

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.