

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

Florida, Mr. Jay Kislak. A Florida resident for over half a century, Jay is known to be one of the State's leading citizens, with an outstanding record of charitable projects and personal achievements.

Jay's involvement in our community has included leadership roles in organizations like the Florida Council of 100, the Florida Historical Society, the Historical Association of Southern Florida, Mortgage Bankers Association of America, the University of Miami, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Miami Dade's Arts in Public Places Trust, Mount Sinai Medical Center, and the American Red Cross, among so many others.

Jay's participation in our community is only matched by his involvement in the preservation of Florida's dynamic history. Over the years, and together with his wife Jean, Jay has collected countless rare books, maps, and art that capture the history and the culture of Florida, focusing especially on the early years of European exploration.

Jay's collection is certainly one of the most comprehensive in the Nation. In 2004, Jay made an extraordinary gift to our country. He donated more than 3,000 of these rare books, manuscripts, and other objects to our Library of Congress. Known as "Exploring the Early Americas", this collection is now on display in the library's historic Thomas Jefferson building right across the street from us.

□ 1715

This gift is one of the most significant gifts ever received by the Library of Congress.

To give a sense of the extent of this collection, let me just name a few of the major pieces:

A vast collection of Mayan cultural and religious works and carvings.

The first printed nautical map of the entire world, the Carta Marina from the year 1516.

A 1524 map on which Florida is first named.

Original documents signed by the famed explorers Cortes, Pizarro, and Las Casas.

From 1598, the first atlas to include Florida.

The journal of Cabeza de Vaca in which he narrates his wanderings across Florida and the Southeast after his shipwreck off the coast of the present-day St. Petersburg.

Also, the 1589 hand-colored engraving by Baptista Boazio of St. Augustine, Florida, the earliest engraving of any locality in the U.S.

Also, one of George Washington's personal journals from his time spent at Mount Vernon.

And letters from John Quincy Adams and James Monroe pertaining to the purchase of Florida and to the foreign policy of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the major items that are in Jay's impressive collection.

In support of this collection, the library now hosts an ongoing lecture series, program of exhibitions, research, and public education programs named after Jay Kislak. And this week the Jay Kislak Foundation held one of its annual lectures right here in Washington at the Library. The event included historian Jonathan Spence, one of the foremost experts on modern China and the Sterling Professor of History, Emeritus, at Yale University.

Jay's philanthropy continues to abound in its breadth and its scope. Through Jay's substantial contribution, countless generations will be able to view a window into our past as Americans and as Floridians.

Jay, thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do on behalf of our Nation and our home community. Thanks from a grateful Nation.

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

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

#### AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I join with several of my colleagues today as an original cosponsor in the introduction of H.R. 5015, legislation that would require the President to submit to Congress a plan and a timeline for the safe, orderly, and expeditious deployment of United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan, including military and security-related contractors.

This legislation would also implement greater oversight and planning measures to reduce our reliance on contractors in Afghanistan and to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in contracting practices which continues to breed corruption at the expense of the Afghan people.

I would like to thank Representatives MCGOVERN, JONES, and Senator FEINGOLD for their leadership and for their hard work and collaboration on this very vital legislation.

Also, I would like to commend Congresswoman WOOLSEY for her stand and her work for global peace and security. Tonight I understand is her 350th time coming to this floor sounding the alarm against these wars, and I would just like to congratulate her for her steadfastness. She actually introduced the very first resolution calling for the redeployment of our young men and women out of Iraq.

It has been nearly a decade now since I voted against the authorization for the use of force, and this was on September 14, 2001. This was an authorization, mind you, that I knew then was a

blank check to wage war anytime, anywhere, and for any length. That was a resolution that really authorized wars without end. H.R. 5015 provides the President and the Congress the opportunity now to change the trajectory of United States foreign policy from one of open-ended military conflict towards a strategy which counters terrorism and extremism around the globe in a sustainable and more effective manner.

I continue to believe United States economic and national security as well as our values are undermined by a military first strategy that many of us fear may lead us down a path of unending war in Afghanistan.

In September, 2009, General McCrystal stated very clearly, "If the people are against us, we cannot be successful. If the people view us as occupiers and the enemy, we can't be successful."

Top military officials and experts agree that winning the hearts and minds of the Afghan people should be the focal point of the United States mission in Afghanistan. Yet I remain convinced that this will not be accomplished at the barrel of a gun. With every death, with each increase in troop deployment, and with every additional military contractor airlifted into Afghanistan, we provide a rallying point for al Qaeda, whose propaganda depends on the perception that America's aim is foreign occupation.

It is our stated policy, and President Obama has said this many times, the United States does not seek a permanent military presence in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, or elsewhere. We have already sent more than \$1 trillion to the Pentagon for the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the administration has yet to provide an estimate for the long-term costs of the United States military operations in Afghanistan.

It has been estimated that roughly one-third, mind you, one-third of every tax dollar paid by the American people in 2009 went to the Pentagon and military related expenditures. The fact is we cannot even begin to talk about reducing the budget deficit without talking about reducing our military spending, and this legislation sets us down that path by ending a policy of open-ended war in Afghanistan that has ultimately made America less safe.

I have been clear in my conviction that the situation in Afghanistan will not be resolved with a military solution, and I think many agree with that. That's why last October I introduced H.R. 3699, which would prohibit any funding for increasing troop levels in Afghanistan beyond current levels.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee and as Congress considers the President's \$33 billion supplemental funding request for operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, I will be working to ensure that Congress is provided an opportunity to go on record regarding this grim prospect, mind you, of continued military escalation. Rather than increasing our