

*Barnegat High School
Graduation Speech*

Good evening everyone. It is again an honor to address this year's graduating class here at Barnegat High School. As the Mayor, it is times like this that makes my job a little more rewarding. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Barnegat Township Board of Education, President Houser, Vice President Becker, Dr. Mahon, Dean Allison and Barnegat High School Principal, Dr. Saxton, for inviting the Township Committee to participate in this very important event.

As I look out at the faces of this graduating class, I can only reflect on how I felt as a senior in the Class of 1969. Although that was 40 years ago, not a lot has changed since then. I, just as you, was challenged with what to do next. Do I continue my education, enter the armed forces, or start a career and maybe a family? All of you face these same questions. Don't be afraid to look for guidance from the people that helped you to reach this day. Your parents, your teachers, your counselors, your administrators and your friends. They all saw you through 13 years of schooling for one reason, to see you succeed. As you move on today to a very complex and highly competitive world, their help will be more important than ever.

As a 30 year resident of Barnegat, I have seen tremendous growth in our school system and I am proud to say that Barnegat Township has some of the best schools that New Jersey has to offer. All of you, the Barnegat High School senior class, should be just as proud.

Consider yourselves as one of the best!

As your Mayor, I congratulate you, the Barnegat High School Class of 2009 and wish you all of the best that life has to offer.

May God bless you all and your families, may God bless our troops,

May God bless America and our great town of Barnegat.

Thank you,

**Jeffrey M. Melchiondo
Mayor, Barnegat Township**