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## *House of Representatives*

# HONORING BOB BALGENORTH, STATE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA SPIRIT OF THE YEAR AWARD!

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very dedicated, committed leader of the labor movement in our state who deserves to be recognized for his many achievements and contributions to organized labor.

Since being awarded the title of “Apprentice of the Year” by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 441 in 1969, Bob Balgenorth has dedicated his life to protecting the rights of workers in California’s construction industry.

After being elected business manager/financial secretary of his local union and head of the Orange County Building Trades Council, Balgenorth

has spent the past 18 years as president of the State Building & Construction Trades Council of California, which represents the 186 private-sector building trades local unions and regional councils that represent 350,000 men and women employed in the state’s construction industry.

As president of the council, President Balgenorth has helped forge a partnership between two historically opposed movements: the construction industry and environmentalists. While advocating on behalf of construction workers throughout the state, he’s also served on the boards of environmental organizations such as the California Apollo Alliance, California Unions for Reliable Energy, the California League

of Conservation Voters, and the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy.

With leaders such as President Balgenorth pressing to develop relationships with non-traditional allies, the Labor Movement is positioned to build a broad coalition of support for workers rights.

It gives me a great honor Mr. Speaker, because of President Balgenorth’s career-long commitment to building solidarity between interests which have traditionally been opposed, I join with the Executive Board of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council in honoring him with the 2010–2011, “Spirit of Solidarity Award.”