

## **Frank Pallone honored by Kashmiris - A report by India West dated April 19, 2002**

Los Angeles: Indo-American Political Foundation based in Los Angeles held a reception for more than half-a-dozen California Members of Congress at Crown Plaza Airport Hotel on Saturday, April 6, 2002.

The only out of State invitee was New Jersey Congressman Frank Pallone Jr. who had just returned from his trip to India and could not attend the function.

However, his absence did not deter the Kashmiri Pandit community of the US to honor him with a plaque and praise him for his contribution to the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community. "In recognition of your continued support for displaced Kashmiri Pandits worldwide, we honor you Padamshree Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.", read the plaque. The community was represented by Jeevan Zutshi, founding member and national director of Indo-American Kashmir Forum, who made a very impassioned speech about the plight of his displaced community in India.

The plaque was received, on Pallone's behalf, by Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, an upcoming and popular Congresswoman from California who also serves on Armed services and education committees. The other members of Congress from California were Xavier Bacerra,, Bob Filner, Mike Honda, Juanita Millender- McDonald, Diane Watson and Hilda Solis.

The reception was attended by 400 community leaders from California. It was the first of its kind where seven members of Congress, all Democrats were present at the same time and place to hear the concerns of Indo-American community and voice their support for India. The event was put together by Sunil Aghi, President of Indo-American Political Foundation who is a very staunch Democrat and has contributed significantly in the promotion of Indo-US relations in the past several years.