

Over the past century, the Boy Scouts of America has become one of the brightest and far-reaching youth-development organizations in our Nation with over four million youth members in its age-related divisions. Indeed, the Boy Scouts of America has become part of our national heritage. Since its founding in 1910, more than 110 million Americans have been members of the Boy Scouts of America.

Committed to teaching traditional values of trustworthiness, good citizenship, and outdoors skills through a wide range of challenging, participation-based activities and educational programs, the BSA's goal is to train youth in responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance. President Gerald Ford, a former Boy Scout himself once said, "I can say without hesitation, because of Scouting principles, I know I was a better athlete, I was a better naval officer, I was a better Congressman, and I was a better prepared President."

Part of the reason the Boy Scouts are so successful is because they live by a law and an oath that bind them to the quest for morality and brotherhood. Indeed, the Boy Scout Law is one we can all live by, "A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent."

Today we can all say for certain that the Boy Scouts of America have made our country stronger, braver, and more optimistic, as many of its politicians, astronauts, businessmen and other hard-working citizens grew up in the organization—including my own sons.

It is a sincere pleasure to stand with the Boy Scouts today, and recite an Oath which for 100 years has marked our Nation:

"On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country;
To obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."
Congratulations, Gentlemen!

LORENA GONZALEZ HONORED AS
2010 LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, 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.

RECOGNIZING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today marks 20 years since the historic Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law. It is one of the most important pieces of civil rights legislation of the last quarter century. Passage of this groundbreaking law came as a result of the efforts of legions of activists. I want to recognize two individuals, in particular, who made ADA possible. The late Justin Dart, a true civil rights leader, was instrumental in the fight to pass the law that made discrimination against people with disabilities illegal. He showed us the path, and we continue to look to his lessons as we chart new ground. His spirit is with us on this anniversary and every day that we fight for justice for all.

I also want to recognize Marca Bristo, who has been an unflagging national leader in the fight for people living with disabilities. I am lucky to call her a friend but Bristo has also been a teacher. She has educated untold numbers of people, including me, by opening our eyes to the barriers standing in the way of people with disabilities. Bristo has been at the helm of Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago for decades. As an organizer in the critical work of disability rights years before the ADA was passed in Congress, she, too, was incredibly influential in creating and shepherding the law to passage.

Since ADA's passage, we have taken many steps to build on its foundation—and we've accomplished many of our goals in recent years. This includes a historic health care bill that will prevent insurance companies from denying coverage, dropping coverage, setting discriminatory annual or lifetime limits on benefits, or charging higher premiums to people with disabilities. We have passed mental

health parity legislation. And we are providing more home- and community-based options for care.

Yet, we cannot sit back and become comfortable with what we have achieved with—and since—passage of the ADA. We know we have much more left to do. Every person must be guaranteed full access to safe housing, good jobs, educational opportunities, quality health care, cutting edge technology, and economic prosperity. Our great country can be made even greater by providing every person with the opportunity to contribute and live comfortably in their community.

We must work to enforce the ADA, not reward those who disobey it. There is simply no excuse for anyone who violates the Americans with Disabilities Act; laws that protect the rights those living with disabilities are no less important and no different from any other legal protection.

We have to make sure that the Community Choice Act is passed and implemented, to further expand the infrastructure so individuals can get convenient, quality care in the settings that everyone prefers: at home and in our own communities.

We must expand opportunities for independence. That is why I am the sponsor of H.R. 1408, the Inclusive Home Design Act, to require that new, single-family homes that get federal assistance meet minimum standards so those with disabilities can come and go freely and seniors can age in place. This is a common sense solution that ensures livability as well as sound economics. Building new homes that are accessible from the start cost several hundred dollars, while retrofitting can cost several thousand dollars or more—forcing some people to move into a nursing home.

We must also expand the realms of access for people living with disabilities—especially to new technologies that did not exist at ADA's inception. Therefore, I am also a sponsor of H.R. 4533, the Technology Bill of Rights for the Blind Act, to require that consumer products like home appliances and office equipment are manufactured so that they are fully accessible to blind consumers.

On this 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, I wholeheartedly thank the countless individuals who worked tirelessly to lay the groundwork for ADA in the decades that preceded its passage. Without their passion and activism, we would not be celebrating today. I also thank those who continue the fight, and I look forward to helping to build upon the enormous successes of the ADA—in this Congress and in those to come.

HONORING DR. RICHARD BURNEY ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Richard Burney, who will be retiring from the University of Michigan after 25 years of distinguished teaching. Dr. Burney has provided exemplary service to the citizens of the State of Michigan through his tireless dedication both to treating acutely injured patients and to training physicians in trauma care