

HONORING WILLIAM THOMAS
(BILL) POWERS

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the most distinguished and remarkable individuals in the Coachella Valley, a region of southern California which I have the privilege of representing.

Mr. William Thomas (Bill) Powers has established an impressive record of achievement and service, both in his professional career and charitable activities. Since moving to the Palm Springs region in 1986, after a long and successful career in banking in Los Angeles, Bill Powers dedicated himself to enhancing our community's economy and improving the lives of its residents.

Now, our community joins to honor this most deserving individual with the Desert Samaritans for the Elderly naming Bill Powers Good Samaritan of the Year 2003.

A native Californian, Bill is renowned in our community for his many good works and strong stewardship of numerous worthwhile causes. At the same time, Bill has used his keen judgment and extensive professional experience to establish one of the leading financial institutions in California's Inland Empire, Pacific Western Bank.

In Bill's own words he "believes in the community and the people who live here. The best way I know how to give back to the community is through excellent service; I extend that philosophy in both my professional and personal life" and our community is better for his commitment to this code.

Bill and his wife, Anita, have raised a wonderful family. Their children, David and Christie, and their grandchildren, Jessica, Teddy, Tommy, and Hunter are a great source of pride to both Bill and Anita.

Bill has distinguished himself in our area through his ability to combine his love of family with his desire to work tirelessly in both business and community causes. The list of charitable and civic causes that Bill has participated in over the years is literally to vast to list in total, however, it is worth noting that he has served as both President and Tournament Chairman of the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, a professional golf tournament that has provided immense financial support to those in need in this region. In addition, Bill has served as President or board member for the United Way of the Desert, the American Cancer Society, the John F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation, the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership, Desert Samaritans for the Elderly Board of Governors, the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, College of the Desert Foundation, Yucca Valley Economic Partnership, founding director of the Desert Town Hall Speakers Forum, and as a member of the McCallum Theatre's Board of Trustees, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a privilege to call Bill Powers my friend, and ask that this brief tribute to this accomplished individual be placed permanently in the RECORD. I yield back the balance of my time.

IN HONOR OF GARY SCHLANSKER,
CEO OF THE GREENVILLE YMCA

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, today I take privilege in honoring Gary Schlansker's 11 years as the President of the Greenville YMCA. Gary has recently accepted the position as the President of the Greater St. Louis YMCA, the 8th largest YMCA system in the country. Gary started his relationship with the YMCA back in 1956 when he was first enrolled in a YMCA program in St. Louis. Gary has indicated that the St. Louis position is the only job that would take him out of Greenville, as Gary grew up in St. Louis and has family in the Show Me State.

The Greenville YMCA has been a model of stability and success for the YMCA system. Since the founding of the Greenville YMCA in 1876, only six people have served as President of the Greenville YMCA.

During Gary's 11 years at the Greenville YMCA, the annual operating budget increased from \$4 million annually to in excess of \$10 million annually. The Greenville YMCA grew from five branches serving 35,000 community members annually to seven branches with three additional outreach centers serving a total of 55,000 people annually. The annual scholarships campaign increased by over 200 percent and collaborations with the greater community now number in excess of 85 annually. Program highlights for the Greenville YMCA include Camp Greenville, Youth in Government, and outreach services through schools and churches. The Youth in Government program of South Carolina is sponsored exclusively through the Greenville YMCA, and is one of the most successful Youth in Government state programs in the country.

Gary's stewardship of the Greenville YMCA is accurately reflected by the tremendous growth and success of the Greenville YMCA. Not only is the growth of the Greenville YMCA impressive, but very importantly the kind and caring manner that Gary has conducted himself on a daily basis will be greatly missed by those who he has served in the Greenville area.

I sincerely wish Gary all the best for a nice start to his new job leading the St. Louis YMCA, as they are getting a wonderful workhorse of a leader to guide their YMCA. Thank you Gary for your 11 great years in Greenville, and we will miss you.

TEMPORARY AGRICULTURAL
LABOR REFORM ACT OF 2003

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Temporary Agricultural Labor Reform Act of 2003, a bi-partisan bill to reform the H-2A guest worker program. As Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I have traveled across the Nation and seen first-hand that the H-2A temporary visa process is not working. I have talked face to face with pro-

ducers who have to deal with participating in a costly, time-consuming and flawed program. Employers have to comply with a lengthy labor certification process that is slow, bureaucratic and frustrating. In addition, they are forced to pay an artificially inflated wage rate. My bill will streamline the labor certification process while also creating a wage standard that is more fair and realistic.

Likewise, as a long-time Member of the House Judiciary Committee, I understand the immigration problems that currently face our country. Illegal immigration penalizes those legal immigrants and citizens who play by the rules. It is estimated that there are between 8 and 11 million illegal aliens currently living in the United States. This population grows by over 350,000 each year. Clearly, this situation has reached crisis proportions and cannot be allowed to continue.

Some believe that the only way to reform the guest worker program is by including amnesty provisions and allowing illegal aliens to adjust to Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) status. However, this would create the wrong incentive by encouraging foreign nationals to come into the country illegally in the hopes that they, too, will be rewarded for their illegal actions. Amnesty is not the answer to our Nation's illegal immigration problem.

My bill would not grant blanket amnesty. Instead, it would allow the large population of illegal farm workers one chance to come out of hiding and participate legally in the guest worker program. Potential workers would be required to return to their home countries and apply for the program legally from there.

In addition, this legislation would address a troublesome wage issue. Employers are required to pay an inflated wage called the Adverse Effect Wage Rate or AEWR. The AEWR was designed to protect similarly situated domestic workers from being adversely affected by guest workers coming into the country on a seasonal basis and being paid lower wages. However, the shortage of domestic workers in the farm workforce forces employers to hire foreign workers, and thus, is also forcing them to pay an inflated wage. My bill abolishes this unfair wage and creates a prevailing wage standard, under which, all workers are paid the same wage as workers doing similar work in that region.

The facts are simple. Agriculture needs a reliable guest worker program. Workers need access to stable, legal, temporary employment. It is in our national security interest to create a sensible way for workers to come in on a temporary basis, work, and go back to their home countries. My bill addresses the problems in the current guest worker program, and I look forward to working with all of the Members in this body to reform this program and make it a more viable process for everyone involved.

ARSENIC-TREATED WOOD
PROHIBITION ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the dangers posed to the public health by arsenic-treated wood. Most of

the lumber sold for outdoor use in our schools' playgrounds and in our own private backyard decks is pressure-treated and injected with toxins to preserve the wood and prevent insect infestation. The most common wood preservative and pesticide used is chromated copper arsenate (CCA), which is 22 percent pure arsenic. The inorganic arsenic used in CCA-treated wood is a known carcinogen and has been linked to skin, bladder, liver and lung cancers. The arsenic in CCA-treated wood has been shown to leach out, ending up in the soil in our back yards and playgrounds, rubbing off onto our clothing, and wiping off onto our hands.

Today, I am re-introducing a bill to begin to remove this threat, the Arsenic-Treated Wood Prohibition Act. This bill will prohibit the use of CCA treated lumber once and for all. This legislation will protect children and families by mandating the phase out of arsenic in pressure treated lumber and will ensure that arsenic treated lumber is disposed of safely. Specifically, my bill will: phase-out the use of arsenic-treated wood in residential settings; require the disposal of arsenic-treated wood in lined landfills to prevent contamination of groundwater; require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to finally complete its risk assessment regarding arsenic-treated wood; provide monetary assistance to schools and local communities to remove arsenic-treated wood from their playgrounds; and direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to complete its mitigation studies to determine the effect of sealants in preventing exposure to residues of CCA on treated wood. This bill would save lives and protect our environment.

Recent actions by the CPSC and preliminary findings released by the EPA make it even more important that we in Congress pass this legislation. Despite their own findings found that of every 1 million children exposed to the treated wood three times every week for five years, two to 100 of them might develop lung or bladder cancer later in life, the CPSC recently decided to deny a petition to ban the use of arsenic-treated wood in playground equipment and to recall existing playground structures using CCA-treated wood (HP-01-3). In their statements denying the petition, the CPSC Commissioners cited that a voluntary agreement between the EPA and CCA-treated wood manufacturer's to voluntarily phase-out the production of the product. The Commissioners reasoned that rulemaking on the subject would be both unnecessary and redundant. They further cited that the CPSC did not have the authority to initiate a recall before the risk assumptions made in the Commission's staff study could be verified.

On November 13, a draft probabilistic exposure assessment released by the EPA confirmed the CPSC's earlier findings. The study concluded that the cancer risk for children who repeatedly come in contact with commonly found playground equipment and decks made of arsenic-treated wood is considerably greater than EPA officials indicated last year. The agency's preliminary findings show that 90 percent of children repeatedly exposed to arsenic-treated wood face a greater than one-in-1 million risk of cancer. The risk associated with exposure to arsenic-treated wood appears to be up to 100 times greater in the warmer climates of southern States than in the general population since children tend to

spend more time playing outdoors. This risk passes the EPA's historic threshold of concern about the effects of toxic chemicals.

In light of these facts, I believe that we must take immediate action. I believe that a voluntary phase-out of this potentially harmful product is not adequate. Initiating a ban on CCA-treated wood would greatly increase public awareness of the dangers that existing arsenic-treated wood presents. By failing to ban CCA-treated wood, we are ignoring the responsibility to protect and promote the best interests of consumers. I strongly believe that a legislative mandate permanently banning its use and providing for its safe removal is critical to ensuring the safety of children and their families.

The effect of arsenic in our environment is undeniable: it kills. Arsenic-treated wood is a danger to the future health of America's families. I encourage my colleagues to join me in this very important effort to remove this threat.

TRIBUTE TO PFC DAMIEN L.
HEIDELBERG

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to Private First Class Damien Heidelberg who was killed in action Saturday, November 15, in Iraq. Along with seventeen other American soldiers, including another Mississippian, Specialist Jeremy DiGiovanni, Damien was killed in the collision of two Black Hawk helicopters.

Damien was a member of the First Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The little town of Shubuta, Mississippi was home to Damien. He was the ninth Mississippian to die in Iraq since the war began, and he served his country proudly and with honor.

PFC Heidelberg made the ultimate sacrifice defending our Nation and helped free millions of men, women, and children from the tyrannical grasp of an evil and brutal dictator. We Mississippians are so proud of the men and women we have serving in Iraq and appreciate their dedication to defending freedom and democracy.

I ask my fellow Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to remember Damien and his family during this difficult time. To his family, our prayers are with you, and we are grateful for Damien's courage and service to the United States of America.

THE LIMITS AND LIABILITY OF
POWER: LESSONS OF IRAQ

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, the issue of our engagement in Iraq demands that we as a society probe the question of the limits of a superpower's power and the possible anomaly that there are severe liabilities to power, particularly for a superpower.

Does, for instance, overwhelming military might protect us from terrorism or, if used unwisely, increase our vulnerability to terrorism?

Likewise, does overwhelming economic power ensure loyalty or buy friendship even from the countries most indebted to the U.S.?

In other words, can military and economic might ever become a substitute for sensible and sensitive foreign policy?

And given the dilemma of Iraq, could it indeed be that the most important "multibillion" problem America faces is not deficits measured in dollars, fiscal or trade, but the antagonism of billions of people around the world who object to our current foreign policy?

Here, let me say that I strongly believe in the need for clarification of thought as it applies to policy, and anyone who wishes to review the reasoning I have applied to the Iraq issue, ranging from a floor explanation of a "no" vote on the Congressional resolution authorizing war last year to calls for internationalizing the civil governance in Iraq last month, to a vote in favor of generosity in reconstruction efforts last week, can find the explanatory statements on my Congressional web site: www.house.gov/leach.

What I would like to do today is summarize the dilemma we face and make the following points about where we might go from here:

(1) There are no certitudes. Anyone who was not conflicted on the original decision to approve intervention or who does not see a downside to all courses of action today is not approaching the problem with an open mind. America and the world are in a strategic pickle. In an era of anger, of divisions in the world based on economics, on color of skin, on ethnicity, on religious belief, on happenstance of family and place of birth; in a world made smaller by technological revolutions in communications and transportation, those who have causes—good or bad—have possibilities of being heard and felt around the globe that never existed before. Great leaders like Gandhi and Martin Luther King appealed to the higher angels of our nature and achieved revolutionary change with non-violence. Mendacious leaders like Hitler, Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden have sought to impose their wills on others through appeals to hate and reliance on increasingly wanton instruments of oppression.

As the world's only superpower, the U.S. has no choice but to display firmness of purpose and resolve in deterring inhumane breaches of order. Yet, firmness and resolve must be matched by compassionate understanding of the reasons people of the world lash out. We have the world's greatest armed forces. But these forces cannot successfully be deployed to counter international misconduct if we don't also seek to undercut the causes of such conduct.

Reviewing the causes of World War I, historians quickly concluded that there was not enough flexibility in the European alliance system and that this allowed a rather minor event, the assassination of an Austrian archduke, to precipitate a cataclysmic war. With this example in mind, political leaders in the 1930s erred on the side of irresolution, which led them to Munich and the partition of Czechoslovakia. Too much inflexibility caused one war; too little spine a greater one.

The problem today is not whether we should meet problems with firmness or compassion. We need both. The problem is determining when and how to respond with firmness, when and how to express compassion. As in all human conduct, the challenge is wisdom.