

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

Memorial Resolutions

Presented at Annual Town Meeting on March 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

To the Town Meeting Members of the Town of Wellesley,

In the past year, Wellesley has been saddened by the passing of several 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 public servants and fellow 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 portion of the first night of Town Meeting as we remember the men and women who gave so much to our community.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Sullivan Woods".

Beth Sullivan Woods
Town Meeting Member, Precinct D



***RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF
Nancy Wiswall Erne***

- Whereas:** The Town of Wellesley was saddened by the passing of Nancy Wiswall Erne on April 8, 2022, an esteemed public servant and life-long citizen of our town who was respected by so many; and
- Whereas:** Nancy, who celebrated her 100th birthday in 2021, was a fourth-generation Wellesley resident whose family was intertwined with the rich history of our community, and whose favorite childhood memories included riding her horse up Grove Street; and
- Whereas:** A 50-year Town Meeting member who served until 2009, Nancy could always be counted on to express her views clearly, to the point, and most often with passion; and
- Whereas:** Nancy served on the Advisory Committee and the Historic District Committee, as a community volunteer in many capacities, and was a life-long member of the Unitarian Universalist Society where she was a beloved Sunday School teacher; and
- Whereas:** Nancy was renowned for her award-winning gardens and watercolor paintings, and was a doting mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother – known as “Little Nonna” to her loving family; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this Town Meeting acting on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Wellesley, hereby acknowledges Nancy Erne’s dedication and significant contributions to the welfare of the Town of Wellesley and to our community, expresses its deep sorrow, and offers its heartfelt condolences; 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 the family of Nancy Erne so her memory may be so ever cherished.

Presented by: Katherine L. Babson, Jr., this 27th day of March, 2023.

Approved:

Attest:

Mark Kaplan, Moderator

Cathryn Kato, Town Clerk



***RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF
C. Joseph "Joe" Grignaffini***

Whereas: The Town of Wellesley was saddened by the death of C. Joseph "Joe" Grignaffini, a lifelong resident and distinguished member of our community who passed away on May 26, 2022, at the age of 87; and

Whereas: A graduate of Wellesley High School and the Wentworth Institute of Technology, Joe began his career working as a mason alongside his father and found his passion as a builder. He was president of L. Grignaffini & Sons, Inc. and along with his late brother founded Grignaffini Construction Company, designing and building homes and commercial buildings in Wellesley, Weston and surrounding communities; and

Whereas: Joe's lifelong commitment to hard work and service was evident in his many civic roles - as a director of Wellesley Bank, 51-year member of Wellesley Town Meeting, member of the Wellesley Historical Society, Wellesley Jaycees, and Wellesley Rotary. He also served on the Advisory Committee from 1972 to 1975, and as a member of 1978 committee to study the Jurisdiction of the Board of Public Works; and

Whereas: A beloved husband to Rita, father to four and grandfather or "Nonno" to eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, Joe enjoyed many hobbies, especially delighting so many Wellesley children and adults for more than 30 years as Santa Claus during town celebrations, and in churches, nursing homes, and children's homes!

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this Town Meeting acting on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Wellesley, hereby acknowledges Joseph "Joe" Grignaffini's contributions of life, service, and spirit to our town, and offers heartfelt condolences to 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 the family of Joe Grignaffini so his memory may be so ever cherished.

Presented by: Royall H. Switzler, this 27th day of March, 2023.

Approved:

Attest:

Mark Kaplan, Moderator

Cathryn Kato, Town Clerk



***RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF
Sarah Higgs Pedersen***

- Whereas:** The Town of Wellesley was saddened by the passing of Sarah Higgs Pedersen, a dedicated citizen, tireless community volunteer, and public servant, on August 4, 2022, after a long battle with ovarian cancer; and
- Whereas:** Sarah loved her friends and our town deeply and her children Bill, Jessica, Katie and Brian and husband Norman “Pete” Pedersen even more. A graduate of Wellesley College and the University of Chicago, she was a health care administrator with Brigham and Women’s Hospital before shifting her focus to family and volunteer pursuits; and
- Whereas:** Sarah’s efforts on behalf of the town included her dedicated public service as a Town Meeting member from 2007 to 2022, a leader in every organization she joined including the Wellesley Scholarship Foundation, the Wellesley Service League, the Wellesley Education Foundation, the Schofield, Wellesley Middle School and Wellesley High School Parent Teacher Organizations, the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church, and as an advocate for students and educators in the Wellesley Public Schools; and
- Whereas:** Sarah’s generous spirit was exemplified by her leadership to expand the support of the Wellesley Scholarship Foundation to include all Wellesley Public School graduates including those who lived in and beyond the Town of Wellesley, as she believed in the potential of all Wellesley students; and
- Whereas:** An outdoor enthusiast and familiar figure as she walked and ran through Wellesley, Sarah was gifted at cultivating relationships, making everyone feel as though they were her close friend, always taking time to talk, listen, and provide thoughtful insights and advice; and
- Whereas:** Forever remembered as a friend to Wellesley, the Wellesley Public Schools and Wellesley Town Government, Sarah gave her all to our community, helping to make it a truly caring and supportive place.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this Town Meeting acting on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Wellesley and its municipal employees, hereby acknowledges Sarah Pedersen’s service to our town, and offers its heartfelt condolences to her family, many friends and acquaintances; 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 family so her memory may be so ever cherished.

Presented by KC Kato, on this 27th day of March, 2023.

Approved:

Attest:

Mark Kaplan, Moderator

KC Kato, Town Clerk



***RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF
Gordon Francis Kingsley***

- Whereas:** The Town of Wellesley was saddened by the passing of Gordon Francis Kingsley on January 9, 2023, a remarkable gentleman who believed in the importance of family, education, and community service and made many contributions to our community and its residents; and,
- Whereas:** Gordon was raised in Fort Thomas, Kentucky, enlisted in the US Army after high school, and with the support of the GI Bill, received his engineering degree from Northwestern University, and subsequently graduated with a masters from Harvard Business School; and
- Whereas:** Gordon made Wellesley his home in 1959. He shared his time, talents, and vision as a member of the Advisory Committee, a Town Meeting Member from 1992-1997, a member of the MLP Review Board from 1992-1993, and a member of the MLP Board from 1993-2007; and
- Whereas:** Millions of patients have benefited from improved surgical recoveries as a result of Gordon founding Haemonetics Corporation, where he invented and launched the transformative Cell Saver® device which reduced the need for transfusions; and
- Whereas:** Gordon left an indelible mark on the Town one memorable evening in December 1992 at Special Town Meeting, when he rose to teach members more than they ever imagined they might need to know about electricity and its production process; his presentation was followed by a vigorous debate which culminated in a very close - 98 to 97 - victorious vote to establish the independent Wellesley Municipal Light Plant.

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 Gordon Francis Kingsley, a man powerful in his commitment to excellence, tenacious in his level of engagement and willingness to dive deeply into topics to identify solutions, whose passion for his family, the MLP 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 wife Mary Ford, and his three sons Gordon, Douglas and Tony and their families, so his memory may be so ever cherished.

Presented by: Lois C. Sullivan, this 27th day of March, 2023.

Approved:

Attest:

Mark Kaplan, Moderator

Cathryn Kato, Town Clerk



***RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF
Angela Ryan Donovan***

Whereas: The Town of Wellesley was saddened by the death of Angela Ryan Donovan on February 2, 2023 at the age of 87, a long-time resident, neighbor, and friend; and

Whereas: Angela grew up in Haverhill, graduated from Salem State University and taught business courses at Haverhill High School. She and her husband Jack moved to Wellesley in 1968, raised two sons Joe and JJ, and spent many enjoyable hours at Nehoiden Golf Course and with her Fuller Brook neighbors; and

Whereas: As a resident of Precinct F, Angela developed an interest in Town Meeting and served as a Town Meeting Member with perfect attendance from 1978 to 1994. She was well known for her “no” strategy at Town Meeting, and the lawn signs in front of her home displayed her position on many Town issues; and

Whereas: Angela was a proud Red Sox fan. She loved to show her home décor with photos of her meeting Ted Williams and the “M&M Boys” (Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle, Yankee team mates during the 1960’s); and

Whereas: In addition to her children and their families, in her later years Angela enjoyed spending time with her nieces who joined her on many adventures and kept her laughing until the end of her days.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this Town Meeting acting on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Wellesley, hereby acknowledges Angela Ryan Donovan’s contribution of life, service, and spirit to our town, and offers heartfelt condolences to her sons, their families, and her 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 the family of Angela Ryan Donovan so her memory may be so ever cherished.

Presented by: Salvatore DeFazio III, this 27th day of March, 2023.

Approved:

Attest:

Mark Kaplan, Moderator

Cathryn Kato, Town Clerk



***RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF
Helen Pogue Laird Robertson***

- Whereas:** The Town of Wellesley was saddened by the passing of Helen Pogue Laird Robertson, a respected citizen and public servant of our town, on February 15, 2023; and
- Whereas:** A graduate of Wellesley College, Harvard University, and the Harvard Graduate School of Design, Helen was a highly proficient and knowledgeable architect who had a strong sense of the role of architecture in the life and structure of the community in which it was practiced; and
- Whereas:** Helen made Wellesley her home, where she served in many capacities, including on the Wellesley Historical Commission, Design Review Board, Community Preservation Committee, and Denton Road Neighborhood Conservation District Commission, and as a member of Town Meeting. She also volunteered in the Wellesley College alumnae community, and in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church parish where she served on The Flower Guild; and
- Whereas:** Helen dedicated herself to causes and projects on behalf of others, acting with gusto, optimism, tenacity, and creativity. She was clever, fun, and had a great sense of humor; and
- Whereas:** Helen enjoyed the time she spent in Harbor Point, Michigan, where her family vacationed for generations. She loved animals and green spaces, to draw and garden, and her children and grandchildren were her pride and joys; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this Town Meeting, acting on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Wellesley, hereby acknowledges Helen Robertson's generous contributions to the town, and offers heartfelt condolences to her family and her 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 Helen's family so her memory may be so ever cherished.

Presented by: Erin M. Hester, this 27th day of March, 2023.

Approved:

Attest:

Mark Kaplan, Moderator

Cathryn Kato, Town Clerk