

85th ANNIVERSARY

WHEN SOUTHBURY SAID "NO" TO THE NAZIS

WHEREAS, in 1937, the German American Bund, a Nazi organization, purchased 178 acres in the Kettletown section of Southbury, then a small town of 1,200 residents. The Bund sought to create a camp as its first site in New England for paramilitary training, education, parades and political rallies; and

WHEREAS, the Town's two clergy, Rev. Lindsay of South Britain Congregational Church and Rev. Manley of Southbury Federated Church, condemned the Bund from their pulpits; and,


WHEREAS, a Town Meeting was held and amidst dramatic speeches and patriotic songs, anti-Bund resolutions were passed unanimously; and

WHEREAS, a Zoning Board was established, and Southbury's citizenry endorsed the Zoning Board's work, determining that: 1) military training in town was prohibited except for armed forces of the United States; 2) the town be divided into areas to be used for residential, farming, industrial and recreational activities; and 3) the area which included the Bund camp was for residential and farming purposes only; and

WHEREAS, the Bund sold the property and life in Southbury returned to its normal rhythms, yet in its early and successful confrontation with Nazism, Southbury fashioned a most distinct history and special legacy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, First Selectman Jeffrey A. Manville, on behalf of the citizens of Southbury, hereby recognizes the

85th Anniversary of When Southbury Said "No" to the Nazis


Jeffrey A. Manville, First Selectman

