IN MEMORIAL OF AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THOMAS FRANKIN O'BRIEN, JR

October 7, 1941 – September 14, 2026

WHEREAS, Thomas O'Brien lived a life of faithful Christian discipleship, generously offering his time, talents, wisdom, and resources in service to God, the Church, and the communities in which he lived; and

WHEREAS, Tom was a founding member of All Saints Episcopal Church in Southern Shores, North Carolina, helping to establish and nurture a congregation that grew from a small mission into a vibrant parish of the Diocese of East Carolina; and

WHEREAS, throughout the life of All Saints, Tom provided steadfast and thoughtful leadership, serving multiple terms on the Vestry, including service as Senior Warden, and helping guide the parish through important seasons of growth and change; and

WHEREAS, Tom extended his service beyond the parish through his participation in the wider life and governance of the Diocese of East Carolina, including his representation of All Saints as a delegate to Diocesan Convention; and

WHEREAS, Tom's love of music and worship found expression through his many years of faithful participation in the parish choir, contributing to the beauty and dignity of the Church's worship; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that the Church's ministry extends beyond its walls, Tom provided long and steady leadership to All Saints *After Dark and Holly Days* programs that together provide funding to local charities equivalent to a tithe of All Saints budget and strengthens the parish's relationship with the wider Outer Banks community; and

WHEREAS, Tom faithfully lived into the promises of his Baptismal Covenant, which he reaffirmed throughout his life, continuing in the fellowship of the Church, seeking and serving Christ in others, loving his neighbors as himself, and striving to respect the dignity of every human being, embodying through his words and actions the faith he professed; and

WHEREAS, Tom's greatest contribution to All Saints cannot be measured solely by the offices he held or the programs he established, but by the kindness, generosity, and genuine affection for others that characterized his life and helped shape the parish into the community it is today; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the One Hundred Forty-Third Annual Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina gives thanks to Almighty God for the life and ministry of Thomas O'Brien, whose steadfast devotion and decades of service exemplified the indispensable ministry of the laity in the life of the Church, leaving a legacy of Christian love and service that will continue to bear fruit for generations to come; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention extends its heartfelt sympathy and Christian love to Tom's family, friends, and the congregation of All Saints, commending him to God's eternal care in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Leigh O'Brien Cole (daughter) and John Thomas O'Brien (son) of Thomas O'Brien as an expression of the gratitude and affection of the Diocese of East Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Thomas C. Drake IV
Rector, All Saints Episcopal Church, Southern Shores

Bob Riche
Senior Warden, All Saints Episcopal Church, Southern Shores

Tess Judge
Treasurer, All Saints Episcopal Church, Southern Shores