

October 20, 2018

Chronicles of the Journey - #1

“AGUA”

Leaving Hidalgo County, in route to Jim Hogg County and the city of Hebbronville, TX, my wife and I noticed barrels with the word "AGUA" (water) on them and a flag with a cross on it sticking out, going 30 feet into the air.



Dr. Tim Westley at a stop near Jim Hogg County

Curious, we stopped to take a peak and noticed there was indeed lots of water in the barrel. We saw countless others on our journey. We suspected they were placed there for illegal immigrants that use the areas to make their way further into the U.S.

Indeed, research showed that just past the Border Patrol checkpoint near Falfurrias, Texas, offices of the South Texas Human Rights Center, maintain forty-seven water stations placed along the trails that the illegal immigrants are known to use.

These stations are large blue barrels filled with sealed, one-gallon water bottles and marked by a Red Cross flag flying about thirty feet above the barrel. This group also recovers the corpses of illegal immigrants who died in the scrub, and, on occasion, assist in a rescue effort.

The flight and fight for a better life is real and many are risking their lives to do so. Unfortunately, it also comes at a cost of breaking our laws. We must, without a doubt uphold our laws and not be soft on enforcement (which will discourage some from taking such risk).

Again, we must uphold our laws, current and future, or legislation will mean nothing with regards to our immigration system. Also, we have to ensure employers are using E-Verify; crackdown of violators abusing the H-1B visa program and scrutinize companies to ensure no visa fraud; reduce the type of relatives that can be sponsored to just spouses and minor children instead of extended family members in regard to family sponsorships; ensure we have an expedited process for citizenship for



Water Inside “AGUA” Barrel

those serving a specific amount of time in the Armed Forces (and ensure it's promoted).

Further, we must ensure more resources are available to put toward our U.S. State Department and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which is an independent agency of the United States federal government that is primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance. In doing so, they can help address the issues in the Northern Triangle (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador) which are central locations from which many illegal immigrants coming to the U.S. originate.



"AGUA" Barrel

Overall, we must proactively work to fix our immigration system, whereby we can find more humane ways to access our Nation that serves the better of all, while addressing issues as mentioned above.

I am looking forward to working with others in Congress for resolution of such an important issue!

Written by,

Dr. Tim Westley for U.S. Congress CD15TX