

DEOMI NEWS LINKS, February 28, 2020

CULTURE

[High-tech Chicago exhibit puts visitors eye-to-eye with MLK](#) [Sophia Tareen, AP, 28 Feb 2020]

Imagine being so close to Martin Luther King Jr. as he gives one of the world's most famous speeches that you notice the creases in his face and then realize the late civil rights leader is looking you square in the eye. That's the intense personal moment organizers are striving for with a one-of-a-kind virtual reality exhibit opening Friday at Chicago's DuSable Museum of African American History.

[Goldfein unveils gender-neutral update to Air Force Song](#) [Stephen Losey, Air Force Times, 27 Feb 2020]

The third line of the song's thirds verse (originally "Here's a toast to the host/Of those who love the vastness of the sky/To a friend we send a message of his brother men who fly") will now be sung, "To a friend we send a message of the brave who serve on high." And the final line of that verse, which originally went "A toast to the host of men we boast, the U.S. Air Force!" has been changed to "A toast to the host of those we boast, the U.S. Air Force!" Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Dave Goldfein said he'd ordered the song to be tweaked slightly, to reflect that fact that women serve in the Air Force.

[Coronavirus is here to ruin all hope for beards in the military](#) [J.D. Simkins, Military Times, 27 Feb 2020]

Military sticklers for clean shaves and proponents of stingy no-shave chit distribution now have a surplus of ammunition to support their respective stances after guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised on acceptable forms of facial hair as a means of maximizing face mask utility. Extensive facial hair growth can inhibit the protective functions of face respirators, the CDC advised in a 2017 infographic that resurfaced this week. Such devices have been employed throughout the world, along with surgical masks, in response to the stark increase of the number of cases of the virus officially named COVID-19.

[All "Confederate-related paraphernalia" should be removed from Marine bases, commandant directs](#) [Philip Athey, Marine Corps Times, 27 Feb 2020]

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger wants the Corps to remove all "Confederate-related paraphernalia" from Marine bases.

[\[See also\]](#)

[Before Nintendo and Atari: How a Black engineer changed the video game industry forever](#) [Mike Snider, USA TODAY, 27 Feb 2020]

Atari. Magnavox. Intellivision.

Each evokes memories of the golden age of video games, which brought the first wave of consoles you could connect to your home television.

But there's an oft-forgotten person from that era whose contributions to the industry still resonate today: a Black engineer named Jerry Lawson.

[Black History Month a time to thank determination and service for African American veterans](#)

[COMMENTARY] [Jeremy Butler, *Military Times*, 26 Feb 2020]

According to the DoD, [African Americans made up 17 percent](#) of active-duty military in 2017; they represent 6 percent of IAVA's membership. These are vital statistics that deserve to be humanized, especially as we celebrate Black History Month. Every February, we have the chance to reflect on and celebrate the many contributions of African Americans in our history.

[The changing categories the U.S. census has used to measure race](#) [Anna Brown, *PEW Research Center*, 25 Feb 2020]

The varying ways in which the U.S. government has counted Americans over time offer a glimpse into the country's past, from the days of slavery to recent waves of immigration. Racial categories, which have been included on every U.S. census since the first one in 1790, have changed from decade to decade, reflecting the politics and science of the times.

[Why Hank Azaria Won't Play Apu on "The Simpsons" Anymore](#) [Dave Itzkoff, *The New York Times*, 25 Feb 2020]

Azaria has played the character since his first appearance in 1990, but he and the show have faced increasing condemnation from audience members who feel that Apu is a bigoted caricature. To these critics, many of whom are of Indian descent, Apu is a servile stereotype. As voiced by Azaria, who is White, Apu's ethnic accent and his catchphrase, "Thank you! Come again!" have become grating slurs.

[Auschwitz Museum upset at scene in Amazon series "Hunters"](#) [Monika Scislowska, *AP*, 24 Feb 2020]

The museum of the Nazi German Auschwitz death camp is objecting to a scene in a new Amazon TV series that shows a murderous game of human chess being played there, insisting that no such thing took place at the camp. [The museum] said inventing fake scenes is "dangerous foolishness and caricature," encourages Holocaust deniers and is disrespectful of the camp's some 1.1 million victims, including women and children. The series' creator, David Weil stressed in a statement it was not a documentary but a narrative with largely fictional characters.

[U.S. "honor roll" of historic places often ignores slavery](#) [Jay Reeves, *AP*, 23 Feb 2020]

The National Register of Historic Places lists more than 95,000 sites that are important to the story of the United States. From some of the most famous places—such as George Washington's Mount Vernon estate—to scores of lesser-known plantation homes in the rural South, register entries often ignore the topic of slavery or mention it only in passing, an Associated Press review found. Experts blame a generational lack of concern for the stories of Black people and, in many cases, a shortage of records.

[Belgian Carnival parade of anti-Semitic tropes goes ahead despite criticism](#) [Deutsche Welle, 23 Feb 2020]

Israel urged Belgium to ban the traditional Carnival parade, which featured floats depicting caricaturistic images of Orthodox Jews. The mayor of Aalst defended the festivities, saying "it is not an anti-Semitic parade." The city's Carnival parade [lost its UNESCO cultural heritage status last year](#) over the "recurrence of racist and anti-Semitic representation." Revelers then dressed in Nazi costumes, making fun of the move.

DISCRIMINATION

[Teacher of the year suspended for showing students a picture of her fiancée wins \\$100,000 settlement](#) [Christina Zdanowicz, *CNN*, 28 Feb 2020]

A Texas art teacher who was placed on administrative leave after talking about “her future wife” in class hopes her settlement with a school district will change the lives of other LGBTQ people. Stacy Bailey, who was on paid leave, reached a \$100,000 settlement with the Mansfield Independent School District last week, her attorney said.

[U.S. states move to ban LGBT+ “panic defense” for crimes](#) [Oscar Lopez, *Reuters*, 27 Feb 2020]

Washington is likely to become the 10th U.S. state to ban “gay panic” and “trans panic” defenses, after the state Senate on Wednesday approved the [Nikki Kuhnhausen Act](#). Governor Jay Inslee is expected to approve the bill in the next few weeks. Laws banning the panic defense are being considered in at least five other U.S. states, while federal legislation outlawing the practice was introduced last year.

[[See also](#)]

[DOJ backs Kentucky photographer challenging gay rights law](#) [Dylan Lovan, *AP*, 27 Feb 2020]

The U.S. Department of Justice has weighed in on a lawsuit filed by a Kentucky wedding photographer who is challenging a city ordinance banning businesses from discriminating against gay customers.

[LGBTQ groups: South Carolina law is putting students at risk](#) [Jeff Martin, *AP*, 27 Feb 2020]

A South Carolina law banning sex education teachers from mentioning any relationships other than heterosexual ones—unless the talk involves sexually transmitted diseases—is fueling a climate of state-sanctioned discrimination, a federal lawsuit says.

[Idaho targets transgender people, birth certificate changes](#) [Keith Ridler, *AP*, 27 Feb 2020]

Idaho lawmakers moved forward Thursday with legislation banning transgender people from changing the sex listed on their birth certificates despite a federal court ruling declaring such a ban unconstitutional.

[The Postal Service Fired Thousands of Workers for Getting Injured While Delivering and Processing Your Mail](#) [Maryam Jameel, *ProPublica*, 24 Feb 2020]

USPS forced out 44,000 workers who got injured on the job. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission says the effort, part of a five year program, violated the law. But the Postal Service has fought its workers’ claims since 2007.

[[Reprint](#)]

DIVERSITY

[Two-thirds of troops support allowing transgender service members in the military, Pentagon study finds](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 27 Feb 2020]

A Defense Department-funded [study](#) published Feb. 18 in the journal [Sexuality Research and Social Policy](#) has found that about 66 percent of active-duty soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines support the idea of serving alongside transgender personnel. Breaking down data from nearly 500

responses, researchers found that across demographics—regardless of ethnicity, sexuality or gender—more than half of every group also supported allowing transgender Americans to serving in the military.

[MLB appoints 1st Black umpire crew chief](#) [Ben Walker, AP, 27 Feb 2020]

Kerwin Danley became the first African American umpire crew chief in Major League Baseball when a series of promotions, additions, and retirements were announced Thursday. The moves included Alfonso Marquez being elevated to the first Hispanic crew chief in MLB history born outside the United States and second overall.

[Too White, too male: Fed takes on diversity one bank board member at a time](#) [Ann Saphir and Lindsay Dunsmuir, Reuters, 27 Feb 2020]

The Federal Reserve, long criticized for being too White and male, crossed a substantial milestone last year: for the first time in its 107-year history, White men held fewer than half of board seats at the Fed's 12 regional outposts.

[Top Marine General Wants More Women Serving in Ground-Combat Jobs](#) [Gina Harkins, Military.com, 25 Feb 2020]

The Marine Corps' top general wants to see more female officers leading infantry battalions and will consider bringing back women who've left active duty if they're willing to serve in ground-combat jobs that were once open only to men.

[First female infantry Marine officer leaves Corps as commandant calls for more women at Infantry Officer Course](#) [Philip Athey, Marine Corps Times, 25 Feb 2020]

While the Corps saw a 60 percent increase in women serving in ground combat roles in 2019 overall, that growth was nonexistent when it came to infantry officers. Finding female officers to volunteer for the course remains difficult for the Corps, which has just one female officer scheduled to attend IOC in 2020, Ovalle said.

[Top Marine says "immediate execution" items include more gender integration, smarter grunts and changes to parental leave for adoptive, same-sex parents](#) [Philip Athey, Marine Corps Times, 22 Feb 2020]

Commandant Gen. David Berger took to Twitter Friday morning to announce what he sees as the most important issues to address in the Marine Corps. A few of the issues mentioned in [tweets](#)—regarding banning those with sexual or domestic violence convictions from becoming Marines and including adoptive parents and same sex parents in Marine parental leave policy—already are part of Marine Corps' policy, however.

[Marines to Review Proposed 1-Year Maternity Leave Policy for New Moms](#) [Gina Harkins, Military.com, 21 Feb 2020]

The Marine Corps' top general has ordered leaders to identify the benefits and risks to giving new mothers a full year off before requiring them to return to duty...

Ray Mabus, the former Navy secretary who tripled the sea services' maternity leave policies from six weeks to 18 in 2015, said the move makes sense if the Marine Corps wants to recruit and retain more women. He said the Navy and Marine Corps were losing twice as many women as men at the six- to 12-year mark.

[Report: First woman expected to become Green Beret in coming weeks](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 25 Feb 2020]

The Army's first female Green Beret is expected to graduate in a matter of weeks, according to unnamed military sources who spoke with the New York Times. A spokesman for Army Special Operations Command declined to comment. As of November, only three women had graduated the 24-day Special Forces Assessment and Selection course, Army Times learned previously, and none had finished the entire year-long Qualification Course.

[Women in special operations is nothing new](#) [OPINION] [Joe Kent, *Military Times*, 28 Feb 2020]

The recent [New York Times story](#) that the first female is set to pass the Special Forces Qualification Course has reignited the heated debate over the role of women in special operations. For the Special Forces Regiment, commonly referred to as "Green Berets," this means not only has a female earned the right to wear the beret and tab, but she will be employed in an operational role once she arrives at her Special Forces Group.

[Watchdog Finds "Uneven Progress" in State Department's Effort to Improve Workforce Diversity](#) [Courtney Buble, *GovExec*, 25 Feb 2020]

A watchdog [reported](#) on Tuesday that although the State Department says it is committed to improving racial and gender representation in its workforce, department leaders have failed to analyze career promotion data to adequately understand barriers women and minorities face.

[Khanna introduces bill to add a third gender option on U.S. passports](#) [J. Edward Moreno, *The Hill*, 25 Feb 2020]

Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.) on Tuesday introduced legislation that would add a third gender designation to U.S. passport applications. The bill instructs the State Department to "require the inclusion of a gender neutral designation in a passport, passport card, or Consular Report of Birth Abroad, and for other purposes."

[Air Force confirms effectiveness of a pilot selection tool, even though it may hinder diversity](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Air Force Times*, 22 Feb 2020]

Racking up flight hours before attending undergraduate pilot training is still an accurate predictor of whether students will excel, according to a [study](#) the University of Texas-San Antonio conducted as part of a partnership with the Air Education and Training Command.

The finding backs up a key component of the Pilot Candidate Selection Method that the Air Force uses when issuing pilot slots—despite the service's understanding that reliance on previous flight hours could hinder diversity among candidates.

[Katherine Johnson Dies at 101; Mathematician Broke Barriers at NASA](#) [Margalit Fox, *The New York Times*, 24 Feb 2020]

They asked Katherine Johnson for the moon, and she gave it to them. Wielding little more than a pencil, a slide rule, and one of the finest mathematical minds in the country, Mrs. Johnson, whose death at 101 was announced on Monday by NASA, calculated the precise trajectories that would let Apollo 11 land on the moon in 1969 and, after Neil Armstrong's history-making moonwalk, let it return to Earth.

[[See also](#)]

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Military families crave stability and more time together, survey finds](#) [Karen Jowers, *Military Times*, 26 Feb 2020]

Spouse employment, children's education, child care, family stability, and time away from family are persistent issues for military families, and a new [survey](#) digs into some of the consequences of this military lifestyle.

[Are You Hearing or Listening?](#) [Scott Eblin, *GovExec*, 24 Feb 2020]

Problem-solving, team-engagement, relationships, and results all improve when leaders listen better. Here are some tips.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Islanders who suffered 1940s war atrocities on Guam get paid](#) [Anita Hofschneider, *AP*, 27 Feb 2020]

Payments of \$10,000 to \$25,000—federal tax money normally reserved for Guam's coffers—will be made to those who underwent forced labor or internment, suffered severe injury or rape, or lost loved ones during the U.S. territory's nearly three-year occupation. A 1951 peace treaty forgave Japan of the responsibility to pay reparations.

MISCONDUCT

[Hickam fires security forces squadron commander, superintendent after investigation](#) [Stephen Losey, *Air Force Times*, 21 Feb 2020]

The investigation found that the squadron's superintendent, Chief Master Sgt. Justin Crockett, had created a toxic work environment through his actions and the inappropriate comments he made to airmen, both subordinates and superiors, said 2nd Lt. Amber Kelly-Herard, a spokeswoman for the 15th Wing at Hickam. The investigation also found Lt. Col. Christopher Robinson, the squadron commander, failed to appropriately address those lapses in professionalism, she said.

RACISM

[4 people with alleged ties to neo-Nazi group charged with planning to harass journalists and activists](#) [Dakin Andone and Konstantin Toropin, *CNN*, 27 Feb 2020]

Four people with alleged ties to a neo-Nazi group known as "Atomwaffen Division" have been arrested after authorities said they conspired to harass journalists and people affiliated with the Anti-Defamation League. The group focused on targets who were Jewish or people of color, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington, and sent them threatening posters to intimidate them.

[White supremacist charged with swatting Cabinet official and journalists](#) [Devan Cole, *CNN*, 26 Feb 2020]

A Texas man whom federal prosecutors say formerly served as a leader in a White supremacist group was arrested on Wednesday for harassing a member of President Donald Trump's Cabinet, journalists, and a university.

[Asian caucus urges fellow lawmakers not to “perpetuate racist stereotypes” amid coronavirus fears](#) [Christina Marcos, *The Hill*, 26 Feb 2020]

Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus on Wednesday warned fellow lawmakers against contributing to “discriminatory rhetoric” against Asian Americans due to fears over the coronavirus.

[Congress makes lynching a federal crime, 65 years after Emmett Till](#) [Matthew Daly, *AP*, 26 Feb 2020]

Sixty-five years after 14-year-old Emmett Till was lynched in Mississippi, the House has approved legislation designating lynching as a hate crime under federal law. The bill, introduced by Illinois Rep. Bobby Rush and named after Till, comes 120 years after Congress first considered anti-lynching legislation and after dozens of similar efforts were defeated.

[White-Supremacist Violence Is Terrorism](#) [OP-ED] [John R. Allen, *The Atlantic*, 24 Feb 2020]

As commander of all U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, I fought America’s enemies abroad. Now we must fight violent, hateful ideologies at home.

[[Reprint](#)]

[Board recommends discharge of airman with White nationalist ties](#) [Stephen Losey, *Air Force Times*, 24 Feb 2020]

An administrative discharge board has recommended the discharge of an airman who was found to have ties to a White nationalist group.

Tech. Sgt. Cory Reeves was demoted from master sergeant last year after the Air Force investigated allegations he was a member of and fundraiser for the White nationalist group Identity Evropa. The Office of Special Investigations confirmed he was an active participant and fundraiser, an OSI official told lawmakers earlier this month.

[Germany’s worldwide call to arms against racism](#) [*Deutsche Welle*, 24 Feb 2020]

In an address to the United Nations, Germany’s foreign minister has called on all countries to combat racial prejudice. Maas said racism and hatred is what took the lives of 10 victims in Germany a week ago.

[Cuomo: Jewish center evacuated; threats sent around country](#) [*AP*, 23 Feb 2020]

The Albany Jewish Community Center was evacuated and searched Sunday morning after it and several other centers around the country received anonymous emails with vague threats that mentioned a bomb, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said.

[See also: [1](#), [2](#)]

[Students’ arrest over slur prompts review of ridicule law](#) [Dave Collins, *AP*, 21 Feb 2020]

Free speech concerns that were raised following the arrests of two University of Connecticut students accused of saying a racial slur have led state legislators to consider repealing a century-old law that bans ridicule based on race, religion, or nationality.

The episode on campus involving two white students in October was recorded on video and sparked protests against racism. Many people applauded their arrests, but civil liberties groups condemned them as an affront to First Amendment rights.

RELIGION

[U.S. Supreme Court turns away religious bias claim against Walgreens](#) [Andrew Chung, *Reuters*, 24 Feb 2020]

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday handed a victory to Walgreens, turning away an appeal by a fired former Florida employee of the pharmacy chain who asked not to work on Saturdays for religious reasons as a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

[Justices to hear Philly dispute over same-sex foster parents](#) [AP, 24 Feb 2020]

The Supreme Court said Monday it will hear a dispute over a Philadelphia Catholic agency that won't place foster children with same-sex couples.

[Muslim-American advocates protest upcoming Army War College speaker](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 22 Feb 2020]

The Philadelphia chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations is protesting a speaker coming to the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, who has written that terrorism and extremism are intrinsic to Islam.

SEXISM

[DODEA principal lambasted over dress code is reassigned during investigation](#) [Matthew M. Burke, *Stars and Stripes*, 27 Feb 2020]

Crista Kraics, the Philadelphia-area attorney who represented six parents in the Department of Education complaint, said new allegations of bullying and gender discrimination have been leveled against the administrator and that an investigation is being done by DODEA's Pacific leadership.

[Gender stereotypes keep boys from reading as well as girls](#) [Sandee LaMotte, *CNN*, 26 Feb 2020]

Girls can't do math. Boys can't read. These negative stereotypes are not only reinforced by teachers and parents but by a child's peers in the classroom as well, a [new study](#) finds.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARRASSMENT

[VA secretary under investigation for attempts to discredit staffer's claims of sexual assault](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 27 Feb 2020]

The Veterans Affairs Inspector General's office on Thursday confirmed it will look into whether the department's secretary worked to discredit a congressional staffer who reported being sexually assaulted at a VA medical center last fall.

Democratic lawmakers from the House and Senate had requested the investigation after news reports of the alleged campaign by VA Secretary Robert Wilkie against Andrea Goldstein, a senior policy adviser on women veterans issues for the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

[Woman pleads guilty to lying to NCIS about rape](#) [Carl Prine, *Navy Times*, 25 Feb 2020]

A Virginia woman who accused a sailor of raping her has now admitted the rape never occurred, according to a recent court filing and a U.S. Department of Justice statement. She accused him of the crime in case her "significant other" found out about their affair. On Jan. 22, federal

prosecutors charged Miranda Overton, 21, of Chesapeake, with one count of making a false statement to an agent.

[Nome, Alaska sued by woman who says rape wasn't investigated](#) [Mark Thiessen, AP, 21 Feb 2020]
A former police dispatcher in a small Alaska town filed a lawsuit Thursday, alleging her colleagues in the Nome Police Department didn't investigate after she filed a rape report. Clarice Hardy's lawsuit claims the inaction was "part of the city's systemic and ongoing failure to protect Alaska Native woman from sexual abuse and assault."

SUICIDE

[We tell suicidal people to go to therapy. So why are therapists rarely trained in suicide?](#) [Alia E. Dastagir, USA TODAY, 27 Feb 2020]
Suicide-specific training is not commonly offered as part of college curriculums, optional post-graduate training opportunities are limited, costly and time-consuming, and experts say some therapists may not be aware they even need the education.

[The Navy's investigation into Vice Adm. Scott Stearney's suicide](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, Navy Times, 25 Feb 2020]
The investigation into the death of Vice Adm. Scott Stearney revealed no warning signs that may have predicted the U.S. 5th Fleet commander's Dec. 1, 2018, suicide in his Bahrain home. But a series of suicide notes left behind by Stearney revealed he grappled with "significant time away from family" and "the struggles of military life," according to a redacted Naval Criminal Investigative Service report obtained by Navy Times.

[Reflections of leadership: Facing a difficult truth](#) [COMMENTARY] [Maj. Liane Zivitski, MSgt. Sarah Rucker, TSgt. Dustin Krasovic, Military Times, 24 Feb 2020]
This will likely ruffle some feathers, but that is expected. Hopefully, we are giving words to the thoughts many of you already have. This is a call to action. On the topic of suicide awareness and intervention, we are trained ad nauseam; computer-based training sessions, face-to-face sessions, scenarios and pamphlets. It is drilled into us to the point where our reaction to the word is muscle memory. Despite all of that training, too often in the wake of these tragedies we hear, "I didn't see any signs."

VETERANS

[Wounded Army vet alleges harassment over her use of a service dog](#) [Kyle Rempfer, Army Times, 27 Feb 2020]
An Army veteran wounded by an improvised explosive device in Iraq is suing the federal agency she worked for after she was harassed over her use of a service dog, according to a lawsuit filed in the Eastern District of North Carolina on Feb. 20. Seantoya Hinton, whose feet were both fractured by an IED her vehicle drove over in 2003, was medically retired from the Army in 2010. Seven years later, her doctor recommended she use a service dog to assist her with balance, walking and the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder.

[VFW unveils new social media campaign to highlight continued service of military veterans](#) [Dylan Gresik, *Military Times*, 25 Feb 2020]

The [Veterans of Foreign Wars \(VFW\)](#) launched a new social media campaign, [#StillServing](#), earlier this month to showcase ways U.S. military veterans continue to serve the country and their local communities.

[American honored this month by France for WWII exploits and work on PTSD dies at 94](#) [Chad Garland, *Stars and Stripes*, 25 Feb 2020]

Stephen J. Weiss, a World War II soldier who was honored by France for his service behind enemy lines, has died. He was 94. A lead infantry scout during the war, he began a late-in-life career as an academic, researching and lecturing on war and psychological trauma. He spoke frankly of his own struggles to overcome what is now known as post-traumatic stress disorder.

[Granting VA Disability Claims by Remote Questionnaire Led to Fraud, Report Shows](#) [Dorothy Mills-Gregg, *Military.com*, 24 Feb 2020]

The VBA created the questionnaires for public use a decade ago to address its claims backlog by letting veterans undergo a private, non-VA provider examination. But several years later, over concerns of fraud raised by the IG, the VBA stopped accepting “telehealth” examinations—health care delivered remotely via phone or internet—by non-VA providers or contractors when determining a disability claim.