

Baptist Members, as that same afternoon, they also laid the cornerstone for another mission work, the East Main Street Baptist Church, now the Loomis Park Baptist Church.

The new church faced an early disaster when their building burned in May of 1897. They made the decision to rebuild, and also to become an independent church the same year. In August of that year, they organized with a membership of 34, and laid the foundation for their new building in October. When finished at the end of that year, the new church had taken the name Memorial Baptist.

The church prospered in the years leading up to World War I. During the war, when the school required more property, the church sold its property to the school and moved their church and parsonage both across the road to their present location, at the southeast corner of Griswold and Third. The building was greatly expanded in 1934 with an addition to the east that increased the seating capacity to 249 in the upstairs auditorium. In 1930, the church had begun regular broadcasts on WIBM (then 1370 kHz) that continued periodically up through 1959.

As the church continued to grow, the facilities became much too small in the 1950's. The church decided to build a new facility to accommodate the needs. Accordingly, in 1954, lots were purchased at the corner of High and Bowen, ground was broken in 1955, and a new building completed in 1959. When the church moved in October 1959, the name was changed to Cascaded Baptist Church. The building was built for a cost of \$165,000, though valued at \$250,000. Volunteer work had greatly helped reduce costs. The mortgage was burned in November 1964.

Later, in 1978 under Paster A.R. Gould, the church underwent a major redecorating on the inside to give it the present warm and attractive interior. Also during Rev. Gould's ministry, the church undertook the ministry of Jackson Baptist Schools, which has grown greatly to a present enrollment of over 375 students. Recently, under present paster, Rev. Berry Jones, the church has added a gym and band facility to their high school. Though valued at nearly a million dollars, the building cost much less due to volunteer labor, and the construction was paid for almost entirely in cash.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute the Cascades Baptist Church as it celebrates a century of caring. This honor is a testament to the past members and those today whose personal interest, strong support, and active participation contributed to this accomplishment. Their future is God's work and I wish them continued success.

HONORING 100 YEARS OF THE WOODLAWN HEIGHTS TAX- PAYERS AND COMMUNITY ASSO- CIATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago, the residents of the North Bronx established a civic organization called the Woodlawn Heights Taxpayers and Community Association. Their motto was "To Make This a Better Place in Which to Live." And, for 100 years they have lived this motto.

I have had the privilege to work closely with this association on numerous community and neighborhood projects. They have a history of success in making Woodlawn a better place in which to live. These successes have led to a better Bronx and a better New York City. From securing a neighborhood library to preventing a discriminatory tax assessment, from spearheading beautiful programs to keeping open the local fire station, the Woodlawn Heights Taxpayers and Community Association has a record of accomplishment hard to beat.

The people of Woodlawn, of the Bronx, and of New York City have something of which to be very proud.

To the officers past and present and to the members of the Woodlawn Heights Taxpayers and Community Association—Thank you for your efforts, your hard work, and your dedication.

COMMENDING LORD BRAINE OF WHEATLEY FOR CHAMPIONING THE CASE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF LORDS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as we recall the 50th anniversary of the Allied victory over fascism in the Second World War, we cannot forget the individual heroes of the holocaust. The Congress of the United States, always at the forefront of the battle for liberty and human rights, bestowed honorary American citizenship upon Raoul Wallenberg in recognition of his triumphant battle to save as many as 100,000 innocent lives from certain death at the hands of the Nazis.

There are many others around the world who have also dedicated their lives to pursuing the truth behind Wallenberg's disappearance into the gulag and to teaching the world about his heroic deeds. On this day, I wish to commend The Right Honorable Lord Braine of Wheatley for opening debate in the House of Lords about the lost hero of the Holocaust, Raoul Wallenberg. Throughout his 45 years in Parliament, Lord Braine has championed the case of human rights. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Lord Braine's lifelong efforts, and I offer an excerpt from his opening speech to the parliament on the 50th anniversary of Wallenberg's disappearance.

TEXT OF PROCEEDINGS FROM THE HOUSE OF
LORDS, JANUARY 17, 1995

Lord Braine of Wheatley. My Lords, the most terrible, heartbreaking story of man's gross inhumanity to man occurred during the lifetime of many of us. It was the murder of the majority of Europe's Jews by the Nazis. These innocent people, young and old, were slaughtered—not because they posed the remotest threat to the power of the Nazis, but simply because of their religion. It was genocide on a massive scale.

The victims were worked to death, tortured, shot and gassed to death and their bodies burnt in huge incinerators. All of that took place in organized mass killings month after month during the Second World War. If there is a more monstrous story of sustained evil in human history, I have not heard of it.

In that ocean of cruelty and hate in wartime Hungary, one great heroic figure stands

out—a brave young Swedish diplomat named Raoul Wallenberg. Indeed, he became one of the greatest heroes of all time. In the closing months of the Second World War, he responded to the appeals of the world Jewish community and left neutral Sweden to do what he could to save what remained of Hungarian Jewry.

So it was that in July 1994, Wallenberg went to what Simon Wiesenthal has referred to as "the slaughterhouse that was Budapest." By that time some five million European Jews had already been cruelly murdered. The Nazis, aware that they were now losing the war, were obsessed with wiping out those who remained and were within their reach. Four months earlier, they had invaded Hungary with the declared purpose of exterminating that last remaining Jewish community in Europe. Obersturmbannführer Adolf Eichmann was given the task of liquidating the Hungarian Jewish community. It is ironic that the Hungarian Jews, who had survived the longest in Nazi-occupied Europe, were now the quickest to be destroyed. In a two month period, from 15th May to 8th July 1944, 430,000 Hungarian Jews were deported to Auschwitz in sealed cattle trucks.

Raoul Wallenberg became the head of a special department of the Swedish Legation in Budapest, charged with the task of helping the Jews wherever possible. He began by designing a Swedish protective passport to help them to resist both the Germans and Hungarians. Wallenberg had previously learned that both the German and Hungarian bureaucracies had a weakness for symbolism. So he had his passports attractively printed in blue and yellow (Sweden's national colours), displaying Sweden's coat of arms and the appropriate authorisations. I have such a passport, although I have not brought it with me today. It is a work of art. Wallenberg's passports had no validity whatsoever under international law, but they served their purpose, commanding the respect of those they were designed to influence. At first, he had permission to issue only 1,500 passports. But he managed to persuade the Hungarian authorities to let him issue 1,000 more and, by one means or another, managed to get the quota raised again.

Altogether Wallenberg was to save the lives of 100,000 Hungarian Jewish men, women and children. At the risk of his own life, he distributed Swedish passports by the thousands, even following the death marches to the Austrian border, physically pulling people off the trains bound for Nazi concentration camps, confronting at every turn the Nazis and the death squads. He also successfully protected refugees in scores of houses that he bought or rented in Budapest, marking them with the neutral flag of Sweden.

As the Soviet armies encircled Budapest in late 1944, Wallenberg fearlessly continued his work. On 13th January 1945, a Russian soldier saw a man standing alone outside a building with a large Swedish flag flying above its main entrance. It was Wallenberg. Speaking in fluent Russian, Wallenberg told an astonished Soviet sergeant that he was the Swedish charge d'affaires for those parts of Hungary liberated by the Red Army. He was invited to visit the Soviet military headquarters at Debrecen, east of Budapest.

On his way out of the capital on 17th January with a Soviet escort, Wallenberg and his chauffeur, Vilmos Langfelder, stopped at various "Swedish Houses," where he bade farewell to his friends. He cheerfully told one colleague, Dr. Erno Peto, that he was not sure whether he would be the guest of the Soviets or their prisoner, but he thought he

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 accomplishments 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 Hillsides, 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.