

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. note	White House note pad, Missy interview with Donna Kocian [partial] (1 page)	11/02/98	b(6)
002. note	White House note pad, Missy interview with Jerrie Cobb [partial] (1 page)	nd	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Missy Kincaid
OA/Box Number: 17303

FOLDER TITLE:

Jerrie Cobb

2014-0301-S

sb70

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or
financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President
and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of
personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed
of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C.
2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of
an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement
purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of
financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information
concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Melanne -

3/2

I wanted you to see
this letter from Donna
Kocian, Jerry Cobb's
p.r. person. I don't know
that it merits a response.
I have not shared w/
HRC. Please advise.

→ To Missy -
Just a thank you to
J for letters & best wishes.
Love said the better!

DONNA KOCIAN

2500 Steck Avenue #27
Austin, Texas 78757

Telephone 512-323-9282
Fax 512-323-9758

February 17, 1999

Ms. Missy Darwin Kincaid
Special Assistant to the First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

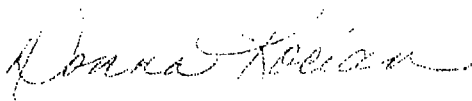
Dear Missy,

As explained in my enclosed letter to The First Lady, I have hesitated in contacting you both out of respect for the more serious matters which have recently surrounded the The White House. So I apologize for the amount of time which has passed in sending my thanks for the trouble you went through to send Jerrie's and my photos with The First Lady.

You will note from the enclosed letter that I will no longer be formally working on Jerrie's quest for space. Though this saddens me, the past year of helping in this endeavor has been so very rewarding. Your efforts on Jerrie's behalf, which included me, last July in The White House will forever be treasured.

Again, thank you for all you have done to help us. I wish you the very best.

Blessings,



DONNA KOCIAN

2500 Steck Avenue #27
Austin, Texas 78757

Telephone 512-323-9282
Fax 512-323-9758

February 17, 1999

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear First Lady,

Since the Brown/Glenn launch, I have hesitated in writing the results of the week's activities out of respect for the more serious matters which have surrounded you. Though a substantial amount of time has passed, you will be happy to hear of the positive repair NASA has extended throughout and since the launch activities toward Jerrie, the campaign and me.

Everyone from NASA who has contacted me has been very friendly and open. Considering the possibility of political overtones, it is my observation on many levels of interaction with NASA during this campaign that NASA has done it's best to be honest and fair, and to keep the nature of politics out of it's interaction with Jerrie and those of us working on the campaign.

Throughout the week of launch media and festivities, NASA was gracious and accommodating during Jerrie's press obligations on site. Because of Jerrie's press obligations the day of the launch, we all viewed the launch from the press mound. Jerrie received very positive press worldwide. As you know, the launch was spectacular!

Jerrie enjoyed the landing and said NASA and the press were as friendly toward her there as they were at the launch. I opted for a rest in Alaska in lieu of the landing.

As Jerrie remains available to most only via fax during the little time she is stateside, Bill Readdy, Deputy Associate Administrator of Shuttle Operations, and I have been in contact concerning a possible similar mission for female medical research. He has reiterated to me the context of our meeting with him in July, that if the data from the Brown/Glenn mission is positive, NASA will strongly consider a similar mission.

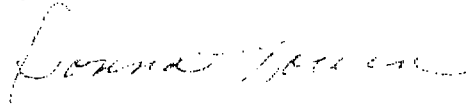
Unfortunately, I have perceived ways in which the campaign has turned that potentially could lead to a negative relationship between the campaign and NASA. Because I believe NASA has been fair and straightforward in its communication with us, I have decided to withdraw my official involvement in the campaign.

It has been a very rewarding year working with Jerrie and the campaign. I still believe Jerrie is the most qualified candidate for the research for such a mission. As well, I will continue to support her in friendship and spirit.

Thank you for the time you have extended on Jerrie's behalf and continue to extend on a daily basis in support of women in all walks of life. You definitely have my vote.

As always, blessings to you and your family.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pamela Harrison".

DONNA KOCIAN
2500 Steck Avenue #27
Austin, Texas 78757
—
Telephone 512-323-9282
Fax 512-323-9758

To Melanne
3/2
Waiting for
guidance

February 17, 1999

Ms. Missy Darwin Kincaid
Special Assistant to the First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Missy,

As explained in my enclosed letter to The First Lady, I have hesitated in contacting you both out of respect for the more serious matters which have recently surrounded the The White House. So I apologize for the amount of time which has passed in sending my thanks for the trouble you went through to send Jerrie's and my photos with The First Lady.

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Again, thank you for all you have done to help us. I wish you the very best.

Blessings,

Donna Kocian

DONNA KOCIAN

2500 Steck Avenue #27
Austin, Texas 78757

Telephone 512-323-9282
Fax 512-323-9758

February 17, 1999

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

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Thank you for the time you have extended on Jerrie's behalf and continue to extend on a daily basis in support of women in all walks of life. You definitely have my vote.

As always, blessings to you and your family.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donna Kevian". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'K'.



Blessings, Missy -
Joy, Wonder
and Love -
Jerrie

MISSISSAUGA 7 11 1961

SUPPORTERS OF JERRIE COBB TO FLY IN SPACE
(partial list)

Thousands of people around the world who are signing petitions asking NASA to send Jerrie into space.

60,000 members of the American Association of University Women.

Ninety Nines, Inc., International Organization of Licensed Women Pilots.

National Women's History Project.

Whirlygirls, Inc. (women helicopter pilots worldwide).

Pioneer Woman Museum, Women Of The West Museum.

Women In Aviation, Inc.

Oklahoma Historical Association.

Many, many school children, and teachers.

U. S. Senators: Barbara Boxer, Diane Feinstein, James Inhof, Don Nickles.

U. S. Representatives: Dennis Kucinich, Dana Rohrabacher, Dan Miller.

Women Fly, Inc.

Dr. Buzz Aldrin, Apollo astronaut, pilot for the first moon landing.

National Organization For Women (N.O.W).

Experimental Aircraft Association (E.A.A.)

Oklahoma Air and Space Museum.

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

RECENT COMMENTS ON JERRIE COBB:

"Jerrie is not a victim, but rather a person of enormous spirit who has risen above many obstacles to live a useful and adventuresome life."

"Jerrie is an untapped national treasure. She is somewhat restrained and reserved, but she feels the passion of a missionary when she speaks about her flying and astronaut training. When she was denied the right to be the first woman to fly in space, she channeled her energies and talents to humanitarian work in the Amazon jungle but never gave up her dream of flying in space. She is like a thoroughbred who was never allowed to race."

"As a physician I can tell you that Ms. Cobb is a very healthy individual. As a pilot I can tell you that she can fly a plane like it is part of her body and soul. As a medical volunteer in Third world countries I can affirm her ability to react to the intense pressure of new, uncertain, and dangerous situations. As an American I am proud to have her as a countryman. We all deserve to see her fly in space."

"Jerrie believes that space is God's unspoiled world which humans should not trespass upon without a feeling of reverence."

"Jerrie is an American hero who should have been the world's first woman to fly in space. We are Aviation and Space Program supporters who believe that sending Jerrie into space will send a marvelous message to all the world."

"Jerrie is a shy and private person filled with a love of God, the sky, and a deep passion to fly in space for medical and environmental research (world's rain forests)."

"After reviewing her outstanding background and achievements we stand in awe of Jerrie's dedication, determination, and commitment to her dreams and goals. There seems to be no other person more qualified or worthy of this opportunity."

"It's logical that a woman would be next and there is no one in America that is more qualified and deserving to be in that space shuttle than Jerrie Cobb."

"America needs a heroine. NASA needs a heroine. Women throughout the world need a heroine. Jerrie is that person. She deserves the opportunity to make her lifelong dream come true."

"Jerrie's is a Cinderella story, the one who stays home while the stepsister returns to outer space."

"Jerrie is the people's astronaut. One of us."

"Go Jerrie! Go and do what most of us only dream of. Go for us. We're with you all the way."



2nd FL.
East Wing
WH

Missy Darwin Kincaid
~~Assistant to the First Lady~~
~~The White House~~
~~Washington, D.C. 20500~~



DONNA KOCIAN

2500 Steck Avenue #27
Austin, Texas 78757

Telephone 512-323-9282
Fax 512-323-9758

November 1, 1998

TO: Missy Darwin Kincaid

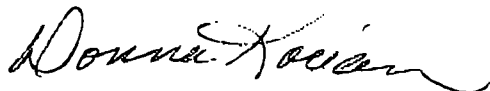
RE: Jerrie Cobb

Dear Missy,

I'm sorry I got caught up in the exuberance of trying to help my friend, Jerrie Cobb. As you may know, none of us here are professionals, simply women helping women. I assumed the rumor was correct since it came from various media, as early back as last Thursday at the launch but, alas, it was untrue.

I sincerely apologize for any misunderstanding or complications this may have cause you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donna Kocian". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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First Lady's Office
Missy Kincaid
OA/Box Number: 17303

FOLDER TITLE:

Jerrie Cobb

2014-0301-S

sb70

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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

11/2/98

Missy Sporne

Donna -

Told her:

- ① no mtg Friday
- ② Nasa's decision
- ③ Stay in touch

Terry Hudkins at
NASA - & keep us
informed.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

This is a
NASA - decision

Mr. Clinton cannot
intervene -
can't appear to
pressure

Wormer
(202) 358.1977
Terry Hudkins

Bob Cabana - Dec. 3rd.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOT a mtg on
Friday -
if considered
way down the
road -

T

Please check
before release public

2461- get 
Donne letters
to FL

Korian

media - attn -
mtg. on Friday re:
Jeri into spec

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Missy,

Here's a copy of the
letter/photos MV sent to
Jerrre Cobb. . . .

Thanks!
Eric

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 2, 1998

Ms. Donna Kocian
2500 Steck Avenue #27
Austin, Texas 78757

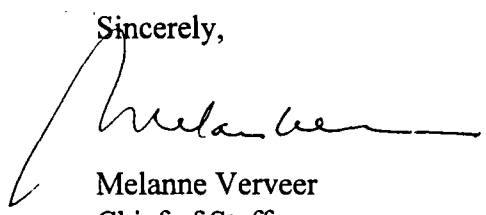
Dear Ms. Kocian:

Thank you for your recent correspondence with the First Lady and your news about the invitation to the launch. Mrs. Clinton was pleased to learn that Jerrie Cobb had an opportunity to discuss first hand with NASA Administrator Dan Goldin the possibility of a future flight opportunity. She felt it was important for her to hear directly from Administrator Goldin and get the benefit of his views since he will make any final decisions on future flight opportunities aboard the Space Shuttle. I understand that Administrator Goldin has followed up on the meeting with a letter directly to Ms. Cobb.

It is our understanding that NASA intends to evaluate the scientific data obtained from John Glenn's flight before making any commitments of future flights on aging research. At that time, if NASA does proceed with a future flight, I am confident that Ms. Cobb's experience and credentials will be an asset in the selection process.

Please find enclosed photos from the meeting you had with Mrs. Clinton this summer. I encourage you to stay in close contact with NASA over the coming months and wish you well.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
to the First Lady



To Jerrie Cobb with best wishes -
Hillary Rodham Clinton



To Donna Kocian with best wishes -
Hillary Rodham Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 2, 1998

Ms. Donna Kocian
2500 Steck Avenue #27
Austin, Texas 78757

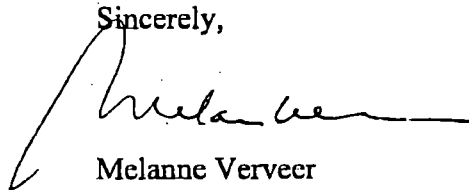
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Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
to the First Lady



To Jerrie Cobb with best wishes -
Hillary Rodham Clinton



To Donna Kocian with best wishes -
Hillary Rodham Clinton

Comments: Here you go, Missy!

DONNA KOCIAN

2500 Steck Avenue #27
Austin, Texas 78757

Telephone 512-323-9282
Fax 512-323-9758

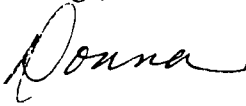
October 20, 1998

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear First Lady,

Please excuse my oversight in not including the referenced material in my letter earlier today which was FedExed under separate cover.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna".

Enclosures

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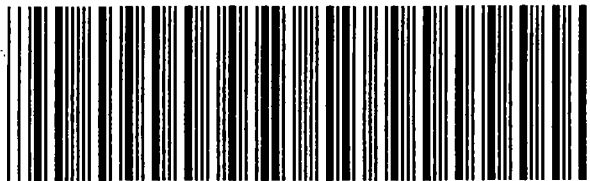
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(Second business day)☐ FedEx Express Saver Freight
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(Call for delivery schedule. See back for detailed descriptions of freight services.)

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Pkg.

Declared value limit \$500

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(One box must be checked)

Does this shipment contain dangerous goods?

☐ No☐ Yes(As per attached
Shipper's
Declaration)☐ Yes(Shipper's
Declaration
not required)☐ Dry Ice

Dry Ice, 9, UN 1845 kg.

☐ Cargo Aircraft Only

*Dangerous Goods cannot be shipped in FedEx packaging

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CheckObtain Recipient
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Total Weight

Total Declared Value

Total Charges

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*When declaring a value higher than \$100 per shipment, you pay an additional charge. See SERVICE
CONDITIONS, DECLARED VALUE, AND LIMIT OF LIABILITY section for further information.

Credit Card Auth.

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FAX

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters

Office of Public Affairs
Associate Administrator

Fax Number: 202/358-4345
Office Number: 202/358-1898

Date: _____

To: *Missy Kincaid*

Fax: *452-6771*

From: *Peggy Wilkins*

Total Number of Pages
Including Cover Sheet:

3

Instructions: _____



Sept. 25, 1998

Talking Points

The following is guidance for questions regarding Jerrle Cobb's campaign to fly:

- While Jerrle Cobb is a tremendously accomplished woman and an outstanding aviator, we have no plans at this time to fly people who are not NASA astronauts. After STS-95, there is no research in the pipeline requiring participation by an older person, or by a person who is not an astronaut.
- The STS-95 mission includes exploratory, space-based research on aging. The scientific community must analyze the data from that mission before it considers further steps in that area of research. Right now, we do not have support or data from the scientific community that would require additional flights for older Americans. We will see where the research from STS-95 leads.
- Administrator Goldin met with Miss Cobb. He did not close the door on the possibility of flying another older American, but said NASA cannot consider her request at the current time.
- The Shuttle schedule for the next year focuses on building the International Space Station. The crew members for these complex and demanding missions will be selected from the current astronaut corps.
- For the past three decades, NASA has been working hard to make sure there is a level playing field in the astronaut corps and in the Agency. We have launched the first American woman in Space (Sally Ride), the first Shuttle pilot (Eileen Collins) and sent Shannon Lucid to the Space Station Mir.
- On STS-95, the flight integration manager is a woman (Michele Brekke.)
- In January 1999, NASA's Eileen Collins will become the first woman to command a Space Shuttle. Both the flight director (Linda Hamm) and the cap com (Susan Still) for that mission are women.
- When NASA announced the decision to fly John Glenn, Administrator Dan Goldin said, "There is only one John Glenn," and made it clear that NASA has no plans to fly any other civilians. Barbara Morgan is not flying as a

civilian; she is in training to become a NASA astronaut and will fly as a mission specialist.

- John Glenn was selected for three very specific reasons: beyond his age:
 1. 40 years of medical history with NASA
 2. Expertise in geriatric research, and peer-reviewed science package
 3. Previous flight experience as a NASA astronaut
- The 1960 program that Jerrie Cobb participated in was not a NASA program nor was it funded by NASA. It was privately funded by Jacqueline Cochran, the famous American aviatrix, and administered by Dr. William Randolph Lovelace, an Arizona physician.
- Dr. Lovelace helped develop the physical fitness regimen to select the original "Mercury Seven" astronauts. In 1960, on his own initiative, Dr. Lovelace invited Jerrie Cobb to undergo the same physical and psychological fitness testing regimen, but the tests were not sponsored nor sanctioned by NASA.
- The tests were only medical tests and did not include the same training given to NASA astronauts. In fact, when Miss Cobb's biography came out in 1962, Hugh Dryden, NASA's Deputy Administrator, wrote a letter to correct the story:

"The truth of the matter is that Dr. W. Randolph Lovelace, following his examination of astronaut candidates for NASA, on his own responsibility and initiative, carried out the same series of tests on Miss Cobb, and I believe others," wrote Dryden in a letter dated June 18, 1962. "The series of qualifying tests carried out by Dr. Lovelace were only a small part of the process of selection and training of astronauts by NASA."
- A book titled "Amelia Earhart's Daughters, notes that "Lovelace was not in NASA's employ, the testing was not NASA's, and there existed no plans to put a woman into space, let alone an astronaut training program for women, but the newspapers regarded all these matters as details so minor as to be almost unworthy of mention."
- Miss Cobb was never a NASA astronaut trainee (nor has she ever applied to become an astronaut).
- NASA was in no way involved with any part of Dr. Lovelace's program to evaluate woman as potential astronauts.

Jerrie Cobb of UC Shows AA's Huge Electra Responds to Woman's Touch

By ROBERT J. SERLING

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19 (UPI)—A lady, who scales 120 pounds, took on a controversial 65,000-pound plane this week and emerged the master.

For more than three hours, an attractive pony-tailed blonde named Jerrie Cobb, from Oklahoma City, put an American Airlines Electra through its paces. Under the watchful eye of an American check captain (and somewhat fearful eye of this reporter) she did everything but loop the giant turbo-prop.

Miss Cobb is holder of numerous aviation speed records for women and is the first of her sex to qualify for space flight training under Project Mercury. American, which is conducting an aggressive campaign in behalf of the controversial Electra, staged the demonstration to prove that even a frail woman can handle the big ship safely with a minimum of training.

—Veteran Pilot

Miss Cobb is no aviation neophyte. She has more than 2,000 hours of flight time but mostly on small aircraft. Up to today, she had never seen the inside of an Electra cockpit let alone fly one.

I was sitting in the jump seat when Capt. Arthur Weidman, a 15,000-hour veteran with American, briefed Jerrie on take-off procedure.

Miss Cobb took off her shoes in what I thought was a rather ominous gesture.

Confidently in heels, she explained laconically. She manipulated the engine throttles expertly as she steered the Electra toward our assigned runway. The tower gave us the go-ahead. Jerrie poured on the power and before I could say "I don't trust woman drivers" we were airborne.

In the next three hours, I modified my opinion of woman drivers — of at least woman pilots. Capt. Weidman had her doing 45-degree banks — a maneuver which shook the Electra on one wing. He tested her ability to recover from stalls — and if you've never been in an airplane that stalled, congratulate yourself. I'll shake the things out of your teeth.



JERRIE COBB

I asked her how she liked the plane.

That gave me a great idea. If mere women could fly this monster, why not good old Serling?

"Captain," I said to Weidman, "how about letting me try it?"

"Sure," he grinned. "Jerrie probably could use a little rest." I slipped into the left-hand seat. Weidman took his hands off the wheel.

"She's all yours," he said. "Just try a couple of turns until you get the feel."

I set my jaw like I figured John Wayne would do in a similar situation. I banked the Electra. She handled docilely, even though my flying technique had all the stability of a pogo stick.

Miss Cobb came back to peer over my shoulder. I decided I'd show her what a man could do. I banked the Electra again, only more sharply. My stomach sank like a runaway elevator.

"Keep her nose up," said Capt. Weidman gently.

I managed to straighten out.

Miss Cobb just smiled. "You're doing fine," she said. "Miss Cobb was a real lady. So is the Electra."

Shook Perfect Landing. For We made three landings at Baltimore's Friendship Airport and by the third one, Miss Cobb was setting the Electra down so gently she wouldn't have cracked an egg shell glued to the landing gear.

At 8,000 feet, Weidman killed three of the four engines. The air speed indicator didn't drop a single knot and the altimeter didn't lose a single foot. This was a tribute to the airplane of course, but Miss Cobb wasn't doing so badly, either. Controlling a four-engine airliner flying on only one engine takes skill and strength.

On one take-off Weidman chopped an engine just at the critical moment we were supposed to break ground. The Electra clawed upward as if nothing had happened.

On the next take-off, Weidman told Jerrie to leave the throttles at full power even after we were airborne. She did. The Electra climbed almost straight up. We hit 8,000 feet in about 60 seconds.

Donna
Thanks for your
foxes, and keeping me
up to date —
Love, D

ASTRODOLL CHRISTENS ASTROJET -- Pretty Jerrie Cobb, the first U. S. woman astronaut candidate, puts the 707 Astrojet label on one of the new highly-advanced jetfan engines which powered American Airlines inaugural second generation jetliner flight today (Mar. 12) from Los Angeles to New York.

-aa-



Mess

From: Bill Hipple
Public Relations
American Airlines
MA 5 7241



AMERICAN AIRLINES INC.
PRESS PHOTO SECTION
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
JAMAICA 30, N.Y.

THIRTY FOUR MINUTES EARLY.....JERRIE COBB, THE FIRST WOMEN ASTRONAUT

CONGRATULATES AMERICAN AIRLINES CAPT. ROY PATTERSON FOR PILOTING
OF 707 ASTROJET. CAPT. PATTERSON PILOTED THE PLANE FROM LOS ANGELES
TO NEW YORK IN 4 HOURS AND 21 MINUTES, CUTTING 34 MINUTES OFF THE
PREVIOUS SCHEDULE.

AA

EC3/12/61

DONNA KOCIAN

2500 Steck Avenue #27
Austin, Texas 78757

Telephone 512-323-9282
Fax 512-323-9758

October 20, 1998

Ms. Missy Darwin Kincaid
Special Assistant to the First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Kincaid,

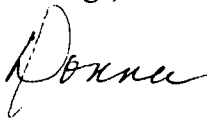
Jerrie Cobb and I met you and Mrs. Clinton at the White House on July 29. So far, neither of us have received the photos which were taken by the staff photographer. When one of the NBC Dateline producers contacted the White House in search of copies of the pictures, she said they had difficulty finding them, but did have success.

I understand how busy you all must be these days so I was not concerned about eventually receiving copies of the photos, until I spoke with NBC.

Could you possibly send a copy of my picture with The First Lady to the above address, and a copy of Jerrie Cobb's picture to her at the following address: The Jerrie Cobb Foundation, 1008 Beach Blvd., Sun City Center, Florida 33573.

Thank you again for your trouble. Jerrie and I fondly remember the tour you so kindly gave us.

Blessings,



DONNA KOCIAN

2500 Steck Avenue #27
Austin, Texas 78757

Telephone 512-323-9282
Fax 512-323-9758

October 20, 1998

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear First Lady,

I thought you would be interested in the latest update with Jerrie Cobb and NASA. Jerrie and the other 12 women who comprise the "Mercury 13" received invitations this week for John Glenn's launch. We are learning the power of public and private pressure. Once again, thank you so much for your interest and support of Jerrie. With our combined efforts, hopefully we will all be watching her lift off soon!

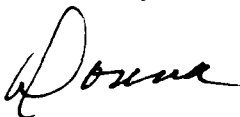
The good news for the campaign is the continuing interest from the press. Requests continue to flood Jerrie's fax every day. Jerrie has a full week of press scheduled prior to the John Glenn launch in Cocoa Beach and at the Cape. We will all be arriving sometime Monday.

I am enclosing additional information on Jerrie, which I thought would interest you. It was great fun for me to learn about, since I have been a flight attendant with American for 18 years! Her life continues to amaze and inspire me!

Thank you again for all you have done and continue to strive for to promote women in our world.

You and your family remain in my daily prayers.

God bless you.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jennie never applied
to be an astronaut -
(b/c she couldn't b/c at
that time all had to be
military ~~test~~ test
pilots)

John Glenn got research
together to show
Peer review science study

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jeff Hofgaard -

· Peggy 358.1744

Wilhide NASA

· display f/ 358.4345

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

TO: Peggy Willhide

FAX NUMBER: 358-4345

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 358-1744

PAGES SENT INCLUDING COVER SHEET 10

DATE: October 20, 1998

FROM: Missy Kincaid, Special Assistant to the First Lady

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (202) 456-6321 FAX NUMBER: (202) 456-6771

MESSAGE:

Thanks for taking so much time with me re:
Jerrie Cobb. It looks like we'll respond to Donna
with a letter from Melanne Vermeer - Chief of
Staff to the First Lady.

Am faxing more than you probably want,
but better to share information than not.

Will send you a copy of Melanne's letter once it is
in final form.

Thanks
Missy

Ms. Donna Kocian
2500 Steck Avenue #27
Austin, Texas 78757

Dear Ms. Kocian:

Thank you for your recent correspondence with the First Lady. She was pleased to learn that Ms. Jerrie Cobb had an opportunity to discuss first hand with NASA Administrator Dan Goldin the possibility of a future flight opportunity. She felt it was important for her to hear directly from Administrator Goldin and get the benefit of his views since he will make any final decisions on future flight opportunities aboard the Space Shuttle. I understand that Administrator Goldin has followed up on the meeting with a letter directly to Ms. Cobb.

It is our understanding that NASA intends to evaluate the scientific data obtained from John Glenn's upcoming flight before making any commitments of future flights on aging research. At that time, if NASA does proceed with a future flight, I am confident that Ms. Cobb's experience and credentials will be an asset in the selection process. It is also my understanding that NASA has invited Ms. Cobb to the launch later this month. I have asked them to contact you about the invitation, as your letters imply that Ms. Cobb has not been invited.

Please find enclosed photos from the meeting you had with Mrs. Clinton this summer. I encourage you to stay in close contact with NASA over the coming months and wish you well in your efforts.

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer

Dear Donna:

I was pleased to learn that Ms. Jerrie Cobb had an opportunity to discuss first hand with NASA Administrator Dan Goldin the possibility of a future flight opportunity. I felt it was important for her to hear directly from Dan Goldin and get the benefit of his views since he will make any final decisions on future flight opportunities aboard the Space Shuttle. I know that Dan has followed up on the meeting with a letter directly to Ms. Cobb.

It is my understanding that NASA intends to evaluate the scientific data obtained from John Glenn's upcoming flight before making any commitments of future flights on aging research. At that time, if NASA does proceed with a future flight, I am confident that Ms. Cobb's experience and credentials will be an asset in the selection process.

I would encourage you to stay in close contact with NASA over the coming months and wish you well in your efforts.

Sincerely,

HRC

*Language
from OSTP*

DONNA KOCIAN

2500 Steck Avenue #27
Austin, Texas 78757

Telephone 512-323-9282
Fax 512-323-9758

September 30, 1998

First Lady Hillary Rodham-Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

Jerrie Cobb and I would like to thank you for asking Dan Goldin to meet with her. We thought you might like to know the outcome of the meeting as well as the progress being made with her campaign, since we met with you in July.

Jerrie was asked to see Mr. Goldin along with two of his colleagues on September 8. Jerrie told me that he began the meeting by telling her that you had requested he see her. He then went on to say, "Tell me about yourself. I know nothing about you - who you are or why you are here." Though gracious, he told her she was "too young" for the research, he has enough astronauts and doesn't even know how he will accommodate various people from other countries to whom the President has promised a seat on the shuttle. He appeared defensive about his support of women in the space program.*

There was no decision to be made, we were continuing this campaign. This week, Jerrie and I were in Ponca City, Oklahoma for the Grand Reopening of the Pioneer Woman Museum. Jerrie is a recipient of that award and was honored along with Clara Lupper. The week and weekend were comprised of interviews with People Magazine, CNN (Miles O'Brien), CBS Sunday Morning (Charles Osgood) and NBC Dateline (Sara James). Over 2,000 people were in attendance at the museum reopening. It was there that, prior to honoring Jerrie, Senator Inhofe (R-OK) announced the following message from Dan Goldin:

"If everything goes well and the data comes in after the John Glenn senior citizen space flight and the data works out, we will be doing it again. It is logical that a woman would be next and there is no one in America more qualified and deserving to be in that space shuttle than Jerrie Cobb."

Stunned does not adequately describe what we felt, though we are approaching this with cautious optimism. I have my doubts as to sincerity vs public relations, as Jerrie has not even received an invitation from NASA to Sen. Glenn's launch. Doesn't there seem to be some contradiction here?

Being space buffs, we have planned on going to Sen. Glenn's launch before her campaign was even off the ground. We are each bringing a friend, a "girls" vacation, "NIP" view from one of the beaches (Non Important People) and plan to make a day of it!

Mrs. Clinton, the beauty of this entire campaign is that it started without Jerrie even knowing about it. It is entirely grass roots. Every aspect of this is purely volunteer. It has a life of it's own. She is the people's astronaut.

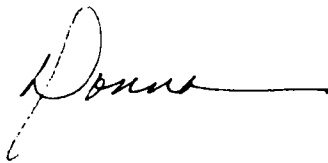
Jerrie has interviews scheduled this week with German TV, Canadian Radio (international broadcast) and NBC Nightly News.

Jerrie wanted so much to continue to honor your advice and stay out of the press as long as she could. There is no one whose perspective we respect more than yours and we would be honored if you could offer further direction.

With life pulling you from all directions, we certainly appreciate your time and the sincere effort and consideration you have given to Jerrie's quest for women's research.

God bless you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donna", followed by a horizontal line.

*133 US Astronauts: 103 male, 29 female: 45 male pilots, 3 female pilots. (Includes the current class. Source - NASA web site.)

DONNA KOCIAN

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Austin, Texas 78757

Telephone 512-323-9282
Fax 512-323-9758
Email IORGAL@aol.com

October 15, 1998

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear First Lady,

I thought you might like to know of upcoming national and international news stories concerning Jerrie Cobb's quest for space, as well as give you an update.

October 12 - People Magazine (dated October 19), Jerrie on page 66
October 25 - CBS Sunday Morning with Charles Osgood
October 28 - CNN NewsStand with Miles O'Brien
October 28 - NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw
October 28 - NBC Dateline
October 29 - NBC The Today Show (from the Cape)

Internationally, German Television, Pulitzer Broadcasting and Canadian Radio have all interviewed Jerrie and are preparing stories for broadcast.

We have continued to proceed with cautious optimism concerning Dan Goldin's promising words last month in Oklahoma, which I told you about in my previous letter to you. We are concerned that Mr. Goldin is now refusing requests for interviews from the major newscasters concerning his consideration of Jerrie for a mission, and referring all press to his public relations department.

As well, the press and many of Jerrie's supporters have noticed that Jerrie has not been invited to Senator Glenn's launch - somewhat of a contradiction to Mr. Goldin considering Jerrie if all goes well with the Glenn launch. (Jerrie has asked me to clarify that she is not asking for an invitation. She is very happy for Senator Glenn and will be wishing him well with us from the beach.)

The petition campaign continues with full force. We are delighted and thankful!

As always, we appreciate your attention and support of Jerrie's quest and I look forward to your response.

God's blessing,

Dennis

October 19, 1998

Missy Darwin Kincaid
Special Assistant To The First Lady
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Ms. Kincaid;

I just thought I would check with you to see if Mrs. Clinton received the scrapbook sent her in August about Jerrie's quest to fly in space. It was never acknowledged, so we wonder if she even received it. It was sent via Fedex, and I still have the receipt.

Thank you again for arranging for Jerrie to meet with Mrs. Clinton in July. It was certainly a highlight of her life, and she would deeply appreciate copies of the pictures taken.

Jerrie will be at Cape Kennedy next week (Motel 6, 407-783-3103) to wave John Glenn off on his second space flight. Wouldn't it be great if Mrs. Clinton, or the President, would make the announcement that Jerrie will be on the next space flight? That would certainly brighten a lot of hearts, and bring many cheers!

Enclose is NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin's latest statement on Jerrie. And a list of national TV shows scheduling stories about Jerrie's fantastic flying career. With all the interest, somehow, some way, it's all going come together and Jerrie's going get the space flight promised her 40 years ago. Like Amelia Earhart, Jerrie is a great role model, and inspiration to many. Thank you again for all you are doing to help Jerrie's dream come true.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruth".

Ruth Lummis
Jerrie Cobb Foundation, Inc.
1008 Beach Blvd.
Sun City Center, FL 33573-5405
Fax: 813.634.2606

Stories to air about Jerrie Cobb:

Thursday, Oct. 22 Inside Edition (Fox)
Sunday, Oct. 25 CBS Sunday Morning News with Charles Osgood.
Sunday, Oct. 25 CNN Time NewsStand with Miles O'Brian
Monday, Oct. 26Newschannel 2 Orlando (Pulitzer Broadcasting).
Wednesday, Oct. 28 CBS This Morning will have Jerrie on live from Cape Kennedy.
Wednesday, Oct. 28 NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw.
Wednesday, Oct. 28 NBC Dateline.
Thursday, Oct. 29 NBC TODAY SHOW will have Jerrie on live from the Cape.
Thursday, Oct. 29 FOX News.

German T.V. filmed Jerrie for release in Germany, France, and throughout Europe.
Asahi National Broadcasting will air a film on Jerrie throughout Japan and the Far East.
Newsday, Philadelphia Inquirer, Baltimore Sun, Boston Globe have stories on Jerrie.
People Magazine, has a three page story on Jerrie in the October 19 issue.
British Broadcasting Corporation is filming a story on Jerrie.

The Ponca City



SUNDAY

Vol. 105 - No. 310

September 27, 1998

Ponca City, Oklahoma



THE PIONEER WOMAN Museum was officially opened with a ribbon cutting Saturday by Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin. Having a part in the ceremony were Jerrie Cobb, left, an honoree; Sen. Jim Inhofe; Fallin; Sen. Don Nickles, and Clara Luper, another honoree.

Blake Wade, Oklahoma Historical Society executive is shown in the background. Day-long festivities were held at the museum and on grounds of the Pioneer Woman Statue. (News Photo by Louise Abercrombie)

Pioneer Woman Museum Reopens With a Flourish

By LOUISE ABERCROMBIE
News Staff Writer

Two highlights dominated the grand opening ceremony of the newly expanded Pioneer Woman Museum on Saturday. Both highlights featured the two women to be honored: Jerrie Cobb, aviatrix, and Clara Luper, civil rights leader.

Jerrie Cobb

First came Sen. Inhofe, who mentioned that he and Jerrie Cobb shared a love of aviation, and that as he was in the Chicago airport waiting to fly back to Oklahoma he got a message from NASA Administrator Don Golden, who knew that he was coming to Ponca City today.

Golden asked that Inhofe announce to the people in attendance at the opening ceremonies that "if everything goes well and the data comes in after the John Glenn senior citizen space flight and the data works out, we'll be doing it again. It's logical that a woman would be next and there is no one in America that is more qualified and deserving to be in that space shuttle than Jerrie Cobb."

ing to be in that space shuttle than Jerrie Cobb."

This brought a big smile and a hug for the senator from Cobb and a standing ovation from the crowd of nearly 2,000, who were seated in the open and also under tents. Cobb is from Ponca City.



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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1998

274 PAGES

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Woman Pilot Still Hanging Hope in Space

By Ann DeFrangé
Staff Writer

BARTLESVILLE — Where Jerrie Cobb has lived for three decades, high-tech is a dart blower. Modern transportation is a canoe.

The primitive people she lives with care considerably more about feeding themselves every day than they do about rocket science.

It's a life she chose.

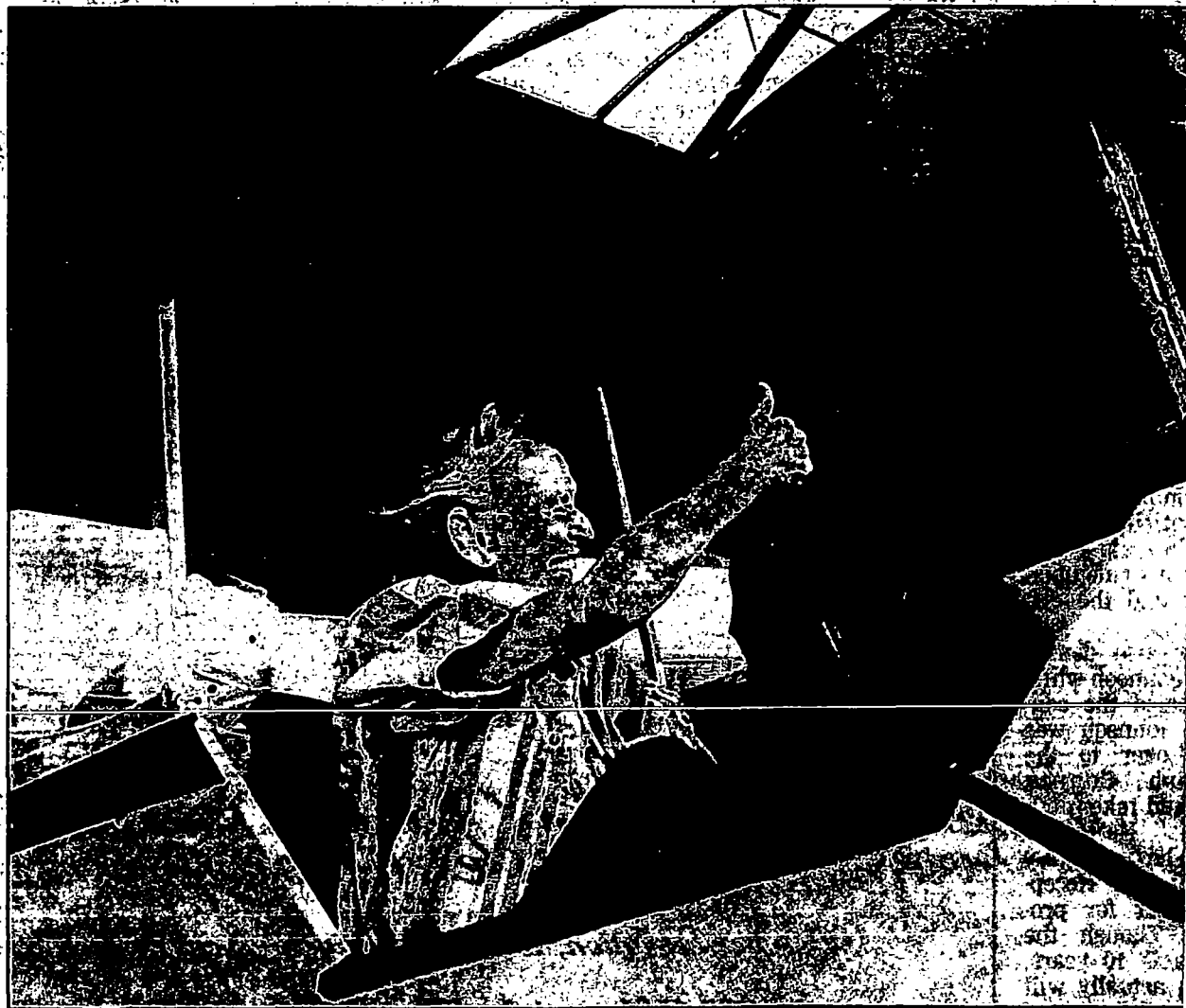
So, when she lifted above the jungle roof and flew home, to North America and finally to Oklahoma, it was indeed a culture shock to find on her doorstep film crews and reporters from CNN, NBC Dateline, CBS News, People magazine and a German television staff. They followed her around through this weekend while she was an honoree at the opening of the renovated Pioneer Woman Museum in Ponca City and starred at a fly-in at Bartlesville Municipal Airport.

Suddenly Jerrie Cobb is a media darling. She's hot news. She's a Cinderella story, the one who stays home while the stepsister returns to outer space.

Since last spring, when NASA announced Sen. John Glenn, a former astronaut, would join a space shuttle crew in October, special interest groups and individuals across the United States have petitioned Congress to send Jerrie Cobb on her first flight, one she missed the first time Glenn launched into space.

Petition distributors estimate the petitions now

See COBB, Page 3-A



— Staff Photo by David McDani

Jerrie Cobb shows her enthusiasm about sitting in the cockpit of a vintage Piper Cub at Bartlesville's Municipal Airport. Her first flying job, the summer after high school graduation, was in such a plane, dropping circus announcements over small Oklahoma towns. She is fighting for a seat on a space shuttle, a job she missed out on nearly 40 years ago.

From Page 1-A

carry nearly 25,000 names.

At 67, Cobb is a slight woman, her muscles wiry and her skin baked by tropical sun, her hair the honey-blond it was when the media first noticed her. An easy laugh hides a basic shyness. But she is, she says quickly, ready.

She has stayed ready. She can pass the fitness tests. She can fly.

The Oklahoma native has been flying since her father taught her when she was 12. She was licensed at age 16 and went directly from high school to professional aviation. She set records for speed and altitude and took the controls of nearly every flying machine invented by man.

In 1961, while NASA was selecting and training the first set of astronauts, the men of Mercury 7, a group of female pilots underwent the same testing and training the men were being given. Thirteen of them met the qualifications for being astronauts. Cobb scored in the top 2 percent of the men and women.

Supported by the testimony of new astronaut Glenn, Congress determined that women were not fit to fly in space. They required that astronauts have jet pilot experience, but women were not permitted to fly military jets, the only way they could get that experience.

Glenn went into orbit around the Earth. Cobb went to Central and South America, where she was a bush pilot-missionary discovering and serving remote Indian villages in the jungles. For most of 35 years, she has lived with the primitive villagers. They sleep in hammocks under a communal shelter; they bathe in rivers; they hunt their food in the jungle trees. She flies in antibiotics and sometimes seeds and, always, hope.

That's where she was six months ago, so she knew nothing about Glenn returning to space for geriatric research.

"We don't get any news in Amazonia," she said. "We don't even have electricity. I came home in March for routine maintenance on my plane."

A friend in Florida holds mail for Cobb's infrequent visits back. Among the stacks, this time she found "a very small, two-paragraph note from Fresno State College in California saying NASA was sending Glenn into space." It was from Don Dorrough, a history professor whose research had established that a qualified Cobb was denied a space shot on the basis of her gender, and Glenn was going again. He enlisted a feminist history group to help promote Cobb's cause.

"The second paragraph said some women's group out there said Jerrie Cobb should be considered. I thought maybe this was a new chance. They asked for my permission to start this campaign. I couldn't say yes fast enough.

"It's a dream I've held onto for 40 years ... and it just might be coming true. It's just part of being a pilot. You always want to go farther, higher, faster, out of the space around this world and to the planets."

By summer, the campaign was on its way without her. Strangers were contacting Congress and NASA on her behalf. T-shirts and caps that announce "Women Fly" are being worn. Groups are signing on as quickly as they learn about this forgotten pilot.

In Ponca City this weekend, in the town she calls home, people stood in line to sign the petition.

One of her first acts in March was to write Glenn, offering congratulations and seeking his support for her selection to a flight. Three months later, she dropped in on him in Washington. They talked about his training; he evaded her question.

She's not angry. "John's just John," she says of a fellow pilot.

Not so the NASA official she met earlier this month. Daniel Goldin, who is in charge of astronaut selection and to whom the petitions have been addressed, summoned her, she said.

"My hopes soared on that news. I spent days and nights making notes."

He didn't want the notes, and he didn't want her, she quickly realized. He admitted he had invited her "because Mrs. Clinton asked him to. He said he didn't need any more astronauts. They had enough. It was the same as it was 40 years ago."

For once, she cried ... a little

traveling for research on geriatrics in the weightless conditions that enhance medical tests. Women's health experts contend that women will age within the work conditions of the international space station and need tests appropriate to them.

Cobb is not bitter about the attitudes that have survived for 40 years. She just wants someone to understand the irrationality of it.

"It's not a woman thing at all. It's a woman thing with NASA."

"Back in the early days of aviation, in the '20s and '30s, women were all over the place, setting all kinds of records. Women had more opportunities in aviation in the '20s and '30s than they do in space."

She has followed the space flights and has timed her returns to the United States for them. She will be in Florida for Glenn's flight in October, although she hasn't been invited.

And because it takes faith just to fly, she has enough to support this so-far disappointing campaign.

"It feels so right. There's some way to get this to come together. I'm going to get to go."

She will have plenty of reasons for flying out of this world:

For the thousands of names that strangers signed on papers going to Washington, D.C.

For her beloved "Okies," whom she always comes home to, and those qualities she calls "an Okie thing." One of them is stubborn determination.

For the historians who wanted to tilt history back on an even keel.

For the fifth-grade girls in Boston who wrote letters to their senators and their president.

For the Mercury 13 women who always watched from the ground.

For the Tulsan who brought his vintage Piper Cub to Bartlesville for the fly-in; he loaned her his treasured plane, and he gave her his story about the license he finally got at age 57.

For every woman who won't be dismissed because she's 67, because, whatever flying means to her, she knows she can still do it.

And perhaps, for a village tucked away in a jungle where the people have never heard of space ships, only of a small, golden-haired woman who brings them hope.

But finally, in the long run, this flight, if it happens, is for Cobb. It's the one she's been waiting for all her life. "I'm a pilot. This is the ultimate flight."

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Ruth Lummis

Phone (813) 634-2651

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Jerric Cobb Foundation, Inc.

Address

1008 Beach Blvd.

Dept./Floor/Suite/Room

City

Sun City Center

State

FL

ZIP

33573-5405

2 Your Internal Billing Reference Information**3 To**Recipient's
Name

Missy Darwin Kincaid

Phone 202-456-6266

Company

Special Assistant To The First Lady

Address

The White House (Mrs Clinton)

Dept./Floor/Suite/Room

City

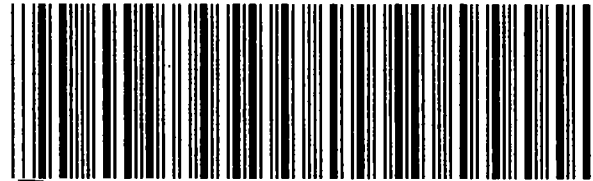
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P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

From
Peggy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

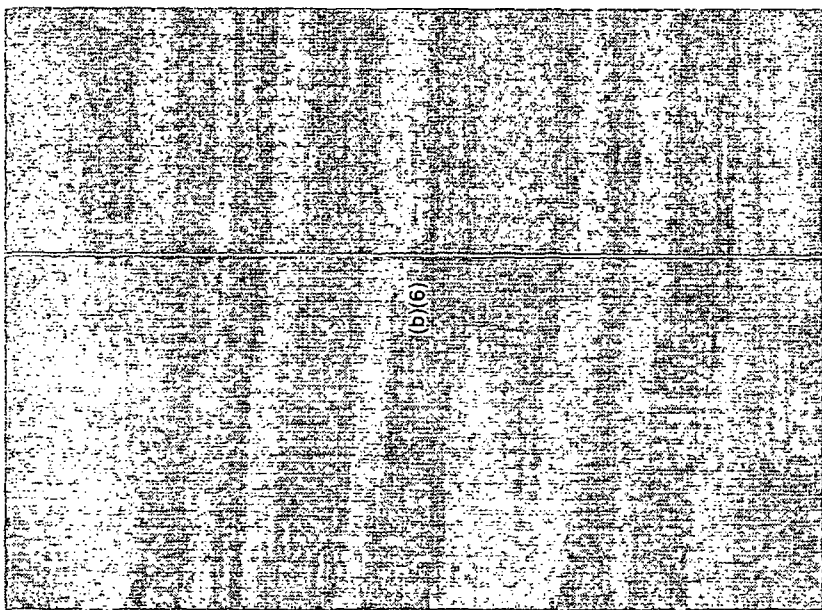
- Peggy
- Bill
Reidy
- Dan

Jerrie - 2 hrs. late
got lost

• Gordon knew Ø

"I want to fly on the shuttle"

• Gordon explains research



• NASA explained that gum
had done ^{potter} research!

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

• Jennie said she had 9
supporters - campaign

For more information contact: **Jerrie Cobb Foundation, Inc.**
Fax: (813) 634-2606

JERRIE COBB --- FACT SHEET

- * **Born March 5, 1931 in Norman, Oklahoma.**
- * **Learns to fly in a bi-wing Waco at age 12. Works at small country airports after school, weekends to gain flying experience and learn mechanics.**
- * **Barnstorms around the Great Plains in a Piper J-3 Cub at age 16.**
- * **Professional pilot at age 18. Flying jobs include pipeline patrol, charter flying, teaching men to fly, crop dusting, teaching ground school.**
- * **As an International ferry pilot flies USAF military fighters and bombers to foreign governments around the world. 1951-1955.**
- * **Flying as test pilot sets four world aviation records for speed, distance, altitude(2). 1957-1960**
- * **One of the world's top pilots, Jerrie is selected in 1959 to be the first woman to take the Mercury astronaut selection tests. She passes all three phases of grueling astronaut tests, qualifying as America's first woman astronaut at age 29, three years before Russia sent the world's first woman into space.**
- * **James Webb, Administrator, NASA, appoints Jerrie a consultant (1961).**
- * **Testifies at a Congressional hearing called to find out why U.S. women are not allowed to fly in space(1962).**
- * **Biography published "Woman Into Space: The Jerrie Cobb Story" 1963**
- * **Thirty-five years flying as a jungle pilot/missionary in the Amazon rain forest of South America serving the primitive people (1963-1998).**
- * **Honored by the governments of France, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil for humanitarian flying.**
- * **Awarded Harmon Trophy for world's best woman pilot by President Nixon in White House Ceremony. (1973)**
- * **Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize. (1981)**
- * **"Jerrie Cobb, Solo Pilot" published (1997.)**
"The story of a courageous woman with an extraordinary talent for flying, who chose not to exploit it, but rather to use it in serving others."

*** Cobb's achievements include:**

- * Awarded Amelia Earhart Gold Medal of Achievement.**
- * Named Woman of the Year in Aviation.**
- * Receives Amelia Earhart Memorial Award.**
- * Named Pilot of the Year by the National Pilots Association.**
- * Fourth American to be awarded the Gold Wings of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, Paris, France.**
- * Named Captain of Achievement by the International Academy of Achievement.**
- * One of nine women selected by Life Magazine as the "100 most important young people in the United States.**
- * Serves five years as consultant to Federal Aviation Administration.**
- * Selected by the Mercury Astronaut Selection Team to be the first, and only, woman to undergo and successfully pass all three phases of Mercury astronaut tests (1960).**
- * Appointed consultant to NASA by James Webb, Administrator.**
- * Testifies in Congressional hearings on women as astronauts.**
- * Awarded Captain rank, Pilot Wings as the first civilian ever given honorary rank in the Colombian Air Force.**
- * Receives Lady Hay Drummond - Jessie R. Chamberlin Trophy for "humanitarian flying in Amazonas helping the primitive tribes."**
- * Honored by the government of Ecuador for "pioneering new air routes over the Andes mountains and Amazon jungle."**
- * Honored by governments of France, Brasil, Peru.**
- * Awarded the Harmon International Trophy for "the world's best woman pilot" by President Nixon at White House ceremony.**
- * Receives the Bishop Wright Air Industry Award for her "humanitarian contributions to modern aviation."**
- * Inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame as "the most outstanding aviatrix in the United States."**
- * Honored by the Amazonas Comisaria for "life-saving jungle flights."**
- * Receives Pioneer Woman Award for her "courageous frontier spirit flying over Amazon jungle serving primitive Indian tribes."**
- * Inducted into the Oklahoma Aviation and Space Hall of Fame.**
- * Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize.**

When dreams become reality...

***Women Fly**

Jerrie Cobb

*"Living is full of risks. Sometimes we have to just start out,
with nothing to go on but blind faith."*

Jerrie was determined to fly. She fell in love with flying when she discovered the freedom of flight from the back seat of a 1936 Waco bi-wing airplane. She left the planet Earth for the first time and, in a way, forever, never looking back. She was 12 years old.

Determined to devote her life to the sky, Jerrie spent every free moment working odd jobs at small country airports to learn the basics of flight and mechanics. At sixteen, Jerrie was barnstorming around the Great Plains in a Piper J-3 Cub, dropping leaflets announcing the arrival of a one-elephant circus. Jerrie was in her glory. She slept under the Cub's wing at night and scraped together extra gas money to practice her flying by giving rides.

On her eighteenth birthday Jerrie received her Commercial pilot's license and went looking for a flying job, next to impossible to get for a woman pilot. Ironically, the perfect freedom Jerrie experienced in the sky conflicted regularly with the discrimination she endured on the ground. With lots of male pilots available after World War II, no one wanted to hire a woman pilot, so she took the tough flying jobs the guys didn't want, like crop-dusting, and pipeline patrol. She went on to earn her Multi-Engine, Instrument, Flight Instructor, Ground Instructor Ratings as well as her Airline Transport License.

At nineteen Jerrie was teaching men how to fly. By twenty-one she was delivering sleek military fighters and four-engine bombers to foreign Air Forces around the world, well on her way to becoming one of the world's top pilots.

Never one to go slow, Jerrie set new world aviation records for speed, distance and absolute altitude while still in her twenties. She was the first woman to fly in the world's largest air exposition, the Salon Aeronautique International in Paris, France. Her fellow airmen named her Pilot Of The Year, and awarded her the Amelia Earhart Gold Medal of Achievement. Life Magazine named her one of nine women of the "100 most important young people in the United States.

In the infancy of the space age when America began selecting her first astronauts in 1959, Jerrie was selected to be the first woman to undergo the Mercury astronaut selection tests. After weeks of grueling tests, Jerrie passed all three phases with flying colors, qualifying as America's first, and only, woman astronaut at age 29.

The Administrator of NASA appointed Jerrie a consultant to the nation's space program in May 1961, but kept her grounded for three years when politics entered the space race. In a devastating and unexpected blow Jerrie was denied the opportunity to be the first woman in the world to fly in space. NASA initiated a new requirement for astronauts, military jet test pilot experience, eliminating all women since women were not allowed to fly in the military until many years later.

In 1963 a Congressional hearing was called for Jerrie to testify about the astronaut qualifications that made it impossible for women to fly in space. NASA sent America's favorite space heroes John Glenn and Scott Carpenter to testify against her. When Glenn testified that "men go off and fight the wars and fly the airplanes and come back and design and build and test them. The fact that women are not in this field is a fact of our social order." she found it unbelievable. But she knew her dream was lost.

Jerrie Cobb set her disappointment aside and chose to use her flying talent to serve the indigenous people of the Amazon rain forest. For the past 35 years Jerrie has found joy and delight in flying over the enormous uncharted jungle, bringing hope, seeds, and help to her primitive friends.

Jerrie has been honored by the governments of France, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. President Nixon awarded her the Harmon Trophy as the top woman pilot in the world. For her humanitarian work in the Amazon jungle, she has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Jerrie is a courageous woman with an extraordinary talent for flying, who chose not to exploit it, but rather to use it in serving others.

Jerrie's fabulous flying career spanning 55 years has been a rich tapestry of adventure, but still she hopes to fulfill her lifelong dream of flying in space. Recently, Senator John Glenn convinced NASA to send him into space for the second time, to study the effects of aging. We believe there is a more suitable and deserving candidate still waiting for her first space mission. It is high time NASA recognizes the contributions that Jerrie Cobb has made to aviation and space by extending her a long overdue assignment to fly on a space shuttle mission.

Jerrie is highly qualified to fly in space. She would be an asset to any space mission. At age 67, Jerrie is in excellent physical condition and still flies professionally over the headwaters of the Amazon rain forest, landscape almost as remote as the moon. She has over 55,000 hours of flying experiences (ten times more than John Glenn) in all types of aircraft. She has waited 38 years for her dream to come true. Like Amelia Earhart, Jerrie is a great role model, and an inspiration to many of us. In her own impassioned words, Jerrie states the obvious, "I'd give my life to fly in space. I would have then, and I will now."

***Women Fly is honored to support Jerrie Cobb in her quest to become an astronaut. We believe the United States of America now has the perfect opportunity to right this wrong. Please join us and help turn Jerrie's dream into a reality.**

THE JERRIE COBB FOUNDATION

1008 Beach Blvd.
Sun City Center, Florida 33573

Fax 813-634-2606

August 2, 1998

Ms. Missy Darwin Kincaid
Special Assistant to the First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Kincaid,

Thank you very much for your efforts in scheduling an appointment with the First Lady last Wednesday on behalf of Jerrie Cobb.

I realize how many requests you must receive each day, and how extraordinarily busy your days must be. Needless to say, it was a most memorable moment for us both.

As well, we both thoroughly enjoyed your tour and appreciate your kindness and attention.

Sincerely,



Donna Kocian

Donna came to WH w/ Jerrie.

2500 Stead Avenue #27

Austin, TX

78757

512-3239282

THE JERRIE COBB FOUNDATION

1008 Beach Blvd.
Sun City Center, Florida 33573

Fax 813-634-2606

August 2, 1998

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

I want to thank you for seeing Jerrie Cobb and me last Wednesday, and for your attention to the efforts being made to allow Jerrie a seat on the space shuttle.

You asked me to gather information about Jerrie and forward it to you. Jerrie and I were scheduled to go through her files today and forward all applicable information to you. Unfortunately, she was called home to Oklahoma on a family emergency this weekend.

As soon as Jerrie is able to leave Oklahoma again, we will gather the information and forward it to you. As well, Jerrie is trying to acquire film footage of her from the 99's Museum.

Once again, we appreciate your time, your attention and your understanding of the delay in our forwarding the appropriate information to you.

It was a pleasure and an honor meeting you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Donna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donna Kocian

Letter to HRC 8/4/98

Clinton Library Transfer Form

Case #, if applicable		Accession #	
Collection/Record Group	Clinton Presidential Records	Series/Staff Name	Missy Kincaid
Subgroup/Office of Origin	First Lady's Office	Subseries	
Folder Title	Jerrie Cobb	OA Number	17303
		Box Number	

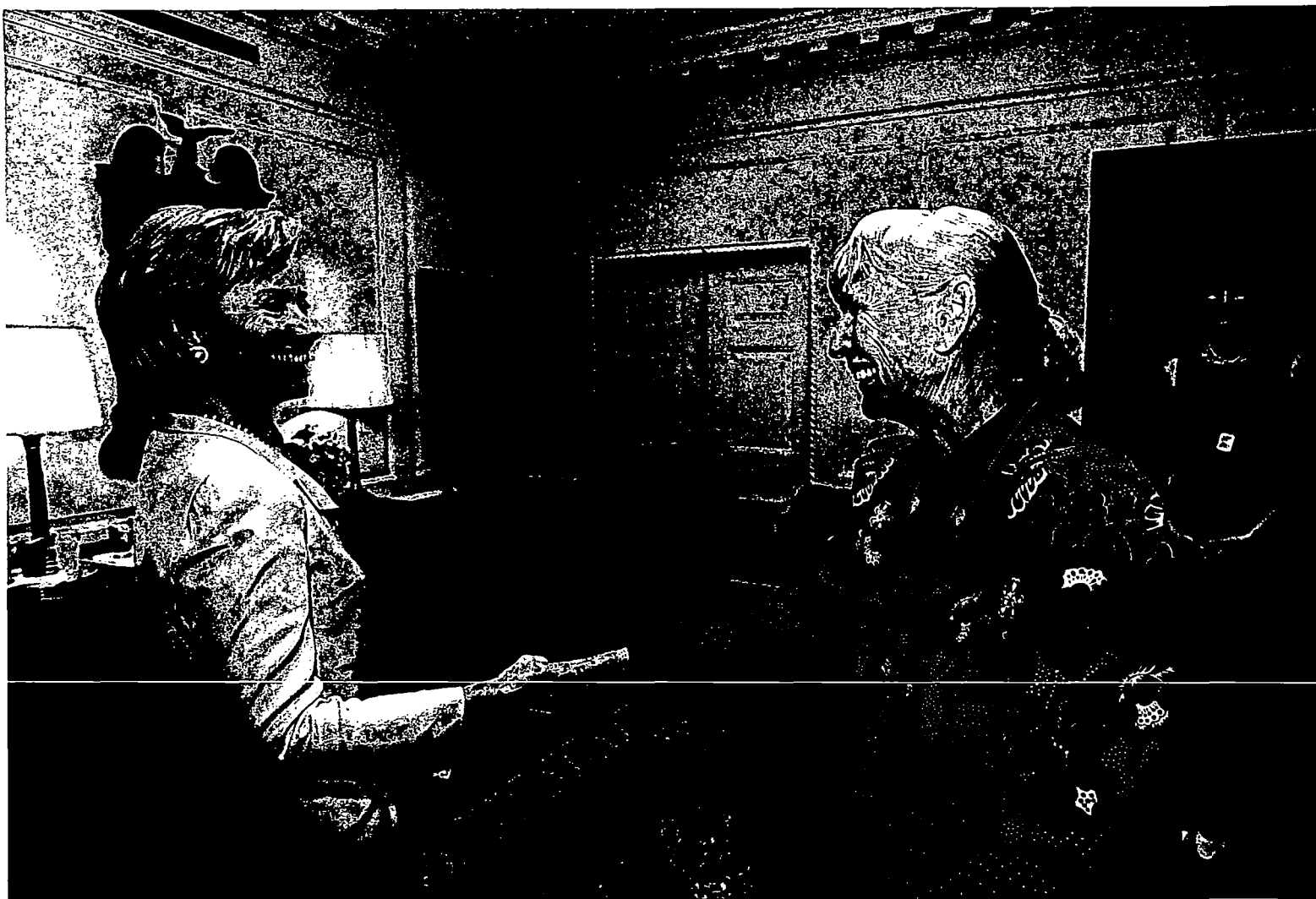
Description of Item(s) 6 8x10 color, Official White House photographs, P65529-01a (2), 04a (2), 08a, 10a (HRC greeting photos) Stored in AV regular storage on 12-5-9-6

Donor Information			
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Transfer Point	During Processing

Date of Tranfer 8/9/2013



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