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Florida - 8th District

8 C.W. Bill Young (R)**Of St. Petersburg — Elected 1970****Born:** Dec. 16, 1930, Harmarville, Pa.**Education:** Attended Pennsylvania public schools.**Military Career:** National Guard, 1948-57.**Occupation:** Insurance executive.**Family:** Wife, Beverly F. Angelo; three children.**Religion:** Methodist.**Political Career:** Fla. Senate, 1961-71, minority leader, 1967-71.**Capitol Office:** 2407 Rayburn Bldg. 20515; 225-5961.

— **In Washington:** Young's blow-dried pompadour hair style sometimes makes him look like a refugee from a country & western band, but he is in reality one of the more serious and effective conservatives in the House.

While Young plays his most substantive role as a GOP stalwart on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, he gained an honorary title of symbolic significance early in the 101st Congress: dean of the majority party in Florida's 19-member House delegation.

When Young was first elected to the state Senate in 1960, he was its only Republican. A decade later, when he won a seat in the U.S. House, he was one of just three Republicans in the 12-member delegation. In the years since, Florida's House contingent and its Republican component have grown, but the GOP did not have a majority of House members until 2nd District Rep. Bill Grant switched parties in February 1959, making the split 10-9 GOP. "I have to admit," Young said, "this is the first time ever in my political career I'm in any kind of majority status."

Whether Young's new status will bring him any additional influence remains to be seen, but he is already known for expanding the purview of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee where he serves. Young has become the leading congressional advocate of the National Bone Marrow Donor Registry, and he has worked to fund it through the defense budget.

The money initially found its way into a defense funding bill in 1986, when then-Sen. Paul Laxalt of Nevada slipped it in. That same year, Laxalt announced his retirement, and Young came into contact with a 10-year-old girl from his district who was dying of cancer and could not find a bone-marrow donor. Since then, Young has guarded funding for the registry, and in the 100th Congress, he worked to shift it from the Navy (which contracted the registry out to the Red Cross) to the National Institutes of Health.

While he says the registry is his proudest achievement, Young is probably best known for his advocacy of the 1980s defense buildup.

Though Young supported nearly all of President Reagan's individual defense initiatives, his seriousness and his willingness to work with Democrats on a number of issues — such as tactical air power and competition in anti-tank weapons — have earned him respect on both sides of the aisle. Young has even suggested that his unyielding stance on some issues is just a strategy to offset the zeal of liberals bent on cutting defense. "I have become one of those who is the counterbalance on the right that makes it possible to compromise in the middle," he once said.

A member of the Intelligence Committee earlier in his House career, Young has continued to pursue national security issues. He is a leading House proponent of expanding random polygraph testing for Defense Department and federal-contractor employees. Two years after approving a polygraph test program in the defense authorization bill, the 100th Congress approved language to permit annual random polygraph tests of up to 20,000 employees of the Defense Department and its contractors.

Young initially faced accusations that his plan was part of a hysterical reaction to spy scandals. But he and other advocates maintained that the plan was simply aimed at improving the government's capacity to discover national security breaches, and he brushed off questions about the reliability of the so-called lie detector. "Give our country the tools to battle the spies and the potential spies, the traitors and the potential traitors," Young said.

While the national security applications of polygraph testing have gained widespread support, Young's enthusiasm for testing in the private sector has never caught on. In 1986 and 1987, the House passed legislation prohibiting most private employers from requiring employees and job applicants to take lie-detector tests. During both debates, Young amendments to permit testing under certain guidelines were defeated.

During his tenure on Intelligence, Young charted an independent course on some matters. He supported efforts to aid anti-commu-

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Florida 8

The modern era of Florida politics began in this district a little over three decades ago, and the 8th is still a good signpost of political change statewide.

In 1954, this district made William C. Cramer the state's first Republican House member of the 20th century. Cramer owed his election to the influence of conservative retirees. In subsequent years, other Republican candidates prospered as the retirees' influence expanded elsewhere in Florida.

Today, the retirees are still crucial in the politics of the 8th, but no candidate can afford to ignore the growing numbers of young people drawn by its steadily diversifying economy. The young newcomers, like their peers flooding into other parts of Florida, are in some ways more conservative, which is good news for the GOP here.

Not too long ago, St. Petersburg was known as almost exclusively a retirement haven. The retirees who settled there — many of them storekeepers, office workers and civil servants from the small-town Midwest — brought their Republican preferences to Florida with them. The economy was mostly service oriented, geared to the needs of elderly residents and tourists. The morning rush hour saw many younger workers from St. Petersburg driving to jobs in Tampa, which provided employment in a greater variety of fields and a faster pace of

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life than in St. Pete, where the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame is a big attraction.

But during the last decade, St. Petersburg sought to broaden its economic base by stressing that it offers a good climate for business investment. Now, St. Petersburg and Pinellas County firms such as Honeywell, Paradyne, E-Systems and General Electric are busy with research, development, production and marketing of computers, communications equipment and other high-technology items. A number of the major employers and subcontractors are engaged in defense-related work.

The median age of the Pinellas County population has dropped because so many young people attracted to good-paying jobs have moved into the area. Democrats are still competitive in some elections in the 8th, partly because many retirees identify the party as the founder and protector of Social Security. But Republicans and Democrats are at near-parity in the number of registered voters in Pinellas County, and in practice, many of the registered Democrats vote Republican, especially at the national level.

Population: 512,909. White 463,124 (90%). Black 44,983 (9%), Other 3,161 (1%). Spanish origin 7,616 (2%). 18 and over 413,853 (81%), 65 and over 141,405 (28%). Median age: 45.

insurgents, including the Nicaraguan Contras, and defended the CIA's successful attempt to exempt certain operational files from Freedom of Information Act requests. But he was critical of the agency following disclosures of the CIA role in helping elect Salvadoran President José Napoleón Duarte. "The CIA is not the place to run political campaigns," Young declared. He said he was bothered by the CIA's arrogance in refusing to keep Congress informed.

Young also plays a role in a number of issues closer to home. Together with Florida Democrat William Lehman, Young led the charge in the Appropriations Committee against lifting an existing moratorium on offshore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. When an amendment challenging the drilling ban was offered, the committee turned it back.

Young, who notes that his St. Petersburg-based district contains more Social Security recipients than any other, goes to considerable lengths to help them. Just before the House rejected a rule that would have permitted consideration of the long-term home health-care

bill, Young implored his colleagues to vote for the measure. "We talk about the costs, and who will pay for it," he said. "Do not forget these folks who are older Americans today are the very ones who . . . created things in our society, in our economy: they have an outstanding record of service to America." Young was one of just 24 Republicans to vote for the rule on the long-term home health-care bill, which went down to a lopsided defeat.

In 1985, he proposed a bill to prohibit employers from setting any mandatory retirement age; a similar measure became law in 1986. A member of the Appropriations subcommittee that sets spending levels for the Department of Health and Human Services, he has called for more expeditious health-care payments to Medicare recipients, and has proposed legislation guaranteeing that the cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security beneficiaries could not be cut back or eliminated.

At Home: A high-school dropout from a Pennsylvania mining town, Young worked his way to success in the insurance business before going into politics in 1960. Ten years later, he

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inherited Florida's most dependable Republican seat from Rep. William C. Cramer, who left it when he ran for the U.S. Senate in 1970.

Young had known Cramer a long time. He had met the congressman at a Rotary Club barbecue in 1955, worked in his 1956 campaign and was hired as Cramer's district aide in 1957. In 1960 the Pinellas County GOP organization urged Young to challenge a veteran Democratic state senator. He won, and became the only Republican in the state Senate. By 1967, there were 20 others, and Young was minority leader.

When Cramer announced for the Senate in 1970, there was little question who would replace him. Young won 76 percent of the primary vote and 67 percent in the general election. Since then it has been even easier.

During the 1980s, Young has drawn Democratic opposition only twice. In 1984, he won 80

percent against Democrat Robert Kent, a former Sunshine Skyway toll collector. Kent, a Yugoslavian émigré and frequent congressional candidate from Indiana in the 1960s, changed his name from Ivan Korunek before running against Young, but the strategy failed to broaden his appeal. In 1988, Young got more than 70 percent of the vote against Democrat C. Bette Wimbish, a former St. Petersburg City Council president.

When prominent Republicans were looking for established politicians to challenge Democratic Gov. Bob Graham and Sen. Lawton Chiles in 1982, both Young and Rep. L. A. "Skip" Bafalis were intensively courted. Young pondered a statewide race, then ruled it out, a decision that seemed wise in retrospect. Bafalis took a chance and received a dismal 35 percent against Graham.

Committee

Appropriations (6th of 22 Republicans)
Defense: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

Elections

1988 General			
C. W. Bill Young (R)	169,165	(73%)	
C. Bette Wimbish (D)	62,539	(27%)	
1986 General			
C. W. Bill Young (R)	Unopposed		
Previous Winning Percentages:			
1984 (80%)	1982 (100%)		
1980 (100%)	1978 (79%)	1976 (65%)	1974 (76%)
1972 (76%)	1970 (67%)		

District Vote For President

	1988	1984	1980	1976
D	97,452 (45%)	91,393 (37%)	97,234 (41%)	98,426 (49%)
R	120,065 (55%)	153,584 (63%)	124,802 (53%)	100,586 (50%)
			12,280 (5%)	

Campaign Finance

	Receipts	Receipts from PACs	Expenditures
1988			
Young (R)	\$212,972	\$109,600 (51%)	\$208,320
Wimbish (D)	\$37,501	\$14,001 (37%)	\$23,655
1986			
Young (R)	\$214,687	\$91,945 (43%)	\$96,142

Key Votes

1987	
Raise speed limit to 65 mph	N
Approve Gephardt "fair trade" amendment	N
Ban testing of larger nuclear weapons	N
Delay "re-flagging" of Kuwaiti tankers	Y
Approve tax-raising deficit-reduction bill	N
1988	
Approve aid to Nicaraguan contras	Y
Enact civil rights restoration bill over Reagan veto	N
Kill 60-day plant-closing notification measure	Y
Pass omnibus trade bill over Reagan veto	Y
Approve death penalty for drug-related murders	Y
Bar federal funds for abortions in cases of rape and incest	Y
Oppose seven-day waiting period for purchase of handguns	N

Voting Studies

	Presidential Support		Party Unity		Conservative Coalition	
Year	S	O	S	O	S	O
1988	59	36	86	8	97	3
1987	59	36	76	17	84	9
1986	72	26	75	18	84	14
1985	74	25	80	14	87	9
1984	54	38	68	24	85	8
1983	74	23	77	18	87	11
1982	74	16	74	17	84	5
1981	72	24	83	12	88	7

† Not eligible for all recorded votes.

Interest Group Ratings

Year	ADA	ACU	AFL-CIO	CCUS
1988	10	88	36	79
1987	12	87	6	93
1986	5	95	8	67
1985	5	71	24	76
1984	25	58	15	60
1983	5	96	6	75
1982	10	86	5	80
1981	5	100	7	94