

JANUARY 2022

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InFocus

A black and white portrait of Mayor Georgia Lord, a woman with short, light-colored hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a dark jacket and large, ornate earrings. The portrait is the central focus of the page, framed by a thin gold border.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
MAYOR GEORGIA LORD

1938~2021

Remembering Goodyear's Biggest Cheerleader

On Dec. 12, 2021, Mayor Georgia Lord passed away peacefully in her home with her family by her side. So many of her peers, colleagues, friends and Goodyear residents have shared their fond memories of her. It's a beautiful reminder of the far-reaching impact she had.

Mayor Lord was immensely passionate about Goodyear, and her commitment to the city made the entire West Valley a better place to live, work and play. She was fierce and strong, and she was incredibly warm, kind and witty. Mayor Lord will be deeply missed.

The following is a series of quotes from Mayor Lord from over the years:



I found public service to be rewarding. I saw for myself how local government shapes everyday lives, creates a community and impacts overall quality of life.

I really wanted to be part of that excitement.

The most important quality that has helped me in leadership positions is my ability to build relationships and coalitions. I am a collaborator who brings people together and works with people to find solutions. Sometimes, we agree on a solution and other times we do not, but I respect their opinions and continue to find ways to work together. I don't hold grudges, and I don't claim to have all of the answers.

I was actually inspired partially by my mother's dedication to political causes that she believed in. My mother was a tenacious woman, and I greatly admired her courage. It's interesting to reflect on the last several decades and all of the progress that women in politics, all over the world, have made. It didn't occur to me initially, and even until after the election, that I would be the first female mayor of the city of Goodyear, but I am pleased to have the opportunity to demonstrate to Goodyear's young women that anything is possible.

Goodyear has my heart. I care about my city, and I try very hard not to hurt it in any way. It's such a special moment in time for our city.



Georgia Lord



Dear Goodyear,

By now you have heard of the passing of Mayor Georgia Themia Lord, better known to us as mom. Since her first elected position, we've watched from the sidelines as you entrusted her to help make decisions for the West Valley. We thank you for seeing that ***something special*** in her. Your trust in our mom gave her purpose and a great deal of joy. If we can be so bold, it also helped make Goodyear great.

In hindsight, our mom raised Goodyear with the same qualities and determination she raised us:

She was frugal and hard working. When budgets were tight, she sewed our clothes, packed our school lunches and kept the house spotless (despite four children's attempts to ruin her hard work).

She was always first in line to help. If other military families needed support, she jumped in but seldom took credit.

She loved to win. This meant game night took on a whole new level of intensity, even with grandchildren.

She was a lifelong cheerleader. She yelled loudly – embarrassingly too loud – at our sporting events and performances.

She was forthright, but could also be a diplomat. Whether defending us against school bullies, meeting with our teachers when things went awry (can you imagine parent teacher conferences with our mom?) or serving as a military diplomat's wife in the Cold War, she was firm and fair, and had fun doing it.

She was beautiful. Yes, she was amazingly poised and polished, even at home.

When mom first ran for office, she was doubtful. Could she win? If she did, did she have what you needed in a leader? With no college degree, a winding career path because of military moves and no government experience, she took a deep breath and jumped in. She won and Goodyear won. Though she was an untraditional choice, time would tell that Goodyear needed someone with frugality, eagerness, determination, diplomacy, openness and wisdom. Those qualities don't always come from a diploma and an impressive resume.

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When I think back to all of the things I've experienced in my life, I want other people to be able to experience a life like that.

Mayor Georgia Lord

We worried about her during difficult and very public political scuffles. Her reply: "Don't worry about me. I love a good fight." She fought for you and believed in you with the same fighting spirit she believed in us. She wanted to help create a full-circle community where people can live, work and play. We are grateful that you trusted her to make that happen in the West Valley.

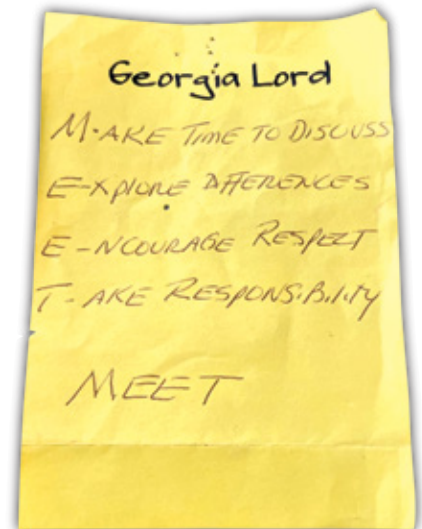
We found a note on mom's bulletin board with the acronym "**MEET**."
Make time to discuss;
Explore differences;
Encourage respect and
Take responsibility.

As we sadly say goodbye to Georgia Lord, our mom, and Georgia Lord, the mayor, we leave you with the charge to find ways to MEET to find common ground, especially when issues are complex and tempers are as hot as an Arizona sidewalk in July. Above all, be brave, step up when necessary, and before you fill in that empty box on your ballot, do your homework to elect leaders with passion, foresight and vision.

Kindly, Gratefully and Lovingly,

The Lord Family

Kimberly Lord Stewart, Shane Jeffery Lord,
Cassandra Louise Lord, Tiffany Lord Arnaldo



The Lord family has chosen legacy projects that reflect our mom's desire for supporting education and civic leadership. Please see the obituary at Thompson Funeral in Goodyear, thompsonfuneralchapel.com.

STRONG LEADERSHIP



Some of my best memories of Mayor Lord are of the opportunities we had to welcome new businesses to Goodyear at groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting events. Being able to celebrate with new businesses is not only fun, but underscores how much we value them choosing our city to open their business. Georgia Lord was great at cheering them on and welcoming them to our community. Her enthusiasm set the tone and we will ensure that legacy lives on as our city continues to grow.

Mayor Joe Pizzillo

Mayor Lord was a great mentor, friend and public servant. She represented the community well on the committees she served on and in the numerous events and meetings that she attended as the mayor of Goodyear. She was an encourager and wanted the best out of people. When I decided to run for office, she encouraged me to run and supported me.

She attended my election events and was excited to have someone with my skills and background on the council. Mayor Lord will be missed by my family and the community.

Vice Mayor Brannon Hampton



Mayor Lord always had a great sense of humor and was so full of love. Whether she was dancing at a Goodyear Fourth of July event or helping the city break a Guinness World Record for the most fake mustaches in one place, she always had a smile on her face. One time when I was vice mayor and she was out of town, I had a proclamation prepared (as a joke) to establish Goodyear's theme song as "For Those About to Rock" by AC/DC. Mayor Lord wasn't a fan of that song, but she found this small gesture to be hilarious. She was always a willing participant in a good joke and knew exactly how to balance humor and fun with the difficult task of leading a city.

Councilmember Sheri Lauritano

AND A GOOD FRIEND

”

I loved that Mayor Lord was so adaptable. No matter where we were or what we were asked to do, she was always a good sport and participated in fun events and activities with our residents. I will miss my dear friend and colleague tremendously.

Councilmember Wally Campbell



”

When asked to recall a special memory of Mayor Lord, I found myself thinking of the personal moments when we spoke about our families. She cared for each of us in a different way. Today, however, I want to share what someone else said about Mayor Lord that sums her up better than I ever could: “Mayor Lord was so passionate about the need for leadership. She is one of the few among my gender who I believe truly understood that women can lead without that leadership being about her becoming the first woman mayor. She instinctively had the understanding that leadership is not about gender, but about strength.” We are all stronger, and our city is stronger, because we had a mayor like Georgia Lord.

Councilmember Bill Stipp

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Always impeccable, ever the stateswoman, Mayor Lord led the city with dignity and courage, setting us on a firm foundation for the future. She helped me to get on my feet as a newly appointed council member and was supportive and wise. Her legacy lives on in the hearts of her family and friends, as well as in the goodness in Goodyear.

Councilmember Laura Kaino



LIFE BEFORE

A Fascinating Past

Mayor Lord was a multi-dimensional woman with a fascinating past. She was a collegiate cheerleader at Michigan State University, traveled the world as a proud military wife and spoke fluent German. She was also a successful fashion model, realtor and devoted mother of four.

She loved sharing stories and photos of her “younger days.” In 1962, she met her late husband Col. Ronald Lord (USAF, retired). Under the backdrop of one of the tensest moments of the Cold War while waiting for an upcoming modeling job to begin, she was introduced to Ron at McCoy Air Force Base near Orlando. They spent the night dancing and getting to know each other, and just a few short weeks later, the young couple was engaged to be married.

Discovering Her Calling

While Ron would fly more than 300 combat missions in the coming years, Mayor Lord was the stabilizing presence at home for their four children. As Ron transitioned from dogfights to diplomacy, she was by his side the entire way. The couple relocated to Bonn, Germany where Ron was the Air Force attaché to the American Embassy. Mayor Lord worked alongside her husband, building relationships with European ambassadors and dignitaries. During this time, her natural ability to create long-lasting partnerships and bring people together became apparent. The couple also spent time in the Netherlands, where Ron served as the Chief of Staff for the Director of Operations and Intelligence at the Allied Forces Central Europe headquarters.



Mayor Lord, her children and her mother, Margaret Giannaris.

Mayor Lord was married for nearly 57 years to Col. Ron Lord (USAF, retired) until his passing in early 2020. They raised four children, and the family has grown to include four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



1938

Born April 23 in Lansing, Mich.

1956

Began studying Physical Education at Michigan State University where she was also a cheerleader.

Go, Spartans!

1956

Started working as a freelance fashion model and continued to model until 1992

1963

Married U.S. Air Force fighter pilot Ron Lord after a two-week courtship

GOODYEAR

Building Upon Her Military Ties

Long after her husband retired from the U.S. Air Force, Mayor Lord continued to show her love and appreciation for the armed services. She loved being part of the military community and knew firsthand the sacrifices of military families. As mayor, she was an active participant in the growth and success of Luke Air Force Base. She helped spearhead the Luke Forward Campaign, which successfully saw the launch of the F-35 training program. This program has had a tremendous economic impact for the West Valley. She most recently served on the Luke West Valley Council and West Valley Partners, identifying new ways for growth and expansion at Luke Air Force Base.

After nearly 60 years of being a military wife and mom, you'd be hard pressed to find a civilian with as decorated of an armed forces connection as Mayor Lord. Her passion and commitment to the military is one of the hallmarks of her time in Goodyear and one of the reasons for the strong military ties in the West Valley.

I am honored to represent a city that is supportive of the Luke Air Force Base mission, and I am eternally thankful for the service of our veterans, the men and women currently dedicating their lives to our country each day and for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty. Additionally, the families of our active, retired and fallen military men and women deserve recognition for their commitment to their loved ones and their chosen career – it is a service in itself.

Mayor Georgia Lord



Mayor Lord with her husband, Ron, and eldest daughter, Kimberly.

1978

Graduated from the U.S. State Department Institute for German Language

1997

Moved to Goodyear

2004

Served as the Chair of the City Center Planning Committee

2005

Elected to the Goodyear City Council

2011

Elected as mayor of Goodyear to fill a two-year term

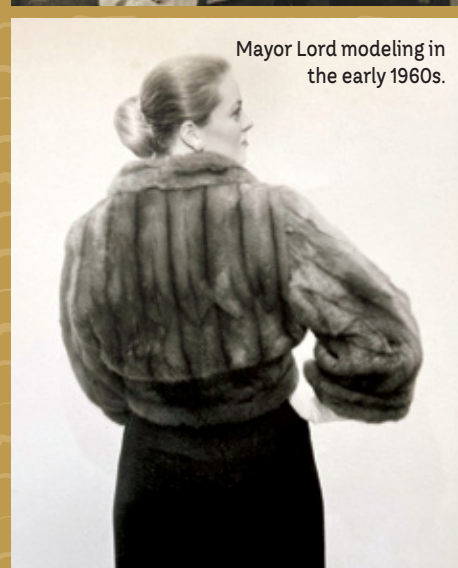
In 1957, Mayor Lord became Miss Ingham County.



Mayor Lord's wedding in 1963.



Mayor Lord modeling in the early 1960s.



Mayor Lord with Avondale Mayor Kenn Weise.



Mayor Lord accepting the Leadership West award in 2018.





Mayor Lord celebrating her honorary Doctorate degree with the Franklin Pierce University President and her daughter, in 2019.



Mayor Lord loved meeting with residents at events.



Mayor Lord cutting the ribbon of the new Goodyear Rec Campus in 2021.



Mayor Lord at the Goodyear Veterans Day Tribute in 2016.



Mayor Lord enjoyed being accessible and approachable.



Mayor Lord welcoming the newest Goodyear Youth Commission members in 2021.



In 2021, Mayor Lord received the WESTMARC Inspiration in Leadership award.

A POWERFUL ADVOCATE

Mayor Lord was a powerful advocate for the city of Goodyear after she moved to the city in 1997 with her husband. In a recent Growing Goodyear podcast episode, she talked about how she and Ron chose to live in Goodyear.

”

We traveled all over and looked at living in Scottsdale or Phoenix; you name it, we had looked at it. And then we were coming back to Goodyear, and we kept driving the streets and driving the streets. There's something about it. Ron and I just fell in love with it.

Mayor Georgia Lord

She began her illustrious career in local government when she was elected to the Goodyear City Council in 2005. Her love for public service deepened when she became the mayor of Goodyear in 2011. She became the city's first female mayor at the age of 73.



Mayor Lord's first acceptance speech was in 2005 when she joined the Goodyear City Council.

Shaping the West Valley

Mayor Lord was the driving force behind Goodyear's thriving success, and her contributions reached beyond the city limits. She served on dozens of local, regional and state committees and boards during her tenure to improve the quality of life, not only for Goodyear residents, but for the entire West Valley. Most recently she served on:

- Arizona League of Cities and Towns Executive Committee
- Maricopa Association of Governments' Regional Council and Transportation Policy Committee
- Greater Phoenix Economic Council Board of Directors
- WESTMARC Board of Directors
- Abrazo West Hospital Board of Directors
- Luke West Valley Partners

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I hope young people know that you never give up. When they say you have to retire, you don't have to retire. You find something you love, and I certainly did that.

Mayor Georgia Lord

**Goodyear Civic Square at GSQ
groundbreaking**

2013

Re-elected to serve her first full term as the mayor of Goodyear

2014

Named one of "Arizona Business Magazine's" Top 50 Most Influential Women in Arizona business

2017

Re-elected to serve her final term as mayor

2019

Received honorary Doctorate of Public Administration from Franklin Pierce University

FOR THE WEST VALLEY



Awards & Recognition

Throughout the course of Mayor Lord's political career, she received many accolades and prestigious awards, including:

- 2008 – Member of the citizens' team responsible for bringing the All-America City Award to Goodyear
- 2013 – Distinguished Service Award - Greater Phoenix Economic Council
- 2014 – Named one of the "50 Most Influential Women in Arizona Business" by Arizona Business Magazine
- 2018 – Recognized as Leadership West's Civic Leader of the Year
- 2018 – Featured on the cover of Commercial Executive Magazine
- 2018 – Guest "Women Icon Speaker" at AZ Crew
- 2019 – Presented with honorary Doctorate of Public Administration by Franklin Pierce University
- 2019 – Arizona Capitol Times' Government Leader of the Year award recipient
- 2019 – Named 2020 Business Leader by Arizona Business Magazine
- 2021 – WESTMARC Best of the West Inspiration in Leadership Award

HER DREAM REALIZED AND

Many know that Mayor Lord was incredibly passionate about creating a “heart” for Goodyear. She had been steadily working towards that goal for decades.

Prior to serving on the city council, she was the chair of the Goodyear City Center Technical Advisory Committee; the committee was responsible for crafting Goodyear’s downtown strategy, which evolved into the current civic square project. She wanted to create a gathering spot for residents and a place that businesses wanted to be, and she wanted it to be a beautiful space that the entire community could be proud of.

In 2019, her vision started to come to fruition through a public-private partnership with Globe Corporation. Globe, too, believed in the mayor’s vision. When the Goodyear City Council unanimously approved this one-of-a-kind project, Mayor Lord shared her overwhelming excitement:

“This project has been a long time in the making and is one of the reasons I began my career on council years ago. Our residents are what make our city a close-knit community, and I look forward to celebrating holidays and special occasions in this new gathering space together. Goodyear Civic Square at GSQ will certainly help shape the future of our community and it wouldn’t be possible without our incredible partnership with Globe Corporation.

On April 23, 2021, Mayor Lord celebrated her 83rd birthday at the groundbreaking. She stated at the event that there was no better way to spend her birthday.

The last city event she attended was the first event at the future civic square. It was a special sneak peek of the project to mark the city’s 75th anniversary. Those with her that night have shared how her face lit up as she set foot onto the grounds.

Mayor Lord’s legacy will live on for generations to come with her crowning achievement, the development of the Goodyear Civic Square at GSQ, which will open this summer.



Mayor Lord celebrated her 83rd birthday alongside her daughters, Arizona State Representative Joanne Osborne and Goodyear Councilmember Laura Kaino at the Goodyear Civic Square at GSQ groundbreaking on April 23, 2021.



Mayor Lord, councilmembers and members of Ryan Construction take part in the groundbreaking ceremony on April 23, 2021.

2020

Husband Ron Lord passed away in February 2020. They were married for 57 years

2021

Received the WESTMARC Inspiration in Leadership Award

2021

Passed away peacefully with family by her side on Dec. 12

MAYOR LORD



Brilliant
WARM
Compassionate
HONEST
STRONG

She was
WITTY
Passionate
Humble
Genuine
Inspirational

HER LEGACY WILL LIVE ON



Mayor Lord was beaming with pride and excitement as she posed next the "G" in the Goodyear sign at Civic Square.





Arizona was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Mayor Georgia Lord. She was an inspiring woman and a proven leader who cared deeply about the city of Goodyear and the men, women and families who call it home. Under Mayor Lord, Goodyear was transformed into an economic juggernaut, attracting new businesses and residents. Her care and love for her city was apparent to all, and she was frequently honored by community organizations for her service and accomplishments. I offer my deepest condolences and prayers to her family and loved ones.

Doug Ducey
Governor of Arizona



Our Georgia, a woman of class, courage and grace. A true leader of the West Valley and beloved Mayor of Goodyear. She could delight all who were with her and be respected because of her outspoken strength! Her impacts will forever be felt in the city. The economic development, growth and quality of life are a legacy. I will miss my friend and mentor, but I'm overjoyed to have had her in my life and to be with her during her final days and hours. Let the Angels sing and dance with Ron. You have done a mighty job dear servant and friend.

Joanne Osborne
Arizona House of Representatives



To describe a legend is to describe Mayor Lord. A woman with a capacity to wield the vision and passion of peers for the betterment of each resident in the region, the West Valley and, most importantly, her city of Goodyear. In Mayor Lord I found a friend, a colleague and a role model. She paved the way for women to be strong, courageous and compassionate leaders. I will always remember how she was unafraid to lead or stand up even if standing alone. As many of us will carry a piece of her throughout our lives, I will carry her in my heart and continue her legacy by governing with grace, moxie and a genuine love for public service.

Alexis Hermosillo
Mayor of El Mirage



Jan. 27 - 29
Arizona's Premier
Hot Air Balloon Race & Festival

Goodyear Ballpark • 1933 S. Ballpark Way



abcfest.com

Active Military/Veterans- FREE
Kids 12 & under- FREE
General Parking- \$5
Advance Tickets on Sale



Mayor Lord was instrumental in growing Goodyear into a vibrant, high-quality community. She was a champion of regionalism and influenced policy issues, infrastructure investments, economic development, tourism and many other quality-of-life elements for West Valley residents. She spent 10 years dedicated to the growth of WESTMARC's mission and forward progress. Most importantly to me, Mayor Lord believed in supporting strong female leadership and providing opportunities for the next generation to lead. In October 2021, she received the WESTMARC Inspiration in Leadership Award. I will miss her leadership, energy, elegance and sense of humor.

Sintra Hoffman
President and CEO of WESTMARC

It was with great sadness we learned of the passing of Mayor Lord. She was a longtime friend of my family and fantastic partner in the West Valley. She will be sorely missed as she epitomized the core value of service before self by serving as a military spouse for 30 years, business woman and civil servant for the city of Goodyear. The West Valley won't be the same without her leadership.

Brig. Gen. Todd Canterbury
Luke Air Force Base



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

There will be trash and recycling pickup on Monday, Jan. 17.

Containers to the curb by 6 a.m.

Not sure when your trash day is? Visit goodyearaz.gov/trash.



GOODYEAR CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

Jan. 10	5 p.m. 6 p.m.	Work Session Council Meeting
Jan. 24	5 p.m. 6 p.m.	Work Session Council Meeting
Jan. 31	5 p.m. 6 p.m.	Work Session Council Meeting

Goodyear City Council meetings are held at the Goodyear Council Chambers inside the Goodyear Municipal Court at 14455 W. Van Buren St. Residents are encouraged to attend or watch the meetings live on the city's Facebook page or YouTube Channel.

Meetings are subject to change; visit goodyearaz.gov for the latest calendar.



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LOTS TO THIS FEBRUARY!



Get your heart pumping with our new routes!

race & fun run

Feb. 5 • 8 – 11 a.m.

pet festival

Feb. 12 • 9 a.m. – noon

Bring your furry valentine for

-  free activities & giveaways
-  informative booths
-  more tail-wagging fun!



wag&tag

goodyearaz.gov/events