

A.C. walked the walk when it came to putting others first.

I thank A.C.'s family for sharing him with us over the years. A.C. leaves behind his wife of 45 years, Darlene, as well as his daughters, Kathy and Donna, and their families. I share their sense of loss. I know that A.C.'s family misses him, and I know that others in Texas, including myself in those, would say great job, and we will miss you our friend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING of Iowa). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

HONORING VINCENT DANZ AND OTHER HEROES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the second year anniversary of the most brutal acts of terrorism to ever take place on our Nation's soil. On September 11, 2001, let us not forget that families were torn apart and our way of life threatened as over 3,000 innocent lives were tragically lost in devastation at the Pentagon, World Trade Center and in Pennsylvania.

Let us also remember that September 11 was as much a day of loss and sorrow as it was a day of unprecedented heroism that poignantly demonstrated core American values of compassion, patriotism and service to country.

On that faithful morning, heroes were born as hundreds of our Nations first responders, firefighters, police officers, and other emergency personnel, selflessly and bravely lost their own lives to secure the lives and safety of others.

A good friend of mine and a resident of Long Island, Police Officer Vincent Danz, was one such hero of September 11. Vinnie Danz was among the first to respond on September 11 after a hijacked airliner crashed into the World Trade Center. Officer Danz, a member of the New York Elite Emergency Service Unit, spent his final moments helping the remaining occupants of the

North Tower escape before it collapsed at 10:29 a.m.

For those who knew Vinnie Danz, it was not at all surprising that he spent his last breath courageously filling his oath to protect and serve innocent civilians. As a 14-year veteran of the New York City Police Department, he had previously earned 17 decorations. Throughout his life, Vinnie not only dutifully answered the call to serve the residents of New York, but also his country. He was enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and at the time of his death was a marine safety technician with the Coast Guard Reserves.

Friends of Vinnie remember him as an avid Mets and Rangers fan, a straight-laced cop who loved to kid around, and most of all a loving father and husband. On September 11, Vinnie left behind his wife Angela and three small girls, Winnifred, named after his sister, and Emily and Abigail, whom he adored.

In remembering Police Officer Vinnie Danz, we honor the memory of a man whose life embodied the best of American ideals. Vinnie selflessly and courageously lived by the principles of service to community and country. In doing so, he demonstrated compassion and steadfast commitment.

Even in performing his final acts of heroism at the World Trade Center, Vinnie did not show concern for himself. Rather, he asked his wife in a final phone message to, "Say a prayer that we get some of these people out. I am okay, but say a prayer for me."

Vincent Danz was not the only Long Island hero of September 11. Lieutenant Andrew Desperito, a New York city firefighter from East Patchogue, New York, was on the 23rd floor of One World Trade Center when he found out that Tower Two had already collapsed. Before exiting the building, he ordered the rest of his team ahead and he stopped to help a woman having trouble making her escape. He had just exited the building when it collapsed. He did not survive.

There were also the Vigiano brothers, Joseph of Medford, an emergency service unit detective and his firefighter brother, John Vigiano, both of whom died that day in the line of duty when the Twin Towers fell.

The brave acts of New York's first responders helped to save the lives of 25,000 World Trade Center victims on September 11. Of those who perished, 33 were from the first district of New York. These people were professional rescuers, the finest New York had to offer. Our community's loss is great, and so is that of their families. Their plans for the future ranged from seeing their children through college to soon retiring from the force. In their common mission of saving lives on September 11, their dreams were lost and their families shattered. For their sacrifice, we owe a great debt to the police officers, firefighters and emergency workers who risked their lives on September 11.

As a Congress we not only have the responsibility to remember their acts of courage, but to carry out our duties with the same love of country, compassion to others and commitment to service.

To properly pay tribute to the lives of these courageous people, we in Congress must ensure that first responders have the support they need to remain safe and effectively carry out their life-saving duties. In addition, we must reaffirm our commitment as a Congress and as a Nation to prevent terrorists from ever again carrying out these heinous and offensive acts against Americans and other innocent people around the world.

In remembrance of these first responders from New York's first district, I will enter the names of those who perished into the RECORD.

James M. Amato, Frank Bonomo, Peter Brennan, Daniel J. Brethel, Donald James Burns, Thomas M. Butler, Nicholas Paul Chiofalo Jr., John A. Crisci, Michael Sean Curtin, Martin N. DeMeo, Andrew J. Desperito, Jerome Mark Patrick Dominguez, Michael K. Healey, Timothy B. Higgins, Andrew Jordan, Thomas Richard Kelly.

Patrick Lyons, Joseph E. Maloney, Peter C. Martin, William J. McGovern, Martin McWilliams, Thomas Moody, John Napolitano, Daniel O'Callaghan, Michael Thomas Russo Sr., Gerard Patrick Schrang, Stanley S. Smagala Jr., Kevin Joseph Smith, Lawrence T. Stack, John James Tipping II, Joseph Vincent Vigiano, Kenneth Thomas Watson, Walter Edward Weaver.

May we always remember their bravery, compassion for others, and ultimate sacrifice. We will always miss them and we will never forget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

ROCHESTER A'S

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I will try to handle two tributes this evening. The first is to our baseball team from Minnesota, the Rochester A's.

This summer coaches Keith Kangas and Tony Beck brought together kids from Minnesota to reach a pinnacle in baseball.