

Recently, Gabrielle Wedeking of Marble Rock was born with a rare disorder of the immune system and required a bone marrow transplant. Marble Rock Unit 287 held a benefit that included a meal, bake sale, raffles, as well as silent and live auctions. Over \$44,000 was raised to help fund Gabrielle's transplant.

This generous and selfless act deserves honoring, and thus I stand today and recognize Marble Rock Unit 387.

HONORING LIEUTENANT SARA
PLATT MOSER'S SERVICE TO
THE UNITED STATES COAST
GUARD

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Sara Platt Moser for her service to the United States House of Representatives and the United States Coast Guard.

As some of you may know, Lieutenant Moser was detailed to the House Coast Guard Liaison office July of 2004, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work closely with her over the past three years. My colleagues, staff, and I have valued her knowledge and understanding of the Coast Guard operational missions, day to day challenges, and roles and responsibilities.

During her career in the Coast Guard, Lieutenant Moser has served aboard the CG Cutter RELIANCE and as the Assistant Operations Officer at Coast Guard Group Saint Petersburg.

Next week, Lieutenant Moser will leave her post as the Coast Guard's Assistant House Liaison in pursuit of a new assignment within the Coast Guard Reserve.

It has been my pleasure to work with Lieutenant Moser. On behalf of the Representatives and staff who have also been fortunate enough to work with Sara, I wish her, her husband Marty and their daughter Anna, clear skies and smooth sailing.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
SERVICE AT MELEAR'S BARBECUE

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, the Representatives in these hallowed halls of Congress come from every corner of the United States, and our pallets and diets are as varied as our accents.

When I say "barbecue" here in Washington that means something totally different to people from different parts of this country. In Texas, barbecue is beef. To others, barbecue is pretty much anything cooked on a grill. But in my home State of Georgia and in surrounding southern States, barbecue means only one thing: pit-cooked pork.

Americans concerned about the "McDonald's-ization" of this Nation need only come down South for some fine barbecue cuisine. While pork is always at the base of southern

barbecue, the secret is in the sauce and in the sides. Drive a hundred-mile radius from any barbecue joint in the South and the meal and preparation will probably be totally different. In parts of the Carolinas, you're more likely to get mustard-based sauce while pretty much throughout Georgia the sauce of choice is vinegar-based. In east Georgia, your side might be hash and rice; in west Georgia where I live, you'll probably get a side of Brunswick stew.

One thing that's always the same: No matter where you go in the South, the locals think their brand of barbecue beats out the rest.

Residents of Fayette County in Georgia's Third Congressional District have dined on pork barbecue and Brunswick stew and sweet tea at Melear's Barbecue for 50 years this month. Restaurants make their profits pennies on the plate and they have to sell a lot of plates to stay in business. The majority of eateries go out of business within 2 years of opening. To survive for 25 times that long testifies to the Melear family's good business sense, yes, but also to their good barbecue.

The fine Southern cuisine isn't Melear's only draw; it's also a neighborhood gathering spot for the people of Fayetteville. It's where local city council members, county commissioners and sheriff's deputies meet up to plot plans, and it's where aspiring politicians running statewide in Georgia head to shake hands with the community's leaders.

Melear's is a special barbecue restaurant in that it's open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I confess that as a longtime homebuilder in Fayette County, there was a time when I started every day off right with a heaping breakfast served up by Kenny Melear.

The people of Fayette County and I personally am thankful for 50 years of fine meals and good company at Melear's. I congratulate Kenny and his family for a half-century of success and send best wishes for a half-century more. And with those best wishes, I'd like a barbecue plate with Brunswick stew and a big glass of sweet tea.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DORO-
THEA TOWLES CHURCH, FASHION
MODEL AND DESIGNER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize, honor, and pay tribute to the significant, groundbreaking achievements of the talented Dorothea Towles Church, who overcame the many obstacles placed in her way to become the first successful black fashion model. She was the seventh of eight children, born on July 26, 1922 in Texarkana, Texas. She began her college education at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, majoring in biology. However, after moving to Los Angeles to live with her wealthy uncle after the death of her mother, she transferred to the University of Southern California and received a master's degree in education. While present in Los Angeles, she began to generate an interest in acting but was discouraged by the lack of black actors in the entertainment industry. Instead, she became a model for black magazines and fashion shows in the area.

Dorothea Church's unprecedented success came at the young age of twenty-seven when

she was vacationing in Paris to listen to her sister, Lois Towles, sing with Fisk University. Church's great beauty and striking presence were extraordinary. Her beauty and talent were indisputable and she made a breakthrough in the most famous and prestigious fashion market in the world when she was signed by Christian Dior as a high-fashion model. For the first time in her life, Church was not impacted by racial intolerance. Church once stated, "If you're beautiful, [the French] don't care what color you are."

Even though many racial barriers were overcome, Church still had to deal with the innate prejudices that many people had towards African-Americans. Church had been forbidden to model and display high fashioned pictures in predominantly black magazines. The industry's excuse was that it was meaningless to display such photographs because the black community was not interested in the clothing. Or perhaps they didn't believe the black community could afford such clothing. Either way, Church used her power and prestige and was able to open the door for other aspiring black models by extending her appearances in the white fashion magazines to appear in a newly founded black owned Ebony magazine.

Dorothea Towles Church, the gorgeous and influential fashion model, couture designer, and black activist, bridged a divide between the races in high-fashion that appeared to be insurmountable. Church was an inspiration to all African-Americans who ever had an impossible dream. After her death from heart and kidney disease on July 7, 2006, there has been a renewed appreciation of Church's triumphs and accomplishments. She was, and continues to be a perpetual role model who brought pride to her people and community and who continues to serve as an important role model to young women with dreams today.

[From the New York Times, July 23, 2007]

OBITUARIES: DOROTHEA TOWLES CHURCH,
BLACK MODEL IN 1950'S PARIS

(By Eric Wilson)

NEW YORK.—Dorothea Towles Church, the first successful black model in Paris, who discovered personal liberation on the runways of Christian Dior and Elsa Schiaparelli in the 1950s, died July 7 in Manhattan. She was 83.

Her death was confirmed by Michael Henry Adams, a curator at the Museum of the City of New York, where she is among those to be featured in an exhibition called "Black Style Now," which will open Sept. 7.

Church's success was historic in an industry that had resisted using any but white models to represent beauty on magazine covers, in advertisements and on runways. Church was responsible for breaking down some of those barriers and was revered in France during the five years she modeled there.

"If you're beautiful, they don't care what color you are," she said of the French in postwar Paris.

"I got invited out all the time," she said in Barbara Summers's 1998 book "Black and Beautiful." "I was the only black model in Europe and I just thought I was an international person."

Her easy acceptance in Paris was reported at home in black publications, in articles about the designers she knew and about how she once dyed her hair platinum at Dior's request.

But her growing fame did not eliminate prejudice on the part of some designers. At

Schiaparelli, she once overheard someone describe her as Tahitian. While she worked for Pierre Balmain, she recalled, he would not allow her to borrow dresses for a photograph for *Ebony* magazine, fearing that would offend his white clientele. She took the clothes later on the pretext that she would wear them to a party, and the magazine then photographed them.

HONORING REV. DR. JAMES
ADAMS SPAHR

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Dr. Jane Adams Spahr, a Presbyterian minister committed to justice for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans gender community.

A self-described lesbian and feminist, Janie is retiring after 33 years.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with her twin sister Joanie to Chet and Susanna Adams, Janie was ordained a Presbyterian Minister in December 1974, to the Hazelwood Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. From 1975–1979 she served as Assistant Pastor of First Presbyterian in San Rafael, California, and in 1979–1980 was the Executive Director of Oakland Council of Presbyterian Churches where she was encouraged to resign after coming out as a lesbian.

Janie began her “out” liberation work with and for LGBT people as the Minister of Pastoral Care in the Castro area of Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco from 1980–1982. In 1982, this “lesbyterian” founded the Ministry of Light, which later became the Spectrum Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns. She served for 10 years as the Executive Director of Spectrum.

In 1991, Rev. Spahr was called to serve as a co-pastor at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York, marking the first time a Presbyterian Church had chosen an “out” pastor. The call, however, was challenged, and the Judicial Commission of the Presbyterian Church refused to allow Rev. Spahr to assume the position. In response to the ruling Janie was hired by The Downtown United Presbyterian Church and the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon, California, who formed the “That All May Freely Serve” project. She was employed to work within the denomination to end discrimination and increase inclusiveness for all people.

In 2006, Rev. Spahr made national headlines when the Commission of the Presbytery of the Redwoods ruled she acted within her “right of conscience” as a Christian when she performed commitment ceremonies for two lesbian couples. The Presbyterian Church’s highest court ruled in 2000 that ministers could “bless” same-sex unions but not preside over them or call them marriages. Janie challenged the church’s constitution and won a victory for justice and inclusion, but the battle is not yet over as the Prosecuting Committee has filed an appeal.

During her undergraduate years at Penn State, Jane met Jim Spahr whom she later married and had two sons, Jim and Chet. Jim

now fondly refers to Janie as his “wife emerita” and the “sister-in-love” of Jackie Spahr (Jim’s partner) and Bill Fenton (her sister Joanie’s partner).

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Rev. Dr. Jane Adams Spahr whose courageous passion for justice and inclusion for LGBT people has left a legacy that is paving the way to a better future. Rev. Spahr has touched so many lives as a minister, and though she is retiring she will remain a mentor and role model to all.

LIFT UNREASONABLE RESTRICTIONS ON TAIWAN’S ELECTED LEADERS

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, in November of 2008, citizens of the United States will exercise their constitutional and democratic right to vote in a national election and choose their president. Just eight months prior to our presidential election, our friend across the Pacific, Taiwan, will hold its fourth national direct election for its highest office.

Once a single-party state under martial law, Taiwan made a peaceful transition during the late 1980s and early 1990s to a full-fledged democracy and a multi-party political system that respects human rights and the rule of law.

For over fifty years, our two nations have fostered a close relationship, which has been of mutual political, economic, cultural, and strategic advantage. However, one vital inequity exists that prevents the exchange of views at the highest political levels: the United States government continues to adhere to guidelines from the 1970s that bar the President, Vice President, Premier, Foreign Minister, and Defense Minister of Taiwan from coming to Washington, DC.

Why, when Taiwan is a key player in the Asia-Pacific region, do we prevent their highest-level decision makers from traveling to our nation’s capital? This outdated policy severely limits our direct dialogue with world leaders.

Almost any person born and raised in Taiwan has the freedom to travel to the United States. But when a person is chosen through democratic elections to become the leader of the Taiwanese people, this freedom is inappropriately rescinded by the U.S. government. While the United States attempts to promote democracy around the world, we lock the doors of our capital city to the leaders of fellow democracy.

Rather than symbolically shunning Taiwan’s democratically elected leaders, we should welcome them. I meet with Taiwan’s leaders—both before and after their election. Other American Leaders in Washington, D.C. should have the same opportunity. Unreasonable restrictions on visits to the United States by high-level elected and appointed officials of Taiwan should be lifted. Taiwan deserves this long overdue respect.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was returning from an official delegation trip to Iraq yesterday, and was therefore absent from the Floor during the four rollcall votes that took place on Monday night.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 404 (the Federal Customer Service Enhancement Act), H. Res. 553 (Mourning the Passing of Lady Bird Johnson), and H. Res. 519 (Honoring the Life and Accomplishments of Tom Lea). I would have voted against ordering the previous question on H. Res. 558 (the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3074).

STAR-SPANGLED BANNER
NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1388, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Act. This bill aims to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Star-Spangled Banner Trail in the States of Maryland and Virginia, as well as through the District of Columbia.

I would first like to begin by commending my distinguished colleague and the representative of Maryland’s 3rd Congressional District, Congressman JOHN P. SARBANES on his work with this very important piece of legislation. As with most national historic trails, its purpose and significance must be examined for its unique characteristics. I applaud the gentleman for his work in aiming to protect and preserve our Nation’s trails.

A national historic trail is an extended trail that follows routes of travel that are typically of historic and national significance. The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail consists of water and overland routes totaling approximately 290 miles extending from southern Maryland through the District of Columbia and Virginia, and north of Baltimore, Maryland, commemorating the Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812, as generally depicted on the maps.

A national historic trail ought to be significant with respect to several facets of American history, ranging from trade and commerce, exploration, migration and settlement, or military campaigns and must have significant potential for public recreational or historic use. The trail ought to be continuous and might include land, water or marked highway segments. The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail land routes would follow existing public roads, along which British and American troops traveled.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would mandate the administration of this trail by the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary ought to encourage public participation by communities, owners of land along the trail, and volunteer trail groups