

MILT

MILT SALAMON

Honoree earned mighty fine words

Generally speaking, a *speech* we can do without, and that goes for colonel-y speaking as well. But the ceremony yesterday morning at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station's south gate was no stuffy recital of fancy phrases.

Speechifiers were a lieutenant colonel (Jerry Johnson, Cape commander); his boss, a bird colonel (John Wormington, Eastern Space and Missile Center commander); and a three-star general (Forrest McCartney, Kennedy Space Center director). They were good.

... **JERRY** Johnson explained how it came to be that the Cape Road, the main road that traverses his fiefdom and extends into KSC, was being renamed the Samuel C. Phillips Parkway, in honor of the late Gen. Sam Phillips, a four-star who died early last year.

It was John Wormington's idea — and the right choice, Jerry said: "With him (Phillips) at the controls, the nation's commitment to land a man on the moon and safely return him to Earth was superbly accomplished."

Assigned to NASA, Phillips directed the Apollo Lunar Landing Program in 1964-69. Earlier, he directed the Minuteman ICBM program. His awards could fill this column.

... **JOHN** Wormington said one of his first assignments was as aide de camp to Phillips. He has a personal reason for the road name: "Each of us when we're growing up has heroes. Each of us has people that we admire beyond all others. General Phillips is one of those for me. He is my hero. I have never met a finer man. I have never met a better leader. I have never met a man with more integrity. I could not think of a better memorial to a man that I love so much than to name a street after him."

... **FORREST** McCartney, who worked with and for Phillips, said of the renaming:

"It was so obvious I don't know why someone hadn't thought of it a lot sooner!"

... **TAKING PART** in the ceremony: the general's widow, Betty Anne Phillips, and daughter Dana Phillips. Betty Anne ("B.A.") is below, between Cocoa Beachers Pat and Miles (Mike) Ross. A former KSC deputy director, Mike told us he and Phillips worked together on Minuteman "when I was project manager down here for TRW, and he was the program manager for the Air Force." Later, as Apollo program director, "he called me one day and said, 'Hey, we want you to come over and join the program.' I didn't want to do that," Mike recalled. "I enjoyed working for TRW. He said, 'One year. You can do *anything* for a year.' So I did that for a year, and stayed 10 years!"

