

NEPTUNE HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF
FAME DINNER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 30, the Neptune Township Education Foundation, Inc., and the Neptune Township Board of Education, hosted the Neptune High School Hall of Fame Dinner at Mike Doolan's Restaurant in Spring Lake Heights, New Jersey.

It is a great honor for me to join with the Neptune Township Education Township Foundation and the Board of Education in paying tribute to the distinguished inductees: Patricia Battle, Robert Davis, Jr., Ermon Jones, William King, 2nd, Harry Larrison, Jr., Lawrence Lawson, Joseph Palaia, Haydn Proctor and James Ward. All nine of these exceptional individuals have contributed significantly to our community, in Neptune, in Monmouth County and throughout the State of New Jersey, through their distinct talents and abilities. The nine awardees represent a broad cross-section of the community, a testimony to the diversity that is one of our greatest strengths. But all nine have at least two things in common: a strong record of accomplishment and a sincere desire to give something back to the community. They have all richly earned the honor of being inducted into the Neptune High School Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to these fine leaders of the Jersey Shore area in the pages of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO CANTOR NATHAN
LAM

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cantor Nathan Lam for his contribution to the music of Israel.

Geoffrey Latham once wrote that "Music is the vernacular of the human soul." As an internationally renowned musician, Cantor Lam has shared his gift of music with individuals across the world. His outstanding talent was evident from a young age; by his sixteenth birthday he had been engaged by a leading congregation to serve as a cantor for the High Holy Days.

Cantor Lam went on to study privately with several renowned teachers in almost every area of vocal music. As the cantor at the prestigious Midway Jewish Center in New York City, he began his own commissioning program. In 1976, Cantor Lam assumed his post at Stephen S. Wise Temple, which is now the largest synagogue in the world. Over the past 22 years, he has developed numerous musical programs.

At Stephen S. Wise Temple, Cantor Lam has trained a new generation of cantors, sharing with them his love of music and commitment to the Jewish community. The temple has established a scholarship in his name, enabling these exceptional students to follow in his footsteps. Cantor Lam is also a well known

voice coach with a national reputation, working with some of the biggest names in the music industry today.

Cantor Lam has performed in concerts across the world, appeared on television both nationally and internationally, performed opera and sung his vast Jewish repertoire in a multitude of public appearances. He has released a number of recordings, including "Legacy," which represents a landmark collaboration between the talents of the National Symphony of Israel and the kind of Jewish musical innovation exemplified by Cantor Lam, and other well known composers. In addition, Cantor Lam has been featured in a multitude of articles and television shows.

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Israel, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the remarkable accomplishments of Cantor Lam, along with his commitment to Jewish life and Israel. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring one of the preeminent musicians of our time, Cantor Nathan Lam.

"THE LONG WAY HOME"—ACAD-
EMY AWARD WINNER FOR BEST
DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the artists responsible for the Holocaust film "The Long Way Home," which recently won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. This magnificent project, which reflects the splendid talents of some of Hollywood's most brilliant geniuses, approaches the Holocaust from an angle often ignored by historians and storytellers alike, recounting the moving and tumultuous experience of Jewish refugees from the time of Hitler's fall in 1945 to the birth of the State of Israel fifty years ago last week.

It is a history of a three year period marked by the tragedy of its horrific origin and guided by the hope that the suffering of Jews would, at long last, end in the ultimate victory of the Zionist cause. It is an account of a numerically (but not spiritually) depleted people trying to cope with the destruction of its families and lives, struggling to shape its future against the mountainous obstacles of poverty, bigotry, and confusion. Most of all, "The Long Way Home" is a story about the dignity and determination of survivors who refused to surrender their values and ideals, regardless of the costs.

During the Spring of 1945, the Third Reich came to end. Advancing American, British, and Russian forces rolled across Europe, freeing its citizens from years of tyranny and liberating the most notorious centers of Nazi crimes, the concentration camps. One by one they fell, Buchenwald, Dachau, Mauthausen, Bergen-Belsen, providing Allied soldiers with vivid and unfiltered evidence of the atrocities of Hitler's "Final Solution."

Even after the extent of the German crimes became known, however, several questions remained unanswered, most notably: Where could the survivors go? How could they put their lives back together? How would they be accepted by Germans and the rest of the world community?

Many of the persecuted Jews remained in "Displaced Persons Camps" for many months, some to be rehabilitated under the watchful care of American and British doctors and others simply because they had no other place to live. While the conditions were no doubt preferable to the concentration camps, many Jews were left in a continued state of danger, homelessness, and confusion. The barbed wire remained, and overcrowding and destitute living conditions prevailed throughout the DP sites. Former Nazis and other displaced German nationals were often mixed together with the Jewish population, causing violence and bitter bigotry.

For those Jews who attempted to return to their pre-war homes, the situation was even worse. Their families had been murdered by Hitler's thugs; their former neighbors were embittered by years of war and suffering; and, as in Germany during the Depression, the temptation of a Jewish scapegoat was often too great. In a village near Vilna, Lithuania, five Jewish survivors were found murdered. Found in their pockets was a message written in Polish stating that "this will be the fate of all surviving Jews."

While many Holocaust survivors, including myself and my wife, were fortunate to be welcomed into this wonderful country, not all refugees were blessed with this option. Due to xenophobia and fears of Communist infiltration, even the existing legal immigration quotas were not filled. In other nations, outright bigotry prevented Jewish resettlement. Most Jews remained in Europe, locked behind the gates of DP camps or wandering amidst the remains of their pre-war lives, looking beyond the horizon for a land of their own, a homeland where they would be free from the struggles that had so painfully burdened them and their ancestors. They longed to create an independent Jewish state in their biblical mandate of Palestine.

"The Long Way Home" tells the beautiful and inspiring story of the achievement of the Zionist dream. With exceptional archival footage and gripping first-person interviews, it recounts the struggle from the concentration camps to the kibbutz, from Auschwitz to Jerusalem. It stirring documents the attempts of refugees to enter Palestine, and the unyielding British opposition to the Zionist movement, which showed itself in the Royal Navy's interception of refugee ships and its deportation of their occupants to camps located in the 100-degree heat of Cypress. To the great credit and pride of the American people, it also documents the courageous and unabated support which President Harry S. Truman exhibited in his support of the Jewish people and their future State of Israel. As "The Long Way Home" inspiringly chronicles, this great man rejected anti-Semitic pressures and, guided by his most noble principles, led the fight in the international community for the establishment of a Jewish homeland.

This extraordinary film is a tribute not only to Holocaust survivors and the founders of Israel, but also to the outstanding talents of Hollywood's finest and most creative individuals. Writer-director Mark John Harris possesses an understanding of history matched only by his superior film making talents. Co-producer Richard Trank, cinematographer Don Lenzer, and editor Kate Amend also contributed to this masterpiece, as did the moving score of composer Lee Holdridge. Some of

the most celebrated stars of the motion picture industry devoted their time, energy, and prodigious abilities to "The Long Way Home," most notably narrator Morgan Freeman and featured voices Edward Asner, Sean Astin, Martin Landau, Miriam Margolyes, David Paymer, Nina Siemaszko, Helen Slater and Michael York. Together they created, in the words of the Los Angeles Times, "an eloquent saga of historical importance" and "a major accomplishment."

Most of all, I would like to recognize my dear friend Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the co-producer of "The Long Way Home." Rabbi Hier has devoted his life to ensuring the eternal remembrance of the Holocaust, and it was most appropriate that he accepted the film's Academy Award. As he looked out to the many prestigious guests and the hundreds of millions of worldwide viewers, he let no soul forget the purpose and meaning of his documentary: "This is for the survivors of the Holocaust, who walked away from the ashes, rebuilt their lives, and helped create the state of Israel. G-d bless them."

Mr. Speaker, the Kennedy Center, in cooperation with the Simon Wiesenthal Center, will present a screening of "The Long Way Home" tonight. I encourage my colleagues to attend, and I ask them to join me in celebrating the inspiring men and women to whom "The Long Way Home" is dedicated.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STUDENT
OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP
ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to the Republican District of Columbia School Vouchers Act. It was brought to the floor on false logic and ignores the real problems in public education.

Let's take the Republican argument at face value for a minute. If public schools in the District of Columbia are unable to educate our children, as my colleagues claim, is the solution to remove 2,000 of them and place them in private schools? What do we do for the 76,000 students left behind?

In fact, these 75,000 will have to do with less funds available to help their education. It will cost \$7 million to educate these 2,000 students in private schools—but this bill does not allow for additional funds to help the remaining children. How else could this \$7 million be spent? The money could pay for after-school programs in each and every D.C. public school, 368 new boilers, could rewire 65 schools, upgrade plumbing in 102 schools, or buy 460,000 new textbooks.

The people who live in the District of Columbia do not want this bill. The people of the District of Columbia did get the chance to vote on vouchers when the issue was placed on the ballot. It was defeated by a margin of eight to one.

The residents of our host city do not deserve to be experiments for right-wing think

tanks that promote ideas favored by the Christian Coalition and the religious right.

If my colleagues on the other side are truly interested in helping students enrolled in public schools, I offer some suggestions for them. Why don't we increase the funds available for teacher salaries? How about holding teachers to educational standards of their own to make sure that those who teach our children are actually qualified to do so? What about providing a textbook in every core subject for every school child in America?

What about adopting the President's plan to improve our educational infrastructure? We need to make sure that school classrooms are not falling apart and students have the resources they need, whether they be textbooks or access to the Internet, to be able to succeed in today's world.

My Republican friends could make a strong stand for education by adopting these policies. Instead they shower us with rhetoric about helping children, when this is really an attack on public education across the country.

The schoolchildren of the District of Columbia deserve our help and need our assistance. This is the wrong move, the wrong idea, and the wrong time and place. I urge my colleagues to take a real and meaningful stand for children and education.

THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, by now we have heard about the problems that will ensue in less than two years if computer systems across the nation are not updated. In the past, computers were programmed to assume all years were in the 1900s, so when the year 2000 rolls around, most systems will incorrectly interpret the last two digits and read it as 1900. This could have a profound effect on our daily lives: automatic banking functions may fail, medical systems could malfunction, and power systems might stop working.

If this problem is not remedied, it will most likely have a devastating impact on our economy. Today's Wall Street Journal reports that "the U.S. may experience a \$1 trillion drop in nominal GDP and a \$1 trillion loss in stock market capitalization." Mr. Speaker, I don't see how our economy could possibly survive these losses.

For years experts have been aware of the Year 2000 Problem, but nothing has been done to remedy the situation. The President and Vice President have ignored this dilemma, despite their claims to make technology a top priority in both terms of their administration. We need leadership in this effort, and we are not seeing it come from the White House.

Imagine the disaster that could result if air traffic control devices simultaneously fail when the clock strikes midnight on January 1, 2000. Clearly this is not an issue that we can take lightly. Mr. Speaker, it is up to us to do our part and make sure that government computers are updated and to educate the public on this potential crisis. I commend the Senate for

taking the initiative to form a Special Committee to oversee this transition. It's time the Administration begins doing its part to combat the Year 2000 Problem.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD AND
BARBARA ROSENBERG

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Richard and Barbara Rosenberg for their outstanding commitment to strengthening the Jewish community in the Conejo Valley and for their support of the State of Israel. They will be awarded the Builders of Freedom Award in recognition of their dedication.

We are told in the Talmud that "He who does charity and justice is as if he had filled the whole world with kindness." For over 18 years Richard and Barbara have been dedicated members of Temple Etz Chaim, as well as social activists in the Jewish community. They have each worked to improve our community.

Barbara has served the Temple on the Board of Directors as Vice President of Ways and Means, Social Action and currently Youth Activities. She also holds positions on the Membership, Ways & Means and Religious Education Committees.

An avid supporter of education, Barbara has served on the Board of the Los Angeles Hebrew High School for the past three years. There she has worked to solidify the Jewish community through a Jewish Federation/Valley Alliance sponsored "Mitzvah Day." This program has brought other Conejo Valley congregations and Jewish organizations together for service to the community. During her two years as president of the Religious School Parent Volunteer Group, Barbara was instrumental in its reorganization so that it could better make a difference in the community.

Richard has served on the Temple Board as Vice President of Development, and was actively involved in both the building process and the solicitation of funds for the new building. He has served on the Men's Club Board, has been an active participant in many of its programs from picnics to sukkah building and has labeled, sorted and mailed the temple bulletin for almost 18 years.

We are told in the Talmud that "When you teach your son you teach your son's sons," and both Richard and Barbara Rosenberg have taken that commitment to education seriously. In addition to their work to fortify the Jewish community as a whole, they have also raised their children with a love of Judaism and a commitment to "make a difference" in the world. They are strong supporters of the State of Israel and have traveled there on several occasions. For their work they have been awarded the Builders of Freedom Award.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Richard and Barbara Rosenberg. Their dedication to charity and the strengthening of community makes them role models for us all.