Dear Friend,

Military families are still facing the reality of time apart due to military service – deployments, temporary duty assignments, and the demands of military duty all keep families separated. Military children are some of our area’s most vulnerable kids due to the stress of enduring multiple separations from their military parents and frequent military moves. These stressors significantly impact academic performance and emotional health.

Military kids miss out on thousands of bedtime stories when their parents are away serving our nation. Through United Through Reading, we saved storytime for 41,000 San Diego military family members! United Through Reading is working to ensure that every military child can reap the benefits of storytime with their far-away parent. **But we need your support!**

A centerpiece of United Through Reading’s presence in San Diego, **Storybook Ball** brings together corporate executives, senior military leaders, long-time supporters, and military families together for a special evening that includes remarks from a Military Guest of Honor, heartfelt stories from beneficiary families on the impact of United Through Reading, and celebration of military families who have forged meaningful connections through the read-aloud experience.

The Ball is an important opportunity to raise critical funds to ensure all military families can benefit from this important connection, no matter the distance between them.

**Can you help us with a donation of a product or service from your business?** This year’s Storybook Ball will be on **November 5th** at the elegant **Hilton Bayfront**. We would be honored to celebrate your generosity at the Ball. An auction donation form is included. All donations are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible.

**Your support matters to our military families and our national security.** Thank you in advance for your consideration. Should you have any questions, you may contact my assistant Emily Foster at emilyfoster@utr.org or 757-635-2218.

Sally Ann Zoll, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer
United Through Reading keeps military families reading ready every day, no matter the distance between them. Our storytime videos create an emotional connection between parents and their children, encourage literacy, and ease the difficulties of deployments and time apart due to military duty.

**THE NEED**

- **2 million** children with a parent who deployed at least once, creating social-emotional challenges that impact academic achievement
- **6 to 9** moves between kindergarten and high school graduation on average for military children, resulting in educational disruption
- **50%** of service members ranked time away from family as their top quality of life concern

**THE IMPACT**

- **2.7 million** military family members connected through reading since 1989
- **50,000** books distributed to military families in 2021
- **10,000+** stories shared through our mobile reading app since 2019

**HEAR DIRECTLY FROM MILITARY FAMILIES**

When you invest in United Through Reading, you positively impact a military family. The more reading ready our military families are, the stronger our nation is today and tomorrow.

United Through Reading filled a communication void with my two-year-old son. He interacted with the video of me reading, and my wife reported back on the parts of the story that he responded to and what he said. I felt like I was having a dialogue with him that I couldn’t have had by any other means.

- DEPLOYED MARINE

Our youngest was only three months old when my husband deployed. He watched his Daddy, in uniform, read to him every night while Daddy was gone. When my husband returned, our son immediately recognized him in a sea of uniformed soldiers and instantly knew his voice. Our son is now about to be 9 years old, still loves to be read to every night, reads on his own, and is in advanced education classes at school. UTR did so much more for us than we could have ever imagined.

- ARMY SPOUSE
At our annual Storybook Ball in San Diego, California, we honor and celebrate the families that serve our country every day. We pay tribute to the corporate, public policy, and military leaders whose vision and support have been vital to delivering United Through Reading’s mission worldwide. Join us for this memorable evening and learn more about those who have forged meaningful connections through read-aloud experiences.

### 2022 Honorees

**Audrey Geisel Friend of Military Children Award**

*Make Your Bed with Skipper the Seal* by Admiral William H. McRaven (Ret)

**Military Family Leadership Award**

USAA on the occasion of their 100th anniversary and support of military families

**Military Guests of Honor**

Admiral Christopher W. Grady, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (invited)

Mrs. Christine Grady (invited)

### Previous Military Guests of Honor

Vice Admiral Steve Koehler, USN, 31st Commander, 3rd Fleet

Vice Admiral John Alexander, USN, 29th Commander, 3rd Fleet

Vice Admiral Dixon Smith, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Fleet Readiness and Logistics

Vice Admiral Mike Shoemaker, USN, Commander, Naval Air Force, US Pacific Fleet

Sergeant Major Bryan Battaglia, USMC, 2nd Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs

Admiral Jonathan Greenert, 30th Chief of Naval Operations

### Previous Honoorees

Vice Admiral DeWolfe Miller, USN, and Mrs. Ellen Miller

Representative Susan Davis (CA 53)

Bob Woodruff Foundation

PGA Golfer Rory Sabatini

### Previous Corporate Honorees

Veterans United Foundation & Veterans United Home Loans

BAE Systems Inc.

USAA Federal Savings Bank

Target Corporation

San Diego Gas & Electric

NBC 7 San Diego

Northrop Grumman Corporation

San Diego Military Advisory Council

### Previous Children’s Book Authors

Michael Berenstain

Jeff Gottesfeld

Brad Meltzer

James Patterson

Kate DiCamillo

Jeff Kinney

Laura Numeroff

### Storybook Ball Leadership Committee

The Storybook Ball Leadership Committee spearheads our San Diego efforts to honor military families and the connections they make through United Through Reading.

**CHAIR**

Robert Pennoyer, Red Hat

**COMMITTEE**

Jennie Brooks, Booz Allen Hamilton

Bobby Buchanan, Buchanan Brand + Design

Stephanie Dowse, Cisco Systems

RADM Fran Holian, USN (Ret), Northrop Grumman Corp. (Ret)

Kim Hunt, Komposset Consulting Strategies, LLC

Dwayne Junker, USN (Ret), Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc

RADM Terry Kraft, USN (Ret), General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.

Sonia Menon, Cisco Systems

Sid Morris, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

Anne Murphy, American Electric Power

Cathy Spetter, Navy Federal Credit Union

David Steindl, Lockheed Martin Corporation

Charlie Van Vechten, Marketing Executive

Ward Wilson, USN (Ret), Boeing Defense Space & Security

Maggie Young, San Diego Fleet Week Foundation

VADM Jim Zortman, USN (Ret), Northrop Grumman Corp. (Ret)
# Auction and Gift In Kind Donation Form

## CONTRIBUTION ITEM:

| DESCRIPTION: | Include information to promote your contribution. Please supply information regarding color, size, rarity, dates, unusual aspects, associated costs relating to use of item or facility, interesting facts, type of service, etc. |

We welcome any promotional material for display and description. These items will not be returned.

| RESTRICTIONS: | Include number of persons, time of year, excluded dates, geographic limitations, insurance requirements, expiration date, etc. |

## VALUE OF ITEM: $_________________________ Dollar amount required for tax purposes.

## Donor Information:

- **NAME AS YOU WISH TO APPEAR**: ________________________________
- **COMPANY NAME**: ________________________________
- **NAME**: ________________________________
- **ADDRESS**: ________________________________
- **CITY / STATE / ZIP**: ________________________________
- **EMAIL**: ________________________________
- **PHONE**: ________________________________
- **SIGNATURE**: ________________________________ **DATE**: ________________________________