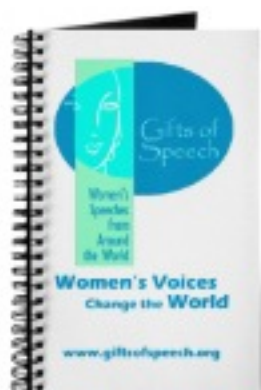


Gifts of speech News

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Featured Product



Journal

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1. Obama Signs Equal-Pay Bill

From The American Prospect

Of all the appalling decisions the Roberts Court issued last year, one of the worst was the 5-4 ruling in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear*, which gutted the equal-pay provisions of the Civil Rights Act and overturned a decades-old employment-law precedent.

The plaintiff, Lilly Ledbetter, worked for nearly two decades at a Goodyear Tire plant in Gadsden, Alabama. She brought an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) complaint against Goodyear after she discovered that for years she had been paid less than male co-workers with the same job. The justices ruled that employees can only file a wage-discrimination complaint within 180 days of when the payroll decision was made.

From Yahoo! News:

President Barack Obama signed an equal-pay bill into law Thursday (1/29/09) before cheering labor and women leaders who fought hard for it and the woman whose history-making lawsuit gave impetus to the cause.

Obama, choosing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act as the first bill to sign as president, called it a "wonderful day" and declared that ending pay disparities between men and woman an issue not just for women, but for all workers.

Read more at these links:

[Yahoo! News - Obama Signs Equal-Pay Bill](#)

[American Prospect - Interview with Lilly Ledbetter](#)

2. Pakistan: Taliban Terror Via Radio

From The New York Times

Every night around 8 o'clock, the terrified residents of Swat, a lush and picturesque valley a hundred miles from three of Pakistan's most important cities, crowd around their radios. They know that failure to listen and learn might lead to a lashing — or a beheading.

Using a portable radio transmitter, a local Taliban leader, Shah Doran, on most nights outlines newly proscribed "un-Islamic" activities in Swat, like selling DVDs, watching cable television, singing and dancing, criticizing the Taliban, shaving beards and allowing girls to attend school. He also reveals names of people the Taliban have recently killed for violating their decrees — and those they plan to kill.

Even in Mingora, a town grown

hardened to violence, residents were shocked early this month to find the bullet-ridden body of one of the city's most famous dancing girls splayed on the main square.

Known as Shabana, the woman was visited at night by a group of men who claimed to want to hire her for a party. They shot her to death and dragged her body more than a quarter-mile to the central square, leaving it as a warning for anyone who would flout Taliban decrees.

Read more of the spreading Taliban terror in Afghanistan at the link below.

Link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/25/world/asia/25swat.html>

3. The First Black Woman To Run . . .

. . . For U.S. President



From NPR

Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman elected to Congress, sought the Democratic nomination in 1972 as the first black woman to run for president.

She was truly a woman ahead of her time! Her remarks are germane today. You must listen to her announce her candidacy at the link below.

Link: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=95828537>

4. Woman Reaches US Army's Top Rank

From BBC News

An American woman has been promoted to four-star general - the first female to reach the US Army's highest rank.

In her acceptance speech, Ann E Dunwoody said she had never expected to rise so high in the ranks in her 33-year career.

[Read more about Dunwoody's promotion at the BBC.](#)

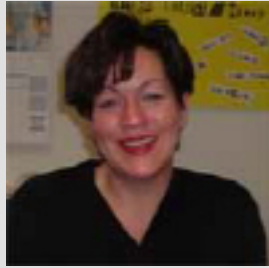
[Read her Wikipedia entry.](#)

5. January Site of the Month

Women's Media Center works with the media to ensure that women's stories are told and women's voices are heard. We do this in three ways: through our media advocacy campaigns; by creating our own media; and by training women to participate directly in media. We are directly engaged with the media at all levels to ensure that a diverse group of women is present in newsrooms, on air, in print and online, as sources and subjects. The Women's Media Center was founded in 2005 as a non-profit progressive women's media organization by writers/activists Jane Fonda, Robin Morgan, and Gloria Steinem.

Explore the WMC at the link below.

Link: <http://www.womensmediacenter.com/index.html>



--Liz Kent

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