

where he studied sociology and religion. He has been putting his studies to work in his capacity as the pastor of the First Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church. He began pastoring this church in 1952, and he continues as head of this congregation today. Under his leadership, his church has grown from 65 members to its current attendance of 1,700 active members.

The history and development of Gibson's congregation serves as a tribute to his life accomplishments. Four years after Gibson started as pastor of First Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church, in 1956, they bought their first building in Northwest Washington, DC. Later in 1973, they oversaw the construction of the Gibson Plaza which was a 10-story, 217-unit apartment building for low and moderate income families. In 1985, they completed construction of their education building, and recently in 1990, they completed construction of a new church building.

Reverend Gibson's congregation serves as a positive force in its surrounding community working proactively to address the needs of those less fortunate. They offer many programs including, a college guarantee offering tuition assistance up to full tuition, an outpatient drug treatment facility, a weekly food distribution which reaches an average of 300 individuals, and a meal program for homeless families.

Reverend Gibson's commitment to his community extends greater than his responsibilities as the pastor of First Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church. He was also the chairman of glass recycling program in cooperation with the Glass Packaging Institute and Mid-Atlantic Glass Recycling Program. Under his leadership they saw a total of 10 different churches and agencies participate.

As well as being active in his surrounding community, Reverend Gibson was involved with other persons of faith, in his role as the executive director of the Council of Churches of Greater Washington. In this ecumenical work, the reverend urged churches to be more concerned about social issues, coordinated a voter registration drive which placed registrars in more than 30 churches, and directed the Interfaith Conference. He also was the co-chair of the Greater Washington Billy Graham Crusade in 1986, coordinating the efforts of local churches in their support of this endeavor.

I am proud to share the floor with Reverend Gibson because he is a man whose religious convictions make an impact on the treatment of others. He has clearly taken to heart Christ's recommendation to feed his sheep. Gibson's commitment to the service of others is undeniable and his faithful devotion to his congregation is obvious. We need more pastors like Gibson who are devoted not just to their congregation, but also to the surrounding community. His body of believers can act as an example to the church in

America of what it means to serve the community.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND NEAL JONES

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I would like to use this opportunity to provide a statement of appreciation for Rev. Neal Jones, who has volunteered this week to open our Senate sessions with prayer.

Mr. President, Reverend Jones has faithfully served for the last 26 years as the pastor of Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, VA. During this time of esteemed service, Reverend Jones has displayed the personal, professional and spiritual characteristics that distinguish him for the important role of opening the Senate's day with prayer.

Reverend Jones has a heart devoted to God, as evidenced by his love of people and concern for others. Of special note relating to his duties in the Senate, Reverend Jones has a broad doctrinal understanding of various religious traditions, and, while firm in his convictions, he has maintained an attitude of grace toward differences of opinion.

Pastor Jones has a warm and winsome manner allowing him to pastor to all types of persons without regard to their status. He has a truly special gift for pastoral ministry and encouragement.

Mr. President, these personal, professional and spiritual traits are revealed through Reverend Jones' dedicated work in the community. Under the leadership of Pastor Jones, Columbia Baptist has grown into a dynamic church ministering to a changing community in extraordinary ways. The church has a vibrant Korean and Hispanic ministry, a model child-care program of low-income families and single mothers, a major food, clothing, and medical program for a sister church in Moscow, and many other community outreach programs.

In addition to providing leadership and guidance for these ministry activities, Reverend Jones serves on the Executive Board of Prison Fellowship; he is a member of the Baylor University Board of Regents; and he has served on the Foreign Mission Board and is past president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Reverend Jones also has shared his ministry in Japan, Africa, and Russia.

Mr. President, as I am sure my colleagues have noticed this week, the Reverend Jones has an extraordinary gift of prayer. One prominent national Christian leader told me, "Neal's prayers would rank with those of Peter Marshall," who is, perhaps, the best known of all past Senate chaplains.

Mr. President, the U.S. Senate has been truly blessed by the efforts of Rev. Neal Jones, and I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize and commend him for his service to us this week.

I yield the floor.

HOWARD W. HUNTER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and contributions of a singular individual. Howard W. Hunter, president of the world's nearly 9 million members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, better known as the Mormons, completed his earthly sojourn last Friday, March 3, 1995.

Although his tenure as head of the church was relatively brief, he has left an indelible impression for good, forged through many years of service to his church and to humankind in a variety of capacities.

Those of us who have heard him speak, both in large assembly and in personal setting, were inspired, moved, and edified by his counsel. His physical frailty, as he battled cancer, stood in direct contrast to the force of his spirit, conviction, and care for those he loved and served.

President Hunter brought his own special gifts to his last calling. He bore his witness to the redeeming power of the atonement and the gospel of Christ that he loved with an invitation that included all of God's children. Like his exemplar, Jesus Christ, he included the faithful and the fallen in his spiritual embrace.

Despite an impressive personal resume, President Hunter downplayed his own accomplishments and reached out to others to encourage and to aid. In many respects, his life can be described as a fulfillment of the Savior's observation:

And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.—Mark 10:44, 45.

Howard William Hunter was born November 14, 1907, in Boise, ID. As a young man, he excelled scholastically and developed a lifelong love for music and scouting. He enjoyed a successful career as a corporate lawyer in California. He was called to be a member of the council of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in October 1959. The following three decades saw him travel worldwide in his fulltime church service.

At the age of 86, President Hunter succeeded President Ezra Taft Benson, who died May 30, 1994. He became the 14th president of the church.

President Hunter was married to Clara May Jeffs. She died October 9, 1983. He later married Inis Bernice Egan on April 20, 1990.

He was the father of 3 sons, eighteen grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

His legacy lives on not only in his posterity, but in his example and strong witness of his beliefs to the world.