among businesses attempting to operate in Ukraine. Such malfeasance can most properly be attributed to Ukraine’s years under Soviet rule, where such practice was commonplace, and does not reflect the overall will or potential of the nation. Rather than turning our backs on a promising democracy because it retains unfortunate facets of an outdated, oppressive political doctrine, it is my belief that we should instead continue to engage this aspiring, recovering independent nation and encourage the constructive reform Ukraine has already initiated.

Rebuilding Ukraine for its greatest challenges, rather than assisting her with them, is counterproductive and could send the signal to other nations that America has lost confidence in Ukraine’s ability to further reform its system. Such an outcome could defeat years of progress in this important democracy, and weaken the beneficial relationship between our two nations. It is essential that the United States continues to work toward ensuring an economically viable Ukraine which is critical to continued peace and stability in the region.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY: ORGANIZING AWARD

HON. BOB FILNER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United Domestic Workers of America/AFL-CIO, as they are honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO for their contributions to the labor movement and to the community as a whole.

The UDW Organizing Committee is being recognized by the Labor Council with its “Organizing Award” for their historic organizing drive in which they made over 10,000 house visits and signed up 3,200 home care workers in a record 3½ months last summer.

These home care workers, who provide domestic and personal care services to the elderly and disabled, earn minimum wage with no benefits. While they give their service in caring for the sick and infirm, they have no sick leave, no health insurance, and no retirement. Even though their work is controlled by the county and paid by the state, they are not recognized as permanent employees. They are called independent providers and have no employee rights.

To correct this situation, the new members of UDW have set up organizing committees in San Diego’s five supervisorial districts, prioritized their demands for improving their jobs, trained 30 new delegates for the UDW State Convention, and initiated a membership service program to include emergency assistance, legal consultations, life and medical insurance, and a United Domestic Workers legal aid network.

Having completed these successful accomplishments, UDW is now in the second phase of its campaign to organize the remaining 6,000 independent providers.

As a friend and supporter of UDW for many years, I want to sincerely congratulate the UDW Organizing Committee and its members on receiving this significant award from the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council for your many long hours and labor-intensive work in the cause of justice!