

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS, JULY 3, 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

[Amendment Aims to Overturn Ban on Transgender Military Service](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 30 June 2020]

*A bipartisan amendment to the proposed defense policy bill would extend Supreme Court protections against workplace sex discrimination to transgender service members. The amendment offered June 25 by Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-New York, and Susan Collins, R-Maine, will likely get a vote this week as the Senate moves to pass its version of the \$740 billion National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2021. In statements, Gillibrand and Collins cited a June 15 landmark decision by the Supreme Court that found a 1964 civil rights statute against sex discrimination in the workplace applied to LGBTQ individuals.*

[Proposals would make extremist activity a military crime, create DOD oversight office for racial issues](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 30 June 2020]

*House Democrats will push to make extremist activity a stand-alone crime under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and call for the appointment of a new defense inspector general focused on racial issues among the armed forces as part of broader efforts to include issues of equality in the annual defense authorization bill being debated this week. Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif. and chairwoman of the committee's personnel panel, plans to introduce amendments related to both the new inspector general proposal and UCMJ changes. "For too long, the military has refused to accept that it has a problem with White supremacy and other far right extremists in the ranks," she said. "Equally appalling is its failure to address or even provide adequate information on the systemic racism that has kept servicemembers of color from rising through the ranks for generations.*

[Wide shift in opinion on police, race rare in U.S. polling](#) [Hannah Fingerhut, *The Associated Press*, 2 July 2020]

*It's rare for public opinion on social issues to change sharply and swiftly. And yet in the wake of George Floyd's death, [Americans' opinions](#) about police brutality and racial injustice have moved dramatically. About half of American adults believe police violence against the public is a "very" or "extremely" serious problem, [according to a poll](#) conducted earlier this month by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Only about a third said the same as recently as last September, as well as in July 2015, just a few months after Freddie Gray, a Black man, died in police custody in Baltimore.*

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### CULTURE

[Boston to remove statue of slave kneeling before Lincoln](#) [William J. Kole, *The Associated Press*, 1 July 2020]

*Boston's arts commission voted unanimously Tuesday night to remove a statue that depicts a freed slave kneeling at Abraham Lincoln's feet. The commission had fielded escalating complaints about the Emancipation Memorial, also known as the Emancipation Group and the Freedman's Memorial,*

*as a nation confronting racial injustice rethinks old imagery. The statue has stood in a park just off Boston Common since 1879. It's a copy of an identical monument that was erected in Washington, D.C., three years earlier. The copy was installed in Boston because the city was home to the statue's White creator, Thomas Ball.*

[Custodians rename Coast Guard ship named after justice who wrote Dred Scott decision](#) [John Kruzel, *The Hill*, 1 July 2020]

*A WWII-era Coast Guard ship named after the Supreme Court chief justice who penned the majority opinion in the Dred Scott ruling will be renamed by the groups overseeing the vessel, amid a nationwide reckoning over historic symbols of racial injustice. The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter "Taney" was originally named to honor Roger B. Taney's service as U.S. Treasury secretary. But Taney's legacy is defined principally by his majority opinion in the 1857 ruling in Dred Scott v. Sanford, which said slaves were property and African Americans — whether enslaved or free — could not be U.S. citizens.*

[Stonewall Jackson statue down after Richmond mayor orders removal of Confederate monuments](#) [Phil Helsel, *NBC News*, 1 July 2020]

*A statue of Stonewall Jackson on Richmond's Monument Avenue came down Wednesday after the mayor ordered the "immediate removal" of all Confederate monuments on city property. "As the capital city of Virginia, we have needed to turn this page for decades. And today, we will," Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney said in a video address. Gov. Ralph Northam applauded the move. "A monumental day in Richmond that begins the important process of removing these painful symbols of our past. Thank you, next," he [tweeted](#) Wednesday.*  
[SEE ALSO [1](#), [2](#)]

[The Air Force Risks Missing Its Moment to Make Lasting Change for Racial Equity](#) [OPINION] [James L. Anderson, *Military.com*, 30 June 2020]

*The first African American Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Charles "CQ" Brown, recently released a sobering [video](#) describing his career as a Black man "living in two worlds." The video gave me hope that he understands the issues we face -- and I do remain hopeful. But my one caution is that short-term fixes are not the solution. We have long-term issues to deal with. We must not forget that our service culture gives us a competitive advantage when it comes to making lasting change for racial equity. And I say equity rather than equality: racial equality in its ideal type provides equal opportunities to people of all races, defined by equal treatment under the law, but it fails to evaluate the structures that influence outcomes for people of color.*

[Belgium takes down statue, king regrets colonial violence](#) [Samuel Petrequin, *The Associated Press*, 30 June 2020]

*Belgium confronted its colonial past and looked toward reconciliation Tuesday, with the king expressing regret for the violence carried out by the country when it ruled over what is now Congo. Later in the day, the bust of a former monarch held responsible for the death of millions of Africans was taken off public display. The monarch, who ruled Belgium from 1865-1909, plundered Congo as if it were his personal fiefdom, forcing many of its people into slavery to extract resources for his own profit. As Belgium marked the 60th anniversary of the end of its colonial rule in Congo, King Philippe's words had resounding significance since none of his predecessors went so far as to*

*convey remorse. The removal of King Leopold II's statue took place only hours after Philippe's letter was published.*

[Changes in military recruiting may endure after pandemic](#) [Lolita C. Baldor, *Army Times*, 30 June 2020]

*COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on military recruiting, closing enlistment stations and forcing thousands of recruiters to woo potential soldiers online, or even on their front steps. As the virus raged, enlistments slowed and fueled worries that the armed services would have to rely more on current troops re-enlisting to meet total force requirements by the end of the fiscal year in September. Recruiters have had to abandon their normal visits to high schools and malls, and instead are relying almost exclusively on social media to reach young people. As that effort builds, Army leaders believe it may evolve into a new system that will allow them to scale back the size and staffing at enlistment storefronts and reduce the number of recruiters.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Confederate flag losing prominence 155 years after Civil War](#) [Jay Reeves, *The Associated Press*, 30 June 2020]

*Long a symbol of pride to some and hatred to others, the Confederate battle flag is losing its place of official prominence 155 years after rebellious Southern states lost a war to perpetuate slavery. Mississippi's Republican-controlled Legislature voted Sunday to remove the Civil War emblem from the state flag, a move that was both years in the making and notable for its swiftness amid a national debate over racial inequality following the police killing of George Floyd in Minnesota. Mississippi's was the last state flag to include the design. Make no mistake: The Confederate flag isn't anywhere close to being gone from the South. Just drive along highways where Sons of Confederate Veterans members have erected gigantic battle flags or stop by Dixie General Store, where Bob Castello makes a living selling hundreds of rebel-themed shirts, hats, car accessories and more in an east Alabama county named for a Confederate officer, Gen. Patrick Cleburne.*

[Nonbinary Photographer Documents Gender Dysphoria Through A Queer Lens](#) [Laura Beltran Villamizar, *NPR*, 30 June 2020]

*Inspired by their own journey as a nonbinary person, Salgu Wissmath, a photographer from Sacramento, California, decided to document feelings of gender dysphoria. It's a term for the anguish and distress a person experiences as a result of a disconnect between their gender identity — who they feel they are — and the gender a doctor assigned them at birth. "Gender dysphoria is sorely misunderstood by society," Wissmath says, underscoring the role the experience plays for many, though not all, trans people. "It allows them to come to understand their own identity."*

["Shawarma" social distancing signs in Dearborn removed after backlash](#) [Chanel Stitt, *The Detroit Free Press*, 30 June 2020]

*In Orlando, social distancing signs have popped up urging people to stay the length of one alligator apart. In Brighton, New York, a resident poked fun at Bill Moehle, the 6-foot-8 town supervisor, by making up social distancing signs urging people to stay one full Moehle apart. But a similar attempt in Dearborn to use lighthearted humor to get people to stay at least 6 feet apart during the pandemic has backfired as tone deaf and insensitive to the city's large Arab American population. "Keep your distance: Stay 24 shawarma sandwiches apart," said the signs erected along Michigan Avenue and*

*other streets in east and west Dearborn. The signs have since disappeared after officials at the Dearborn Downtown Development Authorities realized they were offensive based on social media pushback.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Southern neighborhoods have been named “plantations” for decades. That could be changing.](#) [Pam Kelley, *The Washington Post*, 30 June 2020]

*In June, some thousand people gathered for a justice rally in Hilton Head, a South Carolina vacation mecca known for its resorts and golf courses. The event included condemnations of police brutality and calls for Whites to join the Black Lives Matter movement. One of the speakers, historian Amir Jamal Touré, also chided people who live in neighborhoods with the word “plantation” in their names—communities such as Wexford Plantation and Palmetto Hall Plantation. “It is shameful and hypocritical for you to say that you believe in Black lives mattering,” Touré told the crowd. This wasn’t a new argument. Touré has been criticizing plantation neighborhoods since the 1990s. But he wasn’t expecting the response that followed. An [editorial](#) in the next day’s Hilton Head Island Packet newspaper agreed that citizens should “scrub ‘plantation’ from our communities, once and for all.” Over the next week, more than 5,000 people [signed an online petition](#) demanding an end to plantation developments in South Carolina’s Beaufort County.*

[Why news organizations’ move to capitalize “Black” is a win \[OPINION\]](#) [Shirley Carswell, *The Washington Post*, 30 June 2020]

*Every semester at least a few of my journalism students at Howard University objected when I told them the letter “b” should be lowercase in their news articles about Black people. Understanding their pride in their race and resentment of implications that it doesn’t rate capitalization, I would tell them that “I get it, but it’s not my call.” I referred them to the Associated Press Stylebook, the journalist’s bible for rules on writing, which, until about a week ago, said that Black should not be capitalized as a racial identifier. On June 19, AP became the latest media organization to change its policy to capitalize “Black” when the word is used in “a racial, ethnic or cultural context.”*

[Why this 90-year-old man decided to come out as gay during the pandemic](#) [Sydney Page, *The Washington Post*, 30 June 2020]

*Kenneth Felts spent his entire life in the closet. But at 90 years old, he felt ready to come out. Since the age of 12, when he first knew he was gay, Felts said, he had been living a double life, battling between dueling identities. There was Ken, his outward-facing straight self, and then there was his alter ego, whom he referred to internally as Larry, a gay man he spent nearly eight decades stifling. “I learned from the Bible not to be gay. I was planning to take this secret to the grave with me,” said Felts, who lives in Arvada, Colo., and grew up in a religious Christian family. “I could not reconcile these two parts of me,” Felts said. “For a long time, Ken did a pretty good job of keeping Larry at bay.” But amid the pandemic and the isolation that ensued, Felts started writing about his life to pass the time.*

[“Dungeons & Dragons” Tries to Banish Racist Stereotypes](#) [Andrew Limbong, NPR, 29 June 2020]

*Dungeons and Dragons is reconsidering what it means to be evil. The classic role playing game’s publisher, Wizards of the Coast, [recently announced](#) some changes it was making to the game in response to the ongoing protests over racism and police violence. While this includes editing some*

*past racist descriptions, as well as adding more diverse writers, the game's designers are also making a fundamental change to the way certain playable characters are portrayed.*

[John Wayne's name on California airport faces new scrutiny](#) [Amy Taxin, *The Associated Press*, 29 June 2020]

*In the latest move to change U.S. place names tied to racist groups and ideas, leaders of Orange County's Democratic Party are pushing to drop film legend John Wayne's name from the county's airport because of his racist and bigoted comments. The request was immediately contested by the head of the county's Republican Party, who condemned the comments but touted Wayne's contributions as an actor and philanthropist. The Democratic Party of Orange County adopted a resolution last week condemning Wayne's "racist and bigoted statements" in a 1971 interview and called on the county's board of supervisors to drop his "name and likeness" from the airport. The [resolution](#) asked the board to restore the name to Orange County Airport.*

[REPRINT [1](#), [2](#)]

[A long-overdue "Tip of the Cap" to baseball's Black pioneers](#) [Jim Litke, *The Associated Press*, 29 June 2020]

*Barack Obama tipped his cap. So did three other former U.S. presidents and a host of prominent civil rights leaders, entertainers and sports greats in a virtual salute to the 100-year anniversary of the founding of baseball's Negro Leagues. The campaign launched Monday with photos and videos from, among others, Hank Aaron, Rachel Robinson, Derek Jeter, Colin Powell, Michael Jordan, Obama and fellow former Presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter at [tippingyourcap.com](#). On the receiving end of those tributes are many of the Negro Leagues' greatest alumni: Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, "Cool Papa" Bell and Jackie Robinson, who began with the Kansas City Monarchs and went on to break the color barrier in the major leagues with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. Not long after, with many of its best players gradually following Robinson's path, the Negro Leagues ceased operations.*

[Mercedes to race in all-black cars for Formula One season](#) [*The Associated Press*, 29 June 2020]

*Mercedes announced Monday that it will race in all-black cars for the 2020 Formula One season as it pledges to fight racism and improve the diversity of its team. Six-time F1 world champion Lewis Hamilton and teammate Valtteri Bottas will also race in black overalls for the season, which starts Sunday in Austria after a long delay caused by the coronavirus pandemic. "The Black Lives Matter movement has shone a searching light on how much we need new measures and actions in the fight against racism and all forms of discrimination," Mercedes announced in its color switch from silver. Hamilton, who is the only Black world champion in F1, has spoken widely about racism following the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis last month. He plans to create a commission to increase diversity in motorsport.*

[SEE ALSO]

[Mississippi surrenders Confederate symbol from state flag](#) [Emily Wagster Pettus, *The Associated Press*, 29 June 2020]

*Mississippi will retire the last state flag in the U.S. with the Confederate battle emblem, more than a century after White supremacist legislators adopted the design a generation after the South lost the Civil War. A broad coalition of lawmakers — Black and White, Democrat and Republican — voted*

*Sunday for change as the state faced increasing pressure amid nationwide protests against racial injustice. Mississippi has a 38% Black population, and critics have said for generations that it's wrong to have a flag that prominently features an emblem many condemn as racist.*

[What Do You Do When Extremism Comes for the Hawaiian Shirt?](#) [Nathan Taylor Pemberton, *The New York Times*, 29 June 2020]

*While it's not uncommon to see heavily armed White men toting military-grade gear on American streets, the addition of the Hawaiian shirt is a new twist. It turned up in February at gun rights rallies in Virginia and Kentucky, then in late April at coronavirus lockdown protests in Michigan and Texas. Think of the shirts as a campy kind of uniform, but for members of extremist groups who adhere to the idea of the "boogaloo" — or, a second civil war in the United States. If that sounds silly to you, consider that these groups settled on the Hawaiian shirt thanks to a string of message board in-jokes.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[“It Only Ends When They’re Dead.” David France on His Chilling HBO Documentary Welcome to Chechnya](#) [Katy Steinmetz, *Time.com*, 30 June 2020]

*Over the last several years, anti-LGBTQ “purges” have taken place in Chechnya, a conservative Russian republic. Chechen officials, according to many [reports](#) and testimonies, have rounded up people they believe to be gay, tortured them and then released them to family members who were encouraged to commit “honor killings.” Fearing for their lives, some young queer people have fled the predominantly Muslim region with the hopes of finding safety outside Russia. Welcome to Chechnya, a documentary by David France premiering June 30 on HBO, follows these refugees and the activists going to extraordinary lengths to help them escape.*

[Georgia’s Kemp signs hate crimes law after outcry over death](#) [Ben Nadler, *The Associated Press*, 26 June 2020]

*Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp on Friday signed legislation allowing additional penalties to be imposed for crimes motivated by a victim’s race, religion, sexual orientation or other factors, removing Georgia from the dwindling list of U.S. states without a hate crimes law. The Republican governor said the legislation won’t “fix every problem or right every wrong. But ... is a powerful step forward.” The law, which becomes effective July 1, will allow additional penalties to be imposed for certain crimes when motivated by a victim’s race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender or disability. It also mandates the collection and reporting of data on hate crimes investigated by law enforcement.*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Army’s Senior Officer Ranks Are Not Diverse Enough, General Says](#) [Matthew Cox, *Military.com*, 1 July 2020]

*As the military wrestles with racial inequities in the ranks, the general in charge of Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) acknowledged Tuesday that the senior officer corps is not as diverse as it should be. Speaking at an Association of the United States Army virtual event, Gen.*

*Paul Funk II agreed that the general officer ranks do not represent the demographics of the country when compared to the enlisted force. Out of the 13 active Army four-star generals, one is Black: Gen. Michael Garrett, commander of Army Forces Command. Of the 296 general officers in the active Army, 43 are Black, 21 are female and six are Hispanic as of April 30, Army spokesman Lt. Col. Emanuel Ortiz told Military.com.*

[Niagara Falls Guardsman receives NAACP award](#) [2nd Lt. Jason Carr, 107th Attack Wing Public Affairs, (Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, N.Y.), 28 June 2020]

*Senior Master Sgt. Venita Smith, assigned to the 107th Attack Wing at Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, has been selected as the Air National Guard recipient of the NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award 2020. Smith was chosen from across the Air Force for the award emphasizing those who serve their community and are dedicated to improving society. “Senior Master Sgt. Smith exemplifies what a candidate for the Roy Wilkins Award should aspire to be. She is committed to helping anyone she comes in contact with, all Airmen and members of our communities. She is the Airmen’s Airman,” said Col. Gary Charlton, 107th AW commander. “Congratulations, we wish you the best of luck as you compete for the next higher-level award. Senior Master Sgt. Smith makes us all want to stand a little bit taller!”*

[Restoration of honor for LGBTQ vets in New York State](#) [WKBW-TV.com, (Buffalo, NY), 28 June 2020]

*Governor Cuomo announced on Sunday that New York veterans who were denied honorable discharges because they are LGBTQ, can now begin submitting applications under “The Restoration of Honor Act.” This will allow veterans who were denied an honorable discharge because of their sexual orientation or gender identity to have their New York State veterans’ benefits restored.*

[The Colorado National Guard Now Has Its First Woman And Openly LGBTQ Leader](#) [Dan Boyce, Colorado Public Radio, (Centennial, Colo.), 26 June 2020]

*The Colorado National Guard has its first female leader in Army Brig. Gen. Laura Clellan. Gov. Jared Polis appointed Clellan to Adjutant General of the guard this week, and she is scheduled to take command around the beginning of August. She is also the first openly LGBTQ person to hold the role. Clellan will replace U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Mike Loh, who is waiting for Senate confirmation to become the next director of the U.S. Air National Guard.*

[First woman is slated to graduate Green Beret training, lawmaker says](#) [Kyle Rempfer, Army Times, 26 June 2020]

*The first female Army Green Beret candidate will graduate from the Special Forces Qualification Course on July 9, according to Rep. Elise Stefanik, a New York congresswoman who serves on the House subcommittee overseeing special operations forces. While another woman did complete the entire Q Course in the 1980s, she was ultimately denied the opportunity to graduate. “The graduation of the first female U.S. Army Green Beret is an important and hard-earned milestone,” said Stefanik in a [statement](#) on Thursday. “This achievement is a testament to this soldier’s individual strength, courage and commitment, and also an important institutional milestone for U.S. Special Operations Command as it embraces the cultural change that will continue to make it the most successful and elite Special Operations Force in the world.”*

[“Leadership Matters.” Researcher Says Rate of Fatal Police Shootings Is Lower in Cities With Black Police Chiefs](#) [Melissa Chan, *Time.com*, 26 June 2020]

*A police chief’s race may significantly impact how often officers fatally shoot people, a new analysis says. In cities with Black police commanders, the per-capita rate of fatal shootings by police officers is about 70% lower than in cities with White police leaders, according to Stephen Wu, the study’s author, who analyzed data from the 60 largest U.S cities between 2015 and the first half of 2020. The rate of deadly shootings is also lower in Latino-led police forces, he says. “A lot of people will talk about training and the racial makeup of officers,” says Wu, 47, an economics professor in New York’s Hamilton College, who has written extensively on how economic and social factors affect human behavior and well-being. “It’s not just about the overall police force. Leadership matters.”*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Pasadena Fire Department Has All-Female Crew for First Time: “Break Through Those Glass Ceilings”](#) [Joelle Goldstein, *People.com*, 25 June 2020]

*A group of female firefighters in California has made history — and the trailblazers expect to continue doing so. This week, [CBS Evening News with Norah O’Donnell](#) celebrated the Pasadena Fire Department (PFD) staffing an all-female engine crew during one of their shifts. Though the department has been around for 133 years, the significant moment marked the first time that the PFD staffed a crew comprised of females only. “To have all women there, there was a lot of pride and there was a lot of fulfillment,” PFD firefighter Christina Terrazas told the outlet. “It felt like it should’ve happened a long time ago.”*

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[Black Girls Breathing Founder Jasmine Marie Is Making Meditation Accessible to Heal Her Community](#) [Lauren Valenti, *Vogue.com*, 29 June 2020]

*Since 2018, Atlanta-based breathwork practitioner Jasmine Marie has been helping Black women heal from the trauma that disproportionately impacts their everyday lives with [Black Girls Breathing](#), an inclusive wellness platform that provides meditational breathwork classes. “I wanted to create a space very specific to Black women and their emotional, mental, and spiritual needs,” explains Marie. “Black women are dying from chronic stress because it’s linked to diseases such as breast cancer, ovarian cancer, heart disease, and high blood pressure. We’re the most affected by these ailments, and not being able to lower our cortisol and reframe our nervous system is killing Black women.”*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Interservice vantage point: The stitching in our values \[OPINION\]](#) [Capt. Landon H.J. Ewers, USAF, *Military Times*, 28 June 2020]

*In May of 2019, after seven years of active United States Army service, I received the title of interservice transferee. I had the experience of a hungry platoon leader, a burdened commander, and your typical bitter staff officer all to take a leap of faith and join the United States Air Force. I find myself today, after one year as an Air Force staff officer and ironically assigned to the United States Space Force, looking back at what made my transition easier — a common thread of values that stitches us all together. Teamwork is the backdrop of all we do whether it is on the ground, in the air, or even space. Teams create competence and a cohesive camaraderie, where locking arms*

*and digging deep together gets us through the hardest of challenges. We focus on inclusion over diversity, where anyone can raise their hand and be heard or even rise to the highest of positions today. When a general is willing to look across a sea of colonels all to ask a captain, “Do you have any thoughts?” is a powerful thing. This is how we grow as human beings and mold the future of our organization.*

[Survey: American Happiness Reaches 50-Year Low](#) [University of Chicago, *Futurity*, 17 June 2020]  
*The study highlights how Americans’ outlook and emotional health compare to nearly 50 years of trends in public opinion data from the [General Social Survey \(GSS\)](#), an ongoing project which [NORC](#) at the University of Chicago has conducted since 1972. The new [COVID Response Tracking Study](#) is an effort to examine the social, psychological, and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on American society. This is the first wave of the longitudinal study, which will include re-interviewing respondents at various points following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The historical context reveals unique effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on public sentiment: An all-time low in people saying they are very happy (14%), combined with an all-time high in people saying they are satisfied with their family’s financial situation (80%).*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Detroit Man Sentenced to Life in Murders of Two Gay Men, Trans Woman](#) [Trudy Ring, *The Advocate*, 1 July 2020]

*A Detroit man received three life sentences Tuesday for the 2019 murders of two gay men and a transgender woman. A Wayne County jury had convicted Devon Kareem Robinson, 19, in March of first-degree premeditated murder for fatally shooting gay men Alunte Davis, 21, and Timothy Blancher, 20, and trans woman Paris Cameron, 20. They were killed May 25, 2019, at a house party on Detroit’s east side. Police and prosecutors said the crime was motivated by their identity. Two other people were shot but survived, and Robinson was also convicted of two counts of assault with intent to murder and five counts of felony firearm use, the [Associated Press reports](#). He received sentences of 10 to 20 years for each of the assault counts and two years for each of the firearm counts.*

[Latino taco stand workers got abuse, racial slurs — just for asking customers to wear a mask](#)

[Suzanne Gamboa, *NBC News*, 30 June 2020]

*It seemed like an idea that the taco-loving masses would get behind with no hesitation: no masks, no tacos. But even though tacos are a mainstream American obsession, being required to wear a mask in the midst of a pandemic to order from one of two Hugo’s Tacos in Los Angeles allegedly brought out the worst in some. The mask misbehavior got so out of hand, the employees and the owners had to say “no más” (no more). Last weekend, the taco stands’ owners shut their serving windows for at least a week, so employees can take a break from the taco troubles. They also launched the #nomasknotaco hashtag to draw attention to what their employees have had to endure and to rally support behind the policy. In its [announcement](#) of the closing, the Hugo’s Tacos management said their tacos stand workers were “exhausted” by the conflicts and that they had been harassed, called names and had objects and liquids thrown at them.*

## RACISM

[Citing racial bias, San Francisco will end mug shots release](#) [Olga R. Rodriguez, *The Associated Press*, 1 July 2020]

*San Francisco police will stop making public the mug shots of people who have been arrested unless they pose a threat to the public, as part of an effort to stop perpetuating racial stereotypes, the city's police chief announced Wednesday. San Francisco Police Chief Bill Scott said the department will no longer release booking photos of suspects to the media or allow officers to post them online. The policy takes effect Wednesday. Booking photos are taken when someone is arrested. They are often made public whether or not the person is prosecuted for the alleged crime, which undermines the presumption of innocence and helps perpetuate stereotypes.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Florida man charged for pointing gun, unleashing racist tirade against Black homeowner](#) [Elisha Fieldstadt, *NBC News*, 1 July 2020]

*A White man in Florida was arrested Tuesday for pointing a gun at and unleashing a racist tirade on a Black man, accusing the homeowner of stealing from his own mailbox. Joseph Max Fuchek, 58, was booked on charges of aggravated assault with a firearm with prejudice and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, both of which are second-degree felonies, Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said in a [statement](#).*

[Here's how Big Navy plans to study racism in the ranks](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 1 July 2020]

*The Navy officially stood up "Task Force One Navy" Tuesday, a group that will seek to "address the issues of racism, sexism and other destructive biases and their impact on naval readiness," according to a sea service [release](#). Among other things, the task force will look for ways to equalize "professional development frameworks and opportunities" in the Navy while working to dismantle barriers and "advocate for the needs of underserved communities," according to the Navy release.*

[Many Asian and Black Americans say they're facing more discrimination during the pandemic](#) [Catherine E. Shoichet, *CNN*, 1 July 2020]

*About 40% of Asian and Black Americans say people have acted uncomfortable around them because of their race or ethnicity since the coronavirus pandemic began, according to a [new report](#) from the Pew Research Center. And nearly a third of Asian Americans (31%) say they've been subject to racist slurs or jokes, the study found. "Asians and Blacks in particular have really seen a shift in their experience since the pandemic began," said Neil Ruiz, the center's associate director of global migration and demography and the lead author of the study.*

[Navy Task Force to Review Use of Promotion Photos; Marines Will Still Require Them](#) [Gina Harkins, *Military.com*, 1 July 2020]

*Another military branch is reviewing whether it should do away with promotion photo requirements as leaders look for ways to end inequality and racial bias in the ranks. A new Navy task force set up to examine the service's policies to ensure everyone -- regardless of race -- is getting a fair shot will review the rule requiring officers to submit photos to promotion selection boards, Cmdr. Dave Hecht, a spokesman for the office of the chief of naval personnel, said.*

[CNO to stand up Navy task force on race and inclusion](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 30 June 2020]

*Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Gilday plans to stand up a Navy task force that will look for ways to remove racial barriers and improve inclusion in the sea service while assessing how issues like military justice, assignments, recruiting and advancement are handled. Gilday announced the plan near the end of a [video](#) released Thursday that included Black sailors speaking candidly about their experiences inside and outside the Navy. “As a Navy, we cannot tolerate discrimination or racism of any kind,” Gilday said in the video. “We must work to identify and eliminate individual and systemic racism within our force.”*

[HASC Chairman’s Top NDAA Priorities: Improving Racial Equality and Fixing Health Care](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 30 June 2020]

*The current House defense policy bill contains a cluster of provisions to improve opportunities for minorities in the armed forces -- measures that House Armed Services Chairman Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., said are a top priority for passage. And it would give \$17 million to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or HBCUs, and other minority institutions in an effort to diversify the national security workforce. The bill also would require the military departments to submit a report summarizing the gender and race of each officer recommended on a list for promotion for the pay grades O-4 and above. In a phone call with members of the Defense Writers Group Tuesday from Washington, D.C., Smith said the funding is needed because “there is statistically disparate treatment of people of color and others within the [Uniform Code of Military Justice].”*

[As Palmdale Grapples With A Hanging Death, Locals Recall The Area’s Racist History](#) [Emily Elena Dugdale, *NPR*, 30 June 2020]

*The Antelope Valley’s decades of entrenched racism have helped fuel the outcry over the death of 24-year-old Robert Fuller, a Black man found hanging from a tree in Palmdale, Calif., earlier this month. Many locals are skeptical that Fuller’s death was a suicide — the initial explanation that the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department issued and then retracted days later. The area has a troubled racial history. Neo-Nazis and skinheads have lurked in the area for decades, and for years L.A. County officials — in collusion with Sheriff’s deputies — were systematically discriminating against Black people. Because of that history, it’s easy for locals to think the worst happened to Fuller.*

[Facebook bans accounts linked to anti-government U.S. “boogaloo” movement](#) [Joseph Menn, Mark Hosenball and Michelle Nichols, *Reuters*, 30 June 2020]

*Facebook Inc. stepped up the battle against the amorphous anti-government “boogaloo” movement on Tuesday, banning accounts of adherents who encouraged violence during recent anti-racism protests across the United States. The social media company for the first time designated a subset of boogaloo followers as a dangerous organization, marking them for the same sanctions Facebook applies to 250 White supremacist groups and organizations it categorizes as supporting terrorism around the world. The move came four days after Attorney General William Barr established a Justice Department task force to counter violent anti-government extremists including boogaloo as well as the left-wing antifa movement.*

[“Intelligent” or “Strong”: Study Finds Bias in Soccer Broadcasts](#) [Rory Smith, *The New York Times*, 30 June 2020]

*For two weeks, the players of the Premier League have been taking a knee before games, demonstrating their support for the Black Lives Matter movement to millions of viewers across the world. Their peers in the Bundesliga had done the same. In Spain, Italy, and the United States players have followed suit. The protests have made it plain that the players do not believe soccer is immune to the kind of systemic inequalities that brought millions to the streets.*

*On Monday, a study called into question yet another aspect of soccer that does not appear to be a level playing field. According to [research](#) conducted by RunRepeat and published by the Professional Footballers' Association, the union for players in England and Wales, the difference in the way European soccer commentators describe Black and White players is stark.*

#### [University of North Carolina Wilmington professor behind “vile” racist and sexist tweets to retire](#)

[Elisha Fieldstadt, *NBC News*, 30 June 2020]

*As calls for a University of North Carolina Wilmington professor whose tweets the school deemed “vile” grew louder, the university announced he had decided to retire. Mike Adams, a sociology and criminology professor, has come under fire for previous tweets and publications, and recent tweets regarding racial justice protestors, coronavirus and other topics have sparked renewed pushback on social media. A [statement](#) from the university earlier this month called Adams’ tweets “vile” and said “the university’s constitutional obligations and support of free expression do not lessen our disgust when those viewpoints offend or otherwise upset those who read these comments.”*

#### [Images of brutality against Black people spur racial trauma](#) [Noreen Nasir., *The Associated Press*, 29 June 2020]

*Since Wanda Johnson’s son was shot and killed by a police officer in Oakland, California, 11 years ago, she has watched video after video of similar encounters between Black people and police. Each time, she finds herself reliving the trauma of losing her son, Oscar Grant, who was shot to death by a transit police officer. Most recently, Johnson couldn’t escape the video of George Floyd, pinned to the ground under a Minneapolis officer’s knee as he pleaded that he couldn’t breathe. Johnson’s loss was extreme, but, for many Black Americans, her grief and pain feels familiar. Psychologists call it racial trauma — the distress experienced because of the accumulation of racial discrimination, racial violence or institutional racism. While it can affect anyone who faces repeated prejudice, in this moment, its impact on Black people is drawing particular attention.*

#### [Racial bias is baked into algorithms doctors use to guide treatment](#) [Nicoletta Lanese, *MSN.com*, 29 June 2020]

*Doctors use algorithms to help guide their medical care, such as whether a patient should get breast cancer screening or whether they should undergo a cesarean section to give birth — but many of these algorithms have racial biases, according to a new study. Many of these biased algorithms use outdated, incorrect or even nonexistent scientific rationale to adjust patients’ scores based on race, and “guide decisions in ways that may direct more attention or resources to White patients than to members of racial and ethnic minorities,” according to the report, published June 17 in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#).*

#### [Social media platforms face a reckoning over hate speech](#) [Barbara Ortutay and Tali Arbel, *The Associated Press*, 29 June 2020]

*For years, social media platforms have fueled political polarization and hosted an explosion of hate speech. Now, with four months until the U.S. presidential election and the country's divisions reaching a boiling point, these companies are upping their game against bigotry and threats of violence. What's not yet clear is whether this action is too little, too late — nor whether the pressure on these companies, including a growing advertiser boycott, will be enough to produce lasting change. Social media companies, led by Facebook, now face a reckoning over what critics call indefensible excuses for amplifying divisions, hate and misinformation on their platforms. [Civil rights groups have called](#) on large advertisers to stop Facebook ad campaigns during July, saying the social network isn't doing enough to curtail racist and violent content on its platform.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Digital Green Book would help Black people find safe places](#) [Michael Elizabeth Saka, *The Associated Press*, 27 June 2020]

*In the 1930s, a Black postal worker named Victor Hugo Green published the “Negro Motorist Green Book.” The segregation-era guide helped Black people avoid violence and discrimination as they traveled by identifying safe and welcoming businesses and places. The Green Book stopped publication in 1967, a few years after the Civil Rights Act was passed. But entrenched racism continued to make Black people, and other people of color, feel unsafe in certain spaces. Some see a need for a new version of the Green Book. “Oftentimes I’m not believed,” said Crystal Egli, co-founder of Inclusive Journeys, the company behind the idea for a digital Green Book. “When I go into a store and I’m followed around, and I tell people my White peers or my White family members that I felt really uncomfortable in that store, that there was a lot of people staring at me, oftentimes that’s dismissed.” Egli describes the vision for the digital Green Book as a “Yelp for inclusivity,” where “we believe these stories, and we can compile them so that everyone can see it wasn’t just me that one time.”*

[“I am confused, scared and afraid” \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Nathan Dial, *Air Force Times*, 27 June 2020]

*I am a successful Black man. I am an active-duty officer and pilot in the U.S. military with degrees from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Harvard University and Northwestern University. Over my 32-years on this earth, I learned to become comfortable in my skin, how to navigate the world and when to shield my Blackness in precarious situations in my personal and professional life. For many of us, learning how to be the only Black face in the room was tough because our socialization took decades. The recent barrage of requests for conversation leaves us confused, scared and afraid. I want to use my experiences in the Air Force to provide insight into why some Black military members are skeptical of our colleagues’ recent intrigue with racial injustice.*

## **RELIGION**

[Five service members ask Navy for reprieve from order banning off-base church attendance](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 1 July 2020]

*At least five service members have hired a lawyer to fight a Navy order that bars them from attending indoor worship services to prevent the spread of the coronavirus because they believe it violates their constitutional right of religious freedom. [First Liberty Institute](#), a Texas-based legal office focused on defending religious freedoms, sent letters beginning Monday to five commanders,*

*asking them to grant the service members an accommodation and to encourage the Navy to rescind the “unlawful order.”*

[White Supremacist Ideas Have Historical Roots In U.S. Christianity](#) [Tom Gjelten, NPR, 1 July 2020]

*Though he had grown up in Mississippi and was familiar with the history of racial conflict in the South, Cross was horrified by the story of the 1961 attack on the Freedom Riders. Montgomery was known as a city of churches. Fresh out of seminary, Cross had come there to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. “Why didn’t White Christians show up?” he recalled wondering. To his dismay, Cross learned that many of the people in the White mob were regular churchgoers. In the years that followed, he made it part of his ministry to educate his fellow Christians about the attack and prompt them to reflect on its meaning.*

[After Floyd, raw talk, racial reckoning among U.S. Muslims](#) [Mariam Fam, The Associated Press, 28 June 2020]

*As a young student, Hind Makki recalls, she would call out others at the Islamic school she attended when some casually used an Arabic word meaning “slaves” to refer to Black people. “That’s a whole other situation about anti-Blackness, particularly against African Americans,” said Makki, who identifies as a Black Arab Muslim. In recent weeks, many Muslims in the U.S. have joined racial justice rallies across the country and denounced racism in sermons, statements and webinars. American Muslims, Black and non-Black, are also having raw conversations like Makki’s as they grapple with questions of racial equity, tensions and representation in their own faith communities.*

## **SEXISM**

[How Coronavirus Could Widen The Gender Wage Gap](#) [Danielle Kurtzleben, NPR, 28 June 2020]

*The challenge of juggling work and raising kids has only increased during the pandemic, according to Claudia Goldin, professor of economics at Harvard University. “That [workload], for mothers, has increased to a degree that it’s very difficult to find uninterrupted time during the day to do their work if they’re working at home,” she said. Before the coronavirus pandemic, working moms [already](#) did more child care and more housework than their male partners. [Surveys](#) say that coronavirus has widened that gap. [One](#), conducted across five advanced economies including the U.S., found that working moms now spend 15 more hours than working dads on childcare and household chores per week. A reduction in work hours, as Mamie Brown has experienced, is just one way the coronavirus pandemic could reverse economic gains women made over the last half-century. In addition, the pandemic is pulling women out of work altogether.*

[The Mexican men who want to end violence against women](#) [Ann Deslandes, Deutsche Welle, 28 June 2020]

*Since stay-at-home and social distancing measures were announced in Mexico to slow the spread of COVID-19, Saturdays have been busy for Arturo Reyes, a 29-year-old psychologist and a staff member at Gendes, an organization dedicated to assisting men to stop violence against women. Gendes has been around since 2013 and is a leading light in a growing number of groups and organizations in Mexico that, through public education and personal support, work with men to stop violence against women. They aim to reconfigure the harmful ideas about gender roles that*

*contribute to the high rates of this violence in Mexico, especially within intimate relationships. The most recent government data shows that seven out of every 10 women have experienced violence at some point in their lives, and of those, almost half (43.9%) were abused by their husband, boyfriend or partner.*

[Making men feel manly in masks is, unfortunately, a public-health challenge of our time](#) [Monica Hesse, *The Washington Post*, 27 June 2020]

*It's weird, the things that will break you sometimes. The world is a giant toilet right now, but you're still paddling as best you can, and then something random and minuscule causes you to throw up your hands and say, "I give up — flush us all!" For me this week that thing was Dick Cheney launching the hashtag #RealMenWearMasks. The maddening aspect of #RealMenWearMasks isn't the message but what's behind it: We've reached the point of this polarized pandemic where our current plan for salvation is convincing certain recalcitrant men that wearing masks is the testosterone thing to do. Men, otherwise, are less inclined to wear masks. [A recent study](#), co-authored by professors at Berkeley and the U.K.'s Middlesex University, found that men resisted for several reasons: They were less likely to believe they'd get sick with the coronavirus (they are actually more likely to get sick), and "Men more than women agree that wearing a face covering is shameful, not cool, a sign of weakness, and a stigma."*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Army Investigating Fort Hood Sexual Assault Response Program After Soldier's Disappearance](#) [Hope Hodge Seck, *Military.com*, 1 July 2020]

*The same day that one suspect in the disappearance of Army Pfc. Vanessa Guillen was arrested, and another suspect took his own life, the service announced a probe into the local program intended to respond to and prevent sexual assault. U.S. Army Forces Command dispatched a seven-member inspector general team to Fort Hood, Texas earlier this week at the request of III Corps officials to determine that the base Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program, or SHARP, was working effectively and properly offering support to soldiers.*

[Civilian suspect taken into custody during search for missing Fort Hood soldier](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 1 July 2020]

*A civilian suspect has been arrested by Texas Rangers in connection with the disappearance of Army Pfc. Vanessa Guillen, and a military suspect has died by suicide, according to Army investigators. The Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) said on Wednesday that when law enforcement agencies "attempted to make contact" with the military suspect, "the suspect reportedly displayed a weapon and took his own life." The civilian who was taken into custody is "the estranged wife of a former Fort Hood soldier," per CID.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

["A failure of command" — How one soldier's sexual harassment case forced a reckoning among leaders in the Army Reserve](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 1 July 2020]

*Military leaders have for many years made statements, held focus groups, organized fundraisers, and conducted surveys to get a better understanding of sexual assault and harassment within the ranks. They have deemed the problem unacceptable and vowed that it would be handled*

*appropriately under their watch. Yet a case unraveling within a two-star Army Reserve command in Illinois has put a spotlight on what many service members believe: What the military says it will do to help them when they report sexual assault or harassment, and what they actually experience, are two different stories. Indeed, the 416th Theater Engineer Command, comprised of thousands of soldiers in 26 states, is currently under investigation by a top Army official over claims that leaders frequently mishandled sexual assault and harassment allegations. The investigation was first [reported by the Associated Press](#).*

[Army sexual assault prosecutor acquitted of rape and battery](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 30 June 2020]

*The case of two Army judge advocates and the alleged assaults that erupted from their previously consensual sexual relationship came to a close on Friday. Former Fort Sill, Oklahoma, special victims prosecutor Capt. Scott Hockenberry was acquitted on all six charges at court-martial. Hockenberry faced life in prison for the three rape counts, as well as six months for each of three counts of assault consummated by a battery.*

[Service members are sharing their stories of sexual harassment and assault using #IAmVanessaGuillen](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 29 June 2020]

*Over the last several days, women have been flooding social media with posts about their experiences with harassment and assault in the military using the hashtag #IAmVanessaGuillen, a reference to the 20-year-old soldier who went missing over two months ago. Army Pfc. Vanessa Guillen was last seen on April 22 at Fort Hood, Texas. She hasn't been seen or heard from since, but the case took on new meaning when her family said that she was being sexually harassed by one of her superiors. Since then, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment commander has [opened an investigation](#) into the allegations. "Vanessa's case feels so personal because it could have been me," one woman, who identified herself as an Army veteran, posted "Commands just sweep it under the rug," another woman who said she was in the Army [posted](#) about her experience with sexual assault. "I have seen it with my own eyes."*

## **SUICIDE**

[Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, Episode 24: Capt. Matt Kleiman — Suicide Prevention in the National Guard](#) [*Military Times*, 30 June 2020]

*As the National Guard Bureau J-1 Warrior Resilience & Fitness Division chief, Capt. Matthew Kleiman synchronizes Air and Army National Guard well-being, resilience, and suicide prevention efforts across the 54 states, territories, and District of Columbia. He also serves as the director of psychological health for the chief of the National Guard Bureau. Kleiman was detailed to the U.S. Coast Guard from 2010 to 2016 as the chief of USCG's Behavioral Health Services. Prior to that, he was the principal advisor in the Office of Health Affairs to senior leadership at the Department of Homeland Security on resilience and behavioral health policies across the organization. Kleiman is a commissioned officer in the United States Public Health Service. He began his active duty career over 20 years ago as an Air Force clinical social worker.*

[\[LISTEN\]](#)

[U.S. Commandos at Risk for Suicide: Is the Military Doing Enough?](#) [Nick Turse, *The New York Times*, 30 June 2020]

*He was one of the most elite military men in America, but his service in the Special Operations forces (S.O.F.) had taken a heavy toll. “The job I love and have committed my whole being to is creating my suicidal condition, but I’d rather die than admit to having trouble and being removed from my unit and my team,” he said often, according to someone close to him. It was impossible for The New York Times to follow up with this special operator, however, because he had died by suicide. The soldier’s troubling admission is found in a study of suicides among America’s most elite troops, commissioned by U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) and obtained by The New York Times via the Freedom of Information Act. Conducted by the [American Association of Suicidology](#), one of the nation’s oldest suicide-prevention organizations, and completed sometime after January 2017, the undated 46-page report aggregates the findings of 29 “psychological autopsies” — detailed interviews with 81 next-of-kin and close friends of commandos who killed themselves between 2012 and 2015.*

## VETERANS

[The VA Made Me Vomit. And That Was a Good Thing. \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Andrew McCormick, *The New York Times*, 2 July 2020]

*As soon as you join the military, everyone always tells you that when you get out you’ll miss the people. I left the Navy in 2017, and I discovered they were right. For seven years, I had worked as an intelligence officer. I deployed with special operations units to Afghanistan and East Africa and spent my last two years in Japan, near Tokyo, which I loved. By March of last year, though, I had reached a low. The panic I felt at night had bled into my days, and everywhere I went — work, restaurants, the park — an overriding feeling of dread followed. A friend encouraged me to get help, and I finally did.*

[Lawmakers debate women veterans’ access to VA reproductive health care](#) [Hannah Graf, *Military Times*, 1 July 2020]

*The House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Health and Women Veterans Task Force focused on reproductive health services offered to veterans, including limitations on services that could disproportionately affect women, LGBT and poor veterans, according to presiding chairwoman Julia Brownley, D-Calif. A fast-growing number of women veterans under the age of 45 are becoming eligible for VA benefits and health care, according to a [2019 study](#) published in *Seminars of Reproductive Medicine*. The study reported that there are about 2 million women veterans in the U.S., about 840,000 of whom used VA services in 2015, according to the most recent available [report from the VA](#). Another [study in Women’s Health Issues](#) found that the mental health impacts of military service can be linked to infertility.*

[Navy Capt. Jordine Skoff Von Wantoch broke barriers for working moms](#) [Pam Kragen, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, 30 June 2020]

*Jordine Skoff Von Wantoch was born a coal miner’s daughter, but with her hard work, perseverance and adventurous spirit, she rose to a top position in the U.S. Navy, forging a path like no other woman who came before her. She was 89 when she died June 22 at her Coronado home with her daughter by her side. Von Wantoch spent 30 years in the Navy, rising to the rank of captain eight*

*years before her retirement in 1986. But it was in 1970, when she became pregnant with her daughter, Lian, that she became a boundary-breaker for all women officers who followed in her wake. Von Wantoch was the first female Naval officer in the U.S. to be allowed to remain on active duty and complete a normal career while raising a child. This opened the door for a change in policy regarding women with children in the Navy and is documented in Jean Ebbert's 1993 book "Crossed Currents: Navy Women from WWI to Tailhook."*