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Four Star General Receives National Literacy Award At Everybody Wins! DC Annual Gala

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 21 – **Four Star General (Ret.) Lester Lyles** has been named by *Ebony* magazine as one of the 100 most influential African-Americans in America three times this decade. At the Everybody Wins! DC (EW!DC) annual gala on **March 6, 2007** he will receive the National Capital Literacy and Mentoring Award and will present his inspirational story.

EW!DC is the largest children's literacy and mentoring organization in the Washington Metropolitan Area and will host its gala at **the Capital Hilton, on 16 & K Streets, NW from 6p.m. until 9p.m.** This year's "Open books. Open doors." themed gala celebrates children, mentors, community leaders and corporate partners through an evening of celebrity readings, leadership awards, musical entertainment and live and silent auctions.

As a native Washingtonian, Gen. Lyles is a product of the District of Columbia public school system and Howard University. He believes that "to succeed in life, a strong educational foundation is important." He has been honored as the Top Technology Entrepreneur in 2004 and 2005 by US Black Engineer and Information Technology Magazine and in 2003 received the Black Engineer of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award. During his career as an Air Force General, he was responsible for managing 82,000 personnel throughout the United States.

Other highlights of the evening include: A performance by **The Compassionates**, featuring the honorable Josh Bolten, a presentation of the Corporate Leadership Award by **Congressman Ray LaHood (R-IL)**, and a celebrity reading. Also, **Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)** will share his experience as an EW!DC mentor. **Barbara Harrison of NBC News 4** will emcee the evening's program.

Agenda:

- Cocktail reception and silent auction: 6 p.m.
- Dinner and Program: 7:30 p.m.
- Live Auction: 8:30 p.m.

Through its mentoring and literacy programs Everybody Wins! DC reaches more than 3,000 at-risk students each year in 31 Title I public elementary schools throughout the metro region. "EW!DC evaluations show that the children we serve have improved reading levels, higher academic achievement and increased self esteem," says Mary Salander, Everybody Wins! DC executive director. "This event acknowledges those who are dedicated to opening doors for the children we serve."

For more information, please visit www.everybodywinsdc.org or call Roopa Purohit at 202-347-9467, ext. 15.

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