

And here is the second lesson these Georgetown students came to realize and what remains a valuable lesson that the environmental community needs to appreciate as a movement. The public and many elected officials are not always in sync with what we need to do to restore the environment and preserve it for future generations. Progress on the environmental front has never been a clear and straight line but erratic path with peaks and troughs. But, if we look back over the past 40 years, we have seen considerable progress. If you were to average out all the peaks and troughs, an upward progress would begin to appear. We can be proud of our achievements and the fact that such landmark laws like the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act, and many others that we have passed since the 1970s, have gone a long way toward restoring the environment. Our land, air and water are cleaner than they were on the first Earth Day.

While the science of today has led us to a better understanding of our relationship with nature, we must also appreciate that a democracy requires time for the public to accept and support the necessary changes.

Just as the time may not be ripe to ban the use of plastic bags, we can encourage broader public participation in recycling and promoting alternatives that over time will achieve the same goal. There are a number of proven approaches that work to reduce plastic and paper bag use. All have merit and the states are the appropriate forum through which these approaches can be developed and implemented.

Again I applaud the efforts of the two Georgetown students and their class for providing us a valuable political lesson on this 40th anniversary of the first Earth Day.

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S QUESTIONABLE NASA PLAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the FY2011 budget proposed by President Obama for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA. I believe the administration plan would abdicate U.S. leadership in space. Nearly every astronaut, including Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, has spoken out against this misguided budget proposal.

I submit articles from *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Orlando Sentinel* which further call into question the administration's judgment with regard to NASA.

[From the *Wall Street Journal*, Apr. 17, 2010]

NASA WHIPS AW: PROP RE-DO FOR OBAMA'S SPEECH

When President Barack Obama gave his long-awaited speech Thursday laying out a vision for NASA, the backdrop featured an immaculate mockup of the Orion space capsule.

But only a few days before, workers at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida had frantically removed all vestiges of the Orion program from the same building.

What prompted the prop swap?

The reasons behind the abrupt scene change—and Obama's positive words about Orion in his address—reflect the sudden shifts and last-minute policy decisions that continue to buffet the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. For more on that, read this *WSJ* article.)

In February, the White House shocked many in industry and Congress by seeking to kill NASA's Constellation manned exploration program, designed to replace the retiring space shuttle fleet and eventually take astronauts back to the moon and on to Mars. The multi-billion dollar Orion capsule, reminiscent of the Apollo era, is part of that program.

In the following months, the Obama administration resisted entreaties by Lockheed Martin, the capsule contractor, and its champions on Capitol Hill to save Orion. The company repeatedly tried but failed to interest NASA and the White House in pursuing a less-expensive, stripped-down version of the capsule, "Orion light." For the White House, all of Constellation was too expensive and would take too long to complete.

On Mondays as the space center was preparing for the high-profile presidential policy speech, Lockheed had forklifts and other equipment hurriedly removing everything related to Orion from the building where Obama would speak, according to people familiar with the details. Administration officials bluntly told company executives that the president didn't want to be associated with Orion.

That quickly changed. On Tuesday afternoon, chief White House science adviser John Holdren called Joanne Maguire, head of Lockheed Martin's space programs, to inform her that a revised version of the Orion capsule would be reinstated in the president's plans. Now, NASA wants to use the capsule, at the very least, as an emergency escape system for U.S. astronauts when they are on the international space station.

That still left NASA, however, with the dilemma of what to do about the mockup. Between Tuesday night and Thursday morning, the White House, NASA managers and local center officials managed to restore the Orion mockup to its earlier prominence in the building. "Things were really changing pretty quickly there, at the end," said one administration official.

As photographers and reporters swarmed around Obama, pictures of the capsule were beamed around the world.

Lockheed didn't have any comment. The White House had no immediate comment.

During his speech, Obama had only nice things to say about the Lockheed Martin program, though he initially mispronounced its name. NASA, he said, "will build on the good work already done" on the Orion crew capsule, and it will become "part of the technological foundation for advanced spacecraft to be used in future deep-space missions."

[From *OrlandoSentinel.com*, Apr. 18, 2010]

OBAMA'S SPACE PLAN ADDS INSULT TO INJURY

(By Douglas MacKinnon)

With all due respect to President Obama, regarding his speech in Florida on "Space Exploration in the 21st Century," I simply have to ask, "Are you kidding me?"

As one who has consulted on and written extensively about our space program, worked in the White House and drafted a speech or two, I know shameless pandering filler when I read it.

The president's speech had more useless and suspect filler than a New York City street hot dog—part of that filler being when

the president recognized his chief science adviser, John Holdren. This is the same man who just told students the United States couldn't be No. 1 in science forever.

When the nation and the program most needed honesty, true direction and an unwavering belief in the promise of space, the president chose to add insult to the injury that is the dismantling of our human spaceflight program. To quote Neil Armstrong, James Lovell and Eugene Cernan, the president's decision to "... cancel the Constellation program, its Ares 1 and Ares V rockets, and the Orion spacecraft, is devastating."

Three heroic and history-making astronauts take the unusual step of writing an open letter to warn of this "devastating" action, and the president responds with a pedestrian speech that makes a mockery of a dire situation. Worse, for purely political reasons, he decided to pit the Apollo 11 moonwalkers against each other.

To try and blunt the criticism of him by the first man to step on the surface of the moon, Obama not only flew Buzz Aldrin with him on Air Force One for the event at Kennedy Space Center, but led his remarks by referring to Aldrin as a legend. Aldrin may be the only one not aware of his role as a prop of the White House political operation.

It's not a stretch to imagine Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel turning to David Axelrod and saying, "If the first man on the moon is going to strongly and publicly criticize us, then let's use the second man to walk on the moon as validation for our 'promise them anything but deliver nothing' new vision."

In a speech void of detail, the president said, "By the mid-2030s, I believe we can send humans to orbit Mars and return them safely to Earth." Where have I heard something like that before? That would be President George H. W. Bush in July 1989 when he spoke of landing Americans on Mars. Twenty-one years later, Obama gives us a watered-down version of that speech.

In 1989, much of the media rightfully took President Bush to task for an open-ended goal that lacked specifics and would have carried a price tag in the hundreds of billions of dollars. Say what you will about Bush's half-hearted effort, at least his astronauts would have landed on the Red Planet. Under Obama's fictional plan, for our investment of more than \$100 billion, our astronauts would only get to wave at Mars as they zipped around it, with a landing saved for a future mission. Can't we just wave at it for free from here on Earth?

The president betrayed both his lack of interest in human spaceflight as well as his ignorance of the subject when he said, "Now, I understand that some believe that we should attempt a return to the surface of the moon first, as previously planned. But I just have to say pretty bluntly here. We've been there before. Buzz has been there..."

By that thinking, European explorers should have abandoned the New World and President Jefferson should have ignored the explorations and discoveries of great natural wealth made by Lewis and Clark.

For reasons of cost, commercial enterprise, science and national security, it makes sense for us to establish bases, observatories, mines and potentially even military operations on the moon. If we don't, others—particularly the People's Republic of China with its military-controlled space program—most assuredly will.

President Obama has played the space community for fools, and he's hoping he will get away with it. Unfortunately for us all, China, Russia and others share his hope.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY HELLMAN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Judy Hellman, who is retiring this spring from the Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee of the greater Kansas City area. Judy and this agency have been most helpful to me during my time in Congress and were responsible for sponsoring my visit to Israel in 1999 during my first year in office. My remarks borrow very freely from a letter sent by JCRB/AJC Board Chair Michael Abrams in January 2010 when Judy made her plans public.

JCRB/AJC Associate Director Judy Hellman has devoted her professional career and her personal life to the work of justice and community relations, and to the Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee, first as a volunteer, then as a member of the Board of Directors, and then as staff for decades before her "first" retirement over a decade ago. Shortly after that "retirement" she started helping in the office on one project, then another, then a couple days a week, and was soon once again an everyday devoted and passionate professional who doesn't stop accepting responsibilities and challenges.

Judy's contributions to the community are significant, and too numerous to mention. Her work to advocate that each person does not have to face injustice has touched countless lives and families. Decades ago she worked for fair housing in Kansas City, and was a leader in the movement to free Soviet Jews from religious persecution. Before the founding of the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, Holocaust education was a mission of JCRB, for which Judy did extraordinary work.

Judy continues to be admired for her exemplary and prolific work in interfaith relations, her dedicated relationship work with educators, law enforcement, government and elected officials, and her work vigilantly combating hate groups. Judy has listened to, and discussed and worked with, hundreds of individuals and families regarding their issues, always with great compassion and empathy. Many have seen her on JCRB Agency videos poignantly talking about why she has worked for justice in the public square for the people of Israel, and in recent years been a role model in the community advocating on behalf of those suffering injustice in Africa.

For several decades, Judy and Rev. Dr. Robert Lee Hill have co-chaired the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Interfaith Service every January. Judy has been a longtime officer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, working with the Rev. Dr. Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson. Judy has been recognized with many awards, and has asked that "this" retirement come with little fanfare. In Judy Hellman's case, her achievements are a monument to her work. Judy's life has been dedicated to working for justice. Judy would have devoted her time to working on these issues even if she had not been a staff member of a justice organization.

With a milestone birthday approaching, Judy has decided to give retirement yet another attempt. All who know Judy feel great admiration, gratitude, love, and respect for her. I

know that I look forward to continuing to work with Judy, soon as a retired and devoted community member, as she continues to work to make the greater Kansas City area a more just community.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

Robert James is a veteran of World War II. He entered the war in the Medical Corps and returned from war as a private first class in the Air Force. After graduating from U.T., Mr. James stayed in the Air Force Reserve for 30 years and retired as a Major. He still regularly visits a nearby base in Colorado, where he buys his groceries, works out, and shops for other needs. Robert James received multiple awards after returning home, including an Air Medal and a Distinguished Flying Cross. Mr. James' story should be preserved throughout history in addition to the thousands of other veterans that risked their lives for the safety of the United States. This interview with my grandfather was very moving and I gained a lot more insight and detail than I ever had before. I am happy to have been able to discuss such a

pivotal time in my grandfather's life and I hope my essay helps to somehow preserve some of his unique experiences so that they can last throughout generations of Americans. The conservation of the stories of our many veterans is very crucial and should be a goal of every American that has been kept alive by these honorable, selfless men and women.—Rebecca James

HONORING GEORGE GALLUP, JR.
ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 80th birthday of George Gallup, Jr., the accomplished son of Dr. George Gallup, Sr., the founder of the renowned Gallup Poll.

George Jr. has followed in his father's footsteps; a close friend described George as a "political junkie," a characteristic that clearly runs in the family. It comes as no surprise that George has become so involved and intrigued by the political process, since he has either observed or participated in polling for his entire life. His father pioneered the random sampling technique, which has been used for decades to gauge public opinion on everything from presidential approval to the economy. He also founded the George H. Gallup International Institute, of which George Jr. is the current Chairman. In this role, George Jr. oversees preeminent economists, psychologists, and sociologists all over the world in their efforts to investigate what people think about the most pressing issues of the day.

George is from Princeton, New Jersey and has been a lifelong advocate for children's rights locally and nationally. He has made the world a safer place for kids through working closely with Child Lures Prevention, an organization which helps protect children from violence, drugs, and sexual abuse. He also wrote a passionate letter to President Obama in support of the organization and the admirable cause for which it fights.

George would agree that the influence of the Gallup Poll over the past 75 years has been much more than symbolic—the organization has provided our political leaders and lawmakers with objective, unbiased information about the ever-shifting values and expectations of the American people. In short, polling makes the government more responsive and accountable to the electorate.

Madam Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in honoring a man who has been instrumental in keeping our leaders honest and the American public informed.

RAISING AWARENESS AND SUPPORTING AN END TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in solidarity with my colleagues who, this week,