

NOTABLE MINORITIES WHO CHANGED HISTORY

January 4, 2008

Featuring Benazir Bhutto

“Democracy is necessary to peace and to undermining the forces of terrorism.”

- A *Benazir Bhutto* Quote

A New Year

Another fresh new year is here...
Another year to live!
To banish worry, doubt, and fear,
To love and laugh and give!

This bright new year is given me
To live each day with zest...
To daily grow and try to be
My highest and my best!

I have the opportunity
Once more to right some wrongs,
To pray for peace to plant a tree,
And sing more joyful songs!

~ William Arthur Ward

January Dates to Remember:

- 1 - New Year's Day
- 1 - Emancipation Day
- 1 - Feast of St. Basil
- 1 - Japanese New Year
- 5 - Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday
- 6 - Epiphany (Christian)
- 6 - Three King's Day (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic)
- 7 - The Nativity of Jesus Christ
- 13 - Lohri (Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh)
- 15 - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
- 15 - World Religion Day (Baha'i)
- 20 - Eid-ai-Adha (Islamic, Muslim)
- 26 - India Republic Day
- 29 - Ashura (Islamic, Muslim)
- 29 - Tet Nguyen Dan (Vietnam)
- 31 - Al Hijra - Muslim New Year

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Benazir Bhutto

Benazir Bhutto (1953 - 2007)

Former Pakistani Prime Minister and Political/Social Activist

Benazir Bhutto was a Pakistani Politician who chaired the Pakistani Peoples Party (PPP) and served as Prime Minister twice (1988-1990; 1993-1996). She was the first woman elected to lead a Muslim state. She faced many challenges as Prime Minister and was removed from office both times for alleged corruption. She went into self-imposed exile in Dubai in 1998. She returned to Pakistan on October 18, 2007 after being granted amnesty by President Pervez Musharraf.

Bhutto was well educated in Pakistan, The United States, and Great Britain. Her father, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, had been removed from office following a military coup in 1977. He was later hung and Benazir and her mother were held in a "police camp" for a while following the execution. Two of her brothers were killed, One in 1985 and another in 1996, yet in the face of such violence she kept pushing forward to exact change.

During her times as Prime Minister she called for reform and modernization of the government. She was pro-democracy and fought for women's social and health issues. This included discrimination against women. She announced plans to establish women's police stations, courts, and women's development banks. She faced immense pressure from her opposition which kept her from improving welfare services for women. She was anti-Taliban and condemned terrorist acts committed by them.

She and her husband lived in exile and faced allegations of corruption. She remained active in the government during her exile. She returned to Pakistan on October 18, 2007 to run for Prime Minister again and was well aware of the risk to her own life. Upon her arrival, suicide bombers were waiting, and two explosions occurred at the airport. She was uninjured, but 136 people were killed and 450 were wounded. She had warned the Pakistani government that she would be targeted upon her return from exile. A few days after the attack, her lawyer received a letter threatening to kill Bhutto. The letter also claimed links to Al-Qaeda and followers of Osama Bin Laden.

On November 24, 2007, Bhutto filed her nomination papers for January's Parliamentary elections. She told the press that her party, The PPP, would focus on "the five E's," employment, education, energy, environment, and equality. Then on December 8, 2007, three gunmen stormed Bhutto's PPP office and killed three of her supporters. On December 27, 2007, Bhutto was gunned down while leaving a campaign rally for the PPP. She had made it to her bulletproof car, but she stood up through the sunroof to wave to supporters when the gunman fired three shots. Immediately after the shooting a suicide bomber detonated himself in the crowd killing 20 more people. Al-Qaeda commander Mustafa Abu al-Yazid claimed responsibility for the attack. After the assassination riots broke out in Pakistan causing major damage. On December 30, 2007, Bhutto's widower Asif Ali Zardari and son Bilawal Bhutto Zardari announced that 19 year-old Bilawal will succeed his mother as head of the PPP party. Benazir Bhutto was a strong and courageous woman who loved her country and fought for the things she believed and held true.

(Source: www.wikipedia.com)

Did You Know? Do you know a student with talent and promise who is not achieving his or her full potential? Wants better academic success? Has difficulty with motivation or taking initiative? Struggles in one or more subjects? Has chaotic study habits, and TRULY WANTS TO EXCEL? The Office of Access & Diversity has someone on staff that can help you meet those challenges head-on. That someone is the Academic Mapping Coach. By scheduling a session with the Academic Mapping Coach, a student will receive individual attention and personalized plans, a combination that leads to remarkable results. For details contact Yolanda Ogilvie at 931-540-2854.

The annual MLK Collaborative Celebration Weekend will be held January 20th and 21st. On the 20th, the Youth Blast will be held at Columbia Central High School from 4:00 pm till 9:00 pm. On the 21st, the March will be held in downtown Columbia at 9:00 am, and a Memorial Service will be held at Columbia State in the Cherry Theatre from 1:00 pm till 4:00 pm.