

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
The Reverend Rodney Leroy Caulkins

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call Rodney Caulkins to his heavenly home on April 24, 2025; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was born on August 27, 1934, in Williamsport, PA, the son of Frank and Elsie Caulkins; and,
- WHEREAS,** Rodney earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1956; and,
- WHEREAS,** after graduating he worked as a high school teacher of English, speech, and drama, a radio announcer, and the manager of an issuance company; and,
- WHEREAS,** raised in the Baptist tradition, curiosity led him to attend a service at an Episcopal Church where he was attracted both to the liturgy and the organist, Janyce, whom he would go on to marry; and,
- WHEREAS,** Rodney answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in the Virginia Theological Seminary, from which he earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1966; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 18, 1966, by The Rt. Rev. Frederick Warnecke, who then ordained him to the Priesthood on March 11th the following year; and,
- WHEREAS,** Rodney served congregations in Kutztown, PA and Woodbridge, VA prior to accepting a call in 1980 to serve as the Rector of St. John's Church in Hampton; and,
- WHEREAS,** while at St. John's he was deeply invested in community outreach and parish growth, seeking to make the parish "a visible presence to attest to the importance of God in a community of people" and "a green hole in the donut of urban renewal and development"; and,
- WHEREAS,** after concluding his service at St. John's in 1999, Rodney went on to serve congregations in Charlottesville and Louisa; and,
- WHEREAS,** he is remembered by parishioners as being a confidant, a gentleman, and a friend; and,
- WHEREAS,** Rodney and Janyce enjoyed over 65 years of marriage, a union which produced four children; and,

WHEREAS, the couple travelled the world, but found special joy summering at their cabin on the St. Lawrence River in Ontario; and,

WHEREAS, in 2021 Rodney was preceded in death by his beloved Janyce; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his four children, nine grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including fifty-eight years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Rev. Rodney Caulkins; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention 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 Convention and that copies be sent to his children.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

The Reverend Carlotta Bell “Lottie” Cochran

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call Lottie Cochran to her heavenly home on September 3, 2025; and,
- WHEREAS,** she was born on November 11, 1957, in Norfolk, VA, the daughter of Dr. Charles and Mary Carlotta Bell; and,
- WHEREAS,** while attending Old Dominion University she met then married Thomas Hale Cochran on March 25, 1978; and,
- WHEREAS,** Lottie earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Miami University of Ohio in 1982, from which she launched into a career of teaching high school math; and,
- WHEREAS,** as a lay person in several different parishes, she sat on vestries, taught Sunday School, led youth ministries, sang in choirs, performed in Christian dramas, led canvass and capital campaigns, and served as Director of Christian education; and,
- WHEREAS,** Lottie answered God’s call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in the Virginia Theological Seminary, from which she earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1993; and,
- WHEREAS,** she was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 5, 1993, by The Rt. Rev. O’Kelley Whitaker, and then a Priest on January 21st the following year by The Rt. Rev. Frank Harris Vest Jr.; and,
- WHEREAS,** Lottie served as Associate to the Rector at St. John’s, Roanoke from 1993-1999, Associate to the Rector at Christ and St. Luke’s, Norfolk from 1999-2002, Associate for Pastoral Care at St. David’s Church in Wayne, PA from 2009-2010, and as Assisting Clergy at Old Donation, Virginia Beach from 2007-2008 and again from 2011-2014; and,
- WHEREAS,** in 2002 she accepted a call to be the Executive Director of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, a position she held through 2004; and,
- WHEREAS,** Lottie utilized her considerable priestly gifts to shepherd parishes during periods of transition, serving as Rector Time-Certain at St. Paul’s, Suffolk from 2004-2006, Interim Rector of Good Samaritan Church, Virginia Beach from 2008-2009, Interim Rector of St. Thomas, Chesapeake from 2016-2018, and Priest-in-Charge of St. Stephen’s, Norfolk from 2018-2022; and,
- WHEREAS,** as a proud and grateful graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary, Lottie was elected to its Alumni Association Executive Committee in 1993,

serving as its President in the final year of her three-year term, and followed this by sitting on its Board of Trustees and Executive Committee from 1995-2007; and,

WHEREAS, she was a committed lifelong learner who was passionate about keeping others informed, writing articles such as *Pastoral Practice Seeking Understanding* and organizing public forums to explore such issues as the Christian perspective on end of life decisions; and,

WHEREAS, along with her husband, Lottie led two pilgrimages to the Holy Land – one coming just days after an outbreak of violence in the region – and, following the example of Moses, climbed to the top of Mt. Sinai; and,

WHEREAS, after completing a lengthy process in 2005, Tom and Lottie travelled to an orphanage in Kazakhstan to finalize the adoptions of Julia and Milana, ages 4 and 2 at the time; and,

WHEREAS, she is remembered for her love of gardening and canning, along with spending time with family and friends; and,

WHEREAS, parishioners remember her for her sense of humor, positive outlook, quiet grace, and concern for all people; and,

WHEREAS, Lottie was preceded in death by her sister Cordelia Ossi; and,

WHEREAS, she is survived by her husband Tom, children Julia and Milana, and brothers Charles and Chris; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including thirty-two years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Rev. Carlotta Cochran; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention 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 Convention and that copies be sent to her husband and daughters.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
The Reverend John Mahlon Eidam Jr.

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call John Eidam to his heavenly home on September 21, 2025; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was born on July 1, 1948, in West Reading, PA, one of John and Jeanette Eidam's three children; and,
- WHEREAS,** this son of the Keystone State enjoyed Scouting, playing baseball, and running on his school's cross-country team; and,
- WHEREAS,** he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 1970 and a Master of Education degree from this same institution in 1976; and,
- WHEREAS,** after graduating he taught physical education at the elementary school level; and,
- WHEREAS,** John answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in the Virginia Theological Seminary, from which he earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1990; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 16, 1990, by The Rt. Rev. Allen Lyman Bartlett, and then a Priest on September 28th the following year by The Rt. Rev. Donis Dean Patterson; and,
- WHEREAS,** John served as Assistant to the Rector of Christ Church in Plano, TX from 1990-1993; and,
- WHEREAS,** a call to serve as the Associate to the Rector of Good Shepherd in Norfolk brought him to our Commonwealth in 1993; and,
- WHEREAS,** in 1997 the people of St. Peter's, Norfolk extended a call to John to serve as their Rector, a position he faithfully held until his retirement in 2020; and,
- WHEREAS,** "Papa John", as he was affectionately named by the parish, was a preacher who had a knack for speaking about complex ideas and issues in an "entertaining and enlightening manner" and a pastor who brought God's grace and love to numerous families at times of birth, marriage, illness, and death; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was held in fond esteem and high regard by his colleagues in our diocese; and,

WHEREAS, many warmed to his infectious sense of humor often manifested through a “mischievous glimmer in his eye”; and,

WHEREAS, in later life John enjoyed cooking, eating, fishing, bible study, and spending time with family, friends, and parishioners; and,

WHEREAS, John was preceded in death by his sister Janet Black, her husband Raymond, and his brother-in-law Terry Kuhns; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his daughter Kristy and her two sons, Jacob and Justin, his son Todd Eidam and his wife Stephanie, his sisters Jeannie Martin, Jaquie Lash, and Judy Kuhns, brothers-in-law Dave Martin and Mark Lash, and numerous nieces, nephews, and their children; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including thirty-five years in the ordained ministry, offered to God’s glory by The Rev. John Eidam; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention 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 Convention and that copies be sent to his children.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

The Reverend Gwynneth Lee Jones Mudd

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call Gwynn Mudd to her heavenly home on September 28, 2025; and,
- WHEREAS,** she was born on July 21, 1937, in San Francisco, CA, the daughter of Edmund Hawley Jones and Eileen Montgomery Jones; and,
- WHEREAS,** she graduated from Fairfax High School where she met and later married William Elwood Mudd on April 20, 1957, a marriage which would produce four children; and,
- WHEREAS,** Gwynn earned a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from George Mason College and later a Master of Science in Education and Counseling degree from the same institution; and,
- WHEREAS,** she began her professional career working as a teacher in the far-flung communities where her husband's military career took their family, including West Virginia, Thailand, Florida, Japan, and South Carolina; and,
- WHEREAS,** after her husband's death in 1981, Gwynn returned to her roots in Fairfax County where she worked first as a school counselor, then as a principal; and,
- WHEREAS,** Gwynn answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in the Virginia Theological Seminary, from which she earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1992; and,
- WHEREAS,** she was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 13, 1992, by The Rt. Rev. Robert Poland Atkinson, and then a Priest on December 1st of that same year by The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee; and,
- WHEREAS,** her military experience of relocating served her well throughout her ordained ministry in that from 1992–2008 Gwynn served in various capacities at multiple parishes and campus ministries in Alexandria, VA; Washington, NC; Lexington, KY; and several congregations in the Columbus, OH area; and,
- WHEREAS,** she returned to our Commonwealth by accepting a call to serve as the Rector of St. Stephen's Church, Norfolk where she served until her retirement; and,
- WHEREAS,** Gwynn's ministry interests included working with Cursillo, participating in the healing ministry of The Order of St. Luke, doing the caring work of St. Stephen's Ministry, as well as the diocesan ministries of the

Commission on Ministry, the Youth Commission, and the Executive Council; and,

WHEREAS, after retiring from full-time ministry, she remained active as a supply priest, spiritual director, and teacher while being affiliated with St. Simon's by the Sea and Eastern Shore Chapel; and,

WHEREAS, she is remembered as a gifted preacher and teacher and as a person possessing a rich sense of humor with a generous and compassionate heart; and,

WHEREAS, she was an accomplished artist, an avid reader, a prolific writer, and a talented soprano who enjoyed spending time with family and working in her yard; and,

WHEREAS, she is survived by four children: Sheree Spense and her husband Michael, Sandra Butts and her husband Spencer, Robert Mudd, and James Mudd and his partner Rob, fourteen grandchildren and great-grandchildren, her sister Wendy Wimberly and her husband The Rt. Rev. Don Wimberly, and numerous nephews and nieces; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including thirty-three years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Rev. Gwynneth Mudd; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention 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 Convention and that copies be sent to her children.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
Herbert Carlyle Gravely, III

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call Carlyle to his heavenly home on November 7, 2025; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was born on November 9, 1948, in Washington, NC, the third child of Herbert Carlyle Gravely, Jr. and Mary Jeane Ripley Gravely; and,
- WHEREAS,** in 1970 Carlyle earned a degree in Nuclear Engineering from North Carolina State University, going on to earn a Master of Business Administration degree from William & Mary College in 1976; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was a lifelong career employee at Newport News Shipbuilding, retiring in 2013 after 44 years of distinguished service; and,
- WHEREAS,** Carlyle was a faithful and active member of St. George's Church, Newport News, utilizing his considerable God-given talents in parish leadership as its Treasurer for 20 years, Vestry member, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden; and,
- WHEREAS,** he drew on his spiritual gifts to serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and Visitor; and,
- WHEREAS,** his immense contribution to our diocese was manifested through his many years of service on the Executive Board, sitting on its various committees including Communication, Stewardship, Congregational Development, Clergy Compensation, the Mission and Ministry Foundation, and Program, Budget, and Resources; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was a frequent, faithful, and beloved team member on Cursillo weekends; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was elected numerous times to serve as our diocesan Lay Representative on the Province III Board of the national church, serving over a decade as its treasurer; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was elected multiple times to serve as one of our Deputies to General Convention; and,
- WHEREAS,** Carlyle is best known throughout our diocese as the long-time editor of *The Jamestown Cross*, a position he held from 1993-2011; and,
- WHEREAS,** his passion for reporting led him to serve as a regional correspondent for *Episcopal Life*, the *Episcopal News Service*, and *The Living Church* as well as being a member of the Episcopal Communicators Board of Directors; and,

WHEREAS, his servant heart found fulfilment through involvement in many community groups and social organizations, serving on the Boards of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula, the Peninsula Food Bank, and the Peninsula United Way, in addition to hands on involvement with Camp Wakonda, Rotary International, the Mariners' Museum, and North Carolina State University; and,

WHEREAS, Carlyle is remembered as a person who was happiest working behind the scenes rather than being the focus of attention; and,

WHEREAS, St. George's Vestry honored his incredible and selfless ministry by awarding him with The Distinguished Service Cross and aptly naming the space it utilizes for its numerous parish and community events Gravely Hall; and,

WHEREAS, the 120th Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia passed a resolution expressing "its heartfelt thanks for the dedicated service offered to God's glory by Carlyle Gravely"; and,

WHEREAS, Carlyle is survived by his siblings, Cynthia Morse, David Gravely and his wife Lee, Marshall Gravely and his wife Francie, and Peter Gravely and his wife Rita, as well as five nephews and one niece; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service and Christian witness offered to God's glory by Herbert Carlyle Gravely, III; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention 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 Convention and that copies be sent to his brothers and sister.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
The Reverend Richard Oliver Bridgford

- WHEREAS,** it has pleased God to call Richard Bridgford to his heavenly home on December 31, 2025; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was born on November 12, 1941, in Chicago, IL, the son of Archie and Helen Bridgford; and,
- WHEREAS,** Richard earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Old Dominion University in 1965; and,
- WHEREAS,** he answered God's call to the ordained ministry and enrolled in The University of the South's Theological Seminary, from which he earned a Master in Divinity degree in 1968; and,
- WHEREAS,** he was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church on June 22, 1968, by The Rt. Rev. George P. Gunn, who then ordained him to the Priesthood on June 2nd the following year; and,
- WHEREAS,** Richard served as the Assistant to the Rector at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Norfolk from 1968-1974; and,
- WHEREAS,** he utilized his considerable pastoral and leadership skills to guide congregations in our diocese through periods of transition, serving as an Interim at St. Aidan's, Virginia Beach from 1978-1979, St. John's, Chuckatuck from 1979-1980, St. Stephen's, Norfolk from 1981-1982, St. Mark's, Hampton from 1982-1983, St. Thomas', Chesapeake from 1983-1985, St. James', Portsmouth from 1985-1986, the Church of the Epiphany, Norfolk from 1988-1989, and the Church of the Holy Apostles, Virginia Beach from 1990-1992; and,
- WHEREAS,** in 1993 Richard accepted a call to serve as Priest-in-Charge of Epiphany, Norfolk, a position he held for more than 32 years; and,
- WHEREAS,** he is remembered as being a faithful pastor who tended to his flock through life's many joys, challenges, trials, and sorrows; and,
- WHEREAS,** the parish published a collection of his beloved newsletter articles in a book titled *Clergy Clatter* which features a treasure trove of material revealing his thoughts on "history, humor, nature, travel, and wacky experiences", including the following New Year's Resolutions in January 2000:
- I'll clean and straighten my desk to keep Merle happy.
 - I'll mention Jesus more in my homilies to keep Gertrude happy.
 - I'll start services on time to keep Alvah happy.

- I'll pick hymns way ahead of time to keep Mary happy.
- I'll stop referring to God as "He" to keep Frankie and Susie happy.
- I'll attend the Adult Class to keep Steven happy.
- I'll use more incense to keep Audry and Fay happy.
- I'll use less incense to keep Nell and Evelyn happy.
- I'll use fewer dish towels as paint rags to keep Olive happy.
- I'll chant less to keep everyone happy; and,

WHEREAS, Richard served as the Dean of our diocese's Convocation III from 2005-2011, a position through which he mentored and pastored area clergy while offering input and feedback to our diocesan bishops; and,

WHEREAS, Richard was deeply involved with the Norfolk Urban Outreach Ministry (NUOM), serving for years as its executive director; and,

WHEREAS, this ministry, working in conjunction with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), developed four low-income elderly housing complexes, two in Norfolk, one in Suffolk, and one in Emporia, with a total of 267 units between them; and,

WHEREAS, Richard lived out his baptismal covenant and priestly vows through NUOM's mission "To meet the needs of the people of the greater urban community whose needs cannot be met by existing agencies and resources"; and,

WHEREAS, he worked diligently to fund this effort by applying for numerous grants and soliciting gifts from individual donors and congregations; and,

WHEREAS, he advocated fiercely for the needs of the residents of NUOM's housing units, advocating for funds necessary for the upkeep of the facilities and the ability to adapt to the changing needs of those they serve; and,

WHEREAS, in 2005 the University of the South in Sewanee bestowed on Richard its prestigious Dubose Award for Service Excellence, which recognizes "individuals who have served in various capacities and have demonstrated selfless dedication and service" and serves as "a testament to the individual's commitment to their communities and their ability to make a positive impact on the lives of others"; and;

WHEREAS, Richard was preceded in death by his sisters, Mitzi N. Van Horn and Sandra Diane Bridgford; and,

WHEREAS, he is survived by his niece Virginia Lee Van Horn; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southern Virginia gives thanks for the lifetime of dedicated service, including fifty-seven years in the ordained ministry, offered to God's glory by The Rev. Richard Bridgford; and be it further

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

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