

# PILOTS WHO DEMONSTRATE IT'S NEVER TOO LATE ...

## General William Lyon Lifelong Legend

William Lyon was a 16-year-old boy when he handed over a single dollar bill for his first airplane ride. This year, at age 85, he sat in the cockpit of his own B-17 Flying Fortress and waited for President Bush to board Air Force One and clear the runway at Andrews Air Force Base. When it was his turn, Bill Lyon took off for a once-in-a-lifetime, low-level tour of Washington, D.C.

Lyon and his B-17 were soon joined by a P-51 Mustang and a P-40 Kittyhawk flying over the nation's capital in recognition of the 30,000 American airmen who gave their lives flying missions during World War II.

This remarkable flight over Washington, D.C., included a low-level pass over the Pentagon, a new perspective for the man who once commanded more than 53,000 troops from his office there. As General

Bill Lyon, he oversaw the U.S. Air Force Reserve units around the world. As a military pilot, he flew missions during World War II and the Korean War, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Retiring from the Air Force in 1978, Lyon joined his father and brother to build homes in California. With more than 100,000 houses to his success, he is—today—one of the largest home builders in America. Nevertheless, Bill Lyon never lost his love for aviation.

General Bill Lyon's B-17 lives in Orange County, California, alongside his B-25 bomber, A-26 bomber, two C-47s, a Gulfstream IV and a Robinson R44 helicopter. His collection of aircraft will be on display for all to see and enjoy in a new museum Lyon is opening at the end of this year adjacent to John Wayne Airport.



General Bill Lyon stands next to his B-17 bomber named 'Fuddy Duddy.'  
Dr. Arthur Peterson stands in front of a replica of the Wright Flyer at the Wathen Academy.  
Charmiane Freeman plans on spending her 85 birthday flying her Citabria.