

# Proclamation

**Whereas:** In 1937, Reverends M.E.N Lindsay and Felix Manley of Southbury, Connecticut spoke out against Nazi ideology to their church and community; and

**Whereas:** After consultation with prominent members of the Southbury community, including First Selectman Ed Coer, a town hall meeting was called to establish a zoning board to prevent the creation of a Nazi training camp; and

**Whereas:** The five-person zoning commission established an ordinance barring land usage in the town for "military training or drilling with or without arms except by the legally constituted armed forces of the United States of America"; and

**Whereas:** The resolve and patriotism of the Southbury community prevented the German American Bund from establishing a Nazi training camp on 178 acres of land purchased by a Bund member, Wolfgang Jung, in the Kettletown area; and

**Whereas:** Southbury became the first and only local government to stand up to the Nazi ideology that the German American Bund sought to instill in American youth through summer camps; and

**Whereas:** In 2012, the pride of the Southbury community led to the filming and production of the documentary, "Home of the Brave: When Southbury Said NO to the Nazis"; and

**Whereas:** In 2020, former First Selectman of Southbury, Ed Edelson, published a children's historical fiction book titled, "Lois's Story: A Young Girl's Inspiration Helps Stop Hate and Fear"; and

**Whereas:** The Town of Southbury continues to tell Lois's Story and share the history of how a small community banded together to defeat a global movement. Their actions capture the spirit of America and the intention of our Founding Fathers to create a country where all men are created equal, regardless of religion or race.

**Now therefore,** I, Jahana Hayes, Congresswoman of Connecticut's Fifth District, hereby proclaim the Town of Southbury to be a shining example of unity and resolve for the State of Connecticut. It is with pride that I honor the steadfast commitment, by the townspeople of Southbury, to reject Nazi ideology 85 years ago. May this legacy of community strength continue to be shared and celebrated for generations to come.



Given this 11th day of November 2022

  
JAHANA HAYES  
Member of Congress