

**Jack T. Wells Activity Center Dedication
June 2, 2022**

Remarks by Trustee Keith Sharber

I first would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Jack's family—Gina, Jim and Barbara—and also Mike Simpson, Eugene Hargis and Janis Williams from The Jack T. Wells Charitable Trust for allowing me this opportunity. It's truly an honor.

Next...I would like to say thanks to the Kentucky Wesleyan College administration and my fellow trustees for having this wonderful facility bear the name Jack T. Wells "Activity" Center...with special emphasis on the word "activity". Jack would absolutely love having the word "activity" associated with his name.

Those of you who had the privilege of knowing Jack personally—especially if you traveled with him—appreciate that it's an understatement to say Jack was an "active" man. My goodness...I traveled long distances with Jack on multiple occasions—and was a few years his junior...yet...as soon as we had checked in at the hotel of our destination...the first words out of Jack's mouth were—"Everyone want to meet back down here in the lobby in five minutes"? No power naps, unwinding, unpacking when traveling with Jack Wells. One of Jack's favorite sayings was... "If you're waiting on me...you're backing up"! He always "hit the ground running" and to say he was active is an understatement. Energizer batteries missed the mark by

having a bunny rabbit—and not Jack Wells—beating their drum!

To everyone who has labored and contributed over months and even years to make this facility a much-needed expansion of the KWC campus...thank you. The collective dreams, spirit and effort required to make this facility a reality personify Jack's style...and I add my thanks to the other very generous donors who have already been recognized this evening. Jack absolutely thrived on having groups of friends, partners and people act in concert for a common goal—whether in business or a community project. More people, more minds and more viewpoints—Jack felt—added strength to any effort. In our Canteen/John Conti Coffee organization...yes...Jack was the largest stakeholder. In our meetings, decision making and planning, however, it was always “one person...one vote”. He didn't see this as relinquishing power...but rather a means of harnessing the time, talents and resources of our group in order to realize the collective dreams of the organization. This was Jack's twist on the aphorism that a “rising tide lifts all boats”.

In coming toward the end of my remarks...please allow me to provide a little insight into working with Jack on accomplishing or realizing a dream or dreams. We all dream. Few, however, dream like Jack Wells dreamed. Jack's dreams at times seemed big, bold and unattainable. That is until I, along with my fellow partners learned to dream more like Jack dreamed. Jack dreamed with tremendous intellect, passion, heart, courage...and yes even the necessary “activity” to have a vision become reality.

After all....we're talking about a very special person who even as a 15 year old rode his bicycle to a local long term care facility to make just over \$1.00 an hour working in the laundry. Six years later...at the ripe old age of 21...Jack Wells purchased his first of many nursing homes. I will be forever grateful to have had Jack as a friend, mentor, partner and brotherlike figure in my life...but most of all...for teaching me how to dream BIG.

I know it would be Jack's hope—and dream—that this the Jack T. Wells Activity Center--on the campus of the alma mater he loved so deeply--will serve as a cradle and incubator for KWC students who dare to “dream big” for generations to come. Folks we have been in trustee meetings all day here in this very room and more meetings are on tap for tomorrow...and I sincerely believe, and there's lots of evidence...that under the leadership of President Dr. Tom Mitzel, his cabinet and with the support by the board of trustees... there is a “rising tide” in motion at Kentucky Wesleyan College and I know—like Jack—it's our collective desire to “lift all boats”. In one of our sessions earlier today...Dr. James Cousins, the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost here at Kentucky Wesleyan College summed it up best when he said of KWC...(and I quote)...”we have a compelling future....and all of the tools are here”. On behalf of Jack's family, the Jack T. Wells Charitable Trust, his partners and countless friends...we are so very proud and thankful this beautiful Jack T. Wells Activity Center is another tool to best equipment KWC for the compelling future to which Dr. Cousins alluded.

By the way...one week from today...June 9th—Jack would have celebrated his 67th birthday. The “Jack T. Wells Activity Center”—happy early birthday, Jack.

Thank you.