

DEOMI NEWS LINKS, March 13, 2020

SPECIAL FEATURE: [MARCH 8TH, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY](#)

[Celebrating International Women's Month: Emboldening the next generation of women warriors](#)

[OPINION] [Layla Kohistany, Meaghan Mobbs and Kimberly Moros, *Military Times*, 11 Mar 2020]

This International Women's Month, as we celebrate the achievements and contributions of women throughout history, we must remember to acknowledge the vital role of America's women warriors.

[Google celebrates International Women's Day with a new doodle](#) [Kristen Rogers and Brandon Riggs, *CNN*, 8 Mar 2020]

Google's doodle for International Women's Day celebrates the achievements of women of all geographic and generational backgrounds.

[Islamists hurl stones and shoes at Women's Day marchers in Pakistan](#) [Asif Shahzad, *Reuters*, 8 Mar 2020]

Islamists pelted campaigners with stones, shoes and sticks as they marched through Pakistan's capital on Sunday to mark International Women's Day.

[[See also](#)]

[#EachforEqual is the theme for International Women's Day 2020. Here's what you should know](#)

[Chelsey Cox, *USA TODAY*, 6 Mar 2020]

Gender parity in government, workplaces, health care, sports, and media coverage is achievable through collective action, organizers say. They hope this year's theme, #EachforEqual, will inspire others to challenge biases, question stereotypes and celebrate the achievements of women around the world.

CULTURE

[When a Haircut Is More Than Just a Haircut: Black L.G.B.T. New Yorkers are using social media to find barbershops that double as safe spaces.](#) [Aaron Randle, *The New York Times*, 11 Mar 2020]

"Barbershops have, uniquely, come to serve as critical private spaces in the public sphere to Black communities," said Quincy Mills, an associate professor of history at the University of Maryland and the author of Cutting Along the Color Line: Black Barbers and Barber Shops in America. But not everyone experiences the barbershop in the same way.

[Top Marine Explains Why He's Banning Confederate Flags on Bases](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 6 Mar 2020]

*The Marine Corps is a combat organization that can't afford breakdowns in trust or unit cohesion, which is why the service's top general says he's banning all Confederate items on base. Commandant Gen. David Berger acknowledged on Thursday that his recent directive to remove Confederate paraphernalia has been met with mixed reactions. But the general stood by the move in his first public comments about the controversial decision in an exclusive interview with *Military.com*.*

DISCRIMINATION

[Mormon students protest BYU stance on same-sex behavior](#) [Brady McCombs, *The Associated Press*, 7 Mar 2020]

After Brigham Young University two weeks ago dropped a section from its strict code of conduct that had prohibited all expressions of homosexual behavior, bisexual music major Caroline McKenzie felt newfound hope that she could stop hiding and be herself. She even went on a date with another woman. That optimism was pierced this week when administrators at the university owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints clarified in a letter posted online Wednesday that “same-sex romantic behavior” was still not allowed on campus.

DIVERSITY

[This woman is the Army’s only female salvage diver](#) [J.D. Simkins, *Army Times*, 9 Mar 2020]

Not many outside of the occupation are likely to associate the job of a salvage diver with the minimally aquatic United States Army. Even fewer would identify the job as one ordinarily occupied by an enlisted woman. But Sgt. Stephanie Johnson is no ordinary soldier. The 28-year-old currently serves as the lead salvage diver for the 569th Engineer Dive Detachment, 53rd Engineer Battalion out of Virginia’s Joint Base Langley-Eustis.

[8 female soldiers who changed the course of U.S. military history](#) [Dylan Gresik, *Military Times*, 9 Mar 2020]

March 8 is International Women’s Day—a celebration which would be incomplete if the female trailblazers of the United States Army were not recognized. Though not often viewed as equals by their male counterparts, women have dutifully served their country since the days of the American Revolution. From breaking barriers in combat to challenging the status quo across eras, here are eight female soldiers who changed the course of history for the U.S. military.

[Female Air Force Pioneer’s Message to Women: “Don’t Ever Accept a Barrier”](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 7 Mar 2020]

“I used to run this DV lounge,” Kathy La Sauce said as she entered the distinguished visitors room nestled within the passenger terminal at the base here. La Sauce, known as a mobility legend within the community and the Air Force, broke barriers. She credits her persistence and an unwavering will to get the job done.

[She Helped Save Capt. Phillips from Somali Pirates. Then Became the First Female 4-Star Admiral](#)

[Brock Vergakis, *The Virginian Pilot*, 4 Mar 2020]

Michelle Howard had a Navy career filled with firsts.

[\[Reprint\]](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

[Retirement Considerations for Women: Women are more likely to experience a savings shortfall.](#)

[Tammy Flanagan, *GovExec*, 12 Mar 2020]

[According to recent data](#), women are much more likely than men to have a savings shortfall in retirement, largely because of their lower lifetime earnings. By extension, they're also more likely to rely exclusively on Social Security for their living expenses in retirement.

[Why Some Americans Don't Trust the Census](#) [Jessica Stanford, *The Conversation*, 9 Mar 2020]
Roughly one-quarter of respondents were worried that their responses to the census would be used against them. Those most concerned? Non-Hispanic Asians, households not proficient in English, and those born outside of the U.S. A quarter of respondents were worried about data privacy and confidentiality. Racial and ethnic minorities were much more concerned about this than non-Hispanic Whites.

[\[Reprint\]](#)[\[See also\]](#)

MISCONDUCT

[New details on sub commander convicted of “inappropriate relationship” with subordinate’s spouse](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 12 Mar 2020]
The former commander of a Connecticut-based submarine who pleaded guilty last year to a conduct unbecoming an officer charge visited the bedroom window of an enlisted subordinate’s wife, engaged in “inappropriate conversation there” and also sent “inappropriate electronic messages,” on June 11, 2018, according to recently released Navy records.

[What Would A Warrior Do? In defense of Marine Raider charged with manslaughter](#) [OPINION] [Lt. Col. David “Bull” Gurfein (Ret.), *Marine Corps Times*, 7 Mar 2020]
Our military is well-stocked with warriors—from our special operators to those who provide service support. Unfortunately, each community also has its percentage of bureaucrats-in-uniform. Those of us who have served know full well the difference between the two, almost instinctively. Recently at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, there was a standoff between exemplars of these two extremes during the arraignment of the government’s charges in the general court-martial of Gunnery Sgt. Josh Negron, a Marine Raider.

RACISM

[Tim Anderson Is Here to Save Baseball from Itself](#) [Tyler Kepner, *The New York Times*, 9 Mar 2020]
Anderson, 26, suggested the White Sox marketing slogan for this season: “Change the Game.” He is a unifying force in a young clubhouse, encouraging teammates to ask him anything and vowing to take back Chicago—where he lives year-round—from the more popular Cubs. Now, Anderson’s presence highlights another extreme, a reminder of an unmistakable change in the game: He is the only African-American player on the White Sox.

[Civil rights: The road to Bloody Sunday began 30 miles away](#) [Gary Fields, *The Associated Press*, 8 Mar 2020]
Two weeks before Bloody Sunday—the clash in Selma on March 7, 1965, that helped propel passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965—there was a march in this small town 30 miles away. What happened in Marion is now a less-familiar episode in the civil rights movement, a footnote in the

textbooks. But the blood spilled here would send hundreds of people from Marion and the surrounding county to Selma and the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where history was made.

[60 years later, “An Appeal for Human Rights” still resonates](#) [Michael Warren, *The Associated Press*, 8 Mar 2020]

Sixty years have passed since Roslyn Pope came home from Europe to a segregated South and channeled her frustrations into writing “An Appeal for Human Rights.” The document published on March 9, 1960, announced the formation of the Atlanta Student Movement, whose campaign of civil disobedience broke a suffocating stalemate over civil rights in Atlanta and hastened the end of racist Jim Crow laws and policies across the region.

[\[See also\]](#)

SEXISM

[“Blatant Misogyny”: U.S. Women Protest, and U.S. Soccer President Resigns](#) [Kevin Draper and Andrew Das, *The New York Times*, 12 Mar 2020]

Carlos Cordeiro, the president of the United States Soccer Federation, resigned Thursday night, three days after the federation argued in legal filings that “indisputable science” proved that the players on its World Cup-winning women’s national team were inferior to men.

[Women Lawmakers Are Making Gains—But Only in Some State Capitols](#) [Emma Coleman, *Route Fifty*, 3 Mar 2020]

With the convergence of Women’s History Month and the centennial celebration of women gaining the right to vote, women in state capitols across the country are celebrating their historic firsts. While Nevada currently holds the top spot in the rankings of states with the biggest share of women in the state legislature, several other states aren’t far behind. Colorado, Oregon, Washington, and Vermont all have legislatures where women make up 40% or more of elected officials.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARRASSMENT

[Former Air Force Academy Cadet Sentenced for Sexual Assault of Student](#) [*The Associated Press*, 11 Mar 2020]

*A former U.S. Air Force Academy cadet was sentenced to five years in prison following his conviction for sexually assaulting a female cadet, authorities said. Pablo Velarde, 20, of Lima, Peru, was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Denver Tuesday, *The Denver Post* reports.*

[\[Reprint\]](#)

[Letter of appreciation signed by commandant “mistakenly” sent to Marine who had been center of child sex abuse case](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 9 Mar 2020]

The Marine Corps said it accidentally sent a letter of appreciation signed by the commandant to a Marine who recently retired as part of an agreement with the Corps after several legal convictions. The mistake was just another example of how the Marine Corps bungled the accusations against Wilson from beginning to end, according to retired Col. Don Christensen, the president of Protect Our Defenders, an organization dedicated to ending rape and sexual assault in the military.

[Justice, Senators Propose Initiatives to Combat Online Sex Exploitation](#) [Mariam Baksh, *NextGov*, 9 Mar 2020]

The Justice Department last week released 11 “voluntary principles” to counter online child sexual exploitation in collaboration with top tech companies and leading senators introduced bipartisan legislation to establish a national commission on the prevention of such crimes.

SUICIDE

[Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 9: Dr. Rajeev Ramchand](#) [*Military Times*, 10 Mar 2020]

This podcast from Military Times examines the alarming rate of military and veterans’ suicide, offering new insights based on research and effective clinical and peer support practices in suicide prevention.

[\[Listen\]](#)

[Navy mourns beloved Fitz petty officer who died in Mississippi](#) [Courtney Mabeus and Carl Prine, *Navy Times*, 9 Mar 2020]

Authorities in Mississippi are investigating whether Fire Controlman 2nd Class Brandon Olson, a crew member who survived the warship Fitzgerald’s deadly 2017 collision off the coast of Japan, took his own life March 4 in Pascagoula. Although the cause of Olson’s death has not yet been certified, at the highest levels of the Navy leaders are treating the model petty officer’s death tentatively as self-inflicted, a major concern to a sea service grappling with a suicide rate that more than doubled over the past 14 years.

[National Guard Bureau to Use Machine Learning to Foster Healthier Troops](#) [Jennifer-Leigh Ophory, *Air Force Magazine*, 6 Mar 2020]

The National Guard Bureau is preparing to roll out SPRINGboard, a digital tool that’ll give leaders insight into the health risk factors impacting the communities their troops call home so they can tailor prevention efforts accordingly. The dashboard is part of NGB’s Suicide Prevention and Readiness Initiative for the National Guard, or SPRING.

[How Leaders Can Help Reverse the Rise of Suicides in America](#) [Michael Stallard, *GovExec*, 6 Mar 2020]

With the exception of America, suicide rates over recent decades have declined in most of the world. In response, the CDC has adopted “connectedness” as a strategic direction in its efforts to reduce the number of suicides in the United States. The CDC defines connectedness as the degree to which individuals or groups are socially close, inter-related or share resources.

VETERANS

[VA suspends GI Bill certifications for five universities over deceptive enrollment practices](#) [Dylan Gresik and Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 9 Mar 2020]

*The Department of Veterans Affairs is suspending educational benefits for new students enrolling in programs at five universities, citing “erroneous, deceptive, or misleading” enrollment practices, *Military Times* has learned. In an email to congressional offices, the VA identified University of*

Phoenix, Colorado Technical University, American InterContinental University, Bellevue University and Temple University as in violation of U.S. law which prohibits illegal “advertising, sales, or enrollment practices.”

[Family struggling with questions after VA police shoot and kill Army veteran at medical center in Dallas](#) [David Tarrant, *The Dallas Morning News*, 7 Mar 2020]

Officers fatally shot the Army veteran on the night of Jan. 8 after he allegedly refused to drop a knife at the Dallas VA Medical Center.

Ashcraft arrived at the southeast Dallas hospital seeking help “for psychiatric issues” and was seen holding the weapon, according to police statements. When he tried to walk away, VA officers followed him, trying multiple times to disarm him. “The man attempted to attack VA police with the knife, causing VA police to fatally shoot him,” according to the statement issued by the medical center.

[\[Reprint\]](#)

[VA memo reminds staffers they can be fired for marijuana use](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 6 Mar 2020]

Veterans Affairs employees can still be fired for using marijuana even in states where the drug is legal, department officials said in a new message sent out to employees this week. The memo, described as a “self-explanatory, simple reminder” by VA leadership, applies to all department staffers and was signed by VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. It specifies that employment with the department requires that workers “refrain from using illegal drugs on and off duty,” including marijuana.