

BY: M. of A. Gallahan

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the Wells
College Golf Course in June of 2023

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by the availability of exceptional recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Wells College Golf Course of Southern Cayuga County; and

WHEREAS, The Wells College campus is home to a meticulously maintained nine-hole golf facility overlooking Cayuga Lake which according to documents in archives, existed as a six-hole course as early as 1890; during this time, Wells College faculty and students played on the course with hand-dug holes near the present ball field on the corner of Poplar Ridge Road and New York State Route 90; and

WHEREAS, In 1909, the current 'AA' house was the clubhouse of the incorporated Aurora Country Club which was located on the north side of Dublin Hill Road in the Village of Aurora; it had no heat, water or electricity and they used Japanese lanterns for lighting the clubhouse; and

WHEREAS, In 1923, Kerr Duncan MacMillan, President of Wells College from 1913-1935 and an enthusiastic golfer, purchased the six-hole golf course as part of a million-dollar development project; the clubhouse, which was donated by Robert L. Zabriski, was moved from Dublin Hill Road to its current location on campus, by rolling it on logs; and

WHEREAS, In 1925-26, the Athletic Clubhouse was reconditioned and furnished, and the six-hole course was upgraded to nine holes between 1925 and 1929; and

WHEREAS, Edward Hayton became the first groundskeeper and PGA professional in 1938, and one year later a new pro-shop was erected close to the first tee box, the course was lengthened, and sand traps were built around some greens; and

WHEREAS, In the 1960s, renowned golf architect and husband of Wells alumna Robert Trent Jones redesigned several of the holes, with minor upgrades made by his son in 1970; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its distinguished 100-year history, the Wells College Golf Course has been successfully managed by: Edward Hayton (1936-1976); Mary VanDuyne (1976-1992); Jim Boeff (1993-2010); Matt Schooley (2011-2016); Rick Wilson (2017); Rick Wilson and John Wade (2018); John Wade and Scott Winkleman (2019); John Wade and Jim Button (2020); and Kevin Fitzgerald and Brian Dugan (2021-present); and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the Wells College Golf Course has been home to many annual golf tournaments, including the Hank Carr Tournament, Challenge Cup, H.R. Wilson Tournament, and the Francis Losurdo Summer Classic Tournament; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Wells College Golf Course is in direct correlation to the efforts of its managers, Kevin Fitzgerald and Brian Dugan, as well as its dedicated members and staff, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, Today, remaining true to its high standards and original purpose, the Wells College Golf Course is one of the best kept secrets of the County, and is justly proud of its noble history and firmly committed to a future of healthful recreational activity for its membership and community, while fostering a greater appreciation for all of mankind's relationship to his natural environment; and now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Wells College Golf Course, fully confident that such organizations provide the vehicle by which progress is achieved in preserving the heritage of our community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Kevin Fitzgerald and Brian Dugan, Wells College Golf Course.