

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
The Reverend Josephine A. Taylor

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call Josephine Taylor to her heavenly home on March 8, 2023; and,
- WHEREAS,** she was born in Richmond, VA on March 11, 1933, the daughter of Robert and Josephine Arnold; and,
- WHEREAS,** Jo graduated from St. Catherine's School in Richmond in 1951; and,
- WHEREAS,** she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Richmond in 1954 and a Master's degree in this same subject from Tulane University in 1965; and,
- WHEREAS,** she taught English for twelve years; and,
- WHEREAS,** Jo answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in Virginia Theological Seminary, from which she earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1982; and,
- WHEREAS,** she was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 23, 1984 by The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, and a Priest on May 11th of the following year by the Rt. Rev. David Henry Lewis, Jr.; and,
- WHEREAS,** she served in several parishes in Maryland and Connecticut prior to accepting a call to be the Interim Rector of St. George's Church in Newport News in 1998; and,
- WHEREAS,** Jo was especially adept at ministering to congregations in transition, she went on to serve as Interim Rector of the Church of the Advent in Norfolk from 1999-2000, at Abingdon Church in White Marsh from 2001-2002, at Hungars Parish in Machipongo from 2002-2004, and at St. Aidan's Church in Virginia Beach from 2005-2007; and,
- WHEREAS,** she also served at the Church of the Epiphany in Norfolk from 2000-2001 as well as at Christ and St. Luke's in Norfolk from 2008-2012; and,
- WHEREAS,** Jo loved being outdoors, especially bird watching and taking long walks; and,
- WHEREAS,** she was preceded in death by her parents and her older brother Robert Bacon Arnold; and,
- WHEREAS,** she is survived by her daughter Katherine, a grandson, and a great-grandson; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 132nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including thirty-eight years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Josephine A. Taylor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to her family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that a copy be sent to her daughter, Katherine.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
The Reverend Robert Owen Johnston

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call Robert Johnston to his heavenly home on April 13, 2023; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was born on December 16, 1919 in Uniontown, PA, the son of Walter and Edna Johnston; and,
- WHEREAS,** Bob graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1946 and earned a Master of Science degree from the University of Chicago in 1949; and,
- WHEREAS,** he graduated from the Command & General Staff College (U.S. War College) in 1951; and,
- WHEREAS,** he married Josephine Laretta Rich in 1952, a union which produced six children; and,
- WHEREAS,** Bob served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War before retiring from the U.S. Air Force as a Lt. Colonel in 1968; and,
- WHEREAS,** Bob answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in Virginia Theological Seminary, from which he earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1970; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 29, 1970 by The Rt. Rev. David Shepherd Rose, who also ordained him to the Priesthood on April 9th of the following year; and,
- WHEREAS,** he served as Rector of Bath Parish from 1970-1975, and as Rector of Jackson Feild Home in Jarrett from 1975-1979 prior to returning to Bath Parish to serve as Rector from 1979-1985; and,
- WHEREAS,** Bob served as Interim Rector in multiple parishes in the Caribbean, Latin America, and South America from 1985-mid 2000s, a time in which he was an active volunteer with Witness for Peace; and,
- WHEREAS,** Bob was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 61 years, a brother, grandson, and daughter-in-law; and,
- WHEREAS,** he is survived by his children, Robert Johnston, Jeffrey Johnston, Laura Stephens, Lee Anne Hecker, Edna Johnston, and Sarah Johnston, their spouses, four grandsons, and two great-grandchildren; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 132nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including fifty-two years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Robert O. Johnston; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that a copy be sent to each of his children.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
The Reverend David Teschner

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call David Teschner to his heavenly home on June 15, 2023; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was born on November 11, 1951 in Natick, MA, the son of Douglas and Mary Teschner; and,
- WHEREAS,** he graduated from the University of Rhode Island, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1977; and,
- WHEREAS,** David answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in Virginia Theological Seminary, from which he earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1986; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 21, 1986 by The Rt. Rev. George Nelson Hunt III, who also ordained him to the Priesthood on March 22nd of the following year; and,
- WHEREAS,** he served as Assistant to the Rector of St. Stephen's Church in Richmond from 1986-1990 and as Chaplain at St. Catherine's School in Richmond during the 1989-1990 term; and,
- WHEREAS,** David accepted a call to serve as Rector of Christ & Grace Church in Petersburg, VA in 1990; and,
- WHEREAS,** throughout his ministry at Christ & Grace Church David was enthusiastically devoted to outreach ministries including walking for hunger, housing the homeless, and building houses with Habitat for Humanity; and,
- WHEREAS,** his passion for these projects inspired the members of the parish to join him in these efforts; and,
- WHEREAS,** David served many years as our diocesan representative to Episcopal Relief & Development; a position through which he educated us about the work of this ministry and encouraged our financial support of it; and,
- WHEREAS,** his joy for life drew people to him, always having the goal to make every person feel valued and appreciated; and,
- WHEREAS,** David is remembered for embodying the faith in everyday life, not by putting himself on a pedestal, but by being human and fallible as we all are, always finding God in the midst of his joys and struggles; and,

WHEREAS, he was a dedicated and well-rounded parish priest who was especially thoughtful, attentive, and comforting in and around a parishioner's time of death; and,

WHEREAS, David delighted in raising his two sons, John and George, and at the age of 56 bicycled across the country with them; and,

WHEREAS, he married Juanita Watts Teschner on December 30, 2000; and,

WHEREAS, David retired as Rector of Christ & Grace Church in 2016, after twenty-six years of faithful and effective ministry; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Juanita, sons John and George and their spouses, brothers Doug and Jim, grandchildren August and Max, and stepsons Jacob and Ben; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 132nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including thirty-six years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend David Teschner; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that copies be sent to his wife and sons.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

The Reverend Philip Gendron Porcher, Jr.

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call Philip Porcher to his heavenly home on September 7, 2023; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was born March 12, 1932 in Mount Pleasant, SC, the son of Philip and Wilhelmina Porcher; and,
- WHEREAS,** he graduated from Clemson University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1954; and,
- WHEREAS,** Philip answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in Virginia Theological Seminary, from which he earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1957; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 27, 1957 by The Rt. Rev. Thomas N. Carruthers, who also ordained him to the Priesthood on May 19th of the following year; and,
- WHEREAS,** he married Georgia A. Porcher on August 24, 1963, a union which produced three children; and,
- WHEREAS,** he served as Priest-in-Charge, Chaplain, and Associate to the Rector at various parishes in South Carolina prior to coming to Southern Virginia; and,
- WHEREAS,** in 1967 Philip accepted a call to become the Vicar of St. Thomas' Church in Chesapeake, a position he held for five years; and,
- WHEREAS,** he served as Rector of Grace Church in Yorktown from 1973-1975; and,
- WHEREAS,** Philip accepted a call to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop of our diocese from 1975, overseeing Christian Education; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was instrumental in establishing and planning for the Shrine Mont Christian Educator's Retreat, a yearly summer event which had a tremendous impact on the life and ministry of our diocese; and,
- WHEREAS,** working with the Alban Institute, he launched a pilot project in our diocese to introduce Interim Ministry and the value of consultants to congregations in clerical transition, an endeavor which led him to author a book titled *Why Use Interim Pastors or Interim Consultants*; and,
- WHEREAS,** Philip was part of the Interim Ministry Network and became nationally known for his knowledge and expertise in this field; and,

WHEREAS, upon retiring in 1995 he returned to his beloved Palmetto State and served as the Interim Rector of St. Thomas' Church in Charleston; and,

WHEREAS, Philip was preceded in death by his brothers Kogo Porcher and Francis Porcher; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Georgia Ann, sister Daisy Stoudemire, brother John Porcher, daughters Lisa Rubin and Kelly Porcher, son Philip, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 132nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including sixty-six years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Philip Porcher; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that a copy be sent to his wife.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Bonnie J. Kiermaier

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call Bonnie J. Kiermaier to her heavenly home on December 9, 2023; and,
- WHEREAS,** Bonnie was a faithful servant to God's Church and the Diocese of Southern Virginia, serving as Administrator for three successive bishops: Charles Vaché, Frank Vest, and David Bane; and
- WHEREAS,** Bonnie became widely known for her beautiful liturgical fabric art and jewelry; and many clergy and churches of this Diocese and many others use her stoles, chasubles, and frontals as part of their Sunday wardrobe, preserving one aspect of her legacy; and,
- WHEREAS,** Bonnie was also a passionate advocate for justice and reparations for those communities harmed throughout our history and our present; and, became a mentor in the Sacred Ground classes at Old Donation Episcopal Church; helping 70+ members learn the truth of our history and how to work to do our part of "repairing the breach;" and
- WHEREAS,** Bonnie had an enormous knowledge of Church tradition and practice, which she practiced and taught particularly in the areas of prayer and spirituality as a friend and also as a trained Spiritual Director; and,
- WHEREAS,** Bonnie's love for people on the journey made her a popular companion; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that this 132nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia give thanks for the vibrant and faithful witness offered to the Glory of God by Bonnie J. Kiermaier in decades of ministry; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to the family of Bonnie J. Kiermaier; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council, and that a copy be sent to her sister, Cindy Watkins Smith.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

The Reverend Dr. Patricia Seney Geerdes

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call Patricia Geerdes to her heavenly home on December 20, 2023; and,
- WHEREAS,** she was born in Richmond, VA on September 2, 1938, the daughter of Jack and Audrey Seney; and,
- WHEREAS,** she received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1978; and,
- WHEREAS,** Patricia answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in Union Presbyterian School of Theology in Richmond, from which she earned a Doctor of Divinity degree in 1983; and,
- WHEREAS,** she was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 11, 1983 by The Rt. Rev. Robert Bruce Hall, and a Priest on May 1st of the following year by the Rt. Rev. David Henry Lewis, Jr.; and,
- WHEREAS,** during her ministry, Pat served in several parishes in the Dioceses of Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Southeast Florida; and,
- WHEREAS,** she married James Geerdes in 1968, a marriage which lasted nineteen years and produced two children; and,
- WHEREAS,** she married Donald Goldstein in 2000, together raising their granddaughter Mariah Donovan; and,
- WHEREAS,** upon retirement, she served in several parishes as Interim Rector, including St. John's Church in Petersburg; and,
- WHEREAS,** Pat's ministry was marked by love for her parishioners, story-telling, poetry, theology, compassionate counseling, and captivating preaching and teaching; and,
- WHEREAS,** her family remembers her as being charismatic, intelligent, and charitable, always encouraging them to be true to themselves; and,
- WHEREAS,** she was a gifted artist (oil paintings) and cook; and,
- WHEREAS,** Pat was preceded in death by her husband Donald; and,
- WHEREAS,** she is survived by her siblings Victoria Daniels and Jacklyn Moore, children John Geerdes and Margaret Carneal, six grandchildren, and a great-grandchild; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 132nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including forty years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend Dr. Patricia Geerdes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to her family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that copies be sent to her children, John and Margaret.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
The Reverend David Fredric Lassalle

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call David Lassalle to his heavenly home on January 6, 2024; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was born on September 30, 1941 in Greenville, PA, the son of Fredric and Elizabeth Lassalle; and,
- WHEREAS,** he graduated from Thiel College in his hometown, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1963; and,
- WHEREAS,** David answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in the Philadelphia Divinity School, from which he earned a Master of Sacred Theology degree in 1966; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 18, 1966 by The Rt. Rev. William Crittenden, who also ordained him to the Priesthood on May 1st of the following year; and,
- WHEREAS,** he served as Curate or Vicar at three different congregations in Pennsylvania prior to coming to Southern Virginia; and,
- WHEREAS,** in 1978 David accepted a call to serve as Chaplain at the Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry Center at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, a position he held until 2011; and,
- WHEREAS,** during this time he made himself available for Interim Ministry in our diocese, serving several different congregations including St. Paul's in Suffolk and St. Peter's in Norfolk; and,
- WHEREAS,** David served as the Episcopal Co-Rector at Church of the Holy Apostles in Virginia Beach from 1997-2009; and,
- WHEREAS,** he served as a chaplain to the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity; and,
- WHEREAS,** David is remembered by family, friends, and parishioners for his "infectious laugh, booming voice, passionate sermons, tall tales, and giant hugs;" and,
- WHEREAS,** David was an avid hunter and enthusiastic sailor who enjoyed all things outdoors; and,
- WHEREAS,** he married Sally Keyte Lassalle on August 8, 2016; and,

WHEREAS, David was preceded in death by his first wife of fifty years, Sherran Anne Gotjen Lassalle; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Sally, sons Eric, Christopher, Sean, and Ian, his sister Kathleen Heltzel, sister-in-law Bonnie Hafer, four nephews and nieces, and eleven grandchildren; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 132nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including sixty-seven years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Reverend David Lassalle; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Council extend its heartfelt sympathy to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be spread across the minutes and books of Council and that a copy be sent to his wife.