



Biography of U.S. Rep. Val Demings

U.S. Representative for Florida's 10th Congressional District

Congresswoman Valdez B. Demings was born in Jacksonville, Florida to James and Elouise Butler and is the youngest of seven children. She attended Duval County Public Schools and is a graduate of Wolfson High School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology from Florida State University and her Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from Webster University. Chief Demings is also a graduate of the 226th session of the FBI National Academy as well as the FBI National Executive Institute.

After working as a social worker in foster care, Congresswoman Demings moved to Orlando in 1983 to attend the Police Academy. She was elected Class President and later received the Board of Trustees Award for overall excellence. Throughout her career, Demings had many notable assignments, including in the West Patrol Division, the Criminal Investigation Division, Crime Prevention, Explorer and Cadet Unit, Public Information Office, Internal Affairs, and as Commander of the Airport Division. She also served as the Commander of Special Operations where she managed special events, dignitary protection, traffic enforcement, traffic homicide, marine patrol, the K-9 and Vehicles for Hire units, and the Reserve and Auxiliary units. In addition to her regular job assignments, Val Demings served 12 years on the Crisis Negotiation Team, Commander of the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team, and Executive Vice President of the International Association of Airport and Seaport Police.

In 2007, Demings was selected to serve as Chief for the Orlando Police Department – the first woman to ever hold that position. Upon taking office, she launched an all-out war against crime. Her tenure was marked by a dramatic reduction in violent crime, including robberies, shootings and murders. Chief Demings served as on the Executive Board of the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) and served as Co- Chair of the Florida Gang Intervention Regional Task Force. In addition, Congresswoman Demings founded, “Operation Positive Direction”, a youth mentoring program designed to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and youth in the community.

After twenty-seven years at the Orlando Police Department, Demings decided to retire from the force but continue her commitment to public service. In August of 2015, Chief Demings announced her candidacy for the United States Congress, District 10. On

January 3, 2017, Val Demings was sworn into the 115th Session of the House of Representatives.

Rep. Demings sits on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (Subcommittee on Intelligence Modernization and Readiness; Subcommittee on Defense Intelligence and Warfighter Support), the House Judiciary Committee (Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security [Vice Chair]; Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law), and the House Committee on Homeland Security (Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security).

Demings is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Women's Caucus, and New Democratic Caucus. She is a member of the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Review Board and the Elections Security Taskforce. Congresswoman Demings' leadership positions include serving as Regional and Assistant Whip for the House Democratic Caucus, Co-Chair of Candidate Recruitment for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Vice Chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force.

Congresswoman Demings stays involved in her community through numerous organizations, which include the following: Saint Mark A.M.E. Church; Federal Judicial Nominating Commission for the Middle District of Florida; The Orlando Chapter of the Links, Inc.; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Heart of Florida United Way Board; United Way Women's Leadership Council; YMCA Achievers Program; NAACP Silver Life Member; Florida Police Chiefs; National Association of Women in Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); as well as numerous other affiliations.

Congresswoman Demings is married to Jerry Demings, who serves as the Orange County Mayor. The couple has 3 sons and 5 grandchildren.



Short Biography of U.S. Rep. Val Demings

U.S. Representative for Florida's 10th Congressional District

Congresswoman Valdez B. Demings was born in Jacksonville, Florida to James and Elouise Butler.

The first in her family to graduate college, she worked as a social worker, then joined the Orlando Police Department. After a 27-year career she was selected to serve as Chief for the Orlando Police Department—the first woman to hold that position. During her tenure as Chief, Demings reduced violent crime by 40% and founded new community engagement programs including “Operation Positive Direction,” a youth mentoring program.

In 2016 she won election to Congress in Florida's 10th District, and today serves on the House Intelligence, Judiciary, and Homeland Security Committees. In addition, Rep. Demings is a House Regional and Assistant Whip, Vice Chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, Co-Chair of Candidate Recruitment for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and served on the Elections Security Taskforce.

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