

became a deacon for the Archdiocese of Boston. He ministered to inmates and learned Spanish to reach more people. Later in life, he organized mission trips abroad.

Deacon William Kane served us, but we failed him. On May 10, he died from the coronavirus while under the care of the Veterans Administration. He is among the 2,083 veterans in the VA's care that this virus has killed.

It is on us to use the powers of this body to protect veterans, and everyone, from this virus. We must get to the bottom of the mistakes at the VA that allowed the virus to spread. It is the least we can do for the memory of Deacon William Francis Xavier Kane.

□ 2045

HONORING FIRST RESPONDERS

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share a remarkable story of heroism by our first responders in Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District.

On the evening of Saturday, February 15, 2020, in Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania, a multiple alarm fire was reported at the Broadway Hotel and Restaurant, quickly engulfing the building and the multiple residential apartments in the upper levels of the structure.

The situation quickly escalated as reports indicated that a man was trapped on the third floor.

With complete disregard for their own well-being, Chief Howard Fausey and Assistant Chief Ethan Goodbrod of Citizen's Hose Company Station 45, Jason Clarke, and Ron Daley of Independent Hose Company, and Patrolman Shawn Hummer took decisive action knowing life was at stake.

Under thick smoke and extreme heat, the firefighters breached the structure, retrieved and extracted the victim while sharing their oxygen with the man due to overwhelming conditions.

I am happy to report that the victim has recovered from his injuries and is undoubtedly alive today because of the bravery of these men.

We can all sleep safer knowing that there are dedicated and selfless first responders that stand ready to give their lives for ours.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chief Fausey, Assistant Chief Goodbrod, firefighters Jason Clarke and Ron Daley, Patrolman Shawn Hummer, the police department, and the responding companies for their service and heroism in the line of duty.

RECOGNIZING AUGOSTINA MALLOUS

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Augustina Mallos on her many accomplishments.

Augustina is currently a freshman journalism major at Hofstra University with a 4.0 grade average. Augustina is a member of the competitive dance team and practices 50 hours a week. Augustina is the former Miss New Jersey's Outstanding Teen and is the current Miss Garden State.

During this pandemic, Augustina has made a significant impact on our community. She not only organized a food drive for seniors to help deliver food to those in need, Augustina was also making masks for Cape Regional and Shore Medical Hospitals, along with several nursing homes.

Madam Speaker, Augustina exemplifies the virtues of compassion, honor, integrity, dignity, and sincerity. Augustina's family, friends, and community are proud of her.

Madam Speaker, I thank Augustina for her inspiration, and may God bless her.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DENNIS SHACKELFORD

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dennis Shackelford, who passed away last week.

I got to know Dennis very well during my first campaign for Congress when he ran for State Representative in 2012. Though he was unsuccessful in his campaign, our friendship continued.

Dennis was a small business owner for 30 years, running Hallmark stores across central Illinois, including in my hometown of Taylorville. After that successful career as a small business owner, he continued working in the banking industry in the Springfield, Illinois, area.

Dennis served his community being elected to the Lincoln Land Community College board in 2013, and later he rose to chairman while serving students across central Illinois. Dennis was also elected a trustee for Rochester Township.

Dennis was a great friend, deeply involved in his community, whether it was coaching baseball, youth baseball, or mentoring high schoolers, and countless others throughout his life.

My condolences extend to his wife, Judy, his son, Andrew, and his three daughters, Amy, Lindsey, and Emily as well as his extended family. Dennis was one of a kind and will be deeply missed by all.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARCIA).

Mr. GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague from Texas for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I stand here this evening inspired. More specifically, I am proud, and I am in awe of our American space program and the monumental step that they took this morning with the launch of the Perseverance Mars rover on the back of an Atlas V rocket. But the rover is just one element of this amazing story.

While humans have lived on this planet for millions of years, it was a mere 117 years ago when Americans were the first to solve the mystery of sustained, powered flight in our own atmosphere. That is a mere blink of an eye in the long arc of our planet and our own species' history. Now, just a few hours ago, besides the rover vehicle, we also launched a small helicopter named Ingenuity that will ultimately fly in the atmosphere of another planet.

Madam Speaker, we will operate a helicopter on Mars. We will also collect samples of the Martian terrain and eventually return those samples back to Earth in about 6 years for further study.

However, even while I and so many others applaud and celebrate these American successes, others question our pursuit of such endeavors amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic challenges thereof. They see this endeavor as unnecessary to our survival.

My response to those individuals is simple: You haven't been paying attention. You haven't been paying attention to what makes this country the greatest country this world has ever seen.

As Americans, we carry an inherent desire to push ourselves forward through adversity. In mankind's evolutionary journey from the caves all the way up now to Mars, there is no greater enemy to the American spirit than complacency and self-doubt.

Madam Speaker, when you look back upon our Nation's history, the truth is that there has always been a conflict or a reason not to reach further towards the next milestone of monumental exploration. But we have never let that stop us before, and we cannot allow it to stop us now.

With this mission to Mars, we are inspired not only by the journey, not only by the machinery, not only by technology and this marvelous team that got us here, but by the very name of the rover vehicle: Perseverance. You see, this morning's launch of this precious payload, the combined efforts of the thousands of Americans over the last 10 years working for NASA, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, United Launch Alliance, and others is about to payoff, despite the many technical challenges, as well as the challenges that COVID-19 produced.