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COMMISSIONER LAHORI RAM'S NINTH BARSII

"Time is not measured by the years that you live but by the deeds that you do and the joy that you give."

Pittsburg (Ambedkar Times Bureau): On January 28, 2018 the Ram Family hosted a religious function celebrating the life of Late Commissioner Lahori Ram. The Ram Family hosted an Akhand Path at the Shri Guru Ravidass Temple in Pittsburg, CA. The function commemorated the Ninth Anniversary of the passing of Mr. Lahori Ram. Over 1000 friends, family and well-wishers attended the memorial. People traveled from all over the United States to attend the function. Many people traveled interna-

Bakersfield.

Most of the local BayArea Sikh Temples sent their representatives to attend the memorial. The Committee members of the Gurdwara Sahib from Fremont, Yuba City, Sacramento, Rio Linda, Fresno, Bakersfield, Fairfield, San Jose, Hayward, Modesto, Livingston and El Sobrante were all present.

Assemblyman Ash Kalraspoke about Mr. Lahori Ram's contribution to the American political system. He said we need more Indian Americans to be

honor of Mr. Ram. It was his first time visiting the Temple. City Council Merl Craft remembered how she used to teach at the old Pittsburg City gym, which is now the new Temple in Pittsburg. She was amazed of how the building was transformed into such a beautiful Temple. Mrs. Craft said the Temple was an asset to the City of Pittsburg and loves working with the Ram Family. Asha Sharma said that Mr. Lahori Ram was a shining star that can never be replaced. She said that even though nine years

Dr. Harmesh Kumar also commended the Ram Family for continuing the annual Memorial prayer and spoke about his love and respect for Mr. Ram.

Dashwinder Pal spoke about Lahori Ram's sacrifice in establishing the Pittsburg Temple. He said that without the Ram Family's contribution the Temple would not be in existence. He gave a little history about how Mr. Ram helped buy the first building for the Temple in 1984 and how he helped buy the new building for the Temple.



All pictures by Prem K. Chumber "Ambedkar Times"

tionally to pay homage to their dear friend and give support to the family to continue the annual memorial to keep Mr. Ram's memory alive.

On Friday January 26, 2018 the prayer was started. Many members of the family, friends and representatives from local Congressman Mark DeSaulnier's office were present to start the prayer. Many dignitaries attended on Sunday and praised the work Mr. Ram accomplished in his lifetime. The elected officials included: California Assemblyman Ash Kalra from the 27th Assembly District, California Assemblyman Tim Grayson representing the 14th Assembly District which includes Pittsburg, CA, San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa, San Mateo County Sheriff Carlos Bolanos, Mayor of Lathrop Sonny Dhaliwal, and City Council of Pittsburg Merl Craft.

Kirtan was performed by Shri Guru Ravidass Temple Pittsburg's head priest Bhai Ompal Singh and Bhai Gural Singh's Jatha, Bhai Rachpal Singh's Jatha from San Jose, Bibi Asha Sharma and famous folk singer Raj Brar from

active in US politics. He said that because of the work of Mr. Ram, the young generations have an easier path in politics and he credited his success to the leadership of Mr. Ram.

Assemblyman Tim Grayson praised Mr. Lahori Ram for his dedication, efforts, and involvement in the American and Indian political system. He stressed that Mr. Ram was a role model and inspiration to many which earned him the title of "Indian Trailblazer in California Politics." He presented the Ram Family with a Certificate of Recognition honoring the life accomplishments and legacy of Mr. Ram. Mr. Grayson represents the Pittsburg area. It was the first time he visited the Temple. He said he was overwhelmed by the congregation and by the peaceful feeling of love in the Temple.

Supervisor David Canepa presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Ram Family. He declared Sunday January 28, 2018 as "Commissioner Lahori Ram Day" in San Mateo County.

Sheriff Carlos Bolanos said that he was very impressed with the annual celebrations the family held every year in

have passed, it feels like her brother had just left yesterday. She said that he used to introduce her to Congress members and Governors as "his sister."

Special Assistant to California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones, Sadaf Sukhia, presented the Family with a Proclamation honoring the service of Mr. Ram. Reverend Tony Pierce, from Los Angeles, who was Deputy Secretary of State for the State of California, attested that Mr. Ram's contributions will never be forgotten and will live on forever.

Sister Sukanya, representing the Brahma Kumaris, said that Brother Ram will shine on through his family and community. His hard work in this country will never be forgotten.

OP Balley also spoke about his long time relations with Commissioner Ram. He mentioned that his Father and the Ram Family were close in Punjab. He also remembered the early days of the Sabha. When meetings were done at members' homes and all the members worked together in harmony. He respected Mr. Ram's leadership qualities and said he missed his friend.

Bishop Ted Frazer, President of BAEPAC, spoke about Mr. Ram's humility. Patrick Vanier, Deputy District Attorney County of Santa Clara, said that he had heard about Mr. Ram's work and now was able to appreciate it after attending the Ninth Memorial. Eduardo Roy, prominent attorney from San Francisco, spoke about the love of family he feels when he sees the Ram Family.

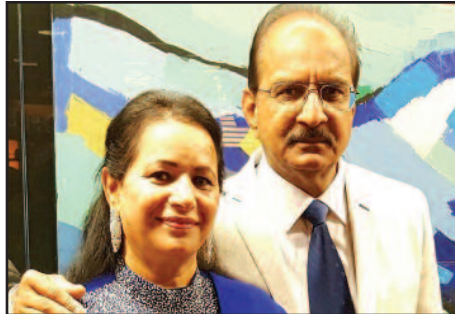
Ram Sewak Bhatia from Yuba City spoke about how much Mr. Ram has done for the family. He said that he brought him to this country and helped so many others. Many federal level politicians could not attend because of the US government shut down. Congresswoman Jackie Speier and Congresswoman Barbara Lee sent special letters in honor of Commissioner Ram.

Jagdev, Ajaipauland Jagdish Kaur Ram thanked everyone for helping out in the three-day service and especially thanked the community and elected officials for their encouragement and support. They appreciated the great things said about their Father and hope to continue the work their Father started.



All pictures by Prem K. Chumber "Ambedkar Times"





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