

Our Veterans

The couple moved to Clarkston, Wash., in 1957 after the death of their son Dorsey, 2. Another son, Allen Twain, was born in 1957, and daughter Tracey LaVelle in 1961. The family eventually opened Stockdale Training Stables which became a mecca for horsemanship throughout the Northwest and even nationally.

Like most men of the era, Stockdale did not often discuss his WWII battle exploits. He worked as a manager for the Potlatch Corp. in Washington and kept training his beloved horses on the side, instilling that love into the rest of his family as well as numerous children he led through years as a 4-H leader, working horse trainer and giving riding lessons.

Remembering his time lost and alone before being taken in by the resistance fighters, Stockdale opened his home to wayward children, reaching out to them through his horses. "We sheltered more kids than we could count," Gay Stockdale said.

Stockdale never lost his Wallowa County roots, and he certainly left his mark here. He was instrumental in helping to establish the Chief Joseph Days Rodeo and daughter Judy Bothum became the CJD queen in 1958 and grand marshal of the parade in 2015.

Gay Stockdale took care of her father the last year of his life.

"I was very fortunate to be able to do that. We watched the History Channel together, and I learned more about Dad and his service in that year than I'd known my whole life. It was a wonderful time I was able to have with him." The Stockdales semi-retired in the '90s and spent their final years in Olympia, Wash. Ina Stockdale passed away

Gayle Stockdale
World War 2



Courtesy Photo/Gay Stockdale
Stockdale photographed in Enterprise while home on leave before shipping out.

on Sept. 26, 2001 and was buried in Enterprise. Gayle followed her a year and a day later. He was buried at the Enterprise Cemetery with a military Honor Guard in attendance, playing "Taps" and presenting the American Flag to the remaining family. The churches for their respective services were filled to overflowing with people who testified to the positive impact the couple made on their lives.

His daughters hope their father is remembered as a patriotic man and a hero.

"He was the epitome of a true American hero — not only to his country, but to his community," Gay Stockdale said. "He was a remarkable man."

"You could live and watch daily the love he had for his country," Judy Bothum added.

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