

fact of the matter is the tax cuts that were passed by the previous administration are going to expire at the end of this year and the Democrats are going to let them expire, which means that in effect all those taxes are going to go up. That is a tax increase.

Mr. Volcker, who was in the Carter administration and raised interest rates to 21½ percent that put this country into a real economic spiral, he is now saying that we are going to need a VAT tax, a value-added tax of about 15 to 20 percent, which they are going to probably try to push through after the election. And a VAT tax of 20 percent would mean if you buy a \$10,000 car it is going to cost you \$12,000 because you have a \$2,000 additional tax tacked on.

This is a tax and spend administration. We have the biggest deficits in the history of the United States. And when I hear my colleagues talking about all the good things they are doing for America, I wish they would look at the unemployment rate and look at what people are taking out of their salaries and what this country is going through economically. It ain't what they are saying.

THE START TREATY AND NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I am here to recognize the new START treaty that was recently signed by President Obama and the Russian President and the recently released 2010 Nuclear Posture Review.

I believe it is important to realize that the Cold War is over, and it is time to align our nuclear policy with the new generation of security threats. The biggest threat facing our country today is having nuclear materials fall into the hands of an organization called al Qaeda. History has shown that building our nuclear stockpile has not deterred al Qaeda and other actors from trying to gain nuclear capabilities.

What we do need to do is to take smart steps to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to those enemies and secure vulnerable nuclear materials from those who want to get their hands on that to do us harm. I believe the new START treaty and the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review are important steps in the right direction.

It is also important to note that America still has a very robust nuclear arsenal, and that as we work towards a nuclear-free world we will not take any action that would put our security at risk. Our country will be more, not less secure from these new initiatives.

HONORING MIAMI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Miami Children's Museum as it celebrates its 25th anniversary as an invaluable educational and cultural center in my district in South Florida. I would like to recognize the museum's stellar leadership team, including its chairman, Jeff Berkowitz, and its executive director, Deborah Spiegelman.

Since 1983, the Miami Children's Museum has fostered an environment for active learning and creative play for children of all ages. Thanks to the visionary leadership of Jeff and Deborah, as well as the dedication of the museum's staff and volunteers, the facility is now one of the 10 largest children's museums in the United States. The museum is also a leader in cutting-edge children's programming on topics such as environmental conservation, green technologies, and financial literacy.

As a grandmother, I know firsthand how important the Miami Children's Museum is for parents and educators seeking a safe and fun learning environment for their children. I wish much success to the Miami Children's Museum as it works toward the next 25 years of service to our South Florida community.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, our country observed Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, this past Sunday, which recalls the global tragedy of state-sponsored systemic annihilation and persecution of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators as well as millions more deaths of people who were of Roma extraction, the disabled, Slavic peoples, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and potential dissidents.

I would like to include in the RECORD an article from the Toledo Blade in our district, a front-page story last Sunday entitled "Survivors Urge World to Never Forget Horror," which recounts the story of some of the heroic survivors in our district in Ohio.

In our country, 150,000 to 170,000 survivors remain today. The horror of the Holocaust has affected countless souls across this globe. Our district is home to persevering survivors like Mrs. Clara Rona, whose words I will place in the RECORD today, and so many others who never should have had to make this sacrifice, but she remains a woman of hope.

[From toledoblade.com, Apr. 11, 2010]

SURVIVORS URGE WORLD TO NEVER FORGET

(By Ryan E. Smith)

Living through the Holocaust was one thing. Remembering it is another.

Clara Rona still remembers the smell of human flesh being incinerated at Auschwitz, seeing smoke wafting through the air and knowing it was somebody's mother.

She won't allow herself to forget a moment—not the beatings, the hunger, or the baby who was killed in a toilet in her presence. At age 89, the West Toledo woman still talks openly about the horrors of which humanity is capable.

And yet.

"I wish I had dementia," she says, pleading in her Hungarian accent. "I don't want to remember."

Between 150,000 and 170,000 survivors of the Holocaust probably remain in this country, according to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and there are fewer than a dozen believed to live in the Toledo area. All face the same dilemma: How to balance the responsibility of being the last living threads to the systematic killing of 6 million Jews with the pain of memory.

Today is Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day. Now and in the days to come people will gather at events to urge the world, "Never again! Never forget!"

But Rena Mann won't be among them.

The 83-year-old has never opened up to anyone—not her late husband nor her children—about what she endured in two concentration camps during World War II. Maybe it's because it hurts too much. Or maybe it's because she's afraid the world doesn't want to know.

"Do people care?" the Sylvania Township woman asked. "On the one hand I don't want it to be forgotten, and on the other hand I feel that people are really, in the future, not going to care."

PAIN AND SUFFERING

Born in Berlin, Mrs. Mann was 12 and living in Poland when the war began. After her mother died of blood poisoning and her stepfather was trapped in a newly formed ghetto, she was sent to stay with family in another town.

This was no death camp, but already the terror had begun. She remembers being awakened in the night and sent to the market to watch Jews being hanged. Their crime? Baking bread, which was forbidden.

"As an example they were hung, and we all had to watch it," Mrs. Mann said.

Before she turned 14, Mrs. Mann was sent away to a factory and forced into slave labor. It was hard work involving water and spools of flax that left her fingers and feet frostbitten.

Mostly what she remembers is the hunger. There was a bit of bread that was supposed to last three days and some potato soup at night that might not have any potato at all.

"We got, like we used to say, too much to die from and too little to exist," Mrs. Mann said.

Two years later she moved to another camp, where she slept in an abandoned factory with broken windows, no water or privacy, and vicious guards who would kick and push. A Polish song written by her girlfriends still resounds in her head. It concludes:

Who knows if I'll ever see / My mother's tender home. / This is a song of despair, / Of Jewish pain and suffering.

"That song is always with me and I don't want to take it with me to my grave," Mrs. Mann said.

She never talked about the four years she spent in camps before being liberated in 1945. No one really asked.

"I am actually a coward," she said. "It's true. Because I am pushing it away, or have been pushing it away."

Maybe now, though, after all these years, the pain is far enough behind her that she can let it out.

EYEWITNESSES

Mrs. Mann isn't alone in her hesitation, according to Arthur Berger, senior adviser at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. But as survivors continue to die at a rapid rate, it becomes more and more crucial to record their stories—in print or on video but also in person, he said. "Nothing compares to a real person telling you about their own lives," Mr. Berger said. "No one can replace the survivors. No one, can replace the eyewitnesses to history."

Rolf Hess, 75, of Holland was one of those eyewitnesses, but he never spoke of what happened during the war until last year when a granddaughter interviewed him for a school project about his experience as an immigrant.

"That sort of opened up a can of worms on my part," he said. "It has been in the past, and it still is, a very difficult thing."

The native of Germany was not even 5 years old when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939. Yet he has vivid, emotional memories of being separated from his mother after they were taken to a camp and split up from his father.

"We were at a train station, just my mother and I," he said, voice cracking. "That I remember. And she gave me a little book that I still have with some pertinent information, with my birth date."

To this day he doesn't know what happened to his family. All he remembers is rummaging through garbage at a children's camp looking for food and being scared to death, even after escaping to America in 1942 with other children as a refugee.

"I can remember in Cleveland where I was out in the backyard and I heard an airplane and I scurried underneath a bench for protection," he said.

Only recently has he started investigating his own past to fill in the gaps of his memory.

"I finally have come to grips with the whole situation," he said.

'DYING IN SLOW MOTION'

For Dr. Aron Wajskol, 85, of West Toledo, the question has never been whether to share his horrible story—the way his starving father died in a ghetto, how his mother perished at the death camp Auschwitz, how he nearly succumbed to the bone-crushing work of concentration camps.

For him, the question was how. How do you make someone understand what it was like?

"Its like describing being on the moon," the retired anesthesiologist said. "Hearing about the facts and truly understanding the facts are different things."

The son of a textile factory worker in central Poland, Dr. Wajskol remembers the restrictions that went into effect within days of Germany invading his country. His father's job was taken away. His school was closed. Jews were forbidden from using public transportation and forced to wear Stars of David to distinguish them from non-Jews.

"Many families who could afford [to] fled Europe," Dr. Wajskol said. "Mine couldn't."

Within months, the city's Jewish population was forced out of its homes and squeezed into a tiny ghetto. It had no sewer system and little running water. People were dying in the streets of starvation—Dr. Wajskol calls it "dying in slow motion"—and corpses went unburied for days.

"Even in death it was suffering," said Dr. Wajskol, who was 17 at the time.

His father was among those wasting away, and he eventually died of tuberculosis.

All the while, Jew were rounded up and deported. At first for work, later for extermination. When Dr. Wajskol was taken to a labor camp in 1944, hauling around 110-pound

sacks of cement while surviving on bits of bread actually seemed like a reprieve.

"At least death wasn't surrounding us," Dr. Wajskol said. "We knew they needed us. We were productive for them."

To keep himself going, Dr. Wajskol imagined that there would be an end to all of this one day, that he could go back to school, that he would see his mother and sister again. His sister managed to survive but had to watch her mother be sent to the gas chamber.

This continued for 10 months until he was evacuated to the Buchenwald concentration camp due to the Soviet advance. After spending five days locked up in a crowded cattle car with no food or water, where he had no choice but to sit on a dead body, he was released to something even more frightening: SS guards with skulls on their caps, terrifying German shepherds, and the skeletal faces of the prisoners.

"It looked like a nightmare," he said.

Here he learned the pain of standing for hours in the penetrating cold of winter without socks or underwear. In a subcamp where his first job was to even out rocks for a steam roller, he came to understand the Nazi goal of "annihilation through work."

Before long, he was on the move again, this time on foot to escape the approaching Americans.

"This was a real, real death march," Dr. Wajskol said.

They marched through patches of snow from dawn until the evening, always under the watchful eye of the SS, who were ready to shoot the slow or weak. Still, Dr. Wajskol and a friend managed to escape, dashing into the forest and running until they were out of breath.

Dr. Wajskol will never forget how he felt once the war was over.

"Feeling free after 5½ years of slavery, playing with death constantly, I can't describe it with normal language," he said.

But he tries. He has told his story to high school students and traveled to his old home in Poland with his wife and son.

"In the beginning it was very hard to relive all these things," he said. "[But] I strongly believe that it's important to talk about it, make people aware of it, because of the enormity of what happened."

TRINITY OF TERROR

As director of the Ruth Fajerman Markowicz Holocaust Resource Center of Greater Toledo, Hindea Markowicz knows about the importance of preserving this history. As the daughter-in-law of Holocaust survivors, she feels it too.

"I have worries because history in the schools is being taught so differently," she said. "It's lucky if they have a paragraph included in the history books."

The resource center, housed in the offices of the United Jewish Council of Greater Toledo in Sylvania, on the other hand, features hundreds of books and other educational materials. There are videos of local survivors and a book written by her father-in-law, Philip Markowicz, called *My Three Lives*, which includes his experiences during the Holocaust.

It's one thing to read about these events in books, quite another to hear about them from someone in person. That's why Mr. Markowicz, 86, of Sylvania has told his tale and why Sylvania Township resident Al Negrin speaks to students in Florida, where he spends the winter.

"I talk because I want people to know what was going on, so they have a chance, if something happens again, to prevent it," said the 86-year-old from Greece.

Mr. Negrin—whose mother, brother, and sister went with him to Auschwitz but were

immediately sent to the crematorium—recalls a trinity of terror: the German guard who stood threatening with a rifle butt, the civilian supervisor with a whip, and the fellow inmate in charge of the group armed with a stick.

"Everybody was yelling 'Arbeit! Arbeit! Work! Work! Work! If you stop for a while to take a breath, one of those three objects will come over your head.'"

It was not sustainable and his father eventually succumbed while moving to another camp. It was just a week before the group was liberated.

"My father was weak, could not walk. I tried to get him with my shoulders but the German guard said 'No, you can't do that because after a while then you'll be weak,'" Mr. Negrin said.

"I left him in the side of the street. I kissed him good-bye, and that's the last time I saw him."

'HE NEVER TALKS ABOUT IT'

Norman Gudelman, 78, went about sharing his story in another way. He wrote it down.

It took more than six decades and some prodding from his wife, but he finally took his suffering and made it tangible. The result is a sprawling letter to his children on the occasion of his 75th birthday. It covers everything from his youth in modern-day Moldova to his escape to Palestine after the war to his arrival in America.

Mr. Gudelman of Sylvania Township remembers being carefree as a youth, despite the anti-Semitism that was prevalent around him. His restaurant-owning parents shielded him from the world's hate, at least until the Soviets arrived in 1940, arresting and executing Jews and banishing others to Siberia.

When Romanian forces returned in 1941 with the Germans, things were no better.

"Romanian soldiers came to our house, and ordered all the Jews out," Mr. Gudelman wrote in his letter. "Start walking. Leave the home, the business, our possessions and go."

He was 10 years old then. Today, Mr. Gudelman is happy to talk about his experience during the war, but there's a sense he'd prefer to defer to his written statement than relive—yet again—what happened in too much detail.

"He never talks about it," said his wife, Fanny. "I don't ask questions. I want it [to] come from him."

When he does speak, Mr. Gudelman can tell you about how the group marched endlessly from one camp to another, begging for food when there was a chance to slip away. In the camps, they crowded into windowless rooms and slept on cement floors.

"They wanted to get rid of us," he said.

It worked. He and his sister were orphaned within a year or two.

That may be what saved them. When the Soviets returned and chased the German and Romanian armies out, orphans were sent to ghettos to stay with Jewish families, Mr. Gudelman said. From there, he eventually made his way to the future state of Israel. Thanks to a relative in Toledo, Mr. Gudelman ultimately came here and became president of State Paper & Metal Co., Inc.

He decided to write all this down for posterity, he said, because, "sooner or later I'm going to forget, or sooner or later I'm going to pass away."

His letter's message is simple: "Maybe in your lifetime you will read books about the unbelievable cruelty of those times. Believe them."

FINDING HOPE

Then there's Mrs. Rona, who insists on picking away at the scabs of the past.

"I want to remind myself," she said. "They say I'm a masochist—my friends, my psychologist."

Her reminiscences rarely come without a few tears, but maybe it's for the best.

"When I'm crying, really it's good for me," she said.

The only child of a butcher in Pecs, Hungary, Mrs. Rona wanted to be an art teacher, but those plans were scuttled when the Germans invaded. Her family was relocated from its large house, and at one point they were living in a stable. Later they were among those taken to Auschwitz, 80 people squeezed into each rail car.

Mrs. Rona was 23—tough, young, and strong—but also naive. All she brought was a change of clothes and a bottle of cologne, which she used to wash her mother when she fainted. Mrs. Rona still regrets that she never traded the latter for water despite her mother's pleas.

"I feel guilty," she said. "I cannot forgive myself."

It was night when they arrived and they were divided into two lines. Her mother and aunt went to the left—"straight to the gas," Mrs. Rona said. Her father was transferred to another concentration camp and later died.

Mrs. Rona divided her time between several camps and remembers it as a dazed experience.

"You think about food, but nothing else. You become like an animal," she said. "One spoon of soup means one day's survival."

"There was electric wire. Some people ran into it because they couldn't take it and they got killed," she continued.

Mrs. Rona, who found out after the war that she could not bear children, is certain that it is the result of her treatment during the war. None of the women in the camp menstruated, she said.

When one woman gave birth to a child in the camp, Mrs. Rona said she was forced to be present as it was put in a toilet by fellow prisoners. Otherwise, both the mother and baby would have been executed, she said.

When the camp was evacuated in April, 1945, as the end of the war approached, Mrs. Rona said she was in no shape for walking. Desperate, she and another woman hid in the rain under some bushes and simply waited for the group to head off before dawn.

When she finally made her way to safety in Prague, Mrs. Rona estimates that she weighed about 50 pounds. She went back home hoping to find her father, but he was gone forever—along with more than 50 other family members. Only three cousins survived.

"I was so angry," she said. "Still the anger, it's burned me."

Even as she left for Palestine and made her way to Toledo, where she worked with children at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Toledo, that anger never left.

How could it when there were mass killings in the former Yugoslavia? Rwanda? Darfur?

"I thought after, when we got freed, the world will be so beautiful. They'll learn," she said. "They didn't because it's repeating the same things somewhere else in a different way."

And yet.

Mrs. Rona still speaks, making public her private hell. She does this because 65 years after the Holocaust she still has something that can offset the pain:

Hope.

DO NOT CANCEL AMERICA'S MANNED SPACE PROGRAM

(Mr. CULBERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat Congress and this President have presided over the biggest spending increases in American history, created more debt than any Congress in the history of the United States, and passed unprecedented tax increases, so it's not credible to claim they're cutting taxes.

And there's near unanimous opposition in this Congress to the President's proposal to cancel America's manned space program. What the President's proposing would be like privatizing the United States Navy.

Imagine if America had to call up a private contractor and ask if we could rent the aircraft carrier *Harry Truman* to go to the Red Sea for a week. That's what the President's proposing on the manned space program. That's why there's unanimous opposition.

And, Mr. Speaker, 27 astronauts and NASA leaders have joined together in a magnificent letter they published in the Orlando Sentinel on Sunday, that strongly urges the Congress to drop this misguided proposal that forces NASA out of human space operations for the foreseeable future. They said, Canceling NASA's human space operations, after 50 years of unparalleled achievement, makes America mediocre and will eliminate our leadership in space.

[From the Orlando Sentinel, Apr. 11, 2010]

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: America is faced with the near-simultaneous ending of the Shuttle program and your recent budget proposal to cancel the Constellation program. This is wrong for our country for many reasons. We are very concerned about America ceding its hard earned global leadership in space technology to other nations. We are stunned that, in a time of economic crisis, this move will force as many as 30,000 irreplaceable engineers and managers out of the space industry. We see our human exploration program, one of the most inspirational tools to promote science, technology, engineering and math to our young people, being reduced to mediocrity. NASA's human space program has inspired awe and wonder in all ages by pursuing the American tradition of exploring the unknown.

We strongly urge you to drop this misguided proposal that forces NASA out of human space operations for the foreseeable future.

For those of us who have accepted the risk and dedicated a portion of our lives to the exploration of outer space, this is a terrible decision. Our experiences were made possible by the efforts of thousands who were similarly dedicated to the exploration of the last frontier. Success in this great national adventure was predicated on well defined programs, an unwavering national commitment, and an ambitious challenge. We understand there are risks involved in human space flight, but they are calculated risks for worthy goals, whose benefits greatly exceed those risks.

America's greatness lies in her people: she will always have men and women willing to ride rockets into the heavens. America's challenge is to match their bravery and acceptance of risk with specific plans and goals worthy of their commitment. NASA must continue at the frontiers of human space exploration in order to develop the technology and set the standards of excellence that will enable commercial space ventures to eventu-

ally succeed. Canceling NASA's human space operations, after 50 years of unparalleled achievement, makes that objective impossible.

One of the greatest fears of any generation is not leaving things better for the young people of the next. In the area of human space flight, we are about to realize that fear; your NASA budget proposal raises more questions about our future in space than it answers.

Too many men and women have worked too hard and sacrificed too much to achieve America's preeminence in space, only to see that effort needlessly thrown away. We urge you to demonstrate the vision and determination necessary to keep our nation at the forefront of human space exploration with ambitious goals and the proper resources to see them through. This is not the time to abandon the promise of the space frontier for a lack of will or an unwillingness to pay the price.

Sincerely, in hopes of continued American leadership in human space exploration.

Walter Cunningham, *Apollo 7*; Chris Kraft, *Past Director JSC*; Jack Lousma, *Skylab 3, STS3*; Vance Brand, *Apollo-Soyuz, STS-5, STS-41B, STS-35*; Bob Crippen, *STS-1, STS-7, STS-41C, STS-41G, Past Director KSC*; Michael D. Griffin, *Past NASA Administrator*; Ed Gibson, *Skylab 4*; Jim Kennedy, *Past Director KSC*; Alan Bean, *Apollo 12, Skylab 3*; Alfred M. Worden, *Apollo 15*; Scott Carpenter, *Mercury Astronaut*; Glynn Lunney, *Gemini-Apollo Flight Director*; Jim McDivitt, *Gemini 4, Apollo 9, Apollo Spacecraft Program Manager*; Gene Kranz, *Gemini-Apollo Flight Director, Past Director NASA Mission Ops.*; Joe Kerwin, *Skylab 2*; Fred Haise, *Apollo 13, Shuttle Landing Tests*; Gerald Carr, *Skylab 4*; Jim Lovell, *Gemini 7, Gemini 12, Apollo 8, Apollo 13*; Jake Garn, *STS-51D, U.S. Senator*; Charlie Duke, *Apollo 16*; Bruce McCandless, *STS-41B, STS-31*; Frank Borman, *Gemini 7, Apollo 8*; Paul Weitz, *Skylab 2, STS-6*; George Mueller, *Past Associate Administrator For Manned Space Flight*; Harrison Schmitt, *Apollo 17, U.S. Senator*; Gene Cernan, *Gemini 9, Apollo 10, Apollo 17*; Dick Gordon, *Gemini 11, Apollo 12*.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUJÁN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING THE JAY I. KISLAK COLLECTION AND LECTURE SERIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to acknowledge the contributions of a humanitarian and philanthropist from my area of South