SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 88

Celebrating the life of the Reverend Canon John Fletcher Lowe, Jr.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 3, 2022
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 7, 2022

WHEREAS, the Reverend Canon John Fletcher Lowe, Jr., esteemed spiritual leader, accomplished
social justice advocate, and beloved member of the Richmond community, died on August 25, 2021; and
WHEREAS, born in Greenville, South Carolina, Fletcher Lowe graduated from the Gilman School in
Baltimore before earning degrees from Washington and Lee University and the General Theological
Seminary; and
WHEREAS, Fletcher Lowe was ordained to the priesthood in 1960 and served parishes in the
Episcopal Dioceses of South Carolina and Southwestern Virginia before assuming the role of Executive
Secretary of the Department of Christian Social Relations with the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia in
1967; and
WHEREAS, Fletcher Lowe subsequently led the parish of Church of the Holy Comforter in
Richmond as rector from 1970 to 1985 while holding positions on various leadership bodies with the
Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, including its Liturgical Commission, Executive Board, and Standing
Committee, which he served as president; and
WHEREAS, Fletcher Lowe devoted his last decade of full-time ministry to parishes under the
Diocese of Delaware before retiring in 1994; he then held several interim positions around the world,
first at St. John's Episcopal Church in Richmond and later with churches in Germany, Italy, Switzerland,
and France; and
WHEREAS, in recognition of his efforts in 1971 to protect Christian clergy who had faced
persecution under the administration of Ugandan president Idi Amin, Fletcher Lowe was made a canon
of St. Paul's Cathedral Namirembe in Kampala, Uganda; and
WHEREAS, Fletcher Lowe was a tireless advocate for economic, racial, and social justice throughout
his life and was integral to the founding of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, the largest
statewide advocacy organization for the faith community, where he served as Executive Director in 1997
through 2004; and
WHEREAS, Fletcher Lowe was particularly concerned for the religious rights of incarcerated
individuals, serving many years as a visiting chaplain at state penitentiaries, and spoke often and
ardently in favor of criminal justice reform; and
WHEREAS, Fletcher Lowe will be fondly remembered and dearly missed by his loving wife of 62
years, Mary Frances; his children, John, Elizabeth, and Suzanne, and their families; and numerous other
family members and friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby
note with great sadness the loss of the Reverend Canon John Fletcher Lowe, Jr., whose sagacious
spiritual counsel and unwavering commitment to the less fortunate members of society were an
inspiration to all who knew him; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for
presentation to the family of the Reverend Canon John Fletcher Lowe, Jr., as an expression of the
General Assembly’s respect for his memory.