

During his tenure in the Army, Sergeant First Class Rodriguez received several awards and commendations. In addition to his Ranger tab, Combat Infantry badge, and Parachutist badge, Sergeant First Class Rodriguez earned the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and NATO Medal.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in commemorating the life of Sergeant First Class Antonio R. Rodriguez and in offering our condolences and prayers to his wife, Sergeant Ronaleen H. Omega, and to the many family, friends, and comrades as they mourn the loss of this brave hero.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th

birthday of the League of Women Voters. For the past century, this non-partisan, women-led civic organization has worked diligently to promote citizens' active participation in our democracy by educating and informing the public about their government.

I am proud to recount that on February 14, 1920, shortly before the ratification of the 19th Amendment granted women their long sought-after right to vote, the National League of Women Voters was organized at the national convention held in Chicago, Illinois. The League merged the National Council of Women Voters and the National American Woman Suffrage Association, establishing one umbrella organization to encourage and assist women to exercise their newly-established right to vote. The organization considers Carrie Chapman Catt its founder, and Maud Wood Park served as the League's first President.

While the League's mission was initially focused upon engaging with and promoting the participation of women in our republic, the organization's scope has dramatically expanded over the years. Today, the League is hard at work expanding civic participation and promoting good government. The organization is heavily involved in voter registration efforts and sponsors candidate debates and forums across the country each election cycle, pro-

viding communities the opportunity to hear from candidates before they head to the ballot box.

While the League is non-partisan, the organization is not apolitical. The League of Women Voters has a long history of taking a stand on important issues. The League supported the creation of the United Nations, the passage of the National Voter Registration Act, and regularly stands up for what is fair and just. The organization supports efforts addressing climate change, counteracting gun violence in our communities, establishing humane immigration policies, and ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable health care, among other important issues.

In 1973 the League modified its charter and allowed men into its ranks. Today, men and women alike make up its over 500,000 members and supporters at over 700 state and local leagues. The organization is represented in all 50 states as well as Washington, DC, the Virgin Islands, and Hong Kong.

On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, I wish a happy 100th birthday to the League of Women Voters. We are grateful for their service to the nation, and I hope the League will continue its efforts for the next century and beyond as they work to educate and promote civic participation.