



City of Grover Beach

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAYOR TO HONOR THEAOLA LYNN

GROVER BEACH, CA – The City of Grover Beach and Mayor Debbie Peterson invite the public to honor Grover Beach resident, Theaola Lynn, at the City Council meeting on Monday, April 15, 2013, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers located at 154 South 8th Street in Grover Beach.

Mrs. Lynn will be receiving a special commendation from the Mayor, honoring Mrs. Lynn for her many years of service to the community and, more importantly, the children of the community. The Mayor's commendation was initiated to recognize residents and citizens who have substantially contributed time and resources to Grover Beach. According to Mayor Peterson, *"Theaola Lynn more than fits the criteria, having taught school locally for 70 years"*.

Theaola's late husband, Woody Lynn, was one of the City's longest serving Council Members. He served the City for almost 16 years from 1970 - 1985. Theaola said that during Woody's tenure, he worked towards constructing curbs and gutters along West Grand Avenue and initiating mandatory garbage collection service throughout the City. Theaola and Woody were married for 55 years.

The Lynns traveled from Oklahoma to California in the 1950s. Upon arrival, Theaola was immediately hired as a teacher. Within a few years both she and Woody had completed degrees in teaching at Fresno State (now California State University, Fresno). He eventually received his Masters in general education at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

After their two daughters were born, they took frequent weekend trips, one of them being to "Grover City". Within a very short while they had decided to move to the area, settling first in Pismo Heights. In the late 1950s, they moved just a few doors down the street from where Theaola now lives in Grover Beach.

Theaola began teaching kindergarten to 2nd grade students in Oceano when there were three separate districts, which later became a part of the Lucia Mar Unified School District: Oceano, Arroyo Grande, and Pismo Beach (Grover Beach was part of the Pismo Beach school district).

After she retired, Theaola was a regular fixture at Grover Heights Elementary School as a substitute teacher, walking from her home nearby. When the economy worsened and nearly 100 teachers were threatened with layoff, Theaola quit teaching after 70 years. She says she quit because she was doing it for fun, whereas others really needed the job financially. Mayor Peterson stated, *"Mrs. Lynn had an uncanny ability to keep a whole room of six-year-olds quietly engaged with their schoolwork. Not only was she always ready with a warm hug, a smile, and words of encouragement for my son and me, she always cheered me on in community service. It is an honor to commend Theaola for her outstanding commitment to the children and parents of Grover Beach."*

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