way of life. From Vietnam to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan to Desert Storm, Gary's leadership as a commander and director played a key role in our force readiness policies.

Despite this distinguished career, Gary was just getting started. He served on the National Board of Directors of the Military Officers Association, as vice chair of the Florida Veterans Foundation, as chair of the Polk County Veterans Council, as chairman of the Flight to Honor Polk, and serves on the James A. Haley VA Hospital Advisory Board, among others.

On a personal level, he has also aided my office and those of my two predecessors with the military service academies nomination process—his deep insight and knowledge have helped numerous students throughout the years who also proudly served our country. And just this past September, Gary joined the 8th class to enter the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, it is Americans like Gary who have sacrificed their time, their talents, and their treasures for both this Nation and their neighbors. When I see an American flag, I think of Gary, and I am so proud to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Gary for his service; and to many more years ahead, I salute him.

REMEMBERING BISHOP MATTHEW WILLIAMS

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the passing of Bishop Matthew Williams, a longtime community and faith leader from our district, and a personal inspiration to me.

Bishop Williams was born in March of 1956, in Lakeland, Florida, the son of the late elder Matthew Williams, Sr., and the late Mother Louise Williams. He graduated from my alma mater, Brandon High School, in 1974, and attended Hillsborough Community College. Yet, at the age of 17, and during a period of national unrest, he accepted Christ as his personal Savior and, in 1982, became a full-time minister at Brown Memorial Church of God in Christ, forever impacting countless lives in our community.

Not only was Bishop Williams always available to help anyone in need, he always was a source of strength and guidance to his peers. Given his dedication to his neighbors and faith, it is no surprise that he was elected to the Church of God in Christ's General Board, the highest executive and administrative board within his denomination.

Mr. Speaker, our community and my family extend our deepest sympathies to the Williams' family, especially to his wife, Gayle, and his daughter, Deniece. Though, he will be missed, we know that he still lives in the presence of Almighty God and awaits our next meeting.

WAR ON COVID–19

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY. I represent the Ninth Congressional District of Illinois, and I am here on this auspicious day to stand up for the people of the Ninth Congressional District who are suffering right now under this pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, we know that already we have seen the deaths of 286,000 people, rivaling the total number of people who have died in World War II. We are at war with this virus. Fifteen-plus million Americans have contracted this virus. But it is not only the suffering of people and the families of people who have died and the people who have this terrible disease, but it is also an issue for the rest of Americans who are suffering right now.

Mr. Speaker, like every other Member of Congress, I am sure that you are getting the calls that I am getting; people—adults—who are weeping into the telephone and telling us about their fears, the suffering that their families are facing, the loss of jobs.

A man called crying, saying, ''I can't pay my rent. I have lost my job. I am so afraid that, along with my family, we are going to be out on the street.''

A woman called somewhat embarrassed to tell us that she cannot put food on the table for her children. We directed her to a food bank. Think of that; in the richest country in the world, that she had to rely on a food bank to be able to feed her family.

Mr. Speaker, in this country today, 1 out of 4 of our children is considered—what we say—food insecure.

What does that mean?

It means that they don't know where their next meal is going to come from. This is shameful.

People who are facing—the day after Christmas—losing their unemployment benefits. In Illinois, that is half a million people. Around the country, that is 16.4 million people who may be without any source of sustenance.

Mr. Speaker, this is America. We need to save our people. So we need to come to an agreement, and we need to come to it soon because people are desperate right now.

Mr. Speaker, the things that we need to do:

Number one, I believe that we need to send a check to every family. They need money in their pockets.

And where is that money going to go?

It is going to go right out into the community, helping all the small businesses that we are so concerned about. That $1,200 check that people got earlier in the year was a lifesaver, and we should do something similar right now.

Mr. Speaker, we need to extend those unemployment insurance benefits. Our economy actually was somewhat thriving when they were getting $600 a week to keep their families going. I am not necessarily asking for that amount of money, but we should continue the unemployment insurance benefits. Again, that money goes right out into the economy.

And then we have to end the idea of some sort of a liability shield. In many ways, it is really a get-out-of-jail-free card for companies that don't have to take care of their employees when they get sick.

Mr. Speaker, 48 million workers put their own lives in danger every day and suit up and go out into the world taking care of our elderly, working in hospitals, working in grocery stores, loading our shelves, and taking our money when we leave. These people deserve help, and the employer should not be freed from any kind of liability.

Mr. Speaker, we need the State and local money, and we need help for small businesses. We can do that. We must do that.

CONGRATULATING DAVID SHOAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Shoar on a well-deserved retirement from a 40-year, lifelong career from law enforcement. David has been with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office since being elected sheriff there in 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016. That is 16 long years of faithful service to the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

He has been an outstanding leader for the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and initiated many innovations during his tenure. Sheriff Shoar actually began his law enforcement career with the St. Augustine Police Department in 1981, serving as a patrol officer before being promoted to sergeant in 1991.

Because of his leadership, knowledge, skills, and abilities, in 2000, he was appointed as chief of police, following successful stints as operations commander and administrative services commander. Just 4 years later, in 2004, he would then begin his career as sheriff of St. Johns County.

Mr. Speaker, that is when I really came to know Sheriff Shoar, during the Florida Sheriffs Association's new sheriffs school. Although we both attended an earlier training class in Wakulla Springs and really had gotten to be close friends, it was at this new sheriff's training that I truly began to appreciate Sheriff Shoar's intelligence and his insights.

Sheriff Shoar is also a decorated soldier in the Florida National Guard, later retiring as a major after 24 years of service to our Nation and our State. He served in the Gulf War and led North Florida's recovery efforts following Hurricanes Andrew and Opal. His public service record and leadership in northeast Florida is truly second to none.

Mr. Speaker, all of Sheriff Shoar's awards and accolades are too numerous to list, but they do include the America's Most Wanted National First Responder Award, the American Legion's Top Cop Award, the Catholic Charities