

DEOMI NEWS LINKS, May 8, 2020

SPOTLIGHT: Victory in Europe Day, 75th Anniversary Commemoration

[Volunteers put faces to names of Americans in WWII cemetery](#) [Mike Corder, *Associated Press*, 8 May 2020]

Staff Sgt. Maurice Gosney was just a name carved on a white cross until a young Dutch historian went in search of the fallen American soldier's face. Killed in an ambush near the German village of Sulzfeld on April 11, 1945, Gosney is one of more than 10,000 American servicemen and women buried or memorialized at the Netherlands American Cemetery in the southern Netherlands town of Margraten. A Dutch-based band of volunteers is now on a mission to put faces to all those names. It's a way of bringing history alive and of expressing their enduring gratitude to the Allied forces that liberated the Netherlands from five years of brutal Nazi occupation.

[German far-right leader criticized for remark on end of WWII](#) [Associated Press, 6 May 2020]

A leader of the far-right Alternative for Germany party drew criticism on Wednesday for describing the day World War II ended in Europe following Nazi Germany's surrender as a "day of absolute defeat." Alexander Gauland, the co-leader of the party's parliamentary group, made the comment as he opposed calls for May 8 to be made a public holiday. "May 8 doesn't have the potential to be a holiday because it is an ambivalent day," he was quoted as telling the RedaktionsNetzwerk Deutschland newspaper group. "For concentration camp inmates, it was a day of liberation. But it was also a day of absolute defeat, a day of the loss of large parts of Germany and the loss of the possibility to shape things."

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Commemoration of VE Day 75th anniversary goes virtual](#) [J.D. Simkins, *Military Times*, 5 May 2020]

[Europe Remembers](#), an effort by the Liberation Route Europe Foundation that "connects people, places, and events to mark Europe's liberation from occupation," is offering a platform to virtually converse with veterans and civilians who lived through the horrors and triumphs of the Second World War. The program will run from May 4-8 and will include English, Dutch, French, and German speakers, the organization announced. Europe will officially celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on May 8.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Historian Rick Atkinson Reflects on the Meaning of VE Day on Its 75th Anniversary](#) [James Barber, *Military.com*, 4 May 2020]

May 8 marks the 75th anniversary of VE Day, commemorating the end of World War II in Europe. ["Race to Victory: WWII Europe,"](#) a new documentary about the 100 days leading up to May 8, 1945, is premiering May 4 at 9 p.m. ET/PT on the Smithsonian Channel. "Race to Victory" is scheduled to repeat on May 8 at 8 p.m. ET, and the show will be streaming on the Smithsonian Channel apps.

[“Our dad wrote the VE peace document” \[VIDEO\]](#) [Bernadette Kitterick and Julius Peacock, *BBC News*, 4 May 2020]

Friday 8 May is the 75th anniversary of VE day- the end of the Second World War in Europe. Few people realised that a British theatre actor and manager, turned soldier, drafted the historic document of surrender which ended the conflict. For years, John Counsell’s twin daughters had no idea about the role he played. Jenny and Elizabeth Counsell, who are now 77, have spoken of their pride at his part in helping to bring the Second World War to an end.

CULTURE

[How Ida B. Wells changed my life \[OPINION\]](#) [Roxanne Jones, *CNN*, 5 May 2020]

Even in grade school, I longed to tell stories the stories of Black folk -- about our lives, our loves and the fears and frustrations we lived with every day. I wanted to give a voice and a face to the amazing people I encountered every day who mostly felt invisible or marginalized in America. Problem was, I had never met a journalist, let alone one who looked like me. But I did know all about Ida B. Wells, the Black woman and activist who was posthumously honored this week with a special [Pulitzer Citation](#). The awards committee accepts submissions from deceased writers as long as the work is not a collection of writings that have been edited after the author's death.

[“You can only watch so much Netflix”: Military leaders in Japan worry about troops’ mental health during pandemic](#) [Seth Robson and Caitlin Doornbos, *Stars and Stripes*, 5 May 2020]

For most military personnel under restriction in Japan the battle against the coronavirus is mental rather than physical. Most service members, their families and civilian employees attached to those bases have adjusted to restricted movements, wearing face masks and coping with limited dining and recreational opportunities. It remains unclear how much of an impact all this is having on troops’ mental health, but there are signs leaders are concerned.

[Unimpressed by online classes, college students seek refunds](#) [Collin Binkley, *Associated Press*, 4 May 2020]

They wanted the campus experience, but their colleges sent them home to learn online during the coronavirus pandemic. Now, students at more than 25 U.S. universities are filing lawsuits against their schools demanding partial refunds on tuition and campus fees, saying they’re not getting the caliber of education they were promised. The suits reflect students’ growing frustration with online classes that schools scrambled to create as the coronavirus forced campuses across the nation to close last month. The suits say students should pay lower rates for the portion of the term that was offered online, arguing that the quality of instruction is far below the classroom experience.

DISCRIMINATION

[“Textbook” Discrimination: Human Rights Report Accuses China Of Mistreating Africans](#) [Austin Horn, *NPR*, 6 May 2020]

Human Rights Watch [is accusing China of discrimination](#) against African communities during the coronavirus pandemic. Authorities in China’s Guangdong province, home to China’s largest African population, have singled out people of African descent for testing, the rights group alleges. It

characterizes the tests as forcible, and says that as many Africans were forced to quarantine, landlords evicted them. Guangdong authorities said in April that all foreigners were required to submit to testing and quarantine. However, Human Rights Watch says that “in practice, the authorities just targeted Africans for forced testing and quarantine.”

[Immigrant Soldiers Sue to Become U.S. Citizens, Saying DOD Broke Its Promise](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 5 May 2020]

Six soldiers have filed a class-action lawsuit charging that the U.S. promise of citizenship for service -- dating back to the nation's founding -- has been broken by the Pentagon's restrictive policies on naturalization. The six non-citizen troops, who all enlisted in the Army under the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program, or MAVNI, alleged that new and lengthy security checks for possible terrorist ties and other measures have effectively blocked them from obtaining citizenship.

[Federal Judge Dismisses U.S. Women's Soccer Team's Equal Pay Claim](#) [Franklyn Cater, *NPR*, 2 May 2020]

The World Cup champion U.S. women's soccer team is vowing to fight on after a judge dismissed key parts of their lawsuit seeking compensation equal to that of their male counterparts. Federal Judge R. Gary Klausner rejected the women's team's argument over receiving lower pay than the U.S. men's team. He also dismissed a claim of unequal working conditions related to the number of turf and real grass pitches. While the judge did allow other claims in the lawsuit to move forward to trial, for the women who won the hearts of the nation with a romp to the World Cup title last year, the ruling is a major blow.

DIVERSITY

[Coronavirus crisis exacts toll on people with disabilities](#) [Lindsay Whitehurst, *Associated Press*, 6 May 2020]

For millions of disabled people and their families, the coronavirus crisis has piled on new difficulties and ramped up those that already existed. Many are immunocompromised and therefore more vulnerable to infection, but terrified of new coronavirus-era hospital guidelines they fear could put them at risk. The leader of the U.N. said Wednesday the 1 billion people living with disabilities around the world have been among the hardest-hit by the virus. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for them to have equal access to prevention and treatment of COVID-19 as the pandemic exposes and intensified global inequalities.

[Two of the latest soldiers to earn Ranger Tabs have made Army history](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 5 May 2020]

A specialist became the first woman in her MOS — Human Intelligence Collector (35M) — to earn a Ranger tab; and a male sergeant first class became the first cyber operations specialist (17C) to do so, according to an email obtained by Task & Purpose from Lt. Col. Tim Sikora, commander of the 75th Ranger Regimental Military Intelligence Battalion (RMIB). Their accomplishments are just the latest in a string of firsts for Ranger school, which in recent years has graduated its first enlisted woman, first African American woman, first Latina woman, and more, as retired Army Col. Ellen Haring pointed out in [an op-ed at Army Times](#).

[TikTok’s “Don’t Rush Challenge” is getting a patriotic spin thanks to female veterans](#) [Emily DeCiccio, *Fox News*, 2 May 2020]

“When people usually think of a veteran, they don’t automatically think, ‘woman,’” said Marine Corps veteran Jennifer Brofer. “We want to change the narrative and show people that women are veterans.” Brofer joined more than a dozen other female veterans across branches of the military in their very own version of the viral TikTok “Don’t Rush Challenge,” which has already gotten over 2.5 million views on social media. Brofer explained that the idea of having the ladies go from pin-up to their military uniform in the video was the brainchild of [Pin-Ups for Vets](#) founder Gina Elise.

[Allentown community members say naming school after first female Army general does not reflect district’s diversity](#) [Jacqueline Palochko, *The Morning Call (Allentown, Pa.)*, 1 May 2020]

Thursday night, the district was asking the board to vote on naming the new school after Brig. Gen. Anna Mae Hays — an Allentown School District graduate who was the first female general in the Army. The new school would have been the first Allentown School District building to be named after a woman. But before the vote took place, a few people said they are worried the district’s name suggestion doesn’t reflect the student body. About 72% of the district’s 17,000 students are Hispanic and 14% are Black.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

HUMAN RELATIONS

[How to Listen to Your Loved Ones with Empathy when You Yourself Are Feeling the Strain of Social Distancing](#) [Annamarie Cano, *Govexec*, 3 May 2020]

Many of us are not just dealing with our own feelings of anxiety, anger and sadness; we are dealing with the anxiety, anger and sadness expressed by the people with whom we live and other loved ones with whom we’ve maintained virtual connections. How do we respond with empathy when we are feeling a host of emotions ourselves? Is it even possible?

[No mask? No personal space? You may face a new penalty: Social-distance shaming](#) [Rafael Olmeda and Lisa J. Huriash, *The South Florida Sun Sentinel, (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.)*, 2 May 2020]

Venturing out in public these days without a face mask or with a less-than-perfect sense of personal space has never been more likely to get you identified, labeled and publicly ridiculed. “Covidiot” is the insult of choice on Twitter, a mashup that takes the first part of its name from COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus. The “FloridaMorons” hashtag was also popular before beaches were closed, gaining popularity again when northern beaches reopened but pre-quarantine pictures went viral.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Unsung Heroes: 80% Of Parents Have New Respect For Teachers Thanks To Coronavirus Quarantine](#) [John Anderer, *Study Finds*, 1 May 2020]

U.S. teachers have been underappreciated and woefully underpaid for quite some time, but it looks like they’ve at least gained some newfound respect in the wake of COVID-19. A recent survey of 2,000 parents found that 70% now realize being a teacher is a much harder gig than their own job! All in all, 80% said they have much more respect for teachers today than they did just a few months

ago. Meanwhile, after pulling double duty as both teachers and parents due to coronavirus lockdown measures, 77% agree that teachers should absolutely be paid more.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

[Military Spouse Appreciation Day: SNCO couple reflects on experiences during COVID-19](#) [Senior Airman Melody Howley, (52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs, Spangdahlem AB, Germany), *DVIDS*, 7 May 2020]

Military Spouse Appreciation Day is celebrated every year on May 8 to acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices spouses make for their loved ones in the Armed Forces. Military spouses are the “glue” that holds families together when their family member must report for duty at a moment’s notice. However, there are times when both spouses are active duty members that must put service before self, including during the current COVID-19 pandemic. U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Amanda “Mae” Arguello, 52nd Fighter Wing deputy chief, wing protocol, and Senior Master Sgt. Alvin “Al” F. Arguello II, Air Force Security Forces Center superintendent, strategic plans and programs, reflected on their experience of being a mil-to-mil couple.

[Coronavirus survivors banned from joining the military](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 6 May 2020]

*A past COVID-19 diagnosis is a no-go for processing, according to a recently released MEPCOM memo circulating on [Twitter](#). “During the medical history interview or examination, a history of COVID-19, confirmed by either a laboratory test or a clinician diagnosis, is permanently disqualifying ...” the memo reads. The memo is authentic, Pentagon spokeswoman Jessica Maxwell confirmed to *Military Times*.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[\[UPDATED\]](#)

[Bipartisan Senate Group Urges Hazard Pay for Feds](#) [Erich Wagner, *Govexec*, 5 May 2020]

A bipartisan group of 19 senators on Tuesday urged the Trump administration to authorize hazard pay for federal employees working on the front lines during the coronavirus pandemic and encouraged it to act to enhance agencies’ use of workplace flexibilities to protect workers. Chief among their demands was that the administration begin issuing a 25% hazardous pay differential to employees whose work cannot be done remotely. Although OPM has issued guidance suggesting that agencies may issue hazard pay to employees, frontline employees by and large have not seen action to that effect.

[U.S. Treasury to start distributing \\$4.8 billion in pandemic funds to tribal governments](#) [Andrea Shalal, *Reuters*, 5 May 2020]

The decision frees up about 60% of the \$8 billion in funds earmarked for Native tribes in the CARES Act, after delays caused by a legal dispute among the nation’s native populations over who is entitled to the aid. Native tribes have been seriously impacted by the outbreak, with the Navajo Nation, which resides in Utah, New Mexico and Arizona, trailing only the hardest-hit states New Jersey and New York in terms of the highest infection rate, [according to Bettina Ramon](#), with the People for the American Way think-tank.

[Top Egyptian actor goes public about trans son](#) [Ban Barkawi, *Reuters*, 4 May 2020]

A well-known Egyptian actor has spoken on television about having a 26-year-old transgender son, in a rare public show of support for LBGT+ rights in the conservative Muslim country. Although homosexuality is not specifically outlawed in Egypt, it is a conservative society and discrimination is rife. Gay men are frequently arrested and typically charged with debauchery, immorality or blasphemy.

[Virus Pushes a Staid Supreme Court Into Revolutionary Changes](#) [Adam Liptak, *The New York Times*, 3 May 2020]

The court is set to depart from history twice on Monday: The justices will hear arguments by conference call, and the public will be able to listen in. The court has never before heard a case by phone, a move that some lawyers fear will degrade the quality of the arguments and the spirited give-and-take of the courtroom. Nor has it allowed live audio coverage of its arguments, on rare occasions releasing same-day audio, but usually waiting until the end of the week to do so.

[Special counsel releases guidance on what counts as “on duty” while working from home, and what not to do during video conferences.](#) [Amelia Gruber, *Govexec*, 1 May 2020]

The Hatch Act limiting partisan political activity in the federal workplace hasn't gone away during the novel coronavirus pandemic, but with many federal employees now working from home, the lines between “on the job” and personal activities can be blurred. The Office of Special Counsel has [released guidance](#) for teleworkers clarifying when they are considered “on duty” and how the Hatch Act applies during video conferences and on social media.

RACISM

[Suspect claims Norway mosque attack was “emergency justice”](#) [Jan M. Olsen, *Associated Press*, 7 May 2020]

A Norwegian man suspected of killing his ethnic Chinese stepsister and then storming an Oslo mosque and opening fire said Thursday on the first day of his trial that it was an act of “emergency justice” and that he regretted not having caused more damage. Broadcaster NRK said that during his testimony Manshaus claimed the White race “will end up as a minority in their own home countries” and criticized those who “blackmail national socialism.”

[Video posted online as DA says case of Georgia man who was chased and killed will go to grand jury](#) [Angela Barajas, Amir Vera and Steve Almasy, *CNN*, 6 May 2020]

The fatal shooting of a Black man -- apparently recorded on video in February and posted online Tuesday by a local radio station host -- will go to a grand jury in coastal Georgia, according to a district attorney. Ahmaud Arbery, 25, was jogging in a neighborhood outside Brunswick on February 23 when a former police officer and his son chased him down, authorities said. According to a Glynn County Police report, Gregory McMichael later told officers that he thought Arbery looked like a person suspected in a series of recent break-ins in the area.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[After Racism Claims, Boston Museum Creates Diversity Fund](#) [Jenny Gross, *The New York Times*, 5 May 2020]

The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston said Tuesday that it would establish a \$500,000 fund devoted to diversity initiatives, a move that comes a year after a group of Black middle school students said they had been subjected to racist comments while on a field trip there. During the field trip, one museum employee was accused of telling students from the Davis Academy, “No food, no drink and no watermelon.” After an investigation, the museum said it could not verify the allegations. It said an employee recalled telling the students that “no food, no drink and no water bottles” were allowed in the galleries.

[A man wore what appeared to be a KKK white hood on a trip to the grocery store](#) [Stella Chan and Scottie Andrew, CNN, 5 May 2020]

Masks and face coverings are recommended, even required, in many US supermarkets now. But a customer at a southern California grocery store chose to wear what appeared to be a Ku Klux Klan hood throughout his shopping trip and ignored requests from staff to remove it, according to the supermarket. Now, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department is looking into the incident and could pursue criminal charges.

[In clamor to reopen, many Blacks feel their safety ignored](#) [Jay Reeves, Associated Press, 5 May 2020]

Many African Americans watching protests calling for easing restrictions meant to slow the spread of the new coronavirus see them as one more example of how their health, their safety and their rights just don't seem to matter. To many, it seems that the people protesting — who have been predominantly White — are agitating for reopening because they won't be the ones to suffer the consequences. So far, the facts are proving them right: The consequences of keeping some businesses open have been falling disproportionately on the shoulders of Black people and other marginalized groups.

[N. Carolina principal sorry for racial remark during meeting](#) [Associated Press, 5 May 2020]

A school principal in North Carolina apologized after making a reference to “colored folks” during a staff meeting about cultural training. The apology by Charlotte’s Ardrey Kell High School Principal David Switzer was made in a follow-up staff meeting to the cultural training in August, according to an audio tape recently obtained by The Charlotte Observer. “I thought I said persons of color,” Switzer said in the recording before apologizing. Switzer then added he doesn’t “say the N-word either.”

[Martin Luther King’s traffic ticket changed history’s course](#) [Michael Warren, Associated Press, 4 May 2020]

On this day 60 years ago, a Black man driving a White woman was pulled over in a traffic stop that would change the course of American history. The incident was unknown to most at the time and has been largely forgotten. The man was Martin Luther King Jr., and his citation on May 4, 1960, led to him being sentenced, illegally, to a chain gang. Georgia’s segregationist politicians sought to silence King before he could mobilize great masses of people. But it backfired as the mistreatment rocked the 1960 presidential race, prompting Blacks to vote Democrat and help end Jim Crow laws in the Deep South.

RELIGION

[The Future of Christianity Is Punk \[OPINION\]](#) [Tara Isabella Burton, *The New York Times*, 8 May 2020]

More and young Christians, disillusioned by the political binaries, economic uncertainties and spiritual emptiness that have come to define modern America, are finding solace in a decidedly anti-modern vision of faith. As the coronavirus and the subsequent lockdowns throw the failures of the current social order into stark relief, old forms of religiosity offer a glimpse of the transcendent beyond the present.

[Complaint alleges senior Army chaplain used military email to share book describing coronavirus as God's judgment](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 6 May 2020]

Mikey Weinstein, founder of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, said he's representing 22 Christian military chaplains from multiple services, not all of whom were included on the original email. He said the individuals complained about the unsolicited theology distributed by Camp Humphreys' garrison chaplain Col. Moon H. Kim and written by Christian preacher John Piper. In his free online book, "Coronavirus and Christ," Piper wrote that the current global pandemic is part of God's judgment. "Some people will be infected with the coronavirus as a specific judgment from God because of their sinful attitudes and actions," the book reads.

[Dreadlocks-wearing inmate who sued is released from solitary](#) [Mark Scolforo, *Associated Press*, 6 May 2020]

A federal magistrate judge on Wednesday granted the request by Eric S. McGill Jr. to withdraw his motion for a preliminary injunction, because the Lebanon County jail adopted a religious exception to its dreadlocks ban and let him out of solitary on April 23. McGill, 27, an inmate awaiting trial in August in a shooting case, declined to cut his dreadlocks, which are important to his faith, Rastafarianism. That landed him in solitary confinement, where he claimed to have regular anxiety attacks.

[Supreme Court considers Trump administration's limits on birth control coverage](#) [Ann E. Marimow, *The Washington Post*, 6 May 2020]

The Supreme Court on Wednesday heard arguments in the Trump administration's attempt to allow more employers to refuse to provide insurance coverage for birth control for female employees because of religious or moral objections. The case is the latest dispute over the expansion of health-care benefits for women under the Affordable Care Act and pits questions of religious liberty against a woman's right to equal health-care access. It was the third time the high court considered the contraceptive coverage requirement but the first since Neil M. Gorsuch and Brett M. Kavanaugh joined the bench.

[SEE ALSO [1](#), [2](#)]

SEXISM

[The Marines Wanted a University to Study Co-ed Boot Camp. No One Applied](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 7 May 2020]

The service didn't receive any applications following its November request for public universities to study the way it trains recruits at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in South Carolina, Capt. Sam Stephenson, a spokesman for the command, told Military.com. The service has

traditionally separated men and women there, though there have been some recent coed companies that trained together but lived in separate squad bays. The Marine Corps wanted a third-party study to provide “objective, data-driven recommendation for policy change” to improve entry-level training for incoming recruits.

[General in charge of female recruit training once suggested gender integration would destroy the Marine Corps](#) [Paul Szoldra, *Task & Purpose*, 2 May 2020]

The two-star Marine general who oversees the training of female recruits at its Parris Island, South Carolina boot camp once suggested that integrating women into ground combat roles would ultimately lead to the destruction of the Marine Corps. Maj. Gen. William “Bill” Mullen, a highly-educated infantry officer in charge of Marine Corps Training and Education Command, shared the views privately with nearly two dozen friends in a 2012 email that was later obtained by Task & Purpose.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Midshipman Sexual Assault Trial Postponed for Coronavirus Concerns](#) [Selene San Felice, *The Capital Gazette*, (Annapolis, Md.), 7 May 2020]

The court-martial of a Naval Academy midshipman charged with sexual assault and burglary has been postponed for coronavirus concerns. While on active duty in February 2018, Keago broke into the dorm room of another midshipman and had sex with her while she slept, charging documents state. This happened again while he was on active duty on Oct. 21, 2018, the documents state. The documents outline that he has been charged under Article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which defines different degrees of sexual assault and rape.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Betsy DeVos announces new rules on campus sexual assault, offering more rights to the accused](#) [Laura Meckler, *The Washington Post*, 6 May 2020]

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos on Wednesday released a sweeping new directive governing how schools must handle allegations of sexual assault and harassment, giving new rights to the accused and giving colleges a clear but controversial road map to navigating these highly charged investigations. The final regulation bars universities from using a single official to investigate and judge complaints, a popular model, and instead creates a judicial-like process in which the accused has the right to cross-examine accusers and to a live hearing. It also offers a narrow definition of sexual harassment, requiring that it be severe, pervasive and objectively offensive.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[New York attorney general has investigated harassment allegations at NBC News](#) [Brian Stelter, *CNN*, 6 May 2020]

The New York attorney general’s office has interviewed a number of past and present NBC News staffers in a probe of sexual harassment and other matters at the news division. It is unclear if the investigation is ongoing, and the attorney general’s office declined to comment. The investigation reportedly involves allegations of sexual harassment, retaliation and gender discrimination.

SUICIDE

[Military spouses can take these steps if a service member has mental health concerns](#)

[\[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Aleha Landry, *Military Times*, 5 May 2020]

Sometimes, we have to go to battle for other people, not because they are incapable or inept or unqualified, but because they are too busy fighting their own demons. The entire military community is needed to overcome this. We all have ownership in this, whether by loving someone who fights this, or by being in a unit affected by a suicide or knowing of someone who struggles to cope.

[Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 16: Terri Tanielian](#) [*Military Times*, 4 May 2020]

Terri Tanielian is a senior behavioral scientist and a nationally recognized expert on veteran mental health. Her areas of interest include military and veterans health policy; military suicide; military sexual assault; psychological effects of combat, terrorism, and disasters. She has led multiple studies to assess the needs of veterans and to examine the readiness of private healthcare providers to deliver timely, high quality care to veterans and their families. She has also examined community based models for expanding mental health care for returning veterans and their families.

[\[LISTEN\]](#)

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

VETERANS

[VA Gets COVID Relief Money to Combat Homelessness](#) [Jim Absher, *Military.com*, 6 May 2020]

“A significant percentage of homeless veterans or those at risk of homelessness are uniquely vulnerable to COVID-19 due to their living conditions, age and chronic health complications,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “The funds from the CARES Act are vital and will allow VA to continue working diligently to prevent the spread of infection in communities and keep veterans safe and on the pathway to permanent housing during this perilous time.”

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[VA coronavirus deaths skyrocket as department revises its records](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 5 May 2020]

The number of deaths from coronavirus connected to the Veterans Affairs health system rose more than 80 percent over the last week as department officials updated their public accounting of cases of the fast-spreading virus. As of Tuesday morning, at least 770 patients had died from complications related to the illness, an increase of 346 cases from April 26. One month ago, on April 5, VA had reported only 103 deaths connected to coronavirus.