NEWPORT NEWS - The Rev. Howard W. Saunders III, died Dec. 30, 2005. He was born in Hampton’s Dixie Hospital on June 9, 1926. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; two sons, Richard L. Dodge, stepson, and Stephen H. Saunders and his wife, Rhonda; two daughters, Hollyday Saunders and Julie Saunders; and four grandchildren.

Mr. Saunders attended VMI (class of 1947) leaving to enter the Navy in 1944 and graduated from the University of Richmond in 1948. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the U.S. Army during the Korean War. In addition to seven years’ active duty, Mr. Saunders was employed by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company and Abbitt Realty prior to going to Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria in 1961. At that time he served on the vestry of St. Andrew’s Church. He was ordained to the Diocese of Southern Virginia in 1964 and the Priesthood in 1965 while serving at St. Andrew’s Church, Newport News.

In 1972, Mr. Saunders became Rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Hampton, where he served until retirement in 1989. Mr. Saunders also served in many capacities in the Diocese of Southern Virginia during his ordained ministry, among them, President of the Standing Committee, Chairman of Stewardship Commission, Executive Board Chairman and member of Grass Roots and Special Council Committees, Chairman of Program and Budget, and Deputy to General convention, 1972 and 1975. He served on the Board of Trustees at Virginia Seminary 1989 to 1994.

Since his retirement he has served as Pastor to Retired Clergy and Chairman of Diocesan Pension Fund. He has served as a supply clergyman in many churches but especially Emmanuel in Hampton, where he was Rector Emeritus, St. Andrew’s in Newport News, All Saints in Virginia Beach and Advent Church in Smithfield. He last served as Assisting Priest at St. Andrew’s in Newport News.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Rev. Howard W. Saunders III Educational Trust c/o Towne Bank, Newport News, Va. A memorial service will be conducted at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, 2006, at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church Newport News, with reception to follow at the Parish House. Arrangements by R. Hayden Smith Funeral Home.