

Primary Sources

"Allan Spear on Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights." *Minnesota Public Radio*. 13 May 1974. Radio.

Allan Spear was co-chair of the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights while in the state Senate. In this interview with Minnesota Public Radio, he talked about forming the group as a way to bring gay rights into the mainstream of the human rights movement and his goal of changing the law to create a better life for gay Minnesotans. I used the audio of this segment in the Political Career page to add more detail about his legislative efforts to protect the rights of gay citizens.

Allan Spear with His Mother, Esther, and Brother, Richard, on a Fishing Trip in Canada, 1947. Digital image. *Crossing Barriers*. N.p., n.d. Web.

This is an image of Allan Spear as a young boy from his autobiography, [Crossing the Barriers](#). From an early age, Allan knew he was different from other young boys because he did not value masculine activities. I included the photograph in the Formative Years page.

Allan Spear, 1958. Digital image. *Oberlin College Archives*. N.p., n.d. Web.

As a college student at Oberlin, engaged in civil rights activism which he related to his growing awareness of his own homosexuality and minority status. This is Spear's graduate portrait from the Oberlin College Archives and it was included in the Formative Years page.

Gay Pride March in Minneapolis, 1974. Digital image. *Digital Collections*. Minnesota Historical Society, n.d. Web.

This is an image of a gay pride march at Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Every year in June, LGBT members across the country celebrate gay pride to commemorate the Stonewall Riots which paved the way for gay Americans to openly express their sexuality. It was included in the Historical Context: Gay Rights Movement page.

Howell, Deborah. "State Sen. Allan Spear Declares He's Homosexual." *Minneapolis Star* 9 Dec. 1974: n. pag. Print.

After over 30 years of being closeted, Allan Spear first publicly came out through an interview with Deborah Howell of the Minneapolis Star. This is the article that created a local and national sensation and I included it in the Turning Point page.

"Interview with Allan Spear 10/27/1993." Interview by Scott Paulsen. *Collections*. Minnesota Historical Society, n.d. Web.

This is an interview that was conducted by Scott Paulsen from the University of Minnesota who sat down and talked with Allan Spear at his History Department office to discuss his work for the gay community. Their discussion gave me a greater understanding of the public's attitude towards gays in the 1960s and Spear's own sentiments about coming out after being closeted for over 30 years.

"Minnesota Legislative Reference Library: Allan Spear." *Minnesota Legislative Reference Library*. Minnesota Reflections, n.d. Web.

The Minnesota Legislative Reference Library has a digital collection of photographs of Allan Spear while he served in the state senate. These images are from the years 1973-1997 and I included them in the Political Career and Struggle for Gay Rights pages.

New Theory Claims Homosexuality Can Be Cured, 1969. Digital image. Christianity Today, n.d. Web.

This image of an article by evangelical magazine Christianity Today is an example of one of the misconceptions Americans had over homosexuals during the 1960s. Homosexuals were thrown into mental asylums and hospitals to undergo bizarre treatments and remedies because the belief at the time was that it was a disease that could be cured. I included the image in the Historical Context page.

"Oral History with Allan Spear." Interview by Joey Plaster. *Personal Histories*. Oberlin College, 18 Aug. 2004. Web.

This is a recording of a phone interview with Allan Spear where he discussed coming to terms with his sexuality and his own father questioning whether or not he was a homosexual because of his decision to attend Oberlin College versus a larger public university. The recording was included in the Formative Years page.

Spear, Allan H. *Crossing the Barriers: The Autobiography of Allan H. Spear*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota, 2010. Print.

This is a partially completed autobiography written by Allan Spear himself before he passed away in 2008. I realized after reading this book that it wasn't just about a gay state senator who grew up in the 1950s. It was also powerful story of how the country has slowly, but steadily, set aside its homophobia. This book was very instrumental to my research and I included many quotes from chapters in my website.

Spear Campaign Button, 1974. Digital image. *Digital Collections.* Minnesota Historical Society, n.d. Web

This is a button from Allan Spear's campaign for a state senate seat. Spear was a quintessential outsider, having never been in political office before running for senate. His victory would open the doors to more awareness of gay issues at the state Capitol. This image can be seen in the Political Career page.

Stonewall Uprising, 1969. Digital image. The New York Daily News, n.d. Web.

The Stonewall riots were a catalyst for the gay rights movement, paving the way for the LGBT community to openly explore their sexual orientation and put their rights at the forefront of American politics. This is an image of a confrontation between gay bar patrons and New York City police at the Stonewall Inn and I used it in the Historical Context:: Gay Rights Movement page

University of Minnesota Anti-war Rally, 1970. Digital image. *Digital Collections.* Minnesota Historical Society, n.d. Web.

While Allan Spear was a professor at the University of Minnesota, he engaged in antiwar activism during the United States' occupation in Vietnam. This is an image of students from the U in the middle of a protest and I included it in the Formative Years page.

Secondary Sources

Grow, Doug. "Allan Spear's Legacies: Civil Rights Advocate for All, Landmark Protection for Gays." *MinnPost*. N.p., 13 Oct. 2008. Web.

Over his 28 years in the Legislature, Allan Spear was a fierce advocate of civil rights for blacks, gays, and many other minorities. This article by MinnPost celebrates the life of Allan Spear as a courageous leader who until his dying day was a source of strength for gay and lesbian public officials across the nation, especially in the state of Minnesota. I was inspired by this article to go into great detail about the legacy of Spear's efforts and how they helped many Americans lead lives with less discrimination.

Dunbar, Elizabeth. "Longtime State Senator Allan Spear Dies." *Star Tribune*. N.p., 12 Oct. 2008. Web.

This is an article covering the death of courageous leader Allan Spear. The writer acknowledged his pivotal role in the expansion of gay rights in Minnesota after coming out as a gay man along with his other work in civil rights, prison reform,

and the antiwar effort. The information in this article helped me write the Legacy page.

Roberts, Kate. *Minnesota 150: The People, Places, and Things That Shape Our State*. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 2007. Print.

The Minnesota Historical Society, as part of the state's 150th anniversary celebration, named Allan Spear one of the 150 Minnesotans who shaped the state in this book. I used information on the impact of his efforts for gay rights over the LGBT community in Minnesota to write the page on his legacy

Spear, Allan H. "Minnesota Sen. Allan Spear: 'Timing Was Key in My Decision to Come out as a Gay Man'" *MinnPost*. N.p., 22 Oct. 2010. Web.

A major barrier Spear had to cross during his life was coming out as a gay man to the public and his fellow senate colleagues. This article by MinnPost contained excerpts from Spear's autobiography, [Crossing the Barriers](#), which detailed his decision to reveal his sexuality to a local Minnesota newspaper and the reception he received following his revelation. I specifically used the details on the reactions from Spear's constituents and colleagues to explain this turning point in his illustrious career.

"Stonewall Uprising." *American Experience*. PBS, n.d. Web.

This is an online article series that is about the American gay rights movement and how the Stonewall uprising was the galvanizing event in the movement. Stonewall influenced gay Americans to fight back discrimination and inequality and come to terms with their sexuality. Stonewall also heightened Allan Spear's consciousness over gay rights. I used information about the event in the Historical Context page.

Tevlin, Jon. "Senator, in Championing Justice, Saw Role beyond That of Pioneer." *Star Tribune* [Minneapolis] 13 Oct. 2008: n. pag. Print.

After his passing in 2008, Minnesota mourned the loss of Allan Spear, who was described in this article as fierce fighter for the rights of LGBT community members. This article was included in the Legacy page.