

Legally, I never-- and when I came to America, I wanted so much to say, God bless America. But I couldn't say it. And they wanted me to talk. And I was looking, where is some Russians? There must be some Russians somewhere. I didn't see anyone. But I couldn't speak to anybody. I was so scared. I didn't speak to anybody.

When did you finally feel safe?

I didn't feel safe for a while. I think when I met my husband and I got married, I really felt safe because he was also in the army. And I just-- I was used to a man in the army. And I felt very secure.

Rancor-- important correction.

Yeah. Yeah. I felt very secure with him. And I still feel very secure with him. My children really make me get married because I didn't want to get married. And my daughter used to say, Mike is in love with him. I met him. I told him, you are a very handsome guy. But I'm not interested to get married. And my daughter and my son, they really talked me in to get married. And I'm so happy that I got married. He didn't have a good time because I was sick. I had cancer. Now, I have my knee-- every time, something.

I think you've had a good time. And you're going to celebrate 50 years this coming January.

Yes. I told my son, I want a big party.

Yeah. Erika, we are at the end of our program. I'm going to turn back to Erika to close our program in a moment. I'd like to thank all of you for being here, remind you that we will do First Person programs every week until the middle of August. If you can come back, we would love it. If not, put it on your calendar if you come to Washington, DC next year.

When we are finished in just a couple of moments, Erika is going to step off the stage because we want her-- with Warren, they're going to head right up the aisle because she's going to sign copies of Echoes of Memory outside with the way-- the entrance that you came into to the program. So it's our tradition at First Person that our first person has the last word. So with that, I leave it to Erika.

I wish from the bottom of my heart that it never, ever happens to anybody at all, no matter what color, no matter what religion. It doesn't make a difference, just please, talk about it. Don't let it ever, ever happen anyplace. I couldn't understand my father until I became, really, an adult. I couldn't understand that he was so against me hating the Germans. I mean, I couldn't hate anybody.

And I'm very happy I don't. I don't hate anybody. And my father said, if some people are not nice-- I used to say, do I have to love everybody? He said, no, if you don't like somebody, you don't. But you can't hate him. You can't hate anybody. And I don't hate. And it's so good not to hate. You have no idea. I really feel good about it. And I wish you the very best of everything. And please, make sure it never happens again. And thank you for coming. And thank you for being here. I love you all very much. And I wish you the very best.

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you very much.

Get those here down first and then we'll see you outside.