

RECOGNIZING DANIELLE BLACK
LYONS AS CONSTITUENT OF THE
MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Danielle Black Lyons, co-founder of Textured Waves and diversity activist in the surfing industry, as the Constituent of the Month for June.

At a time when our country is undergoing a nationwide uprising to address police brutality and systemic racism in America, Ms. Lyons brought the heart of the Textured Waves community, the love of her culture, and surfing together to help organize a memorial paddle out in which thousands of fellow surfers recognized the life of George Floyd and others who have been killed at the hands of police. This powerful traditional surfing demonstration paid tribute to the Black Lives Matter movement and gave hope to our community as it struggles to address these critically important issues.

A surfer herself, Danielle was tired of seeing only one image of surfers that didn't fit her own experience in the sport. Seeking to bridge the divide and show a more inclusive representation of women of color in the surfing community, Textured Waves was formed.

The platform is an inclusive space for women of color surfers to come together for community, kinship, and camaraderie. It is a space that gives insights into diversifying the surf world with relevant resources, featured stories, imagery of women of color riding waves, and more.

I applaud Danielle's spirit and activism and look forward to seeing what else she will do to make a positive impact on our community, the surfing industry, and this important movement going forward.

I launched a Constituent of the Month program to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to make our region and our country a stronger place for everyone to live and thrive. As our nation and community works toward long overdue racial change and healing, voices like Danielle's must be lifted and echoed. I am honored to recognize Ms. Lyons as my Constituent of the Month, and I thank her for being a prominent actor in amplifying diversity in our surf culture and shining her light on this historic movement of change for America.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL WILLIAM
LYON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an outstanding individual, General William Lyon, who passed away at the age of 97 on May 22, 2020. "The General," as his friends knew him, was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, a decorated military veteran, a dedicated philanthropist, and an esteemed community leader in Southern California. He will be deeply missed.

William Lyon was born March 9, 1923, in Los Angeles, California. Throughout the 1940s Lyon studied business at the University of Southern California and attended the Dallas Aviation School and Air College. While there, he trained military pilots as a civilian instructor before joining the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943. During World War II he served as a pilot in Europe, the Pacific, and North Africa and after the war he joined the Air Force Reserve in 1946. During the early 1950s, he returned to active duty and flew 75 combat missions throughout the Korean War. In 1975, Lyon was appointed Chief of the Air Force Reserve by President Ford, a title he held until he retired from the military in 1979. Throughout his years of service, Lyon received numerous awards and decorations including the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three oak clusters, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

In addition to his military accolades, Lyon was best known for his successful career in home building, real estate, and commercial aviation. He began his business as a modest effort to provide homes for military personnel returning from service and others across California. His efforts eventually evolved into William Lyon Homes, Inc. which grew into one of the nation's largest homebuilders responsible for constructing more than 100,000 homes across the western United States. Throughout his life, Lyon remained an active pilot and often flew his own jet and functional World War II-era planes. In 2008, he flew a vintage B-17 Flying Fortress to Washington D.C. to participate in a memorial ceremony.

A proud Trojan, Lyon's undergraduate degree was only the beginning of his involvement with USC. In 1986, he was elected to the university's Board of Trustees and remained a longtime advocate and supporter of USC's research and programs throughout his life. An active philanthropist and community leader, Lyons donated to organizations such as the Orangewood Children's Foundation and the Segerstrom Center for the Arts where he served for 30 years as a director of the board and formerly as chairman. Additionally, he was a chairman of the Boy Scouts of America, the Orange County Council, and served as the board chairman of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society of the United Way. He founded the Lyon Air Museum, located next to John Wayne Airport which exhibits authentic aircraft, vehicles, and memorabilia from the World War II era.

I had the pleasure of knowing the General through his service to Southern California and can personally attest to his numerous achievements and the countless lives he touched. He was a great American, a true patriot, an esteemed leader, and a dedicated husband, father, and friend. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife of 48 years, Willa Dean, to their children, Susan, Christine, Marcia, and Bill, their grandchildren, and the rest of his family and friends. Although the General may no longer be with us, he will continue to have a lasting impact on the lives of his family and community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM
LYON

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of William Lyon, who passed away on May 22, 2020 at the age of 97. For 50 years, his work as a real estate magnate revolutionized the housing industry in both Orange County and around the country.

In 1954, Lyon began working in construction with a 66-home project in Anaheim, California. Lyon foresaw the region's growth, and capitalized on the post-World War II economic boom. Less than a decade after his first construction project, he became one of the biggest names in the homebuilding industry. His company, William Lyon Homes, was based in Newport Beach. Lyon and his combined companies were responsible for creating by then 72,000 residential living spaces by the end of his career.

Lyon's aptitude for reading the housing market and maximizing development opportunities in Orange County are what truly set him apart from his peers and justified his title as a real estate titan. Known as "the General" by friends and family, his leadership and accomplishments sparked great change in our community.

I ask that all Members join me in honoring the accomplished life of William Lyon.

RETIREMENT OF DR. BENNY LILE

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2020

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Dr. Benny Lile who recently retired from 35 years of service as an educator in the public-school system.

Throughout the last thirty-five years he has served as a substitute teacher, taught in the classroom, worked in central office, the Technology Service Center in Bowling Green, and finished a stellar career serving as the superintendent of Metcalfe County Schools for the last seven years. The span of roles shows how widely his passion for education runs in the public-school system.

Through Dr. Lile's dedication he incorporated many activities that allowed his students to excel in the classroom. In 1988, he secured a grant that allowed the school to go from having two computers to a fifteen-computer lab—quite an accomplishment for a rural school during that time. Dr. Lile made the computer program Oregon Trail go from the computer screen to a real-life event, where the students dressed up in pioneer clothes and he even secured a horse to bring to school.

I join with Dr. Lile's family and friends, as well as all those he has impacted during his years in the school system, in honoring his incredible career and devotion to education. I wish him the best as he begins the next phase of life and express my gratitude for his service to the 1st District of Kentucky.