

and meaningful improvements in their health and healthcare. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and recognize National Sleep Awareness Week.

HONORING REVEREND HECTOR
VILLEGAS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the Newman Community, Reverend Hector Villegas, and to recognize his tireless work as the Pastor of St. Joachim's Catholic Church. Ministering to thousands, Reverend Villegas earned the respect of fellow clergy and civic leaders alike.

The Rev. Hector Villegas of Newman passed away March 1 at the age of 48, only days from his 49th birthday. The Rev. Villegas was known for serving the parish with compassion and devotion, a spiritual leader whose own life was guided by his deep faith.

He was born and raised in Tijuana, where he was surrounded by many friends and enjoyed childhood adventures with his older sister Patricia. He had a lifelong passion for exercise, and through adulthood could often be found working out at a gym. His participation in a youth ministry camp inspired him to become a priest.

After graduating from the Tijuana Diocese Seminary with a degree in philosophy, the Rev. Villegas came to California in 1998 as a seminarian at St. Jude's parish in Ceres. He attended St. John's Seminary in Camarillo and St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park before being ordained June 29, 2002, by Bishop Stephen Blaire at the Cathedral of the Annunciation.

The Rev. Villegas served at St. Stanislaus in Modesto from 2002 to 2007, serving as a parochial vicar and later administrator pro tem.

He is survived by his mother, Evangelina Villegas of San Diego; and two sisters, Patricia Hernandez of Chula Vista and Adriana Quiroz Villegas of San Diego.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Reverend Villegas for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions as Pastor of St. Joachim's Catholic Church. The life of Reverend Hector Villegas serves as an example of excellence to those in our community, and his legacy will not be soon forgotten.

CANCEL THE SEQUESTER ACT OF
2013

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise my voice against the set of across-the-board cuts—known as “the sequester”—currently taking effect across the country.

These devastating cuts are unique among American public policies for a simple reason: they were purposefully designed to be a bad idea.

During the debt ceiling standoff of 2011, the “sequester” was designed as a default option so revolting to both Democrats and Republicans that it would force the bipartisan “Super Committee” to adopt a workable budget plan. While that Committee failed at this objective, the American people have been left to pay the price.

The sequester, if fully implemented, will put more than 2 million jobs at risk—more than half of which are associated with small businesses:

The sequester will also create tremendous uncertainty in financial markets and among consumers, ultimately contributing to an estimated one-half of one percent drag on economic growth this year;

These cuts will also undermine military readiness, educational quality, and research output while leaving us with longer airport security lines, more untreated mental illnesses, more hunger, more homelessness, and fewer federal criminal prosecutions.

It should come as no surprise that, according to a Wall Street Journal/NBC News Poll, Americans oppose the sequester by a more than 2-to-1 margin.

If Congress is unable to craft a bipartisan agreement that takes sequestration off the table, this body has a duty to avert these catastrophic cuts by any means necessary. This is why I introduced the “Cancel the Sequester Act,” a one-sentence bill that would repeal the section of the Budget Control Act of 2011 that created these senseless, job-destroying cuts.

Please consider cosponsoring the “Cancel the Sequester Act,” so that we can prevent Washington's dysfunction from inflicting further harm on the American people.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL WILLIAM
LYON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Congressman DARRELL ISSA, Congressman JOHN CAMPBELL and Congressman DANA ROHRBACHER, and on behalf of the entire California Republican Congressional Delegation, to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to our country and state are exceptional. We have been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities, and country, a better place to live and work. General William Lyon is one of these individuals. General Lyon's many accomplishments are wide ranging, as he has made his mark as a successful businessman, a decorated member of the military and an active supporter of the community. On March 9, 2013, General Lyon will be celebrating his 90th birthday.

General Lyon was born in 1923 in Los Angeles, California. Prior to entering the United States Army Air Corps in 1943, he attended the University of Southern California and the Dallas Aviation School and Air College. He completed the Air War College in 1971 and the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Senior Officers Orientation Course in 1972 and 1974. Additionally, he attended the Indus-

trial College of the Armed Forces National Seminar in 1973. In 1943, General Lyon enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a reservist and continued serving as a civilian flight instructor until he received a direct appointment as a flight officer in June 1944. During World War II, he was assigned to the 6th Ferrying Group and ferried aircraft to the Pacific and European theaters. In 1945 he was assigned to the North African Division of the Air Transport Command and returned to the United States in 1946.

In 1947, General Lyon was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and participated in various Reserve assignments until his voluntary recall to active duty in 1951. He was then assigned to Headquarters Air Training Command as a staff pilot and was later transferred to the Military Air Transport Service, flying air evacuation and ferrying missions. In 1953 he volunteered for a tour of duty in Korea and flew 75 combat missions in the C-46 and C-47. From 1954 to 1963, General Lyon was assigned to various positions in the Reserve and served as a flight commander and operations officer. In 1963 he was named Commander of the 929th Tactical Airlift Squadron, March Air Force Base, California, and subsequently served as Commander of the parent unit, the 943d Tactical Airlift Group.

In June 1970, General Lyon was assigned as mobilization assistant to the commander, Sacramento Air Materiel Area, McClellan Air Force Base, California, and in February 1972, he became mobilization assistant to the Commander, Fifteenth Air Force at March Air Force Base. He was promoted to the grade of Major General on April 24, 1974, with date of rank May 24, 1972. In March 1974 he was appointed mobilization assistant to the commander in chief, Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, where he was involved in the planning of the transfer of designated KC-135 units to the Reserve Forces. In 1975, General Lyon was appointed by President Gerald R. Ford to serve as Chief of Air Force Reserve Headquarters at the Pentagon, where he was responsible for managing a \$700 million budget as well as the activities of some 53,000 Air Force Reservists. Four years later, on April 16, 1979, he retired from military service.

General Lyon's many military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Combat Readiness Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with hour glass device, and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

More than 50 years ago, General Lyon started building homes for returning military personnel and others who wanted to make a life in California. This modest effort evolved to become William Lyon Homes, which is now one of the nation's largest private homebuilders. Headquartered in Newport Beach, California, William Lyon Homes has constructed more than 100,000 new residences in Arizona, California and Nevada.

General Lyon's business success isn't limited to homebuilding. In 1981 he and a partner purchased AirCal, a regional air carrier based in Newport Beach, California. General Lyon served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer until 1987 when AirCal was purchased by American Airlines. His love of flying then led him to acquire Martin Aviation, a fixed