

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

Memorial Resolutions

**To be presented at Annual Town Meeting on
March 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. - Wellesley High School**

To the Town Meeting Members of the Town of Wellesley,

In the past year, Wellesley was saddened by the passing of several of our esteemed citizens. Our deepest condolences to the families and friends of these outstanding individuals. During Annual Town Meeting, it is our custom to recognize departed Town Meeting Members with special memorial resolutions.

We are sharing these written tributes with all Town Meeting Members in advance. These will be presented in person during the ceremonial first night of Town Meeting as we remember those who gave so much to our community.

Respectfully submitted by,

Beth Sullivan Woods
Town Meeting Member, Precinct D



***RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF
Dona M. Kemp***

- Whereas:** The Town of Wellesley was saddened by the passing of Dona M. Kemp on June 24, 2023, a remarkable woman dedicated to public service and voter education, who made many contributions to our community and its residents, and;
- Whereas:** Dona was raised in Tenafly, New Jersey, was educated at the Academy of the Holy Angels, Chestnut Hill College, and Tufts University, from where she graduated in 1962 with a mathematics degree; and
- Whereas:** Dona and Michael and their two daughters moved to Wellesley in 1984, and Dona immediately sought out opportunities to support her new community. She volunteered for math enrichment classes at the local elementary school; and
- Whereas:** Dona was an elected Town Meeting Member from 1991 to 2019 and served on the town's Advisory Committee from 1994 to 1997. She was a Director of the Wellesley Housing Development Corporation from 2000 to 2020 and served on the Community Preservation Committee from 2006 to 2009. She served on the board of The Wellesley Club. In 2007, Dona was nominated by the Wellesley Select Board as an "unsung heroine" at a State House awards ceremony with the Commonwealth's Commission on the Status of Women; and
- Whereas:** She was a board member of the Wellesley League of Women Voters, serving as President from 1990 to 1992. She chaired the Local League Services committee of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and was President of the state League from 2001 to 2003. Voter service and the right to vote was an important interest to Dona, who encouraged all to participate in our Democracy. Each year, each election, the League of Women Voters *Vote* sign adorned her lawn.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this Town Meeting acting on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Wellesley and its municipal employees, express its deep sorrow at the passing of Dona M. Kemp, a woman dedicated to civic and community pursuits, tireless support and involvement in important social issues, whose passion for her family, the League of Women Voters and the Town were evident to all who knew her, and acknowledge appreciation for her significant contributions to our Town; and that this resolution be made part of the Official Proceedings of this Town Meeting and a suitable copy of the same be tendered to her husband, Michael Kemp, and her two daughters, Catherine and Elizabeth, and their families, so her memory may be so ever cherished.

Presented by: Katherine K. Macdonald, this 25th day of March, 2024.

Approved:

Attest:

Mark Kaplan, Moderator

KC Kato, Town Clerk



***RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF
Richard S. McGhee, Jr.***

- Whereas:** The Town of Wellesley was saddened by the passing of Richard S. McGhee, Jr., on July 29, 2023, a remarkable man who was committed to family, home, and equity in our community, and made countless contributions to the openness and welcoming nature of Wellesley; and
- Whereas:** Richard was born in Memphis, Tennessee, attended Fisk University in Tennessee, and Wayne State University in Michigan, served as a staff sergeant in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean conflict, and moved to Wellesley with his wife Charlotte and children in the 1970's; and
- Whereas:** Richard made realizing the American promise of equal opportunity for all the key focus of his career. As an organizer with Americans for Democratic Action, he worked with government and volunteer civil rights organizations, bringing national civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Detroit, Michigan in 1963, and in Boston, consulting with many federal and state organizations as a champion on racial diversity, equity, and inclusion; and
- Whereas:** Richard joined the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination supporting local community human relations commissions around the state. He co-founded and worked for decades with the World of Wellesley, striving to build bridges between Wellesley's many communities; served as elected member of Wellesley Town Meeting; a member of The Wellesley Club; and
- Whereas:** In retirement Richard initiated a weekly television program, the Learning Tree, on Wellesley Public Media's cable television channel, where he interviewed civic and community leaders on issues of interest and importance to the town; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this Town Meeting acting on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Wellesley and its municipal employees, expresses its deep sorrow at the passing of Richard S. McGhee, Jr., a man dedicated to equal rights, fairness and decency toward all, and unrelenting in his actions toward achieving these goals, whose undying love for his family, for the World of Wellesley, and for the Town were evident to all who knew him; and acknowledges its appreciation for his significant contributions to our Town; and that this resolution be made part of the Official Proceedings of this Town Meeting and a suitable copy of the same be tendered to his wife Charlotte, his children and their families, so his memory may be so ever cherished.

Presented by: Paul H. Merry, this 25th day of March, 2024.

Approved:

Attest:

Mark Kaplan, Moderator

KC Kato, Town Clerk



***RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF
Mary “Sissy” Kane Sullivan***

- Whereas:** The Town of Wellesley was saddened by the passing of Mary “Sissy” Kane Sullivan on July 29, 2023, a devoted community leader, wife, mother, and grandmother, and lover of her dogs, Freckles, Rosie, Daisy, Siri, Daffy, Mandy, Lucy, and Leo; and
- Whereas:** Sissy was raised in Lake Forest, Illinois, and graduated from the Newton College of the Sacred Heart (now Boston College) in 1961. Following graduation, Sissy married her best friend Gael Daly’s brother Gregory, and the couple made their home in Wellesley Hills; and
- Whereas:** Sissy first worked in Hospital Admissions while raising her four children, and also volunteered as a town Crossing Guard, and was a member of the League of Women Voters of Wellesley. After working to financially manage college tuition for her children, later in life Sissy joined the financial planning industry and put her economics major from college to work for others; and
- Whereas:** Sissy was a long-time member of the Wellesley Planning Board, where she served from 1988 to 1993 and held the position of Planning Board Chair in the late 1980’s and early 1990’s, and she was a dedicated member of Wellesley Town Meeting from 1992 to 2000.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this Town Meeting acting on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Wellesley and its municipal employees, express its deep sorrow at the passing of Mary “Sissy” Kane Sullivan, a woman devoted to her town, the Planning Board, her family and her beloved dogs, and acknowledge its appreciation for her significant contributions to our community; and that this resolution be made part of the Official Proceedings of the Town Meeting and suitable copy of the same be tendered to her two sons Gregory and Thomas, and her two daughters, Beezee and Barbara and their families, so her memory may be so ever cherished.

Presented by: James L. Roberti, this 25th day of March, 2024.

Approved:

Attest:

Mark Kaplan, Moderator

KC Kato, Town Clerk



***RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF
John Lewis McConchie, Jr.***

- Whereas:** The Town of Wellesley was saddened by the passing of John Lewis McConchie, Jr. on October 11, 2023, a remarkable man who believed in the importance of family, friendship, and community service, and made many contributions to our Town and its residents for approximately six decades; and
- Whereas:** John was born in Springfield, Massachusetts and raised in Glenview, Illinois until his family relocated to Wellesley while John was in high school. A graduate of The Rivers School and Duke University, John returned to Wellesley where he married his wife, Susan Alderman (also from Wellesley), raised a family, and made a career in advertising, running his own firm, M&M Associates, for over thirty years; and
- Whereas:** Soon after graduating college and marrying Susan, John dove headfirst into public service. He was elected and served on the Wellesley Recreation Commission from 1963 to 1984, including stints as Chairman, and was a Town Meeting member from 1965 to 1999; and
- Whereas:** Passionate about politics and governance, in addition to running his own campaigns, John ran many campaigns for local politicians, skillfully leveraging his background in advertising. He was a member and served as President of the Wellesley Club, the PTO, and the Jaycees, which awarded him Outstanding Man of the Year in 1965; and
- Whereas:** John brought his generous, playful spirit to his work and volunteer roles at the Wellesley Chamber of Commerce, which recognized his service in 2004, 2009, and 2019 with leadership awards. He was also a dedicated Wellesley Little League volunteer for more than 20 years, serving as Commissioner and coaching the Orioles, even before he had children. Former players would run into John and thank him for being such a wonderful coach.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this Town Meeting acting on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Wellesley and its municipal employees, express its deep sorrow at the passing of John McConchie, a loyal and generous friend, who had a sharp wit and loved to laugh, and whose passion for his family and the Town were evident to all who knew him, and acknowledge appreciation for his significant contributions to our Town; and that this resolution be made part of the Official Proceedings of this Town Meeting and a suitable copy of the same be tendered to his three children, Julie, Scott, and Alison, and their families, so his memory may be so ever cherished.

Presented by: Royall Switzler, this 25th day of March, 2024.

Approved:

Attest:

Mark Kaplan, Moderator

KC Kato, Town Clerk



***RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF
John Garland Schuler***

- Whereas:** The Town of Wellesley was saddened by the sudden passing of John Garland Schuler on February 3, 2024, a beloved and well-known “townie” who served our community well, and who touched many lives, gained many friends, and endeared himself to all through his unique personality and his adventurous spirit; and
- Whereas:** John was a life-long resident of Wellesley, a graduate of Wellesley High School, a Harvard graduate and Fulbright Scholar, and a teacher at Dana Hall School for 40 years retiring as Chair of the History Department. He was a Town Meeting Member for 70 years, serving on many committees and groups including the Wellesley Housing Authority, Wellesley Trails Committee, Community Preservation Committee, and the Wellesley Celebrations Committee where he and his wife Dwin rode their Model T Ford, the “Yellow Peril” in the annual Veterans Parade, impressing everyone by doing a U-turn in front of the reviewing stand. John was also involved in square dancing, the Wellesley Boy Scouts, Wellesley A Better Chance, American Legion Post 72, Wellesley Historical Society, a member of The Wellesley Club since 1976, and a Deacon at the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church; and
- Whereas:** John was a proud member of the Wellesley Kiwanis Club for 60 years where he served as President, mentor for the Key Club, chaired the annual St. Patrick’s Day celebration, and edited their newsletter, “John’s Jottings.” For 30 years John and Dwin headed the annual Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive bell ringers, who exceed their goal every holiday season. The group that raises the most annually receives the Salvation Army “Schuler Award”; and
- Whereas:** John served on the Wellesley Council on Aging Board since 2008, and he and Dwin strongly advocated for the construction of the Tolles Parsons Center as a permanent home for the COA. The multi-purpose room at the Center is named in their honor; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this Town Meeting acting on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Wellesley, hereby acknowledge John Garland Schuler’s outstanding contributions to life, service, and spirit to our community, uttered with his sonorous voice; and offers heartfelt condolences to his wife, Dwin, his family, and many friends, and that this resolution be made part of the Official Proceedings of this Town Meeting and a suitable copy of the same be tendered to John’s family so his memory be so ever cherished.

Presented by Salvatore DeFazio III, this 25th day of March, 2024.

Approved:

Attest:

Mark Kaplan, Moderator

KC Kato, Town Clerk