



Proclamation

Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida

WHEREAS, April is National Child Abuse Prevention month, and Manatee County has been fortunate to have Carren Burnell who faithfully served, for the past 15 years, as a leader in the field of child abuse prevention in our community and has remained a steadfast advocate, committed to being a voice for child victims; and

WHEREAS, Carren Burnell has personally educated thousands of Manatee County's children on their personal safety by using her childhood experience of being lured by a stranger, a lovable puppet, and a special song she wrote. Through these methods children have learned how to "Recognize, Resist, and Report" child abuse and other threats to their personal safety; and

WHEREAS, Manatee County's children can be heard reciting "The Touching Rule," or shouting firmly, "No, Stop, Leave Me Alone!" as they learned to be the "Boss of Their Body" – all important messages they learned from Ms. Carren, affectionately known as the "Safety Lady"; and

WHEREAS, Carren Burnell saved countless lives of children through her work as Kids Personal Safety Coordinator with Manatee Children's Services; using her specialized first responder knowledge as she met individually with over 5,000 children requesting immediate help following her presentations; and as a mandatory reporter, personally recognized and reported nearly 500 cases of suspected child abuse; and

WHEREAS, this dedicated social worker has served as the President and Founder of the Child Abuse Prevention Coalition, volunteered as a Big Sister in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, been a board member of the Bradenton Women's Club, and served as Chair and Co-Chair of the Children's Summit Booth Committee, all of which she accomplished while bravely battling five recurrences of cancer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that April 22, 2014, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

CARREN BURNELL DAY

in Manatee County, Florida, and urge all residents to continue her cause of preventing child abuse and promoting child safety in our community.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 22nd day of April 2014.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____

Larry Bustle, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

R. B. "Chips" Shore
Clerk of Circuit Court

By: _____

Deputy Clerk