

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS, May 22, 2020

### CULTURE

[No More “Kneecap to Kneecap” Talks: Coronavirus Hinders Military Recruiting](#) [Jennifer Steinhauer, *The New York Times*, 20 May 2020]

*A faltering economy usually spells success for military recruiters. But a sector that relies on face-to-face interactions to bring in newcomers — followed by mandatory medical exams and intensive job training in close quarters — has been hampered by the pandemic, which has curtailed recruitment efforts and hobbled some service members who are forced into quarantine for weeks on end before they can get to their first assignment. “The military has not been able to recruit as effectively since the pandemic began, because so much of the recruiting process involves developing good personal relationships,” said Nora Bensahel, a visiting professor of strategic studies at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.*

[2 Pakistani women allegedly killed by relatives for kiss seen in online video](#) [CBS News, 19 May 2020]

*Pakistani authorities have arrested two men for allegedly murdering two female family members after a video which showed them being kissed by a man was posted online, police said Sunday. The two women were killed on Thursday in a northwestern district near the Afghan border, where women often have few rights and are subjected to strict tribal codes that limit their movement outside of the home. “Both men have confessed to killing them,” said police official Mohammad Nawaz.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The Chronic Conditions That Make Coronavirus More Deadly Are Not Equally Spread Across the U.S.](#) [Emma Coleman, *Route Fifty*, 19 May 2020]

*Over the weekend, Alex Azar, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said that the country’s death rate from coronavirus—one of the highest in the world—is due in part to people’s existing health problems. Speaking on CNN, Azar said that conditions like obesity, hypertension, and diabetes, all of which make the virus more deadly, and are more common in the U.S. than other countries, present “greater risk profiles” for the country. That legacy doesn’t affect everyone in the U.S. equally. African Americans, as Azar pointed out, are more likely to have comorbidities—a medical term to describe chronic health conditions—that result in worse outcomes for coronavirus patients, like diabetes, high blood pressure, and asthma. The same is true for Latinos. Prevalence of these conditions also cluster regionally, with disproportionately high rates in the South and Midwest. The South, for example, contains nine of the top ten states with the highest percentage of people diagnosed with hypertension (and all ten if you consider Oklahoma part of the South).*

[A culture of learning: Why the Marine Corps is promoting education, training in its new doctrine](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Marine Corps Times*, 19 May 2020]

*The Marine Corps wants smarter Marines who can intellectually outmaneuver the enemy, according to the commanding general of the Training and Education Command. That’s why the Marine Corps unveiled the [Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication 7](#) in February as the service aims to promote*

education, training, and continued learning among Marines so they become students of their profession. For those ready to start turning pages, Mullen provided a reading list in an article published in April 2019 for the [Marine Corps Gazette](#). Included on his list are “Rifleman Dodd” by C.S. Forester, “Flags of Our Fathers” by James Bradley, “The Churchill Factor” by Boris Johnson, and “Courage Under Fire” by retired Vice Adm. James Stockdale.

[Authorities announce forfeiture of ancient Gilgamesh tablet from Hobby Lobby's Museum of the Bible](#) [Tim Stelloh, *NBC News*, 18 May 2020]

The piece, known as the *Gilgamesh Dream Tablet*, bearing a version of what’s considered perhaps the world’s oldest work of literature, was featured at the Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C. Hobby Lobby bought it in 2014 for \$1.6 million from an auction house that was later found to have lied about its origins, federal prosecutors in the Eastern District of New York said. A lawsuit cited by *The Times* alleged that the official, Ghassan Rihani, sold items plundered by Iraqi soldiers during their occupation of Kuwait in 1991. Rihani’s son told the newspaper that his father dealt only in legitimate artifacts.

[Hispanic leaders demand Austin, Texas, step up coronavirus response for Latinos amid high cases, deaths](#) [Suzanne Gamboa, *NBC News*, 18 May 2020]

Latinos are 53 percent of all COVID-19 patients in Austin and Travis County and are 38 percent of the COVID-19 deaths, according to Austin and Travis County data released Sunday night by public health officials. Latinos made up 66.1 percent of all COVID-19 hospitalizations in the week of May 3, the data shows. The group of Latino business and community leaders, many with years working in the city, want the mayor to create a Latino action coalition or task force to come up with a culturally relevant plan to get more information on the virus, infection prevention and safety, and when and where to get treatment to the community.

[Louis Delsarte, a Muralist of the Black Experience, Dies at 75](#) [Steven Kurutz, *The New York Times*, 15 May 2020]

Louis Delsarte, a noted artist who celebrated African-American history and culture through dreamlike paintings, drawings, prints and, above all, large-scale public murals, died on May 2 in Atlanta. He was 75. “Whenever I see Louis’s work, I see a bunch of Black people looking good, from anywhere and everywhere in the diaspora,” said Arturo Lindsay, an artist and professor emeritus of art and art history at Spelman College in Atlanta. “Just showing Black people looking good and happy is a hell of a political statement.”

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[Federal Advisory Group Finds Feds Are Paid 26.71% Less than Private Sector Counterparts](#) [Erich Wagner, *Govexec*, 20 May 2020]

A recently published [report](#) from the Federal Salary Council dated April 2 said that, when including locality pay, federal employees continue to earn significantly less than workers in the private sector. The 2020 figure marks a nearly 5 percentage point decrease in the gap over previous data, which indicated that feds were making 31% less than employees outside of the federal government.

[Teachers union sues DeVos, school district over special ed](#) [Don Babwin, *The Associated Press*, 20 May 2020]

*The Chicago Teachers Union on Wednesday announced it is suing U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and the city's public school district, saying its policies interfere with the education of students with special needs during the coronavirus pandemic. DeVos and Chicago Public Schools have failed "to provide resources and guidance for special education students" during the public health crisis, the union said in a news release announcing the federal lawsuit.*

[Minneapolis man attacked TV anchor over "perceived sexual orientation," cops say](#) [Tim Fitzsimons, *NBC News*, 19 May 2020]

*Vennie Jerome Williams, 39, was charged Friday with third-degree assault and harassment with the intent to injure after police said he threw something at KSTP-TV journalist Matt Belanger. Williams was detained shortly after officers viewed surveillance footage that clearly showed the assault, according to the complaint. After his arrest, Williams allegedly began a profane rant in the police cruiser and "made statements indicating he had assaulted" Belanger because "he perceived that victim was homosexual," the complaint states.*

## **DIVERSITY**

[NASA names newest space telescope for pioneering female astronomer](#) [Joel Achenbach and Sarah Kaplan, *The Washington Post*, 20 May 2020]

*NASA is naming its newest space telescope for pioneering astronomer Nancy Grace Roman — marking the first time in the agency's 62-year history that one of its major, billion-dollar programs has been named for a woman. Roman, who overcame obstacles that women faced in her male-dominated field and at NASA to become the agency's first female executive and its first chief astronomer, is a "fitting" eponym for the project, astronomer Heidi Hammel said Wednesday. Her championing of space-based observatories gave her the nickname "Mother of Hubble." With the new telescope, NASA is "taking her child and making it even more powerful," Hammel said. "It's widening the Hubble vision."*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[NFL owners enhance Rooney Rule for minority hiring](#) [Ben Volin, *The Boston Globe*, 19 May 2020]

*The NFL instituted the Rooney Rule in 2003 to encourage diversity among coaches and general managers. But entering the 2020 season, the NFL only has four minority head coaches, two minority offensive coordinators, and two minority GMs. It has left many minority coaches and even league executives frustrated with the league's progress. "The facts are we have a broken system," Troy Vincent, the NFL's executive vice president of football operations, said in a media call on Tuesday. "And we are looking to implement things to change the direction of where we're going. And it's been south — not a gradual south, but a direct south."*

[The number of women running Fortune 500 companies just hit a new high](#) [Courtney Connley, *CNBC*, 19 May 2020]

*The number of women running [Fortune 500](#) companies has hit a new record, according to this year's Fortune 500 list. Currently, there are 37 women leading Fortune 500 firms — an increase from last year's 33 women, which, at the time, was a record high. These new additions are the result*

of several leadership changes in companies that previously made the list, in which women have taken over from a male predecessor, as well as companies passing the \$5.7 billion revenue threshold to make the list this year, reports *Fortune*.

[Women Nearly 30% More Likely to Leave the Military Than Men, New Report Finds](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 19 May 2020]

Concerned over recruitment and retention of female service members, Congress in 2018 asked the GAO to determine how the services compare in recruiting, retaining and promoting women. Analysts found that the likelihood of women separating from the armed forces is 28% higher than men, and female enlisted promotion rates lagged behind men across the board. The [GAO found](#) that women largely leave the service over six concerns: work schedules, organizational culture, family planning, dependent care, deployments and sexual assault.

[How greater diversity in the cockpit could help airlines avoid a looming pilot shortage \[OPINION\]](#) [Shannon McLoughlin Morrison, *The Conversation*, 18 May 2020]

There are many reasons for the anticipated shortage, including increased regulation, growing demand for air travel and an aging workforce, coupled with a mandatory retirement age of 65. But there's one cause that also offers a solution: The industry has long struggled to recruit women, people of color and members of other marginalized groups.

[Howard University Graduate Makes History as Air Force Thunderbird](#) [Eun Yang and Brianna Crummy, *NBC News*, 16 May 2020]

All across the country, U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds have been performing flyovers to honor the workers on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic. One of the team's newest members is a Howard University graduate and the first Black, female officer. This is Captain Reemashay Nelson's first season with the Air Force Thunderbirds squadron. "I know a small percentage of African-American officers, specifically female officers in the Air Force. So to be in a position that is visible, to show little girls that this is attainable, to let them know they can do anything they put their mind to, is an absolute honor," Nelson said.

[Navy grants first waiver allowing transgender officer to remain in uniform](#) [J.D. Simkins, *Navy Times*, 16 May 2020]

The U.S. Navy granted its first waiver this week that will allow a transgender service member to continue serving despite a 2019 policy that would have seen the sailor discharged. The naval officer, identified in the case as Jane Doe, served nearly 10 years in uniform as a surface warfare officer before being confronted with the likelihood of being kicked out under the new rules. Doe filed her complaint — [Lt. Jane Doe v. Mark T. Esper](#) — in March in Massachusetts federal district court, with representation coming from the GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) and the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR).

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[WASPs in WWII: Women pilots built legacy in the Cape Fear](#) [Hunter Ingram, *Star-News*, (Wilmington, N.C.), 16 May 2020]

History often remembers war as a man's duty to his country. The heroics of men from all corners of the United States are rightfully preserved in newsreels, history books and oral recollections of the

wars that have defined this country, showing the sacrifice made by ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances. What too often gets lost in the thick of history, however, are the contributions of women to the war effort, be it as nurses, textile workers and architects of stability at home when the world is thrown into chaos.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[Home But Not Safe, Some LGBTQ Young People Face Rejection From Families in Lockdown](#)

[Patti Neighmond, NPR, 17 May 2020]

*Staying home and sheltering in place can be stressful for everyone. But for some college students who identify as LGBTQ, returning to family environments can be very difficult and even psychologically damaging, psychologists say. For many of these young people, Mooney says, college is a refuge from years of rejection and discrimination in high school and even from family members. College is “a life affirming new world,” says Mooney, “where these young people can date who they want, dress as they choose, access medical care and treatments they weren’t able to before, access mental health care they weren’t able to before; being out of the home and away at college is a life line for a lot of LGBTQ people.”*

## MISCONDUCT

[Kentucky cheerleading coaching staff fired after investigation into hazing allegations](#) [Jon Hale, Louisville Courier Journal, (Louisville, Ky.), 18 May 2020]

*The University of Kentucky has fired the coaching staff of its cheerleading program following a three-month investigation into hazing allegations within the 24-time national champion program. Head coach Jomo Thompson and assistant coaches Ben Head, Spencer Clan and Kelsey LaCroix were all fired, according to a UK news release Monday. The investigation also found “lax oversight and poor judgment” by T. Lynn Williamson, the longtime adviser for the program. Williamson, whose primary university job was principal deputy general counsel, retired days after learning of the investigation and being directed to have no contact with the cheerleading squad, according to UK’s release.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Pentagon reverses policy, will not disqualify anyone hospitalized by coronavirus from serving](#)

[Corey Dickstein, Stars and Stripes, 21 May 2020]

*The Pentagon’s top official for personnel issues said Thursday that he has canceled an order that seemed to bar individuals from military service if they were hospitalized with complications from the coronavirus. Matthew Donovan, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, told reporters that the Pentagon no longer had a specific policy instructing the services on how to handle recruits who have been previously diagnosed with the virus. Donovan’s announcement — at least the third adjustment to the policy in recent weeks — came during a Pentagon news briefing in response to questions about a May 6 order, which temporarily stopped the services from enlisting*

potential recruits who spent time in the hospital with a coronavirus diagnosis. “I have rescinded that,” he said.

## **RACISM**

[A banner segregated graduating seniors by color. White administrators didn’t notice.](#)

[COMMENTARY] [Petula Dvorak, *The Washington Post*, 21 May 2020]

*The banner was stretched across the football field fence at Yorktown High School, a collage of senior portraits assembled to create the Northern Virginia school’s logo — unity, strength, pride. It was supposed to be a special tribute to the seniors who lost the best part of their senior year. But then some students from the Arlington school took a closer look at the tiny portraits creating the larger image, and they saw something disturbing. In the collage, the dark outline of the logo was created using Yorktown’s students of color, segregating them and leaving them, quite literally, in the margins. After the complaints started coming in, the administration hurried to take the digitally generated banner down and sent an apology.*

[“Horried” and “Ashamed”: Volkswagen Apologizes for Ad](#) [Geneva Abdul, *The New York Times*, 21 May 2020]

*The 10-second ad by Volkswagen, to promote its new Golf on Facebook and Instagram, set off a controversy this week as observers pointed to its racist symbolism. The carmaker pulled the ad on Tuesday. “We posted a racist advertising video on Volkswagen’s Instagram channel. We understand the public outrage at this. Because we’re horrified, too,” said Jurgen Stackmann, a member of the Volkswagen brand’s board of management, in a statement posted on LinkedIn on Twitter. “We’re ashamed of it and cannot explain how it came about.”*

[“We just want to be safe”: Hate crimes, harassment of Asian Americans rise amid coronavirus pandemic](#) [Kristine Phillips, *USA Today*, 21 May 2020]

*People of Asian descent have reported being shunned, verbally abused, name-called, coughed and spat on, even physically assaulted as the coronavirus pandemic continues to upend American life. As the political rhetoric blaming China for the pandemic escalates, law enforcement officials and human rights advocates have seen an increasing number of hate crimes and incidents of harassment and discrimination against Asian Americans.*

[Why anti-lockdown protests are a “magnet” for White supremacists and far-right extremists](#) [Connor Perrett, *The Business Insider*, 20 May 2020]

*In April, protesters Michigan carried signs that compared Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, to Hitler, flashed Trump 2020 signs, and even waved Confederate flags — a symbol of modern-day White supremacists. Some of the protesters were armed. On April 30, armed protesters marched into the state capitol while the legislature was meeting. “The majority of the protesters were White,” Michigan State Rep. Sarah Anthony told Michigan newspaper City Pulse. “I’m still not exactly sure about the connection between confederate flags and Nazi symbolism. They just had no connection to the stay-at-home orders. The fact they were carrying guns openly while we voted was unnerving.” Dr. Peter Simi, a professor of sociology at Chapman University who studies political extremist groups, told Business Insider that joining these protests is a logical step for extremists, even if their concerns about the economy play a backseat to their true intentions.*

[After Arbery shooting, Black parents are rethinking “the talk” with sons to explain White vigilantes](#) [Curtis Bunn, *NBC News*, 19 May 2020]

*Today’s talk is radically different from years past. Black parents are having serious and cautionary exchanges with their children about law enforcement shootings of unarmed African American males and so-called vigilante White men exacting prosecution on their own volition. These talks have intensified after Ahmaud Arbery, 25, was shot and killed Feb. 23 in Brunswick, Georgia, by two White men who followed and confronted him as he went for a routine jog.*

[Asian American doctors and nurses are fighting racism and the coronavirus](#) [Tracy Jan, *The Washington Post*, 19 May 2020]

*Across the country, Asian American health-care workers have reported a rise in bigoted incidents. The racial hostility has left Asian Americans, who represent 6 percent of the U.S. population but 18 percent of the country’s physicians and 10 percent of its nurse practitioners, in a painful position on the front lines of the response to the coronavirus pandemic. Some covid-19 patients refuse to be treated by them. And when doctors and nurses leave the hospital, they face increasing harassment in their daily lives, too.*

[Cuffing of Black Miami Doctor Was Justified, Review Finds](#) [Johnny Diaz, *The New York Times*, 18 May 2020]

*A Miami police officer was justified in handcuffing and detaining a Black doctor outside his home last month, an internal investigation has found, though the review also determined that the officer had violated department rules by yelling at the doctor and not wearing a face mask. “Sergeant Menegazzo stated that he did not stop Dr. Henderson because he was Black,” according to the investigative memo, and that “if Dr. Henderson had been White or Hispanic, he would have acted in the same manner.” The memo said that Sergeant Menegazzo had not been previously accused of racial profiling. But Dr. Henderson said he would pursue a lawsuit because he believed he had been racially profiled. He also said he believed “the officer put my life in danger by not having a mask on.”*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Missouri officers accused of assaulting Black woman, son](#) [Jim Salter, *The Associated Press*, 18 May 2020]

*A lawsuit filed Monday accuses four White suburban St. Louis police officers of brutalizing a 68-year-old Black woman and her adult son after wrongly accusing them of stealing a television. Marvia Gray alleges she suffered serious and permanent injuries during her arrest at a Sam’s Club store in Des Peres, Missouri, on March 23. Her 43-year-old son, Derek, suffered a concussion, three shattered teeth and other injuries, according to the lawsuit.*

[Police tried to tase Ahmaud Arbery in 2017 incident, video shows](#) [Sam Levine and Oliver Laughland, *The Guardian*, 18 May 2020]

*Police attempted to use a Taser on Ahmaud Arbery, the slain Georgia jogger, after questioning why he was sitting alone in his car in a park one morning in November 2017, according to records and a [police video](#) obtained by the Guardian. The video, obtained through a public records request, comes to light as law enforcement in the area faces scrutiny after Arbery was shot dead by two White men while jogging in February. Police did not arrest Gregory and Travis McMichael, who chased down*

and killed the unarmed Arbery, and a prosecutor assigned to the case wrote a [lengthy memo](#) explaining why the killing was legally justified.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Rep. Grace Meng on finding support in Congress while fighting Asian American bias](#) [Kimmy Yan, *NBC News*, 1 May 2020]

*When Rep. Grace Meng, D-N.Y., confronted House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., about his repeated use of the term “Chinese coronavirus” roughly a month ago, she was disappointed. While critics noted the term could perpetuate a racist association between the coronavirus and Chinese people, putting Asians in harm’s way, Meng recalled McCarthy being dismissive of her concern. Meng, who is the first Asian American elected to Congress from New York, described the interaction as a watershed moment for her. It served, in part, as a glaring indicator of attitudes held not only by her colleagues, but many in American society, as those of Asian descent faced rising hate attacks and violence related to the pandemic.*

## RELIGION

[Investigators build a case for IS crimes against Yazidis](#) [Sarah El Deeb, *The Associated Press*, 21 May 2020]

*A group of investigators with the Commission for International Justice and Accountability is amassing evidence, hoping to prosecute IS figures for crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. “IS fighters didn’t take it upon themselves to rape these women and girls. There was a carefully executed plan to enslave, sell, and rape Yazidi women presided over by the highest levels of the IS leadership,” said Bill Wiley, executive director and founder of CIJA. “And in doing so, they were going to eradicate the Yazidi group by ensuring there were no more Yazidi children born.”*

[Can’t go to mosque during Ramadan due to COVID? These families are making “mini-mosques” at home](#) [Hannan Adely, *USA Today*, 19 May 2020]

*Muslim American families isolated at home during the coronavirus quarantine are missing traditions during the holy month of Ramadan, such as praying at mosques, sharing communal meals and visiting family and friends. But in their place, many are finding solace, joy and faith by creating prayer spaces inside their houses modeled after the places where they normally would worship.*

[China says boy picked by Dalai Lama now a college graduate](#) [The Associated Press, 19 May 2020]

*China said Tuesday that a boy who disappeared 25 years ago after being picked by the Dalai Lama as Tibetan Buddhism’s second-highest figure is now a college graduate with a stable job. Very little information has been given about Gedhun Choekyi Nyima or his family since he went missing at age 6 shortly after being named the 11th Panchen Lama. China, which claims that Tibet is part of its territory, named another boy to the position, Gyaltzen Norbu, who is rarely seen and is believed to spend most of his time in Beijing. He is generally viewed as a political figure under Beijing’s control and shares none of the Dalai Lama’s global fame.*

[“GOD TV” spat exposes tensions between Israel, evangelicals](#) [Joseph Krauss, *The Associated Press*, 18 May 2020]

*An evangelical broadcaster who boasted of miraculously securing a TV license in Israel now risks being taken off the air over suspicions of trying to convert Jews to Christianity. The controversy over “GOD TV” has put both Israel and its evangelical Christian supporters in an awkward position, exposing tensions the two sides have long papered over. Evangelical Christians, particularly in the United States, are among the strongest supporters of Israel, viewing it as the fulfillment of biblical prophecy, with some seeing it as the harbinger of a second coming of Jesus Christ and the end of days.*

[Stop the “knee-jerk” reactions to “anti-religion activists,” 20 congressmen tell senior DOD leaders](#) [Kyle Rempfer, *Army Times*, 16 May 2020]

*Reps. Doug Collins, R-Ga., and Doug Lamborn, R-Colo., led 18 of their Republican colleagues in sending a [letter](#) Thursday to Defense Secretary Mark Esper, copying Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, urging them to protect religious liberty and “ensure that the ongoing pandemic is not exploited by nefarious organizations bent on removing faith from the U.S. military.” The letter cited three complaints raised in recent weeks by Mikey Weinstein’s [Military Religious Freedom Foundation](#) that were met with corrective actions by base commanders in two cases and an investigation in the third. “All three of these distinct issues highlight the overwhelmingly critical imperative to emphasize to all members of the military (not just chaplains) the need to consider the lawful and appropriate time, place, and manner in which protected religious activity is exercised,” Weinstein’s foundation said in a [response](#) to the lawmakers’ letter. Mike Berry, general counsel for First Liberty Institute, a legal organization often at odds with Weinstein’s foundation, disagreed. First Liberty also penned a [letter](#) to Esper’s office on Thursday. The lawmakers also urged the Pentagon leaders to review and apply the [“Attorney General’s Memorandum on Religious Liberty”](#) and issue prompt guidance in accordance with that memorandum.*

## **SEXISM**

[Study suggests Chief Justice John Roberts was quicker to cut off his female colleagues during Supreme Court phone arguments](#) [Tim O'Donnell, *The Week*, 20 May 2020]

*A new [study](#) found that the Supreme Court’s female justices were cut off more quickly than their male colleagues by Chief Justice John Roberts during oral arguments made over the phone last week because of the coronavirus pandemic. The study’s author, Prof. Leah Litman, a legal scholar from the University of Michigan, found that all three of the longest periods of question were from male justices, as were nine of the 12 longest. In contrast, three of the shortest questioning periods ended by Roberts — who was single-handedly policing time allotments due to the restructured argument model — were from female justices, as were eight of the 12 shortest, even though women only comprise 33 percent of the seats on the bench.*

[An officer allegedly showed explicit photos of a woman later killed by her ex-boyfriend](#) [Hannah Knowles and Marisa Iati, *The Washington Post*, 19 May 2020]

*Lauren McCluskey gave an officer explicit photos of herself in the hope that campus police would help protect her from a man who was blackmailing her — the man who killed her a little more than a week later in a tragedy that rocked the University of Utah. The officer, Miguel Deras, bragged about being able to look at the photos he had downloaded to his personal cellphone, McConkie alleged. A top Utah public safety official told the Tribune that Deras’s alleged handling of the images could be*

*a policy violation and lead to actions against his certification, or criminal prosecution. “The person who was supposed to provide police services to Lauren instead exploited her,” McCluskey’s mother, Jill McCluskey, said in a statement. “I wish he had used his time to arrest Lauren’s killer rather than ogling at her image.”*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[A Campaign Milestone: “I Was Drugged and Raped,” Heard in a Candidate’s Ad](#) [Lisa Lerer and Giovanni Russonello, *The New York Times*, 21 May 2020]

*“It was 2004,” says Claire Russo, 40, a former combat veteran running for Congress in Virginia. “I was attending the Marine Corps Ball when I was drugged and raped by a superior.” Ms. Russo, a Democrat, spent the next few years trying to get her day in court, she says. After the Marine Corps decided not to charge her superior and denied her request to transfer to another base, she took her case to the San Diego district attorney’s office. Her attacker pleaded guilty to sodomy before his civilian trial began and was sentenced to three years in prison. After serving about half of his jail time, he received an honorable discharge from the Marines, according to reports.*

[NFL player sues United Airlines over alleged sexual assault on flight](#) [Kevin Dotson, *CNN*, 20 May 2020]

*The lawsuit alleges that during the flight from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, John Doe 1 (the NFL player) and John Doe 2 shared a row with their alleged assailant, whom the two men believed to be intoxicated. The two men allege the woman initially began harassing the NFL player about the fact that he was wearing a face mask due to concerns about increasing reports of the dangers of coronavirus. The woman allegedly began making sexual advances toward and groping the NFL player, who repeatedly asked her to stop, according to the lawsuit.*

[ACLU sues Betsy DeVos over new rules on campus sexual harassment and assault](#) [Christopher Brito, *CBS News*, 15 May 2020]

*The lawsuit was filed against DeVos, the U.S. Department of Education and the department’s assistant secretary for civil rights, Kenneth L. Marcus. The ACLU wants to block the revised provisions before they go into effect in August, claiming in the suit that they go against the “language and spirit” of Title IX, the 1972 law that bars sex discrimination in education.*

## **SUICIDE**

[Suicide risk for veterans could grow as coronavirus crisis winds down](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 21 May 2020]

*“During the actual crisis, suicides can go down. It’s in the aftermath that it gets worse,” said Barbara Stanley, a research scientist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute, during a press call sponsored by National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention on Thursday. “We expect to see fallout in terms of possible increases in suicide as a tail going forward.” Mental health experts on Thursday’s call said they’re raising the alarm now about the need for more public awareness about the mental health risks in the months ahead because the potential deaths are preventable. Veterans — along with other citizens — need to know that feelings of depression, anxiety and even post-*

*traumatic stress are both normal and expected after a massive crisis like the current pandemic, and that resources are available to help address those issues, they said.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 19: Retired Army Maj. Gen. Mark Graham](#)

[*Military Times*, 20 May 2020]

*Retired Maj. Gen. Mark Graham is currently serving as the senior director for the Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care National Call Center. Included in his duties is director of Vets4Warriors and several other programs. Graham retired from the U.S. Army on Aug. 1, 2012, after almost 35 years of service. His final position was as the director (G-3/5/7) U.S. Army Forces Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In this position, he oversaw the plans, operations and training for Army forces stationed in the continental United States and ensured conventional forces were prepared for worldwide deployment and combat.*

[\[LISTEN\]](#)

[Acceptance by peers reduced risk of suicide attempts among API LGBTQ youth, report finds](#) [Agnes Constantine, *NBC News*, 18 May 2020]

*The risk of attempting suicide among Asian Pacific Islander LGBTQ youth dropped by more than 50 percent as a result of widespread acceptance among their friends, according to a new report. The [research](#), released Wednesday by the Trevor Project, an LGBTQ crisis intervention and suicide prevention organization, also found that these youth reported lower rates of depressed mood and attempted suicide than non-API LGBTQ youth. The group was also found to be less likely to share their sexual orientation and gender identity with their parents than non-API LGBTQ youth, but reported similar rates as non-API youth of sharing with friends.*

## **VETERANS**

[AAFES orders vendors to remove “Medicated Vet” ball caps after combat veteran raised concerns](#)

[Karen Jowers, *Military Times*, 20 May 2020]

*Army Maj. Ian McConnell said he did a “double take” when he happened to catch the word “medicated” on ball caps when walking by a vendor’s kiosk just outside the exchange at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, where he is stationed. Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials ordered concessionaires to remove the ball caps, in response to *Military Times*’ questions prompted by McConnell’s [tweet](#). AAFES’ action to remove the caps is “right in line with finding common ground and community together,” McConnell said. Discussions between military and civilians are important, McConnell said. But these conversations with veterans and service members often get awkward with the civilian population, he said, because it’s difficult to convey context.*

[Spike Lee tackles Vietnam in new film about vets trying to retrieve remains of fellow soldier](#) [J.D.

Simkins, *Military Times*, 19 May 2020]

*Academy Award-winning director Spike Lee is no stranger to using cinema as a platform to tackle controversial topics, and his new film slated to arrive in June on Netflix seems poised to deliver on that same formula. “Da 5 Bloods” is Lee’s (“Malcolm X,” “25th Hour”) story of four African American veterans, now in their 70s, who return to Vietnam to search for the remains of their fallen squad leader, played during wartime flashbacks by actor Chadwick Boseman (“42,” “Black*

*Panther,” “Get On Up”), and the gold stash he helped them hide decades earlier. Archival footage of Vietnam and contentious moments back in the United States, such as the Kent State shootings, are scattered throughout the [trailer](#) to set the tone for a film that is sure to scrutinize the turbulent racial dynamics of the time.*

[Women veterans advocates worry coronavirus crisis will overshadow other needed fixes](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 19 May 2020]

*Women veterans advocates worry another victim of the coronavirus pandemic could be progress in addressing gender-discrimination problems within the Department of Veterans Affairs. During an online forum Tuesday hosted by [House Veterans’ Affairs Committee’s task force on women veterans](#), several groups lamented a drop-off in communication with VA officials and tracking of systemic issues at department facilities. While praising expanded online services as critical to addressing women veterans health needs, they said those improvements cannot erase other long-standing problems like harassment at VA facilities, inconsistent services at different locations, and inadequate tracking of specific challenges facing those veterans.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Arlington National Cemetery will stay closed to general public over Memorial Day weekend](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 15 May 2020]

*Arlington National Cemetery will be open to families of fallen troops buried there over the Memorial Day weekend but not to the rest of the general public, [site officials announced](#) Friday. The announcement comes just days after [Veterans Affairs officials announced](#) that they will open most national veterans’ cemeteries to the public for the Memorial Day weekend, but will discourage visitors from coming at high-traffic times and insist on social distancing while at the sites. Wreath-laying ceremonies at the veterans burial grounds will be held but without any public crowds.*