

Memorial Resolutions
As received by the 171st Annual Diocesan Convention
Episcopal Diocese of Iowa
October 21, 2023

Convention will receive the following memorial resolutions and confirm by title, with the full text available to delegates on the convention webpage, and to be included in the record of these convention proceedings:

John L. Hall, dean emeritus, Trinity Cathedral, Davenport

David Nixon, postulant for holy orders, Trinity Church, Emmetsburg

Mary Hoffman, retired deacon, Trinity Cathedral, Davenport

Eve Mahr, deacon, St Andrew's Church, Des Moines

Netha Brada, retired priest, St. Matthew's by the Bridge, Iowa Falls

Charlie Bencken, retired priest, licensed to officiate in Iowa, served St. Thomas' Church, Sioux City, and St. Alban's Church, Davenport

*God of all, we pray to you for all those whom we love but see no longer.
Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

(BCP 498)

Memorial Resolution
The Very Reverend Dr. John Liston Hall
(1937 – 2023)

WHEREAS, The Very Rev. Dr. John Liston Hall was born and ministered in the heartland of our country; and

WHEREAS, Dean Hall could be called a “prairie priest,” serving churches from the rolling prairie of the Nebraska Sandhills to the plains of Illinois to the Iowa bank of the great Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, Dean Hall, ordained nearly sixty years, served thirty two of those years in the Diocese of Iowa, collaborating in ministry with the Episcopal presence of Bishops Epting, Scarfe, and Monnot; and

WHEREAS, The Very Reverend Dr. John Hall was a leader, pastor, prophet and inspiration for the congregation of Trinity Cathedral as its Dean, and the City of Davenport, from 1989 until 2005; and

WHEREAS, Dean Hall and his wife Kay created a household with five children, striving to embody the love of Christ at home; and

WHEREAS, on St. John Chrysostom’s Day, January 27, 2023, in his 86th year, Dean Hall left this life to dwell with his lifetime companion Christ Jesus; then be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors on behalf of the Diocese of Iowa gives great thanks for the life and ministry of this servant of Christ, expressing our gratitude to the whole Diocese and in particular to Trinity Cathedral; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Board offers our love and sympathy and celebration to his wife Kay and their family, and to the grieving members of Trinity Cathedral; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we convey our gratitude and condolences to the Diocese of Nebraska and St. Mark’s on the Campus, Lincoln, Nebraska, being the Diocese where Dean Hall was born, called to ministry, ordained, and served faithfully as a priest and teacher.

PROMULGATED this 4th day of March, 2023.

Submitted by The Rev. Mel Schlachter

(Received by the diocesan Board of Directors, March 4, 2023)

Memorial Resolution
Dr. David E. Nixon
(1939 – 2023)

WHEREAS, Dr. David E. Nixon, member and lay leader of Trinity Church, Emmetsburg, was born in February of 1939, and

WHEREAS, David grew up in Nebraska, attending high school there before heading for the Brown School of Communication in Minneapolis; and

WHEREAS, he was a broadcast journalist for many years, both in radio and television working in Sioux City, Des Moines and Minneapolis, with this community experience leading to significant involvement throughout his career in various community wide organizations and services; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1990s, he joined the faculty of Iowa Lakes Community College to develop a program in Communications and Broadcast journalism, while completing a Doctorate in Education; and became the Dean of that College, and

WHEREAS, he left Emmetsburg in 2002 to become the President of Monroe Community College in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, before his move to Michigan he and his wife Judy (who died at the beginning of the Pandemic in 2020) had become faithful members and active leaders of Trinity Church, Emmetsburg, and

WHEREAS, on his retirement he returned to Emmetsburg and resumed his involvement with the Trinity congregation, and

WHEREAS, finding the congregation struggling without full-time clergy, he and others in the Congregation formed a Ministry Development Team officially in 2017, being made Postulants; and

WHEREAS, through deaths and moves, he became the one member left, he began to pursue a vocation as a priest, attending the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry, and had been made a postulant; and

WHEREAS, he served as the primary lay minister in the Congregation, including participation in Congregational leader meetings and the Small Church group; and

WHEREAS, David entered the Church Expectant on January 18, 2023, leaving a hole in both the congregation and the Diocese, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Iowa expresses its thanksgiving to God for the faithful life and witness of His servant, David E. Nixon; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors expresses its sympathy and care for the congregation of Trinity Church, Emmetsburg, and to David's children, David Jr. of Wellman, Iowa; Rick of West Des Moines; and Leslee Mandy-Nixon, also of West Des Moines.

Submitted by The Rev. Cn. Kathleen S. Milligan

(Received by the diocesan Board of Directors, March 4, 2023)

Memorial Resolution
The Reverend Mary Hoffman
(1933 – 2023)

WHEREAS, Deacon Mary Hoffman was born in Oklahoma City but came to Iowa where, having married her high school sweetheart, she was graduated from Drake University and later studied also at the University of Iowa, and

WHEREAS, her concern for others led her to obtain a Master's degree in Social Work and to work as an advocate for the mentally ill for many years at Vera French Community Mental Health Center, and

WHEREAS, her love of the Lord led her to pursue the calling she felt to the diaconate, leading to her ordination on August 15, 1995 by the Rt. Reverend C. Christopher Epting, the first ordained woman to serve at Trinity Cathedral, and

WHEREAS, although she could not always serve at the altar at Trinity Cathedral, she served by starting many ministries which continue today, such as the Hildegard's Prayer and Bible Study group, the Parish Visitors' group, and organized and trained Lay Eucharistic Visitors, and

WHEREAS, she supported clergy for Sunday and weekday services, Sunday School, funerals, baptisms, weddings, quiet days, and many other special services and programs, and further was often called to serve as deacon for diocesan services, and

WHEREAS, among her many gifts as a baker and cook, a gardener, a worker of needlepoint and knitter, her greatest gift to all she met in or outside the church was her ability to listen with warmth, compassion, and caring spiritual guidance, and

WHEREAS, Mary's journey from loving wife and mother, to loving Deacon has now moved on September 16, 2023 to life with God where her love of music is filled with hearing the heavenly choir, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa give thanks for Mary's decades of loving and caring service and express our appreciation for her witness and listening care to everyone she encountered, and be in finally

RESOLVED, that we offer our condolences to Mary's sons Keith and John, to Rich Berglund and Rita Hoffman, to her half-siblings Penny, Tracy, and Happy, to her grandson Gene and great-grandchildren Max and Keegan. We offer our prayers for their comfort and peace.

Submitted by the Ven. Judith Crossett

(Received by the Executive Committee of the diocesan Board of Directors, October 17, 2023)

Memorial Resolution
The Reverend Wineva “Eve” Mahr
(1945 – 2023)

WHEREAS, Deacon Eve Mahr was born and educated in Iowa and then heard and followed her call to the sacred order of deacons in St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Des Moines; and

WHEREAS, she shared her knowledge, skill, and humor as a 50-year member of Kappa Delta Phi civic sorority and as a long-term editor and contributor to needlework and craft publications; and

WHEREAS, after her ordination May 8, 2021, she served the congregation of St. Andrew’s, supported and mentored both the Sudanese community of Trinity Cush Episcopal Church and the Muslim Darfur Community of Iowa, building relationships within and among all these three congregations which share St. Andrew’s building; and

WHEREAS, she never ceased to use the skills in fiber arts she developed since her early years to improve the lives of those around her, from teaching sewing to African women refugees to building quilting groups, giving women skills, self-confidence, and practice in English; and

WHEREAS, her Iowa roots, love of the hospitality of food, and gift for relationships led her to be instrumental in St. Andrew’s partnership in the Community Garden and the North Des Moines Community Fridge, both of which benefit not only the immigrant families she cared about but also the whole community; and

WHEREAS, her lifelong love of cooking and hospitality was appreciated in many parish meals, community meals, and family meals; and

WHEREAS, her love for her family and her faith made all whom she encountered her family; she sought the strangers in our midst and made them friends; and

WHEREAS, since Deacon Eve’s journey from feeding family to feeding all who came as she served at God’s table, was brought on September 21, 2023 to the Heavenly Banquet with God, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa give thanks for Eve’s long and hospitable ministry and express our appreciation for her witness and care to everyone she encountered, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we offer our condolences to Eve’s husband Steve, her son Derek, daughter Sarah and son-in-law Chris, her beloved grandchildren Tessa and Zella, her mother Wineva, her siblings and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and other family. We offer our prayers for their comfort and peace.

Submitted by the Ven. Judith Crossett

(Received by the Executive Committee of the diocesan Board of Directors, October 17, 2023)

Memorial Resolution
The Reverend Netha Nadine Brada
(1937 – 2023)

WHEREAS, the Reverend Netha Nadine Brada was born on September 22, 1937 in Sheffield, Iowa and grew up near Alta Vista, graduating from the Colville High School; and

WHEREAS, she married Ronald George Brada in 1958 and raised 3 children with him: sons Mark and Matthew, and daughter Shannon, who predeceased her; and sharing the farm life with him being especially fond of work with their horses; and

WHEREAS, for a number of years she worked in the Iowa Falls Public Schools system as an administrative assistant and sharing a sense of the Community life; and

WHEREAS, having found the Episcopal Church as an adult, she became involved in Total Ministry and the task of encouraging congregational involvement in the larger community; and

WHEREAS, she eventually pursued her calling to ministry within the church, preparing with participation in L.A.N.D. Academies (Leadership Academy for New Directions); and pursuing education through the Diocesan Ministry Formation Project in the mid-1990s, and

WHEREAS, she was ordained under the old Canon 9, as the first priest so ordained in the Diocese of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, she served as priest to the people of St. Matthew's by the Bridge Church in Iowa Falls, while also serving Iowa Falls in various outreach programs, and in civic organizations such as Kiwanis; and

WHEREAS, upon her retirement in 2007, she continued to serve as chaplain to the Scenic Living Communities, as well as serving as a Supply Priest whenever needed, particularly with Grace Church, Charles City; and

WHEREAS, this faithful servant of God entered the Church Expectant on September 24, 2023; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that this 171st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Iowa gives deep thanks for the pioneering work for her vocational discernment and preparation; expresses our gratitude for her ministry and life in Iowa Falls and within the Diocese; and extends our love and sympathy as well as gratitude to her family for sharing Netha with all of us.

Submitted by The Rev. Canon Kathleen S. Milligan

(Received by the Executive Committee of the diocesan Board of Directors, October 17, 2023)

Memorial Resolution
The Reverend Charles Bencken
(1938 – 2023)

WHEREAS, having been born in California and formed in the Roman Church, The Reverend Charles Bencken was received as a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1999 in Nevada where he and Cathi married; and

WHEREAS, he served in the diocese of Nevada as supply priest, and with two congregations in Niagara Falls; and

WHEREAS, he moved to Iowa with his wife, Cathi Head Bencken, when she came to serve as rector at Trinity Church, Muscatine in 2008; and

WHEREAS, while here Charlie also served in this diocese as priest, licensed to officiate, and alongside the congregations of St. Thomas', Sioux City, and most recently at Saint Alban's, Davenport; and

WHEREAS, while the permanent supply priest at St. Alban's for 3 years, he endeared himself to that congregation, going above and beyond the scope of his role as "supply", willingly bringing his gentle spirituality to any situation he was asked to do; and

WHEREAS, following Cathi's retirement, they relocated to Connecticut in 2021 for another fruitful chapter of their lives; and

WHEREAS, Charlie left this earthly life on October 2nd in the year of our Lord, 2023; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this 171st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Iowa extends our heartfelt condolences to our sister, Cathi, and to Charlie's family; and be it finally

RESOLVED that this resolution be communicated to Cathi, with our love and prayers.

Robin Sade, St. Alban's Church, Davenport
Kevin Powell, Trinity Church, Muscatine
Stacey Gerhart, St. Thomas' Church, Sioux City

(Received by the Executive Committee of the diocesan Board of Directors, October 17, 2023)