

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 coposition. 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

with the administering, planning, development and maintenance of the trail. Any land or interest in land outside the exterior boundaries of any federally administered area would be prohibited, unless with prior consent from the owner of the land or interest in land. It would be the responsibility of the Secretary to authorize and provide interpretive programs and services, and technical assistance to State and local government and non-profit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, the primary focus of this initiative has been providing conservation and enjoyment of, public access to, and interpretation of the historic route and its resources. Historians and regional trail groups have recognized the importance of the untold stories and legacy of the events of the Chesapeake Campaign and the need for protection and interpretation of related historical resources.

H.R. 1388 commemorates the events leading up to the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" during the Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812. Along these trails are the bedrock of many events of historical significance—British invasion of Maryland, the Battle of Bladensburg, the burning of the White House, the Capitol and Washington Navy Yard, as well as the Battle for Baltimore (1814). The route of the invasion is known and documented, and the proposed trail would follow it as closely as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support, as well as to encourage my colleagues to join Representative SARBANES in amending the National Trails Systems Act to designate the Star-Spangled Banner Trail in the States of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia as a National Historic Trail. Visitors to this region ought to enjoy the opportunity to envision and experience this great piece of American history—the heritage and struggles that ensued during the War of 1812. The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Act would give recognition to the patriots whose determination to stand firm against enemy invasion and bombardment preserved this liberty for future generations of Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATH TO SUCCESS: GANG PREVENTION THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Path to Success Act.

This important piece of legislation addresses a pressing social dilemma that has permeated American society, successfully wreaking havoc, fear, and violence indiscriminately in urban and rural communities alike. Gang-re-

lated offenses have peaked to astronomical numbers, making youth gangs an endemic feature of American life. Most of these gang members are engulfed in a cyclical culture of poverty, illiteracy, and homelessness which contribute to excessive recidivism rates. Youths who are particularly vulnerable for recruitment are quickly indoctrinated into lawlessness.

The bill I am introducing today authorizes the Secretary of Education to award \$20 million in grants to community colleges that agree to enter into and maintain partnerships with juvenile detention centers by providing juvenile ex-offenders with a supportive learning environment where they can attain marketable skills and credentials needed for their constructive re-entry into society. Under the bill, each community college will be encouraged to grant academic merit to eligible participants based on their distinctive academic backgrounds, learning curves, and concentration interests.

Under this bill, community colleges who apply for these grants will be responsible for facilitating the academic, psychological, and social adjustment of juvenile ex-offenders who were detained for gang related offenses. These community colleges will serve as hubs for networks among local organizations that are committed to assisting youthful offenders' successful reintegration into society.

With these grants, community colleges can work with different partners to employ intervention strategies to divert at-risk youth from crime by providing counseling, academic or vocational training, and professional development to eligible participants enrolled in the program. In fact, this legislation requires that community colleges partner with both public and private entities to facilitate internships, apprenticeships, and permanent employment opportunities for eligible participants. This feature of the outreach effort is especially relevant to ensure recidivism prevention.

At this juncture, we must set precedence on determining pragmatic measures that will mitigate gang violence. Gang violence presents an intricate challenge to communities around the United States, especially in areas where there is significant socio-economic duress. Ultimately, no one can cite the one definitive cause of community violence, poverty, neighborhood deterioration, or why Johnny cannot read. These types of contemporary problems have increasingly become more qualitatively complex.

This is exactly why we cannot afford to adopt parochial methods to mitigate juvenile delinquency. Since it is virtually impossible for one agency to unilaterally solve intractable problems, every worthwhile effort requires collaboration and partnering among organizations to resolve the issue we see before us in this day and age.

Education gives people hope and self-respect; it shows them that they can succeed by lawful means. The academic and vocational training is a critical component of this program

especially since research has shown that the typical habitual offender is a person of little or no education.

Madam Speaker, approximately 100,000 juveniles (ages 17 years and under) leave juvenile correctional facilities, State prison, or Federal prison each year. Juveniles released from secure confinement have a recidivism rate ranging from 55 to 75 percent. Even more, research has shown that the likelihood that young people will successfully transition into society increases with effective reentry and aftercare programs.

Taking a comprehensive approach is the only pragmatic solution to stopping the spread of gang violence. By promoting communal networks, this legislation provides opportunities for the community to be instrumental in administering programs designed to reduce recidivism among ex-gang offenders, and deter gang violence and membership among other at risk youths.

Juvenile delinquency is a complex phenomenon that has riveting effects. I firmly believe that this legislation will make significant progress in our battle against gang violence because it fully incorporates the community in the implementation process.

Madam Speaker, it takes a network to fight a network. In order to provide a realistic, individualized, and creative response to public problems, we must design the right network. This legislation offers guidelines to determine and develop appropriate activation tools to respond to gang violence. I hope this bill would receive the bipartisan support that it deserves. I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the swift consideration of this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, because of traveling back to the States from Iraq, I missed the following votes:

(1) H.R. 404—Federal Customer Service Enhancement Act (15 minutes)—"no."

(2) H. Res. 553—Mourning the passing of former First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson, and celebrating her life and contributions to the people of the United States (5 minutes)—"yes."

(3) H. Res. 519—Honoring the life and accomplishments of renowned artist Tom Lea on the 100th anniversary of his birth (5 minutes)—"yes."

(4) Previous Question—Rule for H.R. 3074—Transportation-HUD Appropriations (5 minutes)—"no."

(5) Adoption of the Rule for H.R. 3074—Transportation-HUD Appropriations (5 minutes)—"no."