

ACTION COMMITTEE



VAL DEMINGS,

US CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 10
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEAKING TO LAKE NOW CHAPTER
SEPTEMBER 2012

It's been a busy month for the Lake NOW Action Committee ...

At last month's Lake NOW Chapter meeting we met NOW endorsed candidate Val Demings. Lake NOW is committed to working for Val's election. Our Action committee grew to 13 members! Three action committee members offered to providing housing for out of state

feminist volunteers coming to Lake County to work on the campaign. Others members will provide support in the way of meals, transportation, and fellowship for the volunteers. We will be phone banking, canvassing, doing a Sign Waving Event, hosting "Meet & Greets," tracking Val's opponent, and

serving as poll watchers. Sandee Paradise and Judi Jones represented Lake NOW along with Donna Slutiak, FL NOW President, at a campaign planning meeting with the Democratic Party support staff for Val's election. Judi Jones served as a surrogate speaker to The Royal Highlands Political Forum.

October 26, 2012

Sign Making Party

3:00 - 4:00 pm

Democratic Party
Headquarters, 315 Main
Street, Tavares, FL

PLEASE

JOIN US FOR A
SIGN MAKING
AND SIGN
WAVING EVENT
TO SUPPORT VAL

October 26, 2012

Sign Waving Event

4:30 - 6:00 pm

High Traffic Intersections
in your community !!

Lake NOW will be joining the

"We are Women March"

April 28, 12:00 noon
Senator Beth Johnson Park
Ivanhoe Blvd.
Orlando, FL



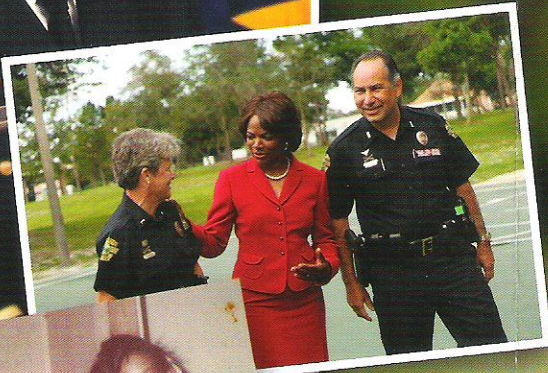
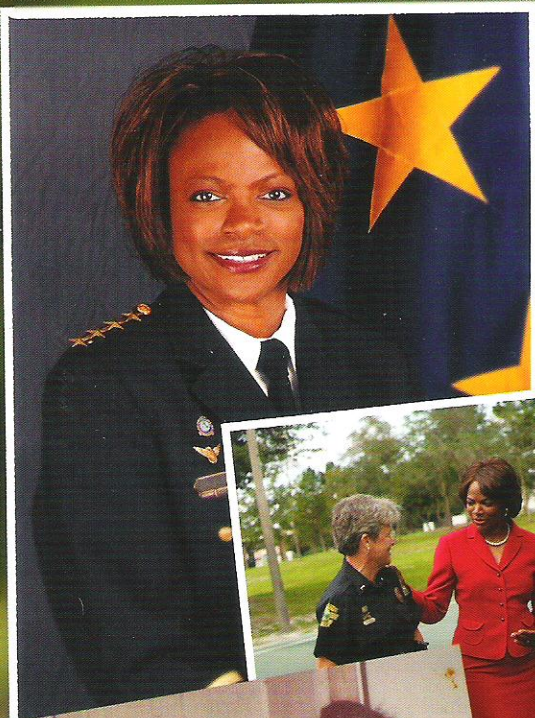
"Help defend women's rights and pursuit of equality. Join Americans all over the United States on April 28th, 2012, as we come together as one to tell members of Congress in Washington DC and legislators all over the country..."enough is enough"! All people should have the freedom to make medical decisions about their own care and well-being without intrusions from government, business or religious ideologies. Individuals and families have the right to choose, or reject birth control, and to determine the size of their family based on their own beliefs and values without intrusions.

AMERICANS have the strength, the courage and the moral fortitude to make reasonable choices without interference from self-serving political interests, religious groups or employers.

Everyone is welcome to join, plan, and march as we stand together and demand that every person be granted equal opportunities, equal rights, and equal representation."

There will be marches in Washington DC and all 50 states. Florida is holding 3 marches, Tallahassee, Orlando and Ft. Lauderdale.

Follow us on Twitter @WOW_FL
Follow Florida March Organizers on: www.facebook.com/groups/WOWFL

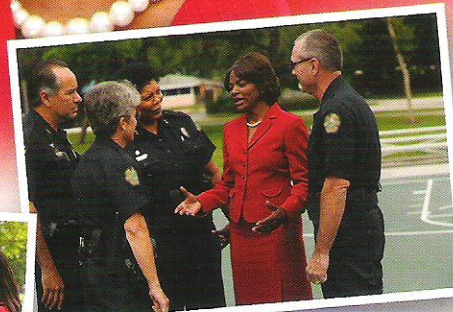
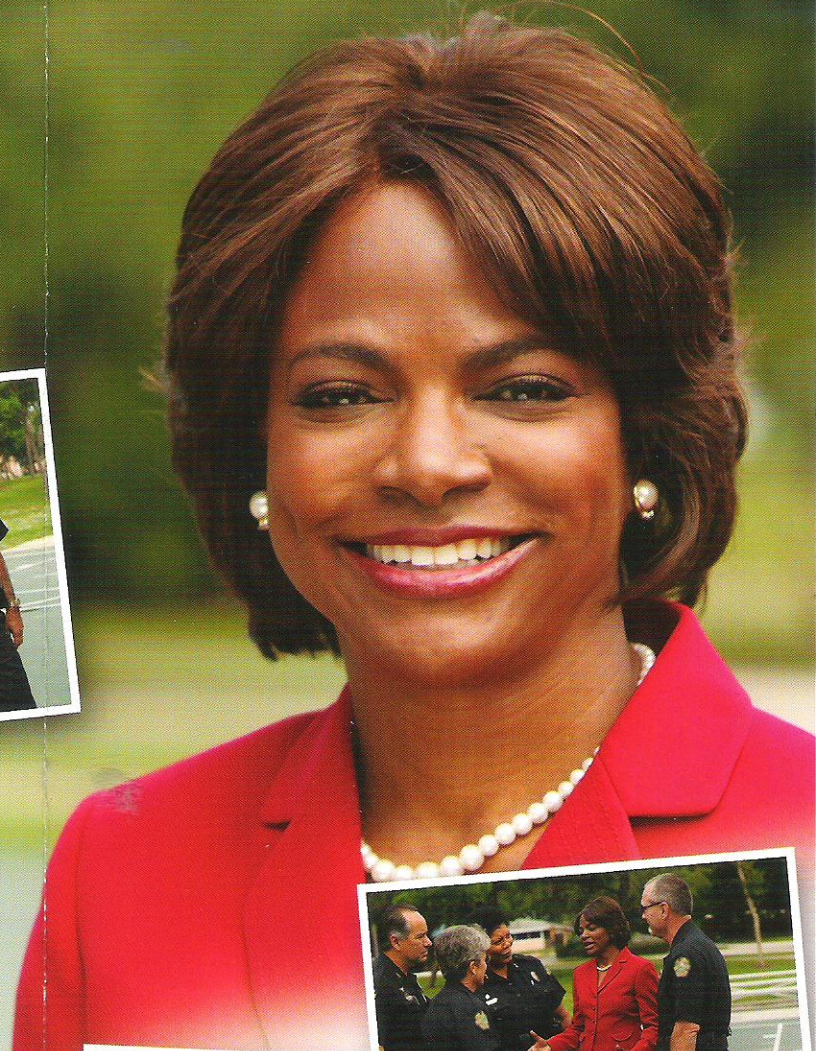


Chief
Val *for Congress*
DEMINGS

www.valdemings.com

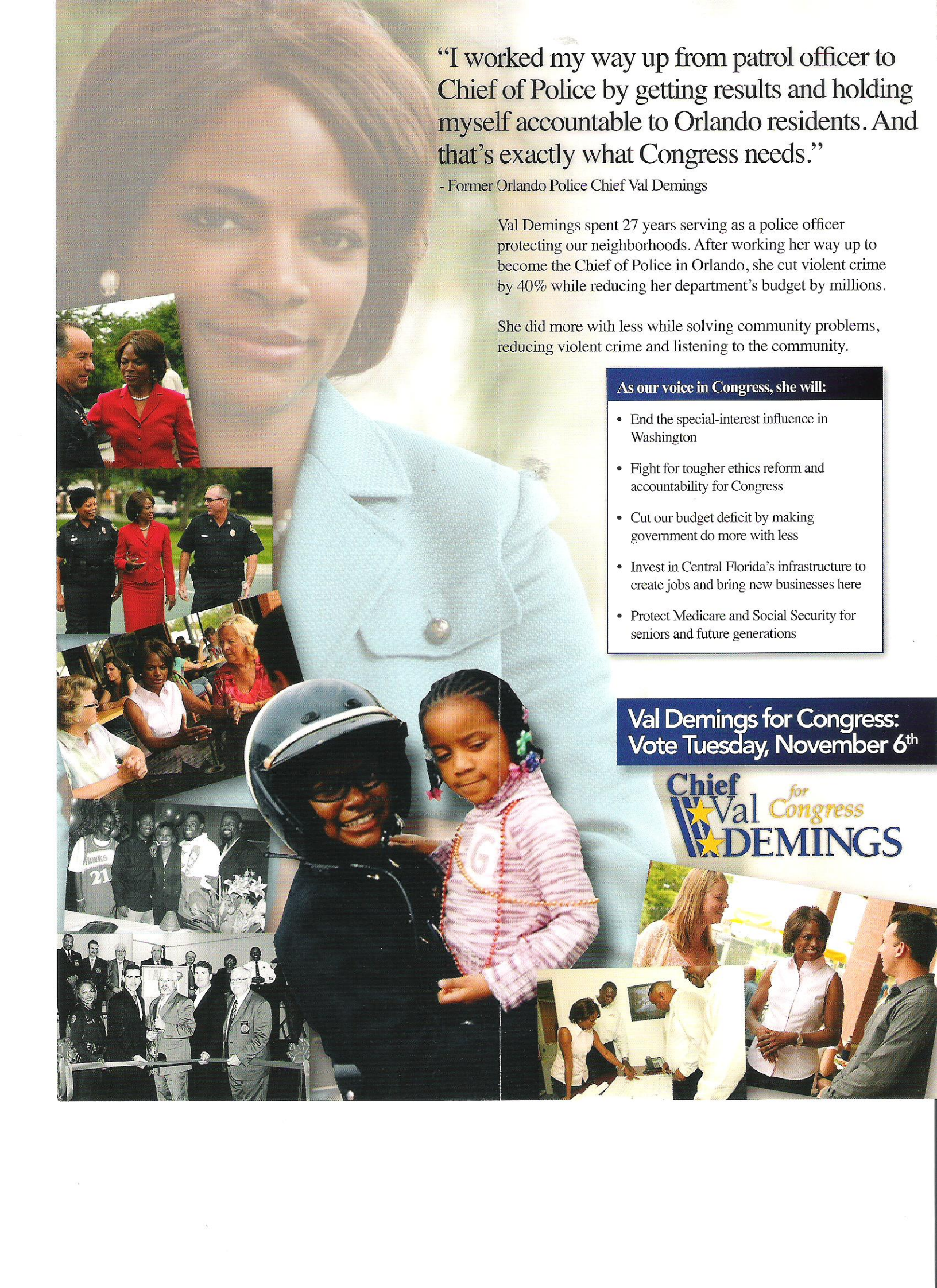
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Paid for by Val Demings for Congress.



“As Orlando Police Chief, I got things done because lives hung in the balance, and we didn’t have time for politics.”

—Former Orlando Police Chief Val Demings



"I worked my way up from patrol officer to Chief of Police by getting results and holding myself accountable to Orlando residents. And that's exactly what Congress needs."

- Former Orlando Police Chief Val Demings

Val Demings spent 27 years serving as a police officer protecting our neighborhoods. After working her way up to become the Chief of Police in Orlando, she cut violent crime by 40% while reducing her department's budget by millions.

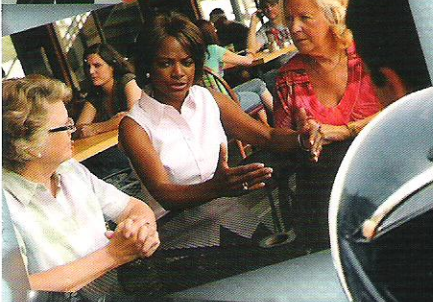
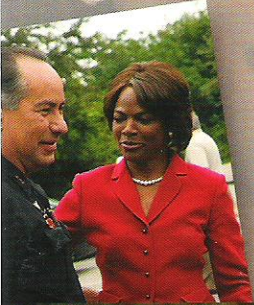
She did more with less while solving community problems, reducing violent crime and listening to the community.

As our voice in Congress, she will:

- End the special-interest influence in Washington
- Fight for tougher ethics reform and accountability for Congress
- Cut our budget deficit by making government do more with less
- Invest in Central Florida's infrastructure to create jobs and bring new businesses here
- Protect Medicare and Social Security for seniors and future generations

**Val Demings for Congress:
Vote Tuesday, November 6th**

Chief
Val *for Congress*
DEMINGS



A century ago, Orlando women's bid to vote caused shock, jokes

As election season reaches the home stretch, I'm reminded of an event in Orlando 100 years ago this month that shows how much has changed in our country's political process.

In October 1912, Orlando's usually unflappable city clerk, Cassius Boone, nearly fell out of his chair when a group of women marched into his office and demanded to vote in a bond election.

His reply: No dice. (A small section of Boone Street, named for the gentleman, survives downtown near City Hall.)

That year, 1912, Theodore Roosevelt's Progressive (Bull Moose) Party became the first national party to support women's suffrage.

But it wouldn't be until Aug. 18, 1920, with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, that women's right to vote was guaranteed in the United States. It was the culmination of a movement that began in the United States in 1848 at Seneca Falls, N.Y.

By the way, Florida was among the very last states to add its approval to the 19th Amendment — in May 1969, almost 50 years after the amendment passed Congress in 1919.

But some Orlando-area women were in the vanguard in Florida.

Orlandoans lead the way

The following year after the confrontation with Boone, 1913, a group of Orlando women formed the city's Equal Suffrage League, under the leadership of the Rev. Mary Safford, an internationally known Unitarian minister who had retired to Orlando in 1911.

A charismatic speaker since her youth, Safford became a galvanizing force for women's suffrage in Florida. In 1913 she spoke during a public hearing in Tallahassee on a proposed state constitutional amendment to give women the vote.

According to an essay that appeared in Orlando's morning newspaper in 1913, one of the arguments used against women was: "If you are citizens in one respect, you must be citizens in all respects." That is, "if you are voters, you must be soldiers."

This was presented as a ludicrous proposition, illustrated with a story called "The Women's Brigade" that



ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

The women in this 1900 photo taken at Clay Springs on the Wekiva River had one thing in common: They were not guaranteed the right to vote in the U.S.



JOY DICKINSON
Florida Flashback

was set in the far future: 1946.

The scene was an imaginary war with Mexico, in which the women's brigade dissolves into chaos when two of its leaders break out into a catfight about fashion and another accidentally severs the expensive ostrich feathers on her hat with a misguided swoop of her sword.

Ha ha ha.

The writer apparently thought this was highly amusing, but it made me almost as hopping mad as I was in 1968 or so when I was told that all the "girls" in my workplace were expected to take turns making coffee. The men?

Never. (Never underestimate the political power of coffee-making, folks.)

Head start at the polls

Some Central Florida women did vote before 1920. In January 1919, Orlando Mayor James L. Giles asked the Legislature to allow the city char-

ter to be amended to let women vote in city elections, and the City Council endorsed his request. Winter Park aldermen followed suit in March.

On May 26, 1919, women in Orlando voted for the first time on a road-paving bond issue. (Because the measure was a bond referendum backed by property taxes, all voters in this election had to be property owners.) Similarly, Winter Park women joined in voting on a bond issue that July.

After the 1920 ratification victory, the Florida Equal Suffrage League voted to disband, after a victory dinner at Orlando's San Juan Hotel on Orange Avenue. For women such as Safford, it was the culmination of a lifetime of work.

So, ladies, if you ever think about not taking the trouble to vote, remember all those women of the past who didn't get to have their say.

Correction: A recent Flashback about Orlando's miniature Statue of Liberty (the Sept. 30 print edition) erroneously referred to Robert G. Neel, 89, as the late Mr. Neel. The good gentleman led efforts to restore the statue in 1986 and is very much still with us. I regret the error and send him many apologies.

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