

*Award Sculpture by Joseph A. Corcoran***March 1, 2012****Courage and Compassion Award Dinner**

The [Light of Healing Hope Foundation](#), in collaboration with the [Navy SEAL Foundation](#) and the [Chief James E. Whitehead JROTC Scholarship Foundation](#), held an exciting award dinner to honor Former Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates at [Café Milano](#), graciously hosted by Franco Nuschese.

The Courage and Compassion Award Dinner was held to support the U.S. Navy SEALs, Naval Special Warfare, and their families; to provide healing and comfort to veterans facing traumatic medical conditions; and to award scholarships to Veterans' families and multicultural at-risk public school JROTC students.

*Franco Nuschese***Honoring 22nd United States Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates**

“Vice Admiral Albert Calland III, USN (Ret.), Chairman of the Navy SEAL Foundation, and Alexandra Villard de Borchgrave, President of the Light of Healing Hope Foundation, were on hand to present the award to former Secretary Robert M. Gates. General James L. Jones, USMC (Ret.) accepted the award on Gates' behalf, remarking that the Secretary would appreciate the compassion side of the award. ‘Since the end of world war II... it's the compassion of men and women in uniform that have really contributed greatly to what this nation is today and probably will be tomorrow,’ said Jones.” (Read more by the WHC: <http://www.whitehousecorrespondentsweekendinsider.com/2012/03/02/cafe-milano-dinner-for-robert-gates-u-s-navy-seals/>)

*Vittorio Grigolo***Special Performance by world famous tenor Vittorio Grigolo**

The evening's highlights included an invocation by Father James Duffy; a trailer of the newly released film *Act of Valor*; a special Navy SEAL Foundation Family Video; and a stirring rendition of *America the Beautiful* by Washington Opera singer Maria Eugenia Antunez.

World renowned tenor Vittorio Grigolo flew in from Germany for an electrifying performance, singing for the first time ever the *Star Spangled Banner*. He was accompanied by pianist Israel Gursky and flamenco guitarist Daniele Bonaviri who made a special trip from Rome.

*General James L. Jones, Alexandra Villard de Borchgrave, Vice Admiral Albert Calland III*

**March 1, 2012****Courage and Compassion Award Dinner**

Bret Baier of Fox News emceed the event which was held in support of the U.S. Navy SEALs. Keynote speaker Rear Admiral Garry J. Bonelli said, "it's important to do everything we can to take care of the other fifty percent of our fighting forces, the spouses and families."

*Admiral Garry J. Bonelli**Bret Baier***SPECIAL GET AWAY FOR A NAVY SEAL**

Through the efforts of the Light of Healing Hope Foundation, David Gorodetski of Sage Communications, and Frederic V. Malek of the Courage and Compassion Award Dinner Honorary Committee, a two night stay at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra, Florida was presented to the Navy SEAL Foundation for a SEAL and his family.

**Special Thanks to our Generous Event Sponsors**

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The Honorable Chuck Hagel

The Honorable Lloyd N. Hand

General James L. Jones, USMC (Ret.)

The Honorable Frederic V. Malek

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