

This certainly looks like a poll tax to me, which those of us from the South know and remember is a way to prevent African Americans from voting.

These voter ID laws have a partisan agenda, seeking to disenfranchise and deny specific populations of voters before they have the opportunity to elect their representatives in government.

These partisan laws are shameful and a disgrace to our country.

If these Republican lawmakers were truly concerned with fighting voter fraud, they would take on actual, documented problems such as distributing fliers with false information meant to trick voters, improperly purging voters, or tampering with election equipment and forms.

Instead, they are pushing laws designed to change election outcomes by reducing voting, repressing turnout, and regressing us backwards in history.

We will continue to press the Justice Department for a vigilant and aggressive investigation to protect the civil rights and the voting rights of Americans.

We cannot and must not allow our democracy to be undermined.

We must unmask these shameful attempts to disenfranchise voters.

Let's stop these partisan efforts that strike at the core of our democracy.

Let's win this war against voters.

We are better than that!

I thank my colleagues for their calls to protect the right to vote for all citizens across this nation.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COLORADO TEACHER OF THE YEAR

#### HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Kristin Donley, an outstanding educator at Monarch High School. She has pioneered innovative learning for the past 10 years teaching physical science, chemistry and biology. Ms. Donley is an inspiration and an exemplary educator, and I am honored to commend her for being named the 2012 Colorado Teacher of the Year.

Her multifaceted approach to teaching goes beyond the textbooks and the standardized tests to instill curiosity and inspiration in her students; it provides the building blocks for a well-rounded understanding of the sciences. She has provided many opportunities for her students outside the classroom that truly prepare them with the skills and knowledge necessary to compete and succeed. Her partnership with the University of Colorado Boulder allowed her students to spend a week at the CU Mountain Research Station in Nederland, Colorado, where they had the opportunity to do hands-on learning of cutting-edge research that directly led to their own research and the chance to compete competitively in the regional science fair.

She has expanded the number of opportunities for her students to become passionate learners by establishing and coordinating a district science research seminar to have a peer science mentorship program for elementary and middle school students. She works

with her students to create interest in learning science and to provide them with the tools for success. Her faith in the public school system and her advocacy for innovative, cutting-edge learning is especially important now, at a time when improving our schools and expanding access to innovative science, technology, engineering and mathematics instruction is critical.

Ms. Donley was born in Boulder and received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in molecular, cellular and developmental biology at the University of Colorado. She is truly a dedicated community member and educator, and I am honored to recognize her as the 2012 Colorado Teacher of the Year.

#### IN HONOR OF EL CENTRO DE SERVICIOS SOCIALES

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of El Centro de Servicios Sociales Para la Comunidad Hispana, a non-profit group that serves the Greater Cleveland community.

El Centro is a Hispanic-Latino non-profit advocacy organization whose mission is to enhance the socio-economic status of the greater Lorain County community by providing essential social, educational, cultural and community development services. Children in need are able to keep in contact with El Centro to individually seek solutions to their problems.

With the influx of Hispanic-Latino industrial workers to the Lorain County community during the 1970s, the need for social, cultural and educational needs increased. In 1974, El Centro de Servicios Sociales Para la Comunidad Hispana was formed in order to address these problems by helping monolingual Spanish speakers transition in an English speaking environment. El Centro also works to prevent, treat and rehabilitate community members with mental and physical health ailments. It also had a few clinics to specifically treat community members afflicted with high blood pressure and diabetes.

Although El Centro began as a non-profit that helped only Latino members of the community, recently it has expanded its services to support all members of the community. Recent economic hardships in the State of Ohio have increased the need for community services and El Centro has met that need by serving about 2,000 people.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring El Centro de Servicios Sociales Para la Comunidad Hispana.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SGT. ARI CULLERS

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service and sacrifice of Army Sgt. Ari Cullers who lost his life serving in Afghanistan. Sgt. Cullers died October 30, 2011,

in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of injuries suffered when an insurgent rocket-propelled grenade exploded near him.

Sgt. Cullers was born in New London, CT and later moved with his family to Waterford, CT, where he attended school, graduating in 2001. Cullers was known throughout the community for his kindness and his ability to make people smile. As my friend, Principal Don Macrino of Waterford High School said, "He was a hard worker at school and he, I think, actually found himself when he got into the service. I think that was a place where he felt he could really make his mark."

He joined the Army in October 2004, served in Korea and Oklahoma, and arrived at Fort Drum in December 2008, according to the military. Cullers had previously served in Afghanistan from December 2008 to December 2009 and returned there with his unit in March 2011. Cullers, who deployed earlier this year, was a member of the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, based out of Fort Drum, N.Y. Among his many awards and decorations are the Army Commendation Medal, four Army Achievement Medals, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, three Afghanistan Campaign Medals, the NATO Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and the Driver and Mechanic Badge.

Sadly, Cullers is the third graduate of Waterford High School who was killed in combat in the Middle East in recent years. His passing reminds all of us of the sacrifices that have been made, and continue to be made, by our military overseas—including Ari's brother, Jacob, who also served in Iraq. While our nation has lost another hero, Ari Cullers' family has lost a beloved son and brother. My thoughts and prayers, and those of my family and the entire eastern Connecticut region, are with them now as they mourn. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Ari's life and his service to our nation.

#### KATE PUZEY PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER PROTECTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

#### HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 1, 2011*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of March 11, 2011, hundreds of people gathered on the West Lawn of the United States Capitol Building for a candlelight vigil honoring the memory of Peace Corps Volunteer Kate Puzey.

Two years earlier on that date, Kate was murdered while serving in Benin after she accused a local teacher of sexually abusing his students. Believing that Kate's experience could be used to prevent similar tragedies, her family and friends created "Kate's Voice Advocacy Group" and began a nationwide campaign to urge reforms.

Collaborating with First Response Action, a group representing Peace Corps Volunteers who were sexually or otherwise assaulted, "Kate's Voice" met with lawmakers and tirelessly advocated policies designed to support and protect all Peace Corps Volunteers, at home or in the field.

Tonight the House will consider S. 1280, the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011, which will enhance existing procedures for victims of physical and sexual assault in the Peace Corps and establish clear protocols for handling and reporting confidential information within the agency.

Specifically, this legislation requires the Peace Corps to provide enhanced sexual assault risk reduction and response training to all volunteers and integrate that knowledge with safety and security protocols at every Peace Corps post. Volunteers in training will receive an in-depth analysis of the particular risks they face in a given country and be provided with clear, written guidelines regarding whom to contact and what steps to take in the event of a sexual assault.

S. 1280 creates an anonymous hotline for reporting sexual assaults and sets up response teams that will be deployed the moment an incident is reported. A certified victim's advocate who answers to the Director of the Peace Corps will be required on staff to oversee the initiative and manage data collection for further studies analyzing safety and security trends.

Mr. Speaker, the Peace Corps has sent over 200,000 Americans to live and work in 139 developing countries since it was established by an executive order from President John F. Kennedy on March 1, 1961. Now in its 50th year, the agency continues to fill the gaps left behind by conflict, strife, and environmental degradation around the globe. For 2 years they develop partnerships, gain valuable knowledge, and help their communities meet local development goals. In the process, they build lifelong bonds and gain a greater understanding of America's place in the world.

The world in which Peace Corps Volunteers work is the real world, Mr. Speaker. It can be dangerous and uncertain. Therefore, issues of health and safety are of critical concern, especially during those first few months it takes a volunteer to adjust to the realities of his or her new life.

The provisions of this legislation were developed with extensive input from affected individuals and their families, victims' rights groups, Peace Corps senior staff, and the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) community. Kate's memory, embodied in her family, friends, and supporters, moved the process forward.

Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams testified on May 11, 2011 at a hearing before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and affirmed that he is committed to meeting the goals espoused by Kate's Voice and First Response Action.

"The Peace Corps has not always been sufficiently responsive or sensitive to victims of crime and their families," he admitted. He went on to offer a public apology and described how such attitudes are changing on his watch.

Indeed, much of the substance of S. 1280 is already being implemented within the agency. Director Williams created the Victim's Advocate position and signed a memorandum of understanding with the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, to collaborate and share resources on sexual assault prevention and response.

Mr. Speaker, based on the Peace Corps receptivity to these reforms and the bipartisan

nature of this legislation, I am confident that S. 1280 is an enlightened response to the pressing concerns of Peace Corps Volunteers and their families.

As a committed friend of the Peace Corps and its mission, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and provide the resources necessary to implement it without threatening the operational capacity of the agency.

The remarkable collaboration that conceived the Kate Puzey Act was an unparalleled labor of love. It was an earnest push to strengthen the program and prepare it for the future. It was not meant to hurt or punish the agency.

One of the witnesses at the May 11th hearing put it bluntly: "I would be devastated if my testimony were used to stop Peace Corps funding, cut funding, or eliminate the Peace Corps."

I strongly encourage my colleagues to keep that thought in mind as we consider this bipartisan legislation, which is the legacy of many extraordinary Americans, some of whom never returned from their missions abroad.

To honor the memories of fallen Volunteers, respect the survivors who courageously shared their stories, and encourage the next generation which recognizes the power of service, I will vote for this legislation in its current form, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

#### WELCOMING AND HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2011 QUAD CITIES, IOWA HONOR FLIGHT

#### HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, today I have the great honor of welcoming to our Nation's capital eighty-nine Iowa veterans of the Greatest Generation. Accompanied by seventy volunteer guardians, these veterans have travelled to Washington, DC to visit the monument that was built in their honor.

For many if not all of these veterans, today will be the first time they have seen the National World War II Memorial. I can think of no greater honor than to be there when they see their memorial for the first time and to personally thank Iowa's—and our Nation's—heroes.

I proudly have in my office a piece of marble from the quarry that supplied the marble which was used to build the World War II Memorial. That piece of marble, just like the memorial that it built, reminds me of the sacrifices of a generation that, when our country was threatened, rose to defend not just our Nation but the freedoms, democracy, and values that we hold so dear. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are both humbling and inspiring.

The sheer magnitude of what they accomplished, not just in war but in the peace that followed has stood as an inspiration to every generation since. The Greatest Generation did not seek to be tested both abroad by a war that fundamentally challenged our way of life and at home by the Great Depression and the rebuilding of our economy that followed. But, when called upon to do so, they defended and then rebuilt our Nation. Their patriotism, serv-

ice, and great sacrifice not only defined their generation—they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our Nation.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Quad Cities Honor Flight and Iowa's veterans of the Second World War to our Nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

#### RECOGNIZING WHIRLPOOL CORPORATION

#### HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Whirlpool Corporation on the tremendous occasion of its 100th anniversary. Headquartered in Benton Harbor, Michigan, Whirlpool is the global leader in the home appliance industry: delivering products of unmatched quality to customers in virtually every corner of the world.

Since its founding in 1911, Whirlpool has continued to build upon its well-earned reputation as a socially and environmentally conscious company by improving the quality of life in countless communities, fostering strong private-public partnerships, and setting the industry standard for energy efficiency and conservation.

Much has changed for the company in the past 100 years, but through it all Whirlpool has remained true to its Midwest, hometown roots. Michigan has faced more than its fair share of challenges through the recent economic downturn, but companies like Whirlpool are helping lead the way for our State's recovery and to restore our Nation's economic competitiveness.

The company is currently undertaking the multimillion-dollar construction of a state-of-the-art headquarters office campus in Benton Harbor. Whirlpool has also played an integral role in the half-billion-dollar Harbor Shores development project, which is revitalizing the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor area.

Thank you to Whirlpool for a century of creating jobs and giving back—here's to the next 100 years.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE CLEVELAND JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 4, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Cleveland Junior Tamburitians, a group which has been promoting Croatian arts and culture for more than fifty years.

Established in 1959, The Cleveland Junior Tamburitians are a parent sponsored non-profit group whose members range in age from 5 to 21 years old. The group performs songs and dances to traditional Croatian music in order to celebrate and honor their heritage. The group is currently comprised of more than 100 children who are under the direction of Katarina Lukacevic and Tom Salopek. The Tamburitians have held concerts in Canada, Croatia, and throughout the