

the federal capacity to respond by slashing domestic appropriations by 44 percent compared with FY 2010 levels over the next decade and making similarly extreme cuts in health care, nutrition, income assistance for seniors, people with disabilities, and working families. In addition to trillions of dollars in cuts and structural constraints to basic mandatory programs, the budget would fast-track \$203 billion in cuts to domestic programs over the next ten years through reconciliation rules. Cuts like these would recklessly weaken us; they are self-inflicted wounds.

The proposed tax cuts will worsen inequality and reward businesses that park their income offshore. Instead, Congress should insist that corporations and the rich pay their fair share. Please vote against weakening America, and instead protect and expand investments as called for in the budgets proposed by the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Congressional Black Caucus, and the House Budget Committee Democrats' substitute. These three constructive alternatives deserve your yes vote.

Sincerely yours,

DEBORAH WEINSTEIN,
Executive Director.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REMOVE THE STATUE OF CONFEDERATE GENERAL ALBERT PIKE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill to require the removal of a statue of Confederate General Albert Pike, which is currently located on federal land near Judiciary Square in the District of Columbia. This statue was authorized by Congress in 1898, and was paid for by both federal and private funds—the Freemasons, of which Pike was a member, donated the majority of the money needed to build and install the statue in 1901. I oppose tearing down Confederate statues, because I believe they should be moved to more appropriate settings, like museums, to avoid erasing an important part of history from which Americans must continue to learn. However, Pike was a Confederate general who served dishonorably and was forced to resign in disgrace. Soldiers under his command were found to have mutilated the bodies of Union soldiers, and he was ultimately imprisoned after his fellow officers reported that he had been misappropriating funds. Adding to the dishonor of taking up arms against the United States, Pike dishonored even his Confederate military service. He certainly has no claim to be memorialized in the nation's capital. Even those who do not want Confederate statues removed will have to justify according Pike any honor considering his history.

After meeting with the Freemasons, I believe that the best course of action is to remove the statue and find a more appropriate place for it. The Freemasons themselves have said they "will support an action . . . to remove the statue forthwith so that it shall not serve as a source of contention or strife for the residents of our community." The Mayor of the District of Columbia and the D.C. Council also support the removal of the statue.

My bill clarifies that no federal funds will be used to take the Pike statue down. I urge my

colleagues to support this important legislation.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOSEPH OF MARAMURES ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 25th anniversary of St. Joseph of Maramures Romanian Orthodox Church. St. Joseph's, the only Romanian Orthodox Church in Luzerne County, has grown from humble beginnings to become a beacon of faith in our community.

In 1992, a small group of Romanians located in Hazleton, Pennsylvania decided to form a mission. With nothing other than faith and a desire to succeed, their mission became a reality.

On April 19, 1992, with the blessing of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America and His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel, St. Joseph's first Divine Liturgy was officiated by Rev. Fr. Onisie Morar. Over the next year, the Mission held its services in various locations, including Emil and Dorina Horga's property in Hazleton, where the first Resurrection Service was officiated, as well as St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Freeland. By the grace of God and the kindness of others, such as Fr. Lawrence Baigger, all of the church's services were officiated for its parishioners during this time.

While services were held at St. Michael's, the newly formed Mission began to organize and strengthen. The Mission Council and Ladies Auxiliaries Organization were formed and with them, so did the ability to obtain a personal place of worship. In 1993, the Mission Council purchased the United Methodist Church in Hazleton, adopting the name of Palm Sunday Romanian Church. When the mortgage was paid in 1999, the parish changed its name to St. Joseph of Maramures Romanian Orthodox Church.

Since then, through the dedication of its parishioners, the parish has formed a strong community within itself, as well as with others in the surrounding areas. With the guidance of Fr. Cristian Preda, the parish has continued to preserve the traditions of the Orthodox Christian faith, touching many lives in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing St. Joseph of Maramures Romanian Orthodox Church as it celebrates its 25th anniversary, and wishing its parishioners all the best in the years to come.

A HAPPY DOUBLE TEN DAY TO THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday, October 10th is Taiwan's National Day—also known as Double Ten Day. I would like to take

this opportunity now to offer my early best wishes to the people of Taiwan.

As my colleagues are aware, Taiwan is a close friend, as well as security and trade partner of the United States. Accordingly, the United States has declared its support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations where its membership is not possible. In my home state of Iowa, we are enthusiastic to build on our already strong trade ties. In 2016, Iowa's exports to Taiwan reached \$153.87 million, making Taiwan Iowa's 5th largest export market in Asia.

Iowa and every state in the nation would benefit from the signing of a free trade agreement between Taiwan and the U.S., which would eliminate tariffs on most products and increase Taiwanese demand and Iowa exports. Though a small country with a population of 23 million, Taiwan has the potential to become a strong export market for Iowa and the U.S. Taiwan is a major importer of U.S. agriculture goods. Other sectors such as Iowa's strong wind energy sector have potential for bilateral cooperation as well.

Mr. Speaker, again, I wish the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day. And I take this opportunity to echo the words of Barry Goldwater when he said, "I have great affection for the Chinese people, their culture, their skills, and their potential."

RECOGNIZING DANA FERREIRA

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the commitment and dedication of my Senior Field Representative, Dana Ferreira. Dana served 15 years as an essential member of my team.

Dana graduated from Hartnell College in 1989 with her Associate of Arts in General Studies. After graduating, she became a licensed Insurance Agent for Marini Insurance Agency. Six years later, she joined my team while I worked for the California State Senate. In 2010, I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and she stayed by my side as District Scheduler and later as a Senior Field Representative. Dana has been an integral member of my staff and instrumental in the successes of my district office.

Dana has established solid and lasting relationships in California's 10th District as a pillar in our community. From Mayors to community leaders, she has entered the lives of many through her professionalism and personality. Since 2003, Dana has been profoundly involved in the Rotary Club, beginning in Salinas and then in Modesto. She selflessly volunteers her time for many organizations and causes and has been recognized for many worthy achievements and accomplishments.

One of Dana's many preferred pastimes is attending concerts; she especially likes seeing her favorite band, Tesla. On Saturdays, you can catch Dana cheering on the Oklahoma Sooners football team with her two cats, Milo and Luca.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending my good friend, Dana Ferreira, for her many years of service, devotion, and outstanding contributions to our community.

We wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS DISASTER
RELIEF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge this body to send urgent aid to the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and all of our Caribbean neighbors in its federal response to this year's devastating hurricane season.

Hurricanes Harvey, Jose, Irma and now Maria have ravaged our southern border, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and our friends and neighbors in the Caribbean.

Sadly, the pace of federal response in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico has been much too slow.

Nearly three weeks after Hurricane Irma, a category 5 hurricane, decimated the Virgin Islands, residents are still having trouble receiving appropriate aid and commodities.

Now, nearly two weeks after another category 5 storm tore through St. Croix, the U.S. Virgin Islands' three main islands have lost its economy, its physical infrastructure and scores of its people.

Insufficient quantities of food and supplies, lack of power, extremely long fuel lines, and lack of communication and cell phone coverage have left the Virgin Islands utterly decimated.

The Virgin Islands are in a humanitarian crisis, Mr. Speaker. No American citizen should be forced to endure these conditions, especially not with the level of resources at the disposal of our federal government.

My heart breaks for these families. I urge my colleagues and the Trump Administration to fund all necessary resources not only to address the urgent humanitarian crisis but also the sustained commitment support funding necessary to help rebuild and restore infrastructure necessary for their economy and people to move forward.

IN CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN'S
WILLIAM DAVIDSON INSTITUTE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 25 years of the University of Michigan's William Davidson Institute (WDI). The Institute has helped shape businesses and social welfare through its distinguished international service and education.

In 1992, Guardian Industries, an international manufacturer of glass products, determined the importance of establishing an educational institute to contribute to the economic transformation that was occurring throughout the world as new market economies began to develop in previously socialist countries. They named it in honor of then Guardian Industries Chairman, President and CEO, William Davidson. Mr. Davidson envisioned a world class in-

stitute that helps "forge a path for those responsible for economic change in emerging markets." Since its founding, the William Davidson Institute has cultivated a repository of methods and resources for creating a market economy that is unmatched in its breadth and depth. From economic education to increased access to healthcare, WDI works with countries and world leaders to analyze specific areas of need and to institute change.

The Institute's main initiatives include education, financial sector development, health care, performance measurement and scaling impact. Staff at the William Davidson Institute work alongside businesses, government agencies and other academic institutions to implement initiative-based programs and economic change. Programs run by the Institute include: operating a community college initiative in Jordan that fosters business skills and vocational coursework, assessing equipment needed for a new hotel in Ethiopia, instituting wireless telecommunication service in rural communities in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, and upgrading the University of Liberia's accounting program to meet international education standards. The institute also serves as a partner to other international programs, including Goldman Sachs' 10,000 Women Program that helps underprivileged women in Rwanda grow their self-owned small businesses. Over the past 25 years, the William Davidson Institute has been a global leader in international economic development and social freedom. I know this Institute will continue to effect meaningful change in countries across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the William Davidson Institute on its 25th anniversary. The Institute has been instrumental in growing economies and empowering business leaders internationally.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF LUZERNE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 50th anniversary of Luzerne County Community College. The College was founded in 1967 with just two buildings in Wilkes-Barre and 836 students, and has since become the largest college in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

As a student-centered learning institution, Luzerne County Community College gives students the tools they need to meet the world's most daunting challenges through practical access to real-world skills, classroom diversity that embodies the human experience, and quality teacher-student contact.

Seven years after its founding, the College moved to a permanent 122-acre campus in Nanticoke, which provided the necessary space to handle the increasing student population. Since 1974, the College has continued to expand its offerings to underserved areas throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. It opened up sites in Hazleton, Berwick, Shamokin, Kulpmont, and downtown Wilkes-Barre. In 2008, Luzerne County Community College opened its Public Safety Training In-

stitute. Two years later, the College expanded its main campus into downtown Nanticoke by opening the Joseph A. Paglianite Culinary Institute. The following year, it opened the Francis S. and Mary Gill Carroza, R.N. Health Sciences Center.

Currently, the Luzerne County Community College offers 82 occupational programs, 24 liberal arts and transfer programs, and 10 credit-free career training programs. As of today, the College boasts more than 32,000 degree-holding alumni.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Luzerne County Community College as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish to thank the College, its faculty, and its staff for their tireless service to the community and unwavering commitment to accessible education.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2018

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Democratic Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H. Con. Res. 27, the House Republicans' Congressional Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2018.

Mr. Chair, House Republican budgeteers have a very poor track record when it comes to economic forecasts and projections.

For years, they have based their entire legislative agenda and strategy on their belief that the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare would be a failure.

The wish was father to the thought and they were wrong.

Because of Obamacare more than 20 million Americans now know the peace of mind that comes from affordable, quality health insurance that is there when you need it.

House Republicans oppose increasing the minimum wage, claiming that it costs jobs.

Wrong again.

Every increase in the minimum wage has been accompanied by an expanding economy, especially during the Clinton Administration.

House Republicans opposing comprehensive immigration reform claim that it will lead to lower incomes and lost jobs.

Wrong again.

Studies conducted by groups as far apart as the Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO consistently show that comprehensive immigration reform will grow the Gross Domestic Product by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years.

Given this sorry track record of economic forecasting, it is mind-boggling that anyone could support another Republican budget that favors the wealthy over middle class families and those struggling to enter or remain in the middle class.