

2025 RES-429

**COMMEMORATING FORMER DANE COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR AND PARKS
COMMISSIONER WILLIAM “BILL” GEORGE LUNNEY**

WHEREAS, William “Bill” George Lunney born September 24, 1941, passed away on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at the age of 84, surrounded by his loving family; and

WHEREAS, Bill served as a Supervisor on the Dane County Board during two separate periods, from 1969 to 1974, representing Districts 40 and 27—including the towns of Madison, Fitchburg, and Middleton—and from 1979 to 1986, representing District 20 in the City of Madison; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure on the Board, Bill served on numerous boards, commissions, and committees, including Finance, Public Protection and Judiciary, Budget, Developmental Disabilities, Park Commission, and the Regional Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, his leadership and vision extended beyond committee service and contributed to structural improvements in county government, including efforts that helped lead to the creation of the elected office of Dane County Executive; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Bill was appointed by County Executive Jonathan Barry to the Dane County Park Commission, where he served for 30 years as the commission’s chair; and

WHEREAS, during his leadership on the Park Commission, Bill was instrumental in expanding Dane County’s Park system and natural resource areas from approximately 3,500 acres to more than 15,000 acres—preserving critical landscapes for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Bill championed conservation, public access, and environmental stewardship, helping to guide the acquisition and protection of wetlands, prairies, and open spaces throughout Dane County; and

WHEREAS, Bill, together with his wife Judie Pfeifer, co-founded the Foundation for Dane County Parks, where he served as president and helped build a permanent endowment to support the ongoing stewardship and enhancement of Dane County Parks; and

WHEREAS, through the dedication and partnership of Bill and Judie, countless residents and visitors are able to enjoy the beauty and accessibility of Dane County Parks, including William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park, which stands as a lasting tribute to his legacy; and

WHEREAS, Bill was especially committed to ensuring accessibility and inclusivity in parks, championing projects such as accessible fishing piers and kayak launches, and promoting opportunities for youth engagement, outdoor education, and volunteerism that support physical and mental well-being; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Bill resided in Sun Prairie, and was recognized for his decades of conservation leadership with a tree planting and signage in Thoreau City Park, where he will be remembered as a passionate public servant, a tireless advocate for conservation, and a generous community leader whose legacy continues to enrich the lives of all who call Dane County home; and

WHEREAS, Bill was a pillar of the Wisconsin and Dane County environmental movement for several decades, as evidenced by his many awards including the Stewardship Award and Bolz Lifetime Achievement Award from Groundswell Conservancy, Land Stewardship Award from the

Town of Dunn, the Jordahl Lifetime Achievement Award from Gathering Waters Conservancy and, most recently, induction to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors hereby honors the life and legacy of William “Bill” George Lunney, expresses its deep gratitude for his many contributions to Dane County and its past, current, and future residents, and extends its heartfelt sympathies to his family, friends, and all who knew him.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to his wife, Judie Pfeifer, and his family as a token of the Dane County Board’s respect and appreciation.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2026.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk