

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.