

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 too 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