

Mr. Speaker, my friend, Dr. Ron Anderson, dedicated his life to improve the lives of countless thousands of people. He exemplified the virtues of a true care-giver and was an exemplary model for other physicians. I urge my colleagues to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Ron Anderson.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
CARMEN BALASQUIDE

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Carmen Balasquide. Carmen was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and is mother to three children Janpierre, Kiara, and Adriel.

Carmen moved to Florida in 1993. In 1996, Carmen first got involved in community organizing by volunteering for Osceola County Commissioner Robert Guevara's campaign in which the first Hispanic-American was elected to a local office. While volunteering on the campaign she organized community town halls and candidate meet-and-greets.

After spending time away from politics, Carmen had the opportunity to get back into community organizing in 2008 when she met State Senator Gary Siplin during his reelection campaign. She took a campaign coordinator job with the Florida Democratic Party to help reelect State Senator Siplin and to work on the presidential election.

In 2012, Carmen worked with Organize Now as a community organizer where she educated and developed Hispanic community leaders through their Earned Sick Time and Anti-Foreclosure campaigns. Carmen's work on the Earn Sick Time campaign helped collect over 52,000 signatures in support of earned sick time and was the first successful citizen-petition campaign in Orange County. In addition to her organizing work, Carmen arranged meetings and educated legislators on voting against sick time pre-emption.

In 2013, Carmen started working with National Council of La Raza (NCLR) to educate Members of Congress on the need to support comprehensive immigration reform (CIR). During the CIR campaign, she worked with community leaders and local elected officials in Orange, Osceola, and Polk counties by conducting local Hispanic media interviews, organizing public letters of support, and facilitating congressional legislative visits. Additionally, Carmen worked with state Hispanic legislators to pass S.R. 1722 a Florida Senate resolution in support of CIR. Carmen has been leading NCLR's vote-by-mail canvass campaign in Central Florida as well as educating voters on the need to vote in midterm elections and to support key issues like expanding healthcare access to all and increasing the minimum wage.

In addition to her professional work, Carmen has served as secretary to the Florida Democratic Hispanic Caucus and is currently a member of Congressman GRAYSON's Puerto Rican Advisory Board.

I am honored to recognize Carmen Balasquide, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her service to the Central Florida Hispanic community.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BARRINEAU PARK 4-H CLUB

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Barrineau Park 4-H Club. Located in Escambia County, Florida, Barrineau Park is the oldest continuous 4-H club in the State of Florida.

4-H began in 1909 with "corn clubs" for young men. At these clubs, youth learned how to prepare and plant their fields with hybrid corn seed, with cash prizes awarded to those who produced the most corn. Two years later, in 1911, tomato clubs were established for young women to plant, harvest, and can tomatoes.

In 1914, the Barrineau Park 4-H Club was founded with an initial membership of about 10 local youth. Holding meetings in homes, church fellowship halls, and the Barrineau Park School and Community Center, the group learned a wide variety of skills, including how to grow corn and tomatoes, raise poultry and livestock, garden, and sew. Since then, the Barrineau Park 4-H Club has helped teach hundreds of young people in Escambia County invaluable life and leadership skills.

Today, there are 23 students participating in the Barrineau Park 4-H Club, taking part in events to develop leadership skills, learn the important values of citizenship, and practice public speaking. In addition, the group learns invaluable skills related to livestock and horses, shooting sports, food and nutrition, environmental education and marine science. In particular, the club has developed a strong reputation for raising and showing prize-winning hogs. In addition to these traditional programs, the Barrineau Park 4-H Club also gives its members experience in an array of technological areas vital to success in the future, including computers, robotics, and global-positioning satellite programs.

As a former 4-H participant, I can attest to the incredible leadership and educational opportunities that 4-H provides to our Nation's youth. The Barrineau Park 4-H Club's incredible 100 year history is a testament not only to the Barrineau Park and Escambia County community, but also to the entire 4-H program and its mission to "empower youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Barrineau Park 4-H Club. My wife Vicki and I congratulate everyone associated with the club and wish them another 100 years of success.

20 YEARS OF VAWA—THE
PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE AND
THE LONG ROAD AHEAD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) changed

the way we view domestic violence in the United States.

On the 20th anniversary of VAWA, we celebrate the progress we have made, but we also take this time to recognize how much further we have to go in ending this horrific crime.

20 years ago domestic violence was viewed as a "family issue."

Fortunately, in 2014, we educate men and women on this issue and have many more resources available for victims and tougher punishments for abusers.

As a society, we try to make victims feel comfortable coming forward so they can be protected and move forward with their lives, away from their abuser.

Sadly, though, many individuals and organizations still do not take domestic violence seriously enough.

The NFL had to be shamed into suspending Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice for two games for abusing his fiancée after a video surfaced of him dragging his unconscious fiancée out of an elevator by her hair.

And shamed even further for the Baltimore Ravens to finally terminate his contract and for the NFL to suspend him indefinitely.

That is, only after, the full, more graphic video was released making it beyond clear what happened inside of that elevator.

Ray Rice knocked his fiancée out cold.

Like it or not, professional athletes are role models. Is this the type of person we want our children looking up to?

This summer, the NFL did not care about intimate partner violence as a serious crime. They cared about saving face.

Not saving the faces and bodies and souls of women in this country, but protecting their own image and bottom line.

In the spirit of VAWA, we must continue to speak out against abusers and those that do not take criminal conduct seriously, and we must continue to stand up for victims.

Victims of abuse must come forward for their own safety and that of their children.

What kind of message are we sending these victims when we put men who abuse their partners on a pedestal? When we treat celebrities or professional athletes who commit the same crime differently because of their status?

I am proud of how much VAWA changed the landscape for victims in our country over the past 20 years, but this latest incident demonstrates there is more work to be done.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
STATE REPRESENTATIVE VIC-
TOR M. TORRES, JR.

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Victor "Vic" M. Torres, Jr., Florida State Representative for District 48. Vic is of Puerto Rican descent and was born and raised in New York, New York. Vic's lifetime of service began when he joined the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. After his service in the U.S. Marine Corps, he served his community as a police officer for the New York City