinclair and sister, Mary Lou Hutchinson. She is survived by her two loving children, daughter Kim Giles and husband Tom, and son Jim Harper and wife Missy; four special grandchildren, Michael, Connor, Corey, and Taylor; and two special nephews Bob and Scott Sinclair.

The family would like to thank New England Home Health Care, Hospice of Eastern Maine, and especially our new 'extended' family, Jean, Deb, Shirleen, Melissa, Karen, and Lil. "We couldn't have done it without you!"

Relatives and friends are welcome to call 5-8PM Sunday, October 18, 2015 at the Orono Chapel of Brookings-Smith, 72 Main St., Orono. A funeral service will be held 11AM Monday, October 19, 2015 at the United Methodist Church, 36 Park St., Orono, with Pastor Steve Smith officiating. Interment will be at Riverside Cemetery, Orono. The family invites relatives and friends to share conversation and refreshments at Pat's Pizza, 11 Mill St., Orono following the interment.

Those who wish to remember Joni in a special way may make gifts in her memory to The Animal Orphanage, P.O. Box 565, Orono, ME, 04473. Condolences to the family may be expressed at www.BrookingsSmith.com.



JON CHRISTOPHER MCCARRON, JR.

NEWPORT & GRAY - Jon Christopher McCarron, Jr., 8, passed away October 12, 2015 at Maine Medical Center in Portland. He was born February 21, 2007 in Bangor, a son of Jon and Brooke (Emerson) McCarron, Sr.

JJ was a member of the 3rd grade class at the Russell School in Gray. He loved spending time with his little community of special needs friends. JJ loved the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, doing anything exciting, and enjoyed fishing and music. His favorite word was "boobies". JJ was baptized as a Methodist.

In addition to his parents, JJ is survived by his great grandmother Mary Emerson; his grandparents, Robert Bubar, Tammy Emerson and Carol McCarron; his brother Seth McCarron and sister Britney McCarron; his aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family, and his special nurse Stephanie Shapiro.

Friends may call at the Wilson Funeral Home, 24 Shaker Road, Gray, from noon until 2 PM Saturday, October 17th. A memorial celebration of life will be held across the street at the Russell School from 1 to 3 PM Saturday as well.

Graveside funeral and committal services will be held at noon Monday, October 19th, at the Detroit Village Cemetery, Detroit, with Pastor Mark Gumprecht officiating. As JJ lived half of his life in Newport and the other half in Gray, the family wanted both services held for the convenience of others. They also understand and do not expect both services to be attended. Memorial donations may be sent to JJ McCarron Go Fund Me. Local arrangements are by Crosby & Neal, Newport. Those who wish may leave written condolences at www.CrosbyNeal.com

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory Of
CHARLES J. WOLVERTON
Aug 02, 1946 - Oct 16, 2008



You are in our hearts and minds forever.
Missing you,
Your Loving Family

Envoy who hid Americans in Iranian hostage crisis dies

REUTERS

OTTAWA — Former Canadian ambassador Ken Taylor, whose role in rescuing U.S. diplomats in a covert operation in 1979 during the Iran hostage crisis was featured in the movie "Argo," died on Thursday, his son told CBC television. He was 81.

Taylor was Canada's envoy in Tehran in November 1979 when students stormed the U.S. embassy, taking dozens of Americans hostage. In the chaos six diplomats escaped and took refuge with Taylor and another Canadian official for more than two months.

In what became known unofficially as "The Canadian Caper," Canada and the United States conspired to smuggle the six out of Tehran on genuine Canadian passports with forged Iranian visas.

The group, pretending to

be a Hollywood crew who had been scouting locations for a science fiction movie called "Argo," successfully caught a plane to Switzerland in January 1980.

The story of the escape was retold in the 2012 movie "Argo" featuring actor Ben Affleck in the role of real-life Central Intelligence Agency operative Tony Mendez, who helped concoct the cover story and provide disguises for the diplomats.

Taylor, who was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by the U.S. Congress in 1980, criticized the movie for minimizing Canada's role in the Americans' rescue.

He later left the Canadian foreign service and became a businessman.

Taylor endangered his own life to help the Americans.

"Taylor valiantly risked his own life by shielding a group of American diplomats from capture. (He) represented the very best that Canada's foreign service has to offer," Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said in a statement.

BY JUSTIN WM. MOYER
THE WASHINGTON POST

In the late 1960s, Iggy Pop had a problem. He was the frontman of a band — the Stooges — that would become legendary, but they weren't legendary yet. Their debut album hadn't sold well. And their labelmates — a little band called the Doors — seemed to be getting all the attention.

So the singer made what seemed like a crazy decision: In an attempt to bolster his band's already notoriously brash, confrontational sound, he hired saxophonist Steve Mackay. Mackay's marching orders: Channel the spirit of James Brown's most famous horn player but with a twist.

"I want you to play like you are Maceo Parker, but you took LSD," Mackay, in an interview last year, remembered Iggy said.

Mackay rose to the occasion.

"I must say, 'Oh, you should never take that,'" Mackay said. "But anyhow, I did. And so I knew what Iggy was talking about and it was just like ... we are free and we are crazy and we are a little bit afraid when we play."

Now, the anarchic horn player who pushed the Stooges' "Fun House" (1970) — a proto-punk milestone that some call the best rock record in history — over the edge has died. Mackay, a longtime member of the Stooges, died of sepsis, a complication of his cancer, over the weekend, his family said.

"Steve was a classic '60s American guy, full of generosity and love for anyone he met," Iggy Pop wrote. "Every time he put his sax to his lips and honked, he lightened my road and brightened the whole world. He was a credit to his group and his generation. To know him was to love him."

Mackay was born in 1949 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His father was a salesman, his longtime companion Patricia Smith said; his mother

was a piano teacher who favored jazz — and drew the saxophone illustration tattooed on Mackay's arm. He even claimed an ancestor was Queen Victoria's bagpiper.

"Music was everything for Steve," Smith told The Washington Post in a phone interview. "He always had music in his head."

Mackay took up the sax when he was 9, and never really put it down. He studied art at the University of Michigan, but got more interested in music — jazz and pop, but mostly rock 'n' roll. Sometimes, the horn was a hard sell.

"Nobody wanted a saxophone in the band," Mackay said of an early project. "But I was the only one who could improvise and play solo, so they had to keep me."

Iggy saw Mackay play in a saxophone/drums duo that played "free music" — avant-garde compositions, often improvised and devoid of traditional rhythm and harmony, like those explored by cutting-edge jazz artists such as John Coltrane in the late 1960s. In other words: skronking.

But what some traditionalists may have blanched at, Iggy Pop loved. He invited Mackay to jam with the Stooges informally. Soon after came the invitation to play on the record that became "Fun House." Two of Mackay's contributions — on the title track and "L.A. Blues," a chaotic, freeform mess — were unforgettable.

"'Fun House' is where Iggy Pop's mad genius first reached its full flower; what was a sneer on the band's debut had grown into the roar of a caged animal desperate for release, and his rants were far more passionate and compelling than what he had served up before," AllMusic wrote. "Fun House" is the ideal document of The Stooges at their raw, sweaty, howling peak."

Punk icon Henry Rollins, a vocal Stooges fan and friend of the band, called "Fun House" the "perfect record." When he joined the famed band Black Flag, Roll-

ins said, he was given a copy of the record and told: "To understand us, you gotta understand this." He didn't envy any artist who tried to match it.

"It's scarier and heavier than anything you're going to make," Rollins said in a telephone interview. "You are never going to be as good as the Stooges."

What seems like a landmark record today, however, didn't make much of an impression in the popular consciousness at the time — "Fun House" sold even more poorly than the Stooges commercially underwhelming debut. The band broke up in 1974 — for nearly three decades. And, like many sidemen, Mackay disappeared from view somewhat. He never stopped playing in his own groups, and would occasionally turn up on recordings of lauded bands such as the Violent Femmes.

"I never stopped learning how to play better and better," Mackay said. "Or different and different."

He wasn't exactly a household name, though.

"One person contacted him because they heard he was dead," Smith, his partner, said. "No, he was quite alive."

When the Stooges reunited in 2003 for a decade's worth of touring and recording, Mackay may not have seemed like a crucial component. After all, he only was heard on some songs on one of the band's three seminal albums. But there he was, playing new material, blowing through "Fun House" again and again in front of thousands of people, or plunking the keyboard on tracks such as "I Wanna Be Your Dog" that he hadn't played on the first time around.

Well into his 50s, he was more famous than he had ever been.

"I'm going to write a book, but I'm still waiting for more great things to happen," he said. "And right now, these are the times that are becoming the best memories for me."

Millinocket library plans fundraising

MILLINOCKET — Members of the Friends of Millinocket Memorial Library announced recently that the group has turned attention to fundraising.

At a meeting attended by more than 25 Friends, members gave approval to a 10-month, Phase One development plan that includes an annual and special appeal for transition funding, a Go Fund Me online campaign, a quilt raffle, research, planning and assessment, and foundation grants and major donors.

Mapped out for future approval were Phase Two and Phase Three fundraising proposals, which will include a Millinocket Memorial Library Impact Fund, a second annual turkey dinner, a double choice getaway raffle, a dinner aucation and foundation grants and major donors efforts. Friends members also endorsed a proposal to conduct a fundraiser in April dubbed Color For Books.

Volunteer contributions also are being accepted.

Those interested in assisting the library and the Friends organization in any manner should stop by the library.

The new library hours are 1-5 p.m. Mondays, 10 a.m-5 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-5 p.m. Fridays.

TAMC to offer recycling day

PRESQUE ISLE — The Aroostook Medical Center will hold an autumn recycling day 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, at A.R. Gould Memorial Hospital's maintenance garage. There will be signs directing people to the dropoff site.

Items that will be accepted free of charge include: computer monitors, network servers, televisions, desktop printers, digital frame pictures, cell-phones, laptops, game consoles, computer towers, data/electrical cables, FAX machines, scanners, copiers, speakers, keyboards, stereos, DVD/VHS players and overhead projectors. No light bulbs or batteries will be accepted.

For information, call Mark Bourgoin at 768-4349 or email mbourgoin@tamc.org.