

would be back within a week. Alas, he never returned.

According to reliable witnesses, Wallenberg and his driver were arrested and taken to Moscow, where they were thrown into prison. At first, the Soviet authorities maintained that Wallenberg had been taken into custody by the Red Army and that he was under their protection. However, nothing more was heard of him until 1947, when Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Vyshinsky, in answer to repeated Swedish inquiries, stated that he was not in the Soviet Union and his whereabouts were unknown to them.

That was a blatant lie. Soviet prisoners of war, chiefly German, who were released in the early 1950s confirmed that Wallenberg had indeed been captured and imprisoned in Moscow, first in the dreaded Lubyanka and then in Lefortovskaya prison. The Swedish Government intensified their inquiries, only to be told by the Soviet authorities that they had nothing to add to what they had said on the subject back in 1947.

Again, during a visit to Moscow in 1956, the Swedish Prime Minister raised the matter with the Soviet leadership. He produced irrefutable evidence that Wallenberg had been imprisoned by the Soviets. The Soviet answer to this was not given until the following year—in the form of a note from the Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko to the Swedish Ambassador in Moscow. In that note—to which the Soviet Government have unfailingly referred every time there have been inquiries from the West—it was stated that, as a result of a thorough investigation by the Soviet authorities, it had been discovered that a prisoner named “Walenberg”—with one ‘l’, which is the Lithuanian spelling of the name—had in fact died from a heart attack in 1947 in Lubyanka. It was also asserted that all the documents pertaining to his case had disappeared and that there was only a handwritten report about his death made by the head of the prison hospital service, one A.L. Smoltsov, who had since died. It seems that Smoltsov had informed the Minister for State Security, Abakumov, who himself was later to be executed in the purges of the Security Police, that Wallenberg was dead. Abakumov, of course, was a convenient person to blame for having misled the Soviet Foreign Ministry in the first place. There was lie after lie, deception after deception.

I must tell noble Lords that the Swedish Government have never accepted—and as far as I am aware, no Western government has accepted—the Soviet line that Wallenberg died in 1947. Why should I say that? The answer is that there is abundant evidence that he was alive after that date.

Further evidence did come to light in later years indicating that Wallenberg was alive but imprisoned in the Soviet Union. Indeed the great Russian historian Solzhenitsyn has testified that he met a Swede fitting Wallenberg's description during his own imprisonment.

Is it possible then that Raoul Wallenberg could still be alive? Well, it is not impossible. If he were alive today, he would be just two years older than myself. Spartan conditions have on occasions—many a doctor can testify to this—proved beneficial to a long life. Incredible though it may sound, during his research for the BBC's brilliant “Man Alive” documentary on Wallenberg, John Bierman met a Russian Jew, Leonid Berger, who was allowed to emigrate in 1978 after spending no fewer than 35 years in Soviet jails.

It is my duty to draw your Lordships' attention to rumours being circulated that the family of Raoul Wallenberg now accepts that he is no longer alive. There is no truth in this. Indeed, contact has been made with

United States Congressman Tom Lantos, who was himself rescued from death by Wallenberg and is the only survivor of the Holocaust to be elected to the United States Congress. The Congressman's office contacted Nina Lagergren, Wallenberg's half-sister, and she has categorically denied that any member of the Wallenberg family concedes that he is dead. I am happy to take this opportunity of paying a tribute to Congressman Lantos, who has kept Wallenberg's name alive both inside and outside the United States Congress and was also responsible for him being granted honorary American citizenship.

It is now generally accepted that during his stay in Hungary, Wallenberg saved 100,000 lives. We should never, never, never forget this. May I humbly suggest that we should honour this brave man by following the example already provided by our American friends and allies by making him an honorary British citizen? In an almost poetic sense, honorary citizenship is uniquely appropriate to Wallenberg quite simply because he used the privilege of Swedish citizenship to save thousands of innocent lives. Indeed, conferring citizenship—the instrument Wallenberg exercised with so much courage, generosity and imagination—accounts not only for the fact that thousands who were granted Swedish citizenship by him are still alive today and have children and grandchildren, but also for the fact that, following his example, other countries which were neutrals in the war—Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and the Vatican—granted citizenship as a means of saving Jewish lives.

Why then even after all these years should we in Britain honour Wallenberg's name in this way? The answer is that, with no thought for his own safety, in what has been called “the slaughterhouse that was Budapest”, he accomplished the impossible. Sometimes alone, sometimes with others, he thwarted the designs of the most murderous regime the civilised world has ever seen. He bribed the unspeakable Nazis; he charmed them on occasions; he lied to them; he certainly threatened and bullied them; and used every other means he could devise to save the lives of the Budapest Jews. He was a Swedish diplomat. He had some authority. He even entered the deportation trains himself to pull of innocent human beings who would otherwise have gone to a cruel death. He worked incessantly, at great personal risk with utter disregard for his own safety, and through the sheer force of his example inspired hundreds of others to assist him.

At the end, when the Red Army entered Budapest, and what little remained of Nazi rule collapsed into anarchy, Wallenberg worked on tirelessly. He told a Swedish diplomat who urged him to seek cover in the Swedish Legation:

“For me there is no choice . . . I'd never be able to go back to Stockholm without knowing inside myself that I'd done all a man could do to save as many Jews as possible.”

So it is that we remember Wallenberg because he has become more than a hero of our times. He symbolises the central conflict of our age, the determination to remain human, caring and free in the face of unspeakable tyranny. What Wallenberg represented in Budapest was nothing less than the conscience of the civilised world. By abducting and imprisoning him, the Soviet authorities did more than violate the long-standing rules of diplomacy accepted by civilised nations and their governments, they demonstrated contempt for everything his dedication and bravery in Budapest had achieved.

Yet even the Soviet Union of those days did not succeed in suppressing his achieve-

ments. Just as the Nazis could not keep him from his mission, so the Soviets failed to obliterate his legacy.

All mankind owes a great debt to this man, not only for the 100,000 lives he saved, but also for the example he gave us as to how one man with courage to care, even in history's darkest hour, can become a beacon of light and can make a difference.

There are two very good reasons for remembering this courageous man. First, because as the author of Milan Kundera observes, “The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting.” Secondly, to paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, the world may little note nor long remember what we say here, but surely it will always remember what Raoul Wallenberg did to salvage the dignity of the human spirit from what was a hell on earth. It is a great honour to pay tribute to him this afternoon.

THE PASSAIC SEMI-PRO LEAGUE

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing so truly American as the game of baseball. It, like Spring itself, returns each year to capture the imagination of millions as our true national pastime.

We in the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey have indeed been fortunate to have enjoyed a rich baseball tradition for decades, one that has been carried forth by a high level of competition that has come to characterize the Passaic County Semi-Pro League. On Friday, May 5, 1995, that tradition will again be celebrated with the tenth annual salute to Passaic semi-pro baseball at the Athenia Veterans Hall in Clifton, N.J. Hosted by the dinner committee of Ted Lublanecki, Jr., Ben Lublanecki, Jean Lublanecki, and Mike Ivanish, I am sure this celebration will be, as usual, a great success fitting of the honorees' accomplishments.

This year's event is made truly special by the highlighting of the careers of men who brought honor to themselves, their teams, and the Passaic Semi-Pro League. The honored group includes Raymond Tkacz, Donald J. Patlen, Gasper Pellegrino, and Jack Kelsall. For the benefit of you and our colleagues, I would like to note some of the accomplishment of these outstanding gentlemen:

Ray Tkacz is the youngest of the honorees this year. He started his baseball career with Wallington High School. After graduation, he moved onto local semi-pro teams such as the Wallington Hillside, the Wallington Demchaks, and the Garfield Benignos. Not only was Ray a good team player, but he was a great coach, and he volunteered his time helping many teams achieve greatness. Ray coached in both the Wallington Little League and Babe Ruth League, American Legion Post 347, and Clifton Junior and Senior High School. His persistence and dedication led Passaic County High School and Bergen County American Legion Championships. On and off the field, Ray has always demonstrated the qualities of a winner. Already an inductee of the Bergen County Baseball Hall of Fame, Ray currently resides in Wallington where he continues his active interest in the sport.

Donald J. Patlen was a fine all-around player whose career lasted from 1948–1960. He earned two varsity letters for Passaic High School, and graduated from Farleigh Dickinson University in 1955 with a degree in Business Administration and six varsity letters: four in baseball and two in basketball. His career average at FDU was .350, and he was a Second Team All-East selection.

Donald started playing semi-pro baseball in Passaic, playing for the Drazins, the Bisons, the Demuro Comets, and the Uncle Sams, before joining one of the best teams in the North Jersey League, the Haledon Granetell Giants. With Donald's help, the Granetell Giants were able to win both the North Jersey and the Essex County League titles in the same year, and then went on to win the Tournament of Champions.

After graduation in 1955, Donald signed with another Giants club, this one of the National League. He went to spring training in 1956 and played with the likes of Willie McCovey, Orlando Cepeda, and Juan Marichal. Playing in Danville, VA, and St. Cloud, MN, Donald was batting .300 and playing centerfield regularly when he was called upon to serve his country in the U.S. Army. His time in the service did not stop him from playing ball, however, as Donald joined the Fort Knox, KY, and Italy baseball teams for the 1956 and 1957 seasons.

After returning home from the Army, he went to spring training again in 1958, being assigned to Corpus Christi, TX. Unfortunately, he was injured 3 weeks into the season and retired from professional baseball. Donald played for 2 more years with the semipro Clifton Dodgers, then stopped playing all together. Like Ray Tkacz, Donald is also a member of the Bergen County Hall of Fame.

Gasper Pellegrino played from 1947 to 1956. A Navy veteran, Gasper attended East Rutherford High School. After graduating, he tried to follow in the footsteps of the greats of his era: DiMaggio, Gehrig, and Ruth. Tryouts with the New York Giants and the St. Louis Cardinals proved unsuccessful, but Gasper continued his career with the Carlstadt Pros, the Passaic Kenyons, the Garfield Nationals, the Uncle Sams, and the Passaic Demuro Comets, helping the Demuro Comets to become one of the best teams of the day. Gasper is a retired letter carrier and lives in West Paterson, NJ.

Jack "Rabbit" Kelsall was a three-sport star at Garfield High School. A second baseman for the baseball team, Jack was the captain for his senior year, 1948, and was selected to the All-State, All-Bergen, and All-Passaic Valley Conference first teams. He went on to play at Stevens Institute of Technology, earning four varsity letters and again becoming captain during his senior year of 1952. Upon graduation Jack was offered a professional contract by the Detroit Tigers, but opted instead for a career in engineering.

Jack's semipro baseball career began in 1946 with the Garfield Jewells A.C. From 1946 to 1955, Jack played for the Garfield Benignos, the Paterson Chevy Red Sox, Passaic Maple Leafs, Bergen Bengals, and the Garfield Bucs, often played 6 or 7 days a week for many years. While his love of playing ball kept him active as a shortstop in a softball league well into his fifties, Jack is now retired, living in Matawan, NJ, where he coached Little League and Babe Ruth teams for 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, each of these individuals, through their countless and diverse contributions to the game of baseball have enriched the heritage of our great game not just in Passaic County, but wherever it is played throughout the world. I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring these gentlemen during the 10th annual salute to Passaic semipro baseball.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR GONZALO
BARRIENTOS

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker and Members, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and former colleague from the Texas State Legislature, Senator Gonzalo Barrientos of Travis County. He will be honored this week at the Texas State Capitol as Texas Governor for a Day. This is a ceremonial honor bestowed on a Texas Senator every 2 years in recognition for his or her service to the State.

Senator Barrientos represents senatorial District 14, encompassing parts of Travis and Hays Counties, which includes the capital of Austin. He serves as chairman of the committee of the whole senate on legislative and congressional redistricting and a member of the senate committees on education, finance, nominations and natural resources. He was elected as senate president pro tempore for the current legislative session. He also chairs the Austin transportation study policy and advisory committee.

Senator Barrientos has always enjoyed and rightly deserves a reputation as an activist legislator with an impressive record of accomplishments. He is a 20-year veteran of the State legislature, having served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1975 to 1985 before his current tenure in the Texas Senate.

Notable among his accomplishments are legislative initiatives relating to elder abuse and high school dropouts. He has championed various issues during his career, including civil and constitutional rights, consumers and tenants' rights, environmental protection, benefits for State employees, efficiency in State government, education reform, health care, affordable housing, and historic preservation.

Prior to his first election, Gonzalo worked as an organizer for the National Urban League; as a program officer for VISTA/Peace Corps; and as a trainer for the Leadership Institute for Community Development in Washington, DC. His background with community organizations has contributed to his sensitivity toward the disenfranchised and powerless, and reflects his working class upbringing in central Texas.

He greatly values his Mexican-American heritage, and uses his position in the Texas Senate to be an advocate for women, the disabled, and all people of color. His work has benefited Hispanics across the country.

Senator Barrientos is the recipient of many awards, including the Texas Public Employees Association Outstanding Legislator of the Year; the Texas Outstanding Public Servants Award; the Texas Association of Community Development Award of Outstanding Contributor to Community Development, and the Texas

Rehabilitation Association's Legislative Excellence Award.

He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. The university continues to be a major force of his work because it is one of his largest constituent organizations. He is proud of his associations with its faculty, students, and the many young people enrolled in public and private schools in the Austin/San Marcos area.

Gonzalo is married to Emma Serrato of Galveston, and they are the parents of five children. He is a devoted husband and father, and is a role model for people across the State.

I am proud to be among Senator Gonzalo Barrientos' many friends. I invite my colleagues in the U.S. Congress to join me in honoring this true Texas hero.

NATIONAL PROPANE SAFETY
WEEK

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring to the attention of my colleagues the fact that for over 70 years, the propane gas industry has been making significant contributions to American life with remarkable degrees of dependability, efficiency, and above all safety.

To highlight the industry's sincere concern with safety, the National Propane Gas Association sponsors National Propane Safety Week, which is being held this year from May 1–5. The Safety Awareness Week will include safety demonstrations and anti-tampering messages as well as helpful tips on using gas grills, handling cylinders for recreational vehicles, what to do if a homeowner smells gas, and how to handle a pilot light that won't light.

All across the country, manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors regularly help in educating the over 60 million consumers of propane on the sage use of this gas. Consumers use this common fuel to heat their homes, and barns, dry their crops, and fuel their vehicles and machinery. National Propane Safety Week will play an important role in reinforcing the safety education of those who already have access to this pertinent information, as well as in making it available to those who do not.

A home safety audit, called Gas Check, is another initiative strongly recommended by the National Propane Gas Association throughout Safety Week. Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, Gas Check® stresses consumer education, and after a thorough examination of operation of propane appliances. This kind of attention to the safety needs of consumers should not go unrecognized or unappreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress my support for all of the propane dealers in my district who put safety first, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same. I would also like to personally commend the National Propane Gas Association and its constituent dealers for their efforts to promote public awareness about propane safety issues through their sponsorship of and participation in National Propane Safety Week.