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House of Representatives

LORENA GONZALEZ HONORED AS 2010 LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

I rise today to recognize a very hard worker and devout labor leader in southern California.

Lorena Gonzalez will be honored as the 2010 Labor Leader of the Year at the 28th Annual John S. Lyons Memorial Banquet in San Diego on September 11, 2010.

In January of 2008, Lorena Gonzalez became the secretary-treasurer and CEO for the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO. The Labor Council is a coalition of 129 local unions that represent more than 192,000 working families in the region. Upon her election, Lorena became the first woman and first person of color to serve as head of the Labor Council since the organization's inception in 1902.

The daughter of an immigrant farm worker and a nurse, Lorena learned the value of hard work and determination at an early age. After graduating from Vista High School in North San Diego County, she earned a bachelor's degree from Stanford University, a Master's degree from Georgetown University and a law degree from UCLA.

Prior to coming to the Labor Council, Lorena worked as the Senior Advisor to the office of the Lieutenant Governor of California. She served as a consultant to the Commission on Economic Development, and was the Lt. Governor's principal advisor on policy issues dealing with labor, the environment, energy, and infrastructure.

A member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 36, Lorena worked as the Labor Council's Political Director before being elected Secretary-Treasurer. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the California League of Conservation Voters San Diego, the Center for Policy Initiatives, the Environmental Health Coalition, and the United Way of San Diego. Lorena also serves on the Executive Council of the state California Labor Federation as a Vice President and on the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council/California Federation's Advisory Board.

Nonetheless, Lorena's most cherished title is that of mother. She lives in Pacific Beach with her two children—Tierra and Antonio.