

Church, which has an African American congregation. Even though St. Peter's is not the same denomination as the First Christian Church, the church considers it a sister church.

Since 1830, the First Christian Church has provided a place of hope, faith, shelter, and witness for the people of West Virginia. I join with them in celebrating its good works and wishing it all the best as it prepares for another century of service.●

TRIBUTE TO DONALD T. BUTLER

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I recently had the opportunity to meet a wonderful American, Donald Butler, who served his country ably in Vietnam. His story is typical of so many Americans who have placed their lives and health at risk for their country.

Donald Butler was drafted 6 months after graduating from Straughn High School in Covington County, AL. After completing basic training and advanced infantry training, he left for Vietnam on April 17, 1966.

Having trained as an infantryman, he was slated to go with the Big Red One, the first division called to fight in Vietnam, but at the last minute became a replacement for the 25th Infantry Division and later went with the 27th Infantry, Tropic Lightening, Charlie Company in CuChi, Vietnam.

CuChi, Vietnam, as the world later learned, was home to the CuChi tunnel complex—130 miles of underground passageways started during the war against the French and expanded when the Americans arrived. Built by night over many years, the tunnels allowed the Vietcong to become invisible to the enemy, conceal snipers and move weapons silently. The G.I.'s that fought in the tunnels were a special breed, known by their peers as "Tunnel Rats." They were fearless warriors. Donald Butler was one of them.

At a slight 100 pounds, Donald was able to do what many of his fellow soldiers could not, squeeze through the tight trap doors and crawl along the narrow passages of the clay tunnels with relative ease. Make no mistake, while his size aided him in his mission, it was his even temperament and inquisitive mind that made him a true "Tunnel Rat". It was not uncommon for him to crawl through narrow, pitch black tunnels for hours looking for the enemy.

Over a period of 9 months, Donald went out on 37 operations, most of which were search and destroy missions. He saw his fellow soldiers lose their limbs and, in many instances, their lives. He lived through air strikes and mortar attacks and somehow managed to return from the front lines of Vietnam without ever sustaining a direct hit. For that, many would say he was lucky.

Like so many of our veterans, Donald Butler returned from the war to face an uncertain future. "When I got off the plane in Montgomery on April 18,

1967, I thought I was going to get shot because we had heard of the protests back in the U.S." he later recalled. To this day he suffers from post traumatic stress and severe hearing loss. He is an undecorated hero who should be applauded and thanked for his service and I rise to do that today.●

RECOGNIZING DELEGATE ALLEN L. LOUDERBACK

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize one of Virginia's most dedicated public servants, Delegate Allen L. Louderback, who is retiring after serving three terms in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Delegate Louderback has been a strong advocate for lower taxes in Virginia, serving as the ranking majority member of the House Finance Committee, and as the chairman of both the House Subcommittee on Sales Tax Exemptions and the Subcommittee on Tax Preferences. From 2001 to 2003, he also served on the Joint Subcommittee to Reform Commonwealth Tax Structure.

In addition, Delegate Louderback served on the Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee, where he chaired the Chesapeake Subcommittee, and sat on the House Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety. In 2002, he was named Legislator of the Year for the 140-member Virginia General Assembly by the Family Foundation. And in 2003, Allen was awarded the same honor by the Commissioners of Revenue Association. Delegate Louderback is also a member of the Commonwealth Competition Council, the State Procurement Commission, and the State Water Commission, where he chairs the Karst Subcommittee.

Prior to his small business entrepreneurship and public service in Luray, VA, Allen worked in Washington, DC, as an investigator and manager for the U.S. General Accounting Office for 18 years. As a manager at GAO, he was the recipient of the Director's Award for his "outstanding managerial skills" in 1979.

Delegate Louderback earned his B.S. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He is a past president of the Luray Rotary Club and the Luray Kiwanis Club. His wife, Nadia, and two sons attend Leaksville United Church of Christ.

The 15th District, and indeed all of Virginia, will surely miss the leadership and talents that Delegate Allen Louderback displayed in the Virginia General Assembly. I would like to recognize and thank Allen for his commitment to bettering the Commonwealth of Virginia. I congratulate him on his retirement and wish him many more years of success and happiness.●

RECOGNIZING MAYOR RALPH H. DEAN

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize Mayor

Ralph Dean of Luray, VA, as he celebrates his silver anniversary this month as the town's highest elected official. Since 1980, Mayor Dean has worked to make the town of Luray a better place to work and live, and I applaud him for such dedicated public service.

For 25 years, Mayor Dean has been a successful advocate for lower taxes and business growth in Luray. His policies have helped to attract industry and investment, which have in turn created more jobs for the local citizens. He has also helped develop recreational opportunities for his town, such as Lake Arrowhead and Luray Recreational Park. And, in 2004, Ralph oversaw the beautiful new renovation of Luray Town Hall. The expansion and revitalization of Luray under Mayor Dean's leadership has helped the town become a more prosperous and enjoyable place to call home.

The mayor has also built a great family with his wife Billie. They have a daughter named Dixie Dean Foltz, and a grandson named Patrick Foltz. Mayor Dean is a member of the Luray Christian Church. He has also been a member of the Luray Lions Club for over 30 years and a Boy Scout Leader for over 20 years. Prior to his tenure as mayor, Ralph served on the Luray town council from 1974 until 1980.

Mayor Dean is an effective leader in Luray because he genuinely enjoys what he does and cares about the citizens of Luray. I congratulate the mayor on 25 years of dedication to public service in Luray, VA, and wish him and his family many more years of happiness and success. Our Commonwealth is fortunate to have a man of his character and leadership leading the way in the town of Luray.●

RECOGNIZING COL HENRY MITNAUL

● Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, Henry Mitnaul of the U.S. Air Force has served as the Military Assistant in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs for the past 2 years. As the principal military contact for the Directors of Legislative Liaison of the Services, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, he played a critical role in ensuring that all defense-related legislative issues were addressed.

During this period, Colonel Mitnaul dealt with congressional requests for information and the chief coordinator for military travel requests. Colonel Mitnaul's expertise and experience with the Department's Travel Program certainly made him into an invaluable asset to Congress, White House staff, and national security personnel. During his time in office, Colonel Mitnaul planned and coordinated over 650 congressional and White House travel requests.

I understand that Colonel Mitnaul's proficiency in the congressional process helped him become an admired and