

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 stirringly 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