

CR-1 Mr. John Robert “Bob” Thomas

Whereas, John Robert “Bob” Thomas, Lay Pastoral Leader, peacefully departed this life at his home and entered the nearer presence of God on March 11, 2023; and

Whereas, Bob Thomas was a devoted lay pastor, enjoying and engaging in God’s Creation, sportsmanship, and the warm company of friends and family; and was a faithful missionary of our Lord Jesus Christ to everyone he met at church, at work, or even in the grocery store, and

Whereas, following his graduation from E.C. Glass High School in Lynchburg in 1967, Bob attended Virginia Polytechnic and State University, majoring in Forestry and Wildlife, graduating in 1972; and

Whereas, there Bob met and married his love, Kathryn Haney, to whom he was married for 52 years and 51 weeks; and

Whereas, with his wife, Kathryn, he raised five children, Richard, Emily, Daniel, Elizabeth, and Abraham, and was the beloved grandfather to his grandchildren, Galileo, Griffin, Lincoln, Eleanor, June, Robert, Hannah, Sophia, Lucy, and Tristan; and

Whereas, spending his career with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as an ornithologist, Bob paused at every visit to care for the needs and concerns of the farmers with whom he worked and always shared the Good News of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, Bob served the smallest rural parishes in the Diocese from 1979 until a month before his final hospitalization in February of 2023, making sure that their voice and presence was known to the larger Body of Christ in the Diocese of Virginia; and

Whereas, Bob was installed as Lay Vicar in Charge by Bishop David Jones at Good Shepherd of the Hills in Boonesville In Albemarle County in 1996; and

Whereas, with the Rev. Janet McDonald, the Rev. Jane Piver, Bob Mares, and Ann Mingledorff, Bob served as a member of the Mountain Mission Team which ministered to five small rural parishes in Albemarle and Page Counties; and

Whereas, Bob’s model of service has been passed on to his entire family, including all his children, and grandchildren, and especially his granddaughter, Hannah Rees; and

Whereas, Bob Thomas was known by many in the Diocese of Virginia and in its Conventions as “Mountain Bob” for his dedication and service to the Mountain Missions; now

Therefore, be it resolved that the 229th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Virginia gives thanks for the life and ministry of Robert “Bob” Thomas, and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to his wife, The Rev. Deacon Kathryn Thomas, and that it be recorded in the minutes of the 230th Annual Convention.

Submitted by the vestries of Grace, Stanardsville and Piedmont, Madison