

DEOMI NEWS LINKS, February 14, 2020

SPECIAL FOCUS: 75th Commemoration of the End of WW II, “Racial Integration/Segregation in the Military”

[“All I ever wanted to do”: Tulsa Air and Space Museum volunteer trained with the legendary Tuskegee Airmen](#) [Tim Stanley, *Tulsa World* (Tulsa, Okla.), 13 Feb 2020]

Previously barred from the Army Air Corps, African Americans had no other options until 1941, when a segregated program was established at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Out of that program, which trained Black pilots and ground crews, the 332nd Fighter Group would go on to fly more than 1,800 missions in World War II.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The Black liberators who helped defeat the Nazis and free the Dutch get their due](#) [Deneen L. Brown, *The Washington Post*, 11 Feb 2020]

The liberation of Holland, which had been invaded by the Nazis in 1940, began after thousands of Allied troops landed at Normandy on June 6, 1944. The Allied forces drove German troops from France and Belgium. By September 1944, the Allies arrived in the Netherlands. Last week in Washington, the Embassy of the Netherlands honored Baldwin and hundreds of other Black soldiers as part of its commemoration of the 75th anniversary of liberation.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Montfort Point Marine, part of the Corps’ first integrated unit, dies at 92](#) [J.D. Simkins, *Marine Corps Times*, 10 Feb 2020]

One of the first African American Marines to integrate the ranks of the Corps died Feb. 2 in Birmingham, Alabama, at the age of 92. Raymond Williams enlisted in the Marine Corps in August 1946 as an 18-year-old and was trained as one of the storied Montfort Point Marines in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

CULTURE

[“Hair Love” Oscar win boosts fight to end hair discrimination against African Americans](#) [Ronda Racha Penrice, *Urban News Service*, 13 Feb 2020]

Cherry and producer Karen Rupert Toliver were accompanied Sunday night by co-directors Bruce A. Smith and Everett Downing Jr., and by DeAndre Arnold, an 18-year-old student who made national headlines after Barbers Hill High School near Houston banned him from his graduation for not cutting his locks.

[Missteps lead publishing industry to review diversity effort](#) [Hillel Italie, AP, 12 Feb 2020]

Diversity has been an issue in publishing for years, but perhaps never so urgently as in the past few weeks, when Mexican American authors and others have cited “American Dirt” as evidence of a publishing culture where white voices are valued above others. Critics say flaws in Jeanine Cummins’ narrative about a Mexican mother and son fleeing to the U.S. were overlooked by the book’s editorial and promotional team and the many writers and booksellers who were early advocates.

[Why Some Black Puerto Ricans Choose “White” on the Census](#) [Natasha S. Alford, *The New York Times*, 9 Feb 2020]

More than three-quarters of Puerto Ricans identified as White on the last census, even though much of the population on the island has roots in Africa. That number is down from 80 percent 20 years ago, but activists and demographers say it is still inaccurate and they are working to get more Puerto Ricans of African descent to identify as Black on the next census in an effort to draw attention to the island’s racial disparities.

DISCRIMINATION

[Transgender woman poised to make Argentine soccer history](#) [Debora Ray, AP, 14 Feb 2020]

Argentina’s soccer federation has no regulations about transgender athletes, so doubt remains about what it will say amid the debate over whether transgender women should play in professional women’s leagues.

[Girls sue to block participation of transgender athletes](#) [Pat Eaton-Robb, AP, 12 Feb 2020]

The families of three female high school runners filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday seeking to block transgender athletes in Connecticut from participating in girls’ sports.

[Transgender felons seek to ease state rules on name changes](#) [Mark Scoloro, AP, 12 Feb 2020]

A Pennsylvania court this week will consider a legal challenge by three transgender women to a two-decade-old state law that prohibits people who have committed serious felonies from ever changing their names.

[St. Louis County police chief announces retirement](#) [Jim Salter, AP, 10 Feb 2020]

The police chief in St. Louis County announced Monday that he is leaving the department, months after his leadership was called into question when a gay officer was awarded \$20 million in a discrimination lawsuit.

[Swiss voters back anti-homophobia law, projection shows](#) [Francois Murphy, Reuters, 9 Feb 2020]

A Swiss referendum on Sunday cleared the way for the country to close a loophole in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights by extending anti-racism laws to cover sexual orientation, a widely used projection showed.

[Virginia lawmakers pass protections for LGBTQ people](#) [Sarah Rankin, AP, 6 Feb 2020]

Virginia lawmakers passed comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation Thursday that advocates said makes the state the first in the South to enact such protections for LGBTQ people.

[Feds have fewer whistleblower rights than in the private sector](#) [Jessie Bur, *Federal Times*, 27 Jan 2020]

“Federal civil servants are the only major sector of the workforce that don’t have the right to bring whistleblower cases to U.S. district court and seek a jury trial,” said David Colapinto, founder and general counsel at the National Whistleblower Center.

DIVERSITY

[“We’re an Afterthought”: The Push to Get Asian-Americans to Complete the Census](#) [John Eligon, *The New York Times*, 14 Feb 2020]

Asian-Americans are the fastest growing population in the nation. But organizers and activists like Ms. Yi, 63, worry that Asian-Americans remain largely misunderstood. The population includes people from places as different as Nepal, Iraq, Vietnam and Taiwan, in occupations ranging from store clerk and taxi driver to lawyer and banker. The census, the activists say, is one of the best tools available to help capture that multiplicity...

HUMAN RELATIONS

[You’re Not Listening. Here’s Why: There’s an unconscious tendency to tune out people you feel close to because you think you already know what they are going to say.](#) [Kate Murphy, *The New York Times*, 11 Feb 2020]

Once you know people well enough to feel close, there’s an unconscious tendency to tune them out because you think you already know what they are going to say. It’s kind of like when you’ve traveled a certain route several times and no longer notice signposts and scenery.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Mandela’s release 30 years ago birthed a new South Africa](#) [Andrew Meldrum and Nqobile Ntshangase, *AP*, 12 Feb 2020]

Thirty years ago, Nelson Mandela was released from 27 years of imprisonment by South Africa’s apartheid regime and instantly galvanized the country, and the world, to dismantle the brutal system of racial oppression.

[100 U.S. Soldiers to Transfer into Space Force in 2021](#) [Marcus Weisgerber, *Defense One*, 11 Feb 2020]

The Army is the first branch outside the Air Force to announce initial plans regarding the new branch of service.

[“Satanist” Kansas soldier pleads guilty to bomb plot charges](#) [John Hanna, *AP*, 11 Feb 2020]

A 24-year-old an Army infantry soldier described by prosecutors as a Satanist who hoped to overthrow the U.S. government pleaded guilty Monday to distributing information through social media about building a bomb and making napalm.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Colorado transgender teen pleads guilty to murder in school revenge case](#) [Keith Coffman, *Reuters*, 7 Feb 2020]

A transgender teenager accused of opening fire with a friend in a Denver-area charter school in May to exact revenge on classmates who bullied him pleaded guilty on Friday to murder and attempted murder charges, prosecutors said.

[Feds looking for part-time work can count on the census](#) [Jessie Bur, *Federal Times*, 6 Feb 2020]

Restrictions on federal employees receiving pay for more than one government position do not apply to part-time work offered by the 2020 census, according to a Feb. 6 memorandum issued by the Office of Personnel Management.

MISCONDUCT

[A U.S. Army drill sergeant is suspended after a profanity-laced shoving match with a recruit in Georgia](#) [David Choi, *Business Insider*, 11 Feb 2020]

The US Army has suspended a drill sergeant amid its investigation into an alleged assault, according to a spokesman from Ft. Benning in Georgia, the Army's premier infantry school.

[Marine Recruit's Family Petitions Supreme Court to Take up Alleged Hazing Death Case](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 8 Feb 2020]

The family members of a 20-year-old man who died days after arriving at Marine Corps boot camp are the latest to call on the Supreme Court to overturn a decision about a decades-old rule that blocks some lawsuits against the military.

[24 California Marines Kicked Out Over Smuggling and Drug Charges](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 8 Feb 2020]

Twenty-four members of the California-based 1st Marine Division have faced judicial or administrative action over human-smuggling or drug-related offenses associated with arrests made during a July battalion formation, Maj. Kendra Motz, a spokeswoman for the unit, told Military.com.

[Virginia Tech sued after "blood-pinning" cost cadet his Army commission](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 7 Feb 2020]

A former member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets is suing the university after he was suspended for two semesters for his role in a "blood-pinning" ritual with younger members of his company this October. Darrien Brown, a senior at Virginia Tech majoring in business management, was suspended from the university through the fall semester after an anonymous participant filed a hazing complaint over a blood-pinning ceremony, which involves placing a unit pin on a person's chest and pushing it in to puncture the skin.

RACISM

[Top Navy aviators sued by lieutenant claiming vast racist conspiracy](#) [Carl Prine, *Navy Times*, 13 Feb 2020]

The acting secretary of the Navy and the admirals in charge of U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Naval Air Forces, Naval Air Forces Atlantic—plus the civilian attorney for retired SEAL Eddie Gallagher—played their parts in a vast conspiracy to cover up institutional racism inside the sea service by administratively ruining a lieutenant aviator, a federal lawsuit claims.

[Neo-Nazi Group Membership May Not Get You Booted from Military, Officials Say](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 12 Feb 2020]

Membership in a white supremacist or neo-Nazi group won't necessarily get a U.S. service member tossed out of the military, defense officials told a House subcommittee Tuesday. The officials, including representatives of Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Army's Criminal Investigation Division, appeared to make a distinction between membership in an extremist organization and "active participation" in deciding on recruitment and retention.

[White Supremacist Groups Expand Propaganda Efforts](#) [Adeel Hassan, *The New York Times*, 12 Feb 2020]

The distribution of such propaganda on college and university campuses nearly doubled last year, to 630 reported incidents from 320 in 2018, the Anti-Defamation League documented in a [report](#) released Wednesday.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[“Old-boy-style racism” by police leads to \\$600K settlement](#) [AP, 12 Feb 2020]

*Former West Linn Police Chief Terry Timeus had his officers initiate an unwarranted, racially motivated surveillance and arrest of a Black Portland man as a favor to the chief’s fishing buddy. The case had no ties to West Linn. The city recently negotiated to pay \$600,000 to the target of the rogue investigation, Michael Fesser, 48, *The Oregonian/OregonLive* reported.*

[Is the military doing enough to look for signs of white nationalism in the ranks?](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 11 Feb 2020]

Lawmakers are questioning whether military officials are taking the issue of white nationalism and extremism in the ranks as a serious threat, noting that the Pentagon has spent little time tracking the issue despite indications it is getting worse.

[White supremacist pleads guilty in Las Vegas bomb plot](#) [Ken Ritter, AP, 11 Feb 2020]

A self-described white supremacist pleaded guilty Monday in Las Vegas to collecting materials and planning to bomb a synagogue or office of the Anti-Defamation League, or shoot people at a fast food restaurant or a bar catering to LGBTQ customers.

[Masked white nationalists march in Washington with police escort](#) [David Lawder, *Reuters*, 8 Feb 2020]

Police escorted masked members of a white nationalist group on a march through Washington’s National Mall on Saturday that Metropolitan Police said occurred without incident or arrests.

[Accused El Paso mass shooter charged with 90 counts of federal hate crimes](#) [Julio Cesar-Chavez, *Reuters*, 6 February 2020]

A Texas man accused of deliberately targeting people of Mexican heritage in a shooting rampage that killed 22 people at an El Paso Walmart store last year was charged on Thursday on 90 counts of federal hate crimes.

RELIGION

[Air Force issues new guidelines for beards, turbans and hijabs](#) [Chad Garland, *Stars and Stripes*, 11 Feb 2020]

Airmen will be allowed to wear up to 2-inch beards under a new Air Force guidance that outlines grooming standards for religious accommodations. The updated grooming policy, published Friday, also allows members of the Sikh faith to wear turbans and Muslim women to wear hijabs.

[First female, lesbian leads Michigan Episcopal diocese](#) [AP, 8 Feb 2020]

The Michigan diocese of the Episcopal Church has its first female and openly lesbian bishop. The Rev. Bonnie A. Perry was consecrated and ordained Saturday during a ceremony in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn.

SEXISM

[House votes to revive decades-old women's rights amendment](#) [Susan Cornwell, *Reuters*, 13 Feb 2020]

By a vote of 232 to 183, the Democratic-controlled House voted to remove a long-past deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, which was first proposed in 1923. The vote fell largely along party lines.

[Canadian military wants to attract women recruits by shortening, tightening its uniform skirts](#) [J.D. Simkins, *Military Times*, 12 Feb 2020]

A shortage of women in the ranks of the Canadian Armed Forces has prompted new recruiting ideas that include adding shorter, tighter skirts, more stylish shoes, and cringeworthy social media campaigns featuring slogans like, "My bling are my medals."

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Military still struggles to handle kid-on-kid sex assaults](#) [Reese Dunklin and Justin Pritchard, *AP*, 12 Feb 2020]

The military has been slow to implement reforms that lawmakers mandated more than a year ago, said the report released Wednesday by the U.S. Government Accountability Office. The Pentagon still doesn't know the extent of child-on-child sexual assaults, in part because some officials dismiss incidents without reporting them and the Pentagon has no one place to track all cases that have been logged.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Governor signs off on how Wisconsin National Guard handles sexual misconduct complaints](#) [Todd Richmond, *Air Force Times*, 11 Feb 2020]

Gov. Tony Evers approved a plan Monday to improve how the Wisconsin National Guard handles sexual misconduct complaints. The plan includes a ban on internal sexual assault investigations. All complaints will be reported to the adjutant general, local police and the federal National Guard Bureau's Office of Complex Investigations.

[New Campus Sexual Misconduct Rules Will Tackle Dating Violence](#) [Erica L. Green, *The New York Times*, 10 Feb 2020]

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos's pending rules on sexual misconduct at the nation's schools and colleges will include provisions to shore up protections for victims of stalking and dating violence, a response to lethal attacks that have underscored the weakness of current policies.

[VA Leaders Sought Dirt on Woman Making Sex Assault Accusations, Whistleblower Claims](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 8 Feb 2020]

The ongoing dispute between Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie and a House committee over an alleged sexual assault at a VA facility took an explosive turn Friday with a

whistleblower's charge that department senior leadership had sought dirt on the woman who made the complaint.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

VETERANS

[WWII vet, federal judge named by LBJ retires at 98](#) [Carl Prine, AP, 13 Feb 2020]

A federal judge in New York City who was nominated by President Lyndon Johnson and who contributed to the landmark case that struck down racial segregation in public schools is retiring at age 98.

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[Jewish-American soldiers killed in WWII receive Star of David headstones at Manila cemetery](#)

[Matthew M. Burke, *Stars and Stripes*, 13 Feb 2020]

The crosses were originally installed in error following the soldiers' deaths during World War II, officials said. The new grave markers were requested by the families of the fallen soldiers with support from Operation Benjamin, a nonprofit dedicated to rectifying grave marker errors for Jewish-American soldiers around the world.

[Concurrent receipt: A call for fair and equitable treatment of military retirees with disabilities](#)

[OPINION] [Steven Fagan, *Military Times*, 13 Feb 2020]

If you're retired from the military and you also have a service-connected disability from the Department of Veterans Affairs, you may have a financial problem. I'm referring to the issue known as "concurrent receipt." Here's how it works...

[Warship Accidents Left Sailors Traumatized. The Navy Struggled to Treat Them.](#) [Megan Rose,

Kengo Tsutsumi and T. Christian Miller, *ProPublica*, 12 Feb 2020]

Recent wars have forced the U.S. military to acknowledge and treat the psychological wounds caused by trauma. But some sailors who survived 2017's deadly crashes say the Navy's efforts to help them sometimes fell short.

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[For Many Who Cleaned Up a Nuclear Mess, a Key Ruling Comes Too Late](#) [Dave Philipps, *The*

New York Times, 11 Feb 2020]

Mr. Skaar, a retired chief master sergeant, was one of 1,600 troops scrambled by the Air Force in 1966 to clean up a classified nuclear disaster by collecting debris and shoveling up plutonium-laced soil. Many were later stricken with cancer and other ailments, and tried without success to get the federal government to take responsibility and pay for their medical care.

[Bill to Provide Service Dogs for Veterans with PTSD Passes House Unanimously](#) [Dorothy Mills-

Gregg, *Military.com*, 7 Feb 2020]

A decade-long effort to have the Department of Veterans Affairs provide service dogs to veterans with mental health issues passed a major hurdle with House passage Wednesday.