

from charging the residents of Russell and Clinton Counties for water from Lake Cumberland; and a permanent fix to ensure healthcare benefits for retired coal miners.

Though I am disappointed in many parts of the overall bill and the appropriations process as a whole, I am very happy with the badly needed items successfully addressed for my district in this short-term funding bill. For that reason and because I do not ever want to see a government shutdown, I will vote "yes" on the short-term omnibus.

I will continue to work hard for conservative principles and fiscal discipline. I will continue to demand transparency through the appropriations process. I came here to get things done for the people of my district. I am sure I will never get 100 percent of what I want, but I will always try. At the end of the day, I will try to build consensus and do the things that Congress is supposed to get done, whether it be tax reform, healthcare reform, or to fund the government.

We have many responsibilities in this great body, and I pledge to be one Representative who works with our President and every Member of this body to make America great again.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MIAMI-DADE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Peace Officers Memorial Day, I would like to honor the service and the sacrifice of law enforcement officers in my south Florida community who bravely lost their lives in the line of duty. On April 29, through the project that is called Project Honoring Every Resting Officer, or Project HERO, the Miami-Dade Police Department embarked upon its annual mission to pay tribute to the memory of each fallen officer in every department.

By placing an American flag and a Blue Line flag at the resting location of these valiant men and women in uniform, we remember their sacrifices and ensure that their memories will be immortalized.

I would like to thank the director of our fine police department, Juan Perez, for spearheading this noble cause on behalf of the families, friends, and colleagues of all of our fallen officers and also for Director Perez's work in making our community a safer place in which to live.

I encourage all south Floridians to also remember the fallen and to attend the Miami-Dade Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony on May 4 at 7 p.m. at Tropical Park.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF PORTMIAMI

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently visited PortMiami, one of the prime economic engines in Miami-Dade County.

Located in my congressional district, PortMiami is known as the cruise capital of the world. With its exclusive geographic location, the port is accessible to many international markets. In 2016, it handled an impressive 9 million tons of cargo and close to 5 million passengers.

With such large numbers, we can already imagine the powerful impact of PortMiami. It grows our economy. It creates jobs in Miami-Dade County and, indeed, throughout our great State of Florida.

Recent investments in infrastructure have been instrumental in guaranteeing that PortMiami remains a world class cargo and cruise port.

Throughout my years in Congress, I have been a strong supporter of our port. A project to dredge the channel to accommodate megacontainer vessels was completed in 2015. Also, four gantry cranes were purchased in order to operate the higher cargo volume. The completion of a tunnel has also accelerated the port's capacity to increase the volume of trucks that travel to and from the marine terminals, further strengthening the competitiveness of PortMiami.

PortMiami is currently undergoing some additional infrastructure projects, such as a new cruise terminal, security enhancements, and cargo yard-related improvements, all very important so that PortMiami continues to be a world class cargo and cruise port.

The Port of Miami is very important to my congressional district, to our south Florida economy, and I will continue to embrace this enterprise and economic force for our residents.

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, May is Lupus Awareness Month. Lupus is an autoimmune illness that has the ability to attack any part of the body and unfortunately has no cure yet.

According to the Lupus Foundation of America, more than 1.5 million Americans, including my lovely stepdaughter Katharine, are living with lupus; and millions have already sadly lost their battle with this terrible disease.

So this month, we raise awareness and educate our communities about lupus; and we also thank the researchers, doctors, and scientists who work around the clock to research, diagnose, treat, and eventually cure this disease.

I would like to highlight the wonderful work that the Sylvester Cancer Center at my alma mater, the University of Miami, is doing to get closer to finding safer and more effective treatments.

I have been honored to join forces with the Lupus Foundation and my colleagues in the Congressional Lupus Caucus to secure new Federal funding to advance lupus research, education, and awareness. These funds will help foster new scientific breakthroughs to better understand the disease and to help patients living with lupus.

Finally, I want to recognize the hard work and the dedication of caregivers and advocates who raise awareness for lupus who create a better life for those impacted by this terrible disease.

In particular, I want to highlight the Florida Chapter of the Lupus Foundation. From their local Walks to End Lupus to their tireless advocacy on behalf of patients and caregivers, they have been an instrumental source of hope, guidance, and comfort to those living who have been transformed by this disease.

So I invite our entire south Florida community to join them and the Miami Marlins on May 10 at Marlins Park for Lupus Awareness Night.

Mr. Speaker, this month, let us remember those who we have lost and those who are currently impacted by this terrible disease. Let us thank the advocates and caregivers, empower researchers, and, most importantly, let us work together for the day when no one will be diagnosed with lupus.

□ 1030

VENEZUELA REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for over a decade, thousands of Venezuelans were forced to flee the brutal Chavez dictatorship, and the situation has only worsened under his hand-picked successor, Nicolas Maduro.

Over the last several years, the people of Venezuela have increasingly spoken out against the Maduro regime, and time and time again he has attempted to silence them. In the last few weeks alone, the world has seen countless examples of the regime's thuggish tactics, unethical behavior, and lethal force against innocent civilians.

Top opposition leaders like Leopoldo Lopez remain locked up in Maduro's prisons, while the dictator continues to stop at nothing to try and control all branches of government. Thousands of opposition protesters have been arrested and dozens have been left for dead or killed.

So in response to this continued political crisis, I have joined with my colleagues DARREN SOTO, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ to introduce bipartisan legislation allowing Venezuelan nationals who have made a new home in the United States to remain here if they choose to do so, since it is too dangerous to return to their home country.

Instead of returning to the instability and uncertainty in Venezuela, these individuals would be granted legal permanent residency, so long as they do not have a criminal record and have never been involved in the persecution of others, eliminating any possibility of human rights violators or