



ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Presented to
Sybil Bailey Stockdale '46



SYBIL BAILEY STOCKDALE, class of 1946, we honor you today with the Alumnae Achievement Award. This award is presented to alumnae whose achievements and service to society exemplify the values and virtues set forth by the College.

Raised on a Connecticut dairy farm, you came to Mount Holyoke from the Day School in New Haven and majored in religion. You served as an assistant house president, president of the modern dance club, and played basketball, tennis, and volleyball. Taking additional courses at Connecticut College for Women in order to accelerate, you received your Mount Holyoke degree in January 1946. In June 1947, you married Ensign James Bond Stockdale, a Navy fighter pilot and graduate of the United States Naval Academy. During your first 18 years as a Navy wife, you earned a master's degree in education from Stanford University, taught at several high schools, raised four sons, and moved 23 times.

In 1965, your husband—then Commander Stockdale—became the highest-ranking naval officer taken prisoner during the Vietnam War. Frustrated by the U.S. government expectation that relatives of POWs not speak out about the mistreatment of prisoners, you organized the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia. You met with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, as well as with President Richard Nixon. During the Paris peace talks, you confronted the North Vietnamese directly with the demands of POW families. When your husband was released in 1973, he received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his extraordinary heroism. You were awarded the U.S. Navy Department's Distinguished Public Service Award—the only wife of an active-duty officer ever to have been so honored.

In 1984, you and your husband coauthored *In Love and War: the Story of a Family's Ordeal and Sacrifice During the Vietnam Years*, which was later made into a television movie. In 1992, you campaigned alongside your husband when he ran for vice president with H. Ross Perot, the presidential candidate of the Reform Party. On the campaign trail, you again conducted yourself with grace and poise.

In you, we see a model of courage and witness the power of one voice speaking out with integrity. You changed lives—and transformed this nation. In recognition of your valor and perseverance, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you, on your 65th reunion, with the Achievement Award.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cynthia L. Reed".

Cynthia L. Reed '80
President
Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jane E. Zachary".

Jane E. Zachary
Executive Director
Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College

