

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 8 JANUARY 2021

[NOTE: The articles in each section are arranged in reverse chronological order]

HIGHLIGHTS

[Air Force to Commanders: Ditch Politically Incorrect Heraldry, Honors](#) [Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory, *Air Force Magazine*, 5 January 2021]

Air Force Secretary Barbara M. Barrett, USAF Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., and Space Force Chief of Space Operations Gen. John W. “Jay” Raymond have instructed commanders to review every visual symbol, turn of phrase, and other form “of unit recognition and identity” to make sure they’re in line with the Department of the Air Force’s effort to increase inclusion among its ranks. “Commanders, at the squadron level and above, will remove any visual representation, symbols, or language derogatory to any race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, age, or disability status to ensure an inclusive and professional environment,” a Jan. 5 release from the department states. These reviews must examine everything from unit nicknames and official sayings to emblems (both sanctioned and otherwise), including challenge coins and morale patches, and be completed “within 60 days from Dec. 23, 2020.” [SEE ALSO [1](#), [2](#)]

[Pentagon gets diversity watchdog in bill passed over Trump veto](#) [Anthony Capaccio, *Bloomberg*, 5 January 2021]

Defense legislation passed in spite of President Donald Trump’s veto will bring a heightened focus on diversity issues and efforts to combat White supremacy and extremist behavior within the U.S. military. Along with billions of dollars for new weapons systems and a pay raise for troops, a new deputy inspector general’s position was created by the bipartisan defense authorization bill to carry out audits, investigations and evaluations of military personnel policies, programs and systems to ensure they address diversity priorities. The deputy inspector general “will keep the heat on the military to make sure that racial inequality does not fade from the priority list, that these provisions are implemented successfully, and that Congress will receive an independent source of findings and recommendations,” said Representative Jackie Speier, the California Democrat who heads the House Armed Services Committee’s military personnel panel. [\[REPRINT\]](#)

[New year will see female recruits in San Diego and more boot camp gender-integration](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 31 December 2020]

For the first time in history, 2021 will see women attend boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. In February one platoon of women will join Lima Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, training alongside platoons of male recruits. As the Marine Corps sends women to the West Coast boot camp for the first time, it is conducting a [study](#) on the best way to fully integrate boot camp at the platoon level as required by the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. The \$2 million contract for the study was awarded to the University of Pittsburgh’s Neuromuscular Research Laboratory and Warrior Human Performance Research Center. The study will “analyze combinations of gender-integrated training and make recommendations for models that integrate genders to the greatest extent possible while continuing to train Marines to established standards,” an October press release said.

CULTURE

[Can companies drive social change? PwC's Roy Weathers on racial equity](#) [Chris Taylor, Reuters, 8 January 2021]

Corporate America is not known for advancing deep societal change. Roy Weathers is trying to fix that. The U.S. vice chair of accounting and advisory giant [PwC](#) is spending most of his time these days heading up CEO Action for Racial Equity, a group of more than 100 prominent firms and chief executives trying to move the needle on social issues. After an emotional year in which the Black Lives Matter movement drew increased attention to injustice, Weathers is focused on leveraging the skills, dollars and influence of corporate America to bring about societal change. Where communities of color have been left behind in areas like education, health or economics, Weathers is assembling a strike force to attack those gaps.

[Dallas company apologizes after criticism for redesigning Chinese mahjong tiles](#) [Wilson Wong, NBC News, 5 January 2021]

A company in Texas apologized on Tuesday after being criticized for replacing traditional Chinese mahjong tiles with redesigned game pieces covered in images of items such as bubbles and bags of flour. The Mahjong Line, based in Dallas, was the brainchild of Kate LaGere, one of the three founders who are all White women, after she “discovered” that the traditional tiles had the same designs and “did not reflect the fun” she had while playing the game, according to the company’s website. The company launched its neon-colored mahjong tile sets with a price tag between \$325 and \$425 on Nov. 5, according to the company’s website. Among its rebranding were words like “BAM!” and images of a bar soap and palm trees—drawing ire from many social media users who accused the company of erasing the historical relationship between Chinese Americans and the centuries-old game.

[Guam, U.S. military agree to guidelines to prevent site damage](#) [The Associated Press, 1 January 2021]

The governor of Guam, a military official and the island’s historic preservation officer have signed off on a new agreement that outlines how to mitigate damage to historic and culturally significant sites on the island during military training. The agreement is set to expire in five years. The agreement will require all incoming Department of Defense military and civilians, their families, contractors and visiting foreign military members to undergo cultural sensitivity training in partnership with the island’s historic preservation office, the Pacific Daily News reported.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Australia changes national anthem to reflect indigenous past](#) [BBC News, 31 December 2020]

Australians will sing a different version of their national anthem from 1 January after Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced a change to the words on Thursday. The anthem will no longer refer to Australia as “young and free”—in an attempt to reflect the country’s long indigenous history. The announcement was a surprise but welcomed across the government. Mr. Morrison said he hopes the change will create a “spirit of unity”. The line to be removed in the

anthem, which is called *Advance Australia Fair*, is “For we are young and free”. Instead people will sing “For we are one and free.”

[Spurs’ Becky Hammon Becomes First Woman To Act As Head Coach Of An NBA Team](#) [Bill Chappell, NPR, 31 December 2020]

“You got ‘em”—with that brief handover, Becky Hammon became the first woman to coach an NBA team Wednesday night, leading the San Antonio Spurs after coach Gregg Popovich was ejected in the first half. “Obviously, it’s a big deal. It’s a substantial moment,” Hammon said after the game. She noted that she has worked toward the milestone for years, spending more than a decade in San Antonio as either a player or a coach. The Lakers—who won 121-107—also took notice of the historic achievement unfolding on their opponent’s sideline. Hammon, LeBron James said, has paid her dues to be where she is. “It’s a beautiful thing just to hear her barking out calls, barking out sets,” James said. “She’s very passionate about the game. Congrats to her and congrats for our league.”

[Superheroes and Trailblazers: Black Comic Book Artists, Rediscovered](#) [Helene Stapinski, *The New York Times*, 31 December 2020]

A new book examines the lives of these trailblazers, who paved the way for subsequent generations of illustrators but were invisible to the mainstream in their own time. Ken Quattro’s deep dive into Black comic book artists started out of frustration. Twenty years ago, while researching a man named Matt Baker whose drawings were distinguished by his strong style, Mr. Quattro, a comics fan and blogger, kept coming up empty-handed. “There was nothing about him except that he was Black and that he died young,” said Mr. Quattro, who is known as the Comics Detective. What he found has been published in “Invisible Men: The Trailblazing Black Artists of Comic Books” (Yoe Books). Profiling 18 male artists from the Golden Age of comics, the 1930s to the ’50s, Mr. Quattro examines the struggles they faced not just in getting published, but in their day to day lives.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The Army is planning a major overhaul of its hair and grooming regulations](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 29 December 2020]

The changes being discussed among Army leadership include allowing some women to wear ponytails in uniform and removing wording from the existing regulations found to be offensive or racist in an effort to “reflect the Army values and the Army’s commitment to diversity and inclusion,” according to slides obtained by Task & Purpose. The recommendations were identified after a July directive from then-Secretary of Defense Mark Esper which ordered a review of hairstyle and grooming policies for racial bias. Hair regulations are meant to reinforce uniformity in the military, but many women—specifically Black women—have said that the stringent regulations don’t take into account different textures and lengths of hair. The discussion about change comes amid an intense focus from service leaders on improving the Army culture and increasing diversity and inclusion within the force.

DISCRIMINATION

[Effort in Arkansas to enact hate crimes law in jeopardy](#) [Andrew DeMillo, *The Associated Press*, 8 January 2021]

A push to finally enact a hate crimes law in Arkansas, a state with a history of White supremacists, appeared to have all the elements for success: a popular Republican governor who made it a priority, major corporations endorsing the idea and support from communities where hate groups have flourished. But the chance to end Arkansas' distinction as one of only three states without such a law is in jeopardy even before lawmakers return to the Capitol. Conservatives have moved to defeat the bill in the majority-GOP Legislature, though similar measures have passed in other red states. The bill's dimming prospects threaten a legislative priority for Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who as a U.S. attorney prosecuted racist militia members but without a hate crimes law's specific penalties. If victims are targeted because of their race, ethnicity or sexual orientation, "we have to express as a society that should not be tolerated and that we should have enhanced penalties for that," Hutchinson told The Associated Press this week.

[Air Force Will Now Collect Demographic, Rank Data on Nonjudicial Punishments](#) [Oriana Pawlyk, *Military.com*, 6 January 2021]

Are there really different spanks for different ranks? The U.S. Air Force is launching a new effort to track lesser disciplinary actions by demographic to ensure impartiality, the service announced Wednesday. The service will collect data on how airmen and Space Force guardians who receive administrative counseling, admonishments or reprimands are treated, including a comparison based on rank, age, gender, race and ethnicity, the Air Force said in a [release](#). "Tracking administrative discipline data, to include demographics, reinforces the department's commitment to ensuring all airmen and guardians are treated fairly and provides commanders insight to facilitate positive practices, such as increased mentoring and professional development," John A. Fedrigo, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs, said in a signed memorandum, according to the release.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Justice Dept. Seeks to Pare Back Civil Rights Protections for Minorities](#) [Katie Benner and Erica L. Green, *The New York Times*, 6 January 2021]

The Trump administration has embarked on an 11th-hour bid to undo some civil rights protections for minority groups, which could have a ripple effect on women, people with disabilities and LGBT people, according to a draft document, in a change that would mark one of the most significant shifts in civil rights enforcement in generations. The Justice Department has submitted for White House approval a change to how it enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits recipients of federal funding from discriminating based on race, color or national origin. The regulation covers housing programs, employers, schools, hospitals, and other organizations and programs. Under the change, the department would continue to narrowly enforce the law's protections in cases where it could prove intentional discrimination, but no longer in instances where a policy or practice at issue had a "disparate impact" on minority or other groups.

[LGBTQ people now eligible for domestic violence protections in all 50 states](#) [Jo Yurcaba, *NBC News*, 6 January 2021]

LGBTQ North Carolinians in unmarried, dating relationships must have the same access to domestic violence protections as people in heterosexual relationships, according to a recent North Carolina Court of Appeals ruling. The state was the last in the country to bar same-sex couples from some of the stronger legal protections from domestic violence, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. The court ruled in M.E. v T.J. that the North Carolina [law at issue](#), Chapter 50B of the North Carolina General Statutes, violated the state Constitution and the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment. The law defines a “personal relationship” as “persons of the opposite sex” who have lived together or are in a dating relationship, which specifically excludes same-sex couples. The plaintiff, M.E., said she is glad the court is expanding protections from domestic violence for all couples, “but this type of discrimination shouldn’t have happened in the first place.”

[Albuquerque City Council approves hair discrimination ban](#) [*The Associated Press*, 5 January 2021]

City officials in New Mexico have voted in favor of an ordinance prohibiting race-based discrimination against hair texture and hairstyles in schools and the workplace. The Albuquerque City Council voted on Monday to amend its Human Rights Ordinance to adopt the Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair, or CROWN Act. The city joins a national campaign promoted by Dove, the National Urban League, Color Of Change and Western Center on Law and Poverty. “Black women are 1.5 times more likely to be sent home from the workplace because of their hair, or Black women’s hair is perceived 3.4 times more likely as unprofessional,” Councilmember Lan Sena said. Sena introduced the act after several states passed similar laws, including California, Colorado, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Virginia and Washington, she said. The act prohibits workplace discrimination based on hairstyles as well as headdresses worn for cultural or religious reasons.

[A Covid-19 Relief Fund Was Only for Black Residents. Then Came the Lawsuits.](#) [John Eligon, *The New York Times*, 3 January 2021]

Black civic leaders in Oregon heard the alarm bells early in the pandemic. After convening several virtual meetings, the civic leaders proposed a bold and novel solution that state lawmakers approved in July. The state would earmark \$62 million of its \$1.4 billion in federal Covid-19 relief money to provide grants to Black residents, business owners and community organizations enduring pandemic-related hardships. “It was finally being honest: This is who needs this support right now,” said Lew Frederick, a state senator who is Black. But now millions of dollars in grants are on hold after one Mexican-American and two White business owners sued the state, arguing that the fund for Black residents discriminated against them.

DIVERSITY

[Study: Women, minorities make small gains in FBS leadership](#) [Aaron Beard, *The Associated Press*, 6 January 2021]

A [diversity study](#) finds increasing numbers of women and people of color in leadership positions at the Football Bowl Subdivision level of college athletics for 2020, though not enough to overcome a significant “underrepresentation.” Wednesday’s report card from The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) issued slightly improved grades of a B- for racial hiring and a D-plus overall compared to the 2019 edition, which had issued a C for racial hiring and a D overall. The gender-hiring grade in both reports was an F. The study examined positions at 130 FBS-level schools such as university presidents or chancellors, athletics directors, faculty athletics directors and conference commissioners. It relied on data as recent as November and submitted by the NCAA.

[Warnock will make history as Georgia’s first Black senator](#) [Veronica Stracqualursi, CNN, 6 January 2021]

Rev. Raphael Warnock will make history when he becomes Georgia’s first Black senator and the first Black Democrat to represent a southern state in the Senate. Once sworn in, Warnock will be the 11th African American to serve in the US Senate—a group that includes former President Barack Obama, who served as a U.S. senator from Illinois, and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, who is a U.S. senator from California. CNN projected early Wednesday morning that Warnock beat incumbent GOP Sen. Kelly Loeffler, with Black voters in the Atlanta metro area, the cradle of the Civil Rights Movement, and suburbs turning out to help Warnock win the seat. On Wednesday, Warnock told CNN’s John Berman that his victory was “stunning, but I think in America anything is possible.”

[Agencies Are Generally Complying With Trump Diversity Training Changes, Watchdogs Find](#) [Courtney Publé, GovExec, 5 January 2021]

The majority of federal agencies are generally adhering to President Trump’s controversial executive order banning certain types of diversity training, based on publicly available watchdog reports. The executive order Trump issued on September 22 targeted training for federal employees, contractors, the military and grantees that is “rooted in the pernicious and false belief that America is an irredeemably racist and sexist country.” It says agency heads should ask their inspectors general to review their compliance with the order by the end of 2020 and annually thereafter. As of Tuesday afternoon, 12 IGs had submitted reports. Democratic lawmakers, civil rights groups and others have criticized the directive, claiming it allows for discrimination. On December 22, a federal judge in California issued a preliminary injunction for the executive order as it applies to contractors and grantees, after a group of nonprofit organizations and consultants focused on the LGBT community and individuals with HIV sued to block it.

[Air Force rolls out GO Inspire program to increase diversity, attract future leaders](#) [Master Sgt. Chance Babin, Air Force Recruiting Service Public Affairs, 5 January 2021]

Air Force Recruiting Service announced the establishment of a program designed to increase diversity in ranks of the two services while attracting the next generation of Airmen and Guardians. The program dubbed “GO Inspire” began Jan. 1 and rallies general officers to hit the streets with teams of top Airmen and Guardians to inform, influence and inspire young Americans for military service. “Increasing diversity and attracting the best talent across our Air

and Space Forces is a warfighting imperative for our nation, and as such, general officer leadership is critical,” wrote Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr., and Chief of Space Operations Gen. Jay Raymond in a memo directing the program. GO Inspire, with “GO” standing for general officer, is specifically designed for Air and Space Force generals to get out and engage youth and youth influencers from underrepresented groups, or URGs, across the nation. The goal, according to AFRS leadership, is to increase the diversity of its applicant pool in the rated and space communities, as well as the broader Air and Space Forces.

[CIA’s new recruitment website aims to diversify spy agency](#) [Deb Riechmann, *The Associated Press*, 4 January 2020]

Striving to further diversify its ranks, the CIA launched a [new website](#) Monday to find top-tier candidates who will bring a broader range of life experiences to the nation’s premier intelligence agency. The days of all American spies being White male graduates from Ivy League schools are long gone. The CIA director is a woman and women head all five of the agency’s branches, including the directorates of science and technology, operations and digital innovation. But while the CIA has been diversifying for years, intelligence agencies still lag the federal workforce in minority representation. With thousands of job applicants annually, the CIA wants to do more to ensure its workforce reflects national demographics.

[First Black woman to lead the U.S. Naval Academy’s students says the campaign to fight racial issues is for “generations down the line”](#) [David Choi, *Business Insider*, 4 January 2021]

U.S. Navy Midshipman 1st Class Sydney Barber, the first Black woman to lead the U.S. Naval Academy as a brigade commander, described the country’s reckoning with racial tensions as an eye-opening experience and said there was still “a lot of room for progress.” “It’s a good thing that we’re opening up the conversation, and it’s a good thing we’re working through initiatives to address the issues,” she told Insider. Of the 1,194 midshipmen enrolled in the academy’s graduating class of 2024, only 78 are Black Americans.

[Pelosi names first woman to serve as House chaplain](#) [John Wagner, *The Washington Post*, 31 December 2020]

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., on Thursday announced the appointment of Margaret Grun Kibben, a retired Navy rear admiral, as House chaplain - the first woman to hold such a post in either chamber of Congress. Kibben, a Presbyterian minister, has previously served as the Navy’s chief chaplain and the chaplain of the Marine Corps. In a statement, Pelosi, the first woman to lead a party in Congress, noted the historic nature of Kibben’s appointment as well as the position itself, which dates to the first Congress in 1789. “Her integrity, experience and patriotism will serve the Congress and the Country well, as she ministers to the needs of Members,” Pelosi said. The House chaplain’s duties include opening every House session with a prayer or bringing in a guest chaplain to say a prayer.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Why our pursuit of happiness may be flawed](#) [Nat Rutherford, *BBC News*, 5 January 2021]

What do you want from life? You've probably had the opportunity and the cause to ask yourself that question recently. Perhaps you want to spend more time with your family, or get a more fulfilling and secure job, or improve your health. But why do you want those things? Chances are that your answer will come down to one thing: happiness. Our culture's fixation on happiness can seem almost religious. It is one of the only reasons for action that doesn't stand in need of justification: happiness is good because being happy is good. But can we build our lives on that circular reasoning? Considering the importance of the question, there's remarkably little data on what people want from life. A [survey in 2016](#) asked Americans whether they would rather "achieve great things or be happy" and 81% said that they would rather be happy, while only 13% opted for achieving great things (6% were understandably daunted by the choice and weren't sure). Despite the ubiquity of happiness as a goal, it's hard to know how to define it or how to achieve it.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Inside the U.S. Army's Warehouse Full of Nazi Art](#) [Dexter Filkins, *The New Yorker*, 4 January 2021]

In the final days of the Second World War, a train loaded with relics of the collapsing Third Reich was speeding toward the Czech border when American pilots, flying P-47 fighters, spotted it and opened fire. The train ground to a halt in a forest, where German soldiers spirited the cargo away. They were pursued, not long afterward, by Gordon Gilkey, a young captain from Linn County, Oregon, who had been ordered to gather up all the Nazi propaganda and military art he could find. Gilkey tracked the smugglers to an abandoned woodcutter's hut, where he pried up the floorboards and found what he was looking for: a collection of drawings and watercolors belonging to the German military's high command. Two years later, after Gilkey completed his mission, he put the art he had recovered—thousands of pieces of it—on a ship bound for the United States. Today, one of the world's largest collections of Nazi propaganda sits in a climate-controlled warehouse at Fort Belvoir, in northern Virginia. Much of it is virulent; most of it is never seen by the public.

[Women are finally driving Moscow's subway trains after a decades-long ban](#) [Jack Guy and Mary Ilyushina, *CNN*, 4 January 2021]

Trains on the Moscow's famous Metro subway system will now be driven by women, after a decades-long ban on female drivers was overturned. The first of a new generation of women drivers started work on Sunday, according to a statement from the Moscow Department of Transportation. Russia's Ministry of Labor ordered that women be allowed to drive trains on the network a year ago, and now the first cohort have successfully completed a training program and entered the workforce. Of the 25 women who started the course, 12 completed it and will become drivers, according to the department. "Next year, at least 50 new employees will join the ranks of our female drivers," the statement said. "We are very proud that Moscow transport is a territory that is accessible to people regardless of gender!"

RACISM

[Once the “World’s Only Klan Museum,” it is becoming a center for history and healing](#) [Sydney Page, *The Washington Post*, 8 January 2021]

Regan Freeman was born in 1996—the same year the notorious Redneck Shop opened its doors in Laurens, S.C. A glaring swastika was mounted on the back wall, while Confederate flags and other symbols of hate decorated the 4,000-square-foot space that was once a segregated movie theater. Until its closure in 2012, the self-proclaimed “World’s Only Klan Museum” sold White-nationalist and neo-Nazi paraphernalia. The shop simultaneously functioned as a quasi-headquarters for the Ku Klux Klan and other White-supremacist groups to congregate and recruit new members. Growing up in Clinton, S.C., about 15 miles away, Freeman said he knew the Redneck Shop existed, but he didn’t know much about it. Now it consumes most of his days. Freeman, 24, is leading a project dedicated to converting the former house of hate into a site of reconciliation and remembrance.

[Chattanooga assistant football coach fired for derogatory tweet directed at Stacey Abrams](#) [Scott Gleeson, *USA TODAY*, 7 January 2021]

Chattanooga assistant football coach Chris Malone was fired Thursday morning for a derogatory tweet directed at Georgia Democrat Stacey Abrams that has since been deleted. Malone’s original tweet from late Tuesday night read: “Congratulations to the state GA and Fat Albert @staceyabrams because you have truly shown America the true works of cheating in an election, again!!! Enjoy the buffet Big Girl! You earned it!!! Hope the money was good, still not governor!” After verifying the tweet was Malone’s the university and athletic department removed Malone from his position with the football team. His bio page has already been removed from the athletic department’s website.

[Man facing hate crime in Wisconsin crash found incompetent](#) [The Associated Press, 7 January 2021]

A Mexican American man from Wisconsin charged with homicide as a hate crime because prosecutors say he intentionally crashed his pickup truck into a White motorcyclist has been committed to a psychiatric facility. Daniel Navarro, 27, of Fond du Lac, was charged with first-degree intentional homicide with a hate crime enhancer for the July 3 crash that killed Phillip Thiessen in Fond du Lac County. Prosecutors say Navarro struck Thiessen’s motorcycle head-on in the town of Taycheedah. After two psychiatric exams, Fond du Lac County Judge Richard Nuss determined Wednesday that Navarro is not competent to stand trial, meaning he does not understand the court proceedings and cannot assist in his own defense, WLUK-TV reported.

[Police: Man used slur, threatened to shoot fast-food worker](#) [The Associated Press, 5 January 2021]

A North Carolina man used a racial slur and threatened to shoot a juvenile employee at a fast-food restaurant, police said Tuesday. The Hickory Police Department says in a news release on Tuesday that 53-year-old Jimmy Mott of Newton called the management at the local Zaxby’s to complain after leaving the drive-through, using the slur and threatening to shoot the worker he had dealt with as he ordered food on Sunday. The news release didn’t reveal the juvenile worker’s identity or his age. Mott turned himself into police, who charged him with ethnic intimidation. Mott was given a \$1,500 unsecured bond and it’s not known if he has an attorney.

Ethnic intimidation in North Carolina is a Class 1 misdemeanor. It prohibits assaulting or threatening a person, or damaging their property because of their race, color, religion, nationality or country of origin. It can carry a jail sentence of up to 120 days and a fine determined to be appropriate by a judge.

[UPS worker seen on racist rant video while delivering to a Latino household has been fired](#)

[Nicole Acevedo, NBC News, 5 January 2021]

A UPS driver who went on a racist rant while delivering a package to a Latino household in Milwaukee several days before Christmas Day has been terminated, a company spokesperson told NBC News on Tuesday. Video caught by the home's doorbell camera on the evening of Dec. 17 shows a White man wearing a UPS uniform, standing on a porch while holding a package and writing what appears to be a "failed to deliver" notice. "Now you don't get f----- nothing... You can't read and write and speak the f----- English language," the UPS driver is seen saying as he pastes the notice in the home's door. A young Latino police officer lives in the house. Matthew O'Connor, senior manager of media relations at UPS, said in an email that the company "immediately contacted the family to offer our deepest apologies when we learned about this incident."

RELIGION

[California woman pleads guilty to federal hate crime for threatening to bomb country's oldest Catholic school for girls](#) [Jessica Flores, USA TODAY, 5 January 2021]

A California woman has pleaded guilty to a federal hate crime for threatening to bomb the country's oldest Catholic school for girls, the Department of Justice announced Monday. Sonia Tabizada, of San Jacinto, pleaded guilty to obstructing free exercise of religious beliefs by threatening to commit "terrorism," federal officials said. Tabizada, 36, made threats by phone after the Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School in Washington, D.C., announced in May 2019 that it would share news of same-sex marriages in their alumni magazine, federal officials said. "The defendant made violent threats against high school students, religious leaders, and school officials based solely on her disagreement with a private school's application of religious doctrine," Eric Drieband, assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division, said in a statement.

[Missouri congressman defends "A-woman" end to prayer](#) [The Associated Press, 5 January 2021]

U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver said he was caught off guard by the negative response after he ended his opening prayer on the first day of the new Congress by saying, "Amen and A-woman." Cleaver, a United Methodist minister and former mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, is in his ninth term in Congress. He told the Kansas City Star his "A-woman" reference on Sunday was intended to recognize the record number of women serving in the new Congress. But it spurred a torrent of criticism from conservatives who accused Cleaver of misunderstanding the meaning of "amen," a Hebrew word that means "so be it." Cleaver said it was a pun intended as a tribute to his female colleagues and to Rear Adm. Margaret Grun Kibben, the new House chaplain and first woman to hold the role.

[COUNTERPOINT]

[“Amen and a-women:” Inane political correctness proves how little Democrats get faith](#) [Katrina Trinko, *USA TODAY*, 6 January 2021] [OPINION]

We’re just days into 2021, and already the race for the most inane politically correct statement of the year has a strong frontrunner. Ending the prayer opening the new session of Congress, Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-Mo.) intoned, “Amen and a-woman.” So first, let’s do a fact check: “Amen” has as little to do with men as “menstruation” does. It originates from Hebrew and means to give assent—and shares nothing with the word “men” except three letters.

[Faith on the Hill: The religious composition of the 117th Congress](#) [Aleksandra Sandstrom, *The Pew Research Center*, 4 January 2021]

When it comes to religious affiliation, the 117th U.S. Congress looks similar to the previous Congress but quite different from Americans overall. While about a quarter (26%) of U.S. adults are religiously unaffiliated—describing themselves as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular”—just one member of the new Congress (Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz.) identifies as religiously unaffiliated (0.2%). These are some of the key findings of an analysis by Pew Research Center of CQ Roll Call data on the religious affiliations of members of Congress, gathered through questionnaires and follow-up phone calls to candidates’ and members’ offices.⁴ The CQ questionnaire asks members what religious group, if any, they belong to. It does not attempt to measure their religious beliefs or practices.

SEXISM

[“I’m Not a Sir”—Dearth of Women Causes Marines to Expect Male Leadership](#) [Lanell Hanf, *The War Horse*, 6 January 2021] [COMMENTARY]

As minorities, we know how scarce we are. I understand—maybe only one out of every 12 or so officers a young Marine runs into may be a woman. I encouraged my Marines to exercise the opportunity to strengthen attention to detail and exercise it as the skill of a trained observer. Every time we make a snap assumption, it highlights and reinforces the awareness of that individual as a minority—as if I’m the outsider. During my time in uniform, I wasn’t the one Marines expected to see as the officer because I’m a woman. Because I’m not a sir. We have had more than 100 years of women in the Marine Corps. I always made a point to tell my Marines to stop acting like a woman in uniform is some kind of novelty.

[Germany Moves Toward Requiring Women On Large Companies’ Executive Boards](#) [Laurel Wamsley, *NPR*, 6 January 2021]

Germany has taken a step toward requiring what has not happened voluntarily: putting women on the management boards of the country’s largest companies. On Wednesday, Germany’s cabinet approved a [draft law](#) that would require stock exchange-listed companies with executive boards of more than three members to have at least one woman and one man on those boards. The rule would affect about 70 companies—of which some 30 currently have no women at all on their management boards, the Justice Ministry said. These companies generally have more than 2,000 employees. The draft law will now go to the Bundestag, Germany’s parliament, for a vote.

[The DOD's Body Composition Standards Are Harming Female Service Members](#) [Marine Majors Sharon Sisbarro, Kerry Hogan and Sara Kirstein and Capt. Catherine Baniakas, *Military.com*, 31 December 2020] [OPINION]

The Department of Defense continues to introduce physically demanding requirements for both men and women, yet little research has been done to address the possibility of an outdated body composition standard that may place more emphasis on being thin versus being fit. The body composition standard has been discussed in countless articles, and even the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services 2019 Annual Report, but additional context may be needed to help encourage change by the DOD.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Special Victims' Counsel is here to help survivors](#) [Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett, *SECAF Public Affairs*, 4 January 2021]

She was an officer with nearly nine years of service, who had been selected for promotion. She joined some colleagues on a weekend camping trip to take advantage of the summer weather. After enjoying a bonfire and games, they all settled in for the night, but one man, a fellow officer, didn't. He came into her tent after everyone else had fallen asleep, without invitation or welcome, and sexually assaulted her. The next morning, she took the first steps toward justice and reported the assault. Her Sexual Assault Response Coordinator immediately informed her she had access to a variety of services including a Special Victims' Counsel, a personal lawyer who serves as a SARC victims' advocate. She was also made aware that these resources were available to her whether she chose to make a restricted or unrestricted report. The Special Victims' Counsel is a service every Airman should know of, but should never have to use. An SVC is a military attorney who specializes in representing victims, including those who need help and don't feel safe, of sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, and similar crimes, whether the victim is using restricted reporting or unrestricted reporting.

[She says the Coast Guard whitewashed her sex abuse complaint, then nudged her out the door](#) [Kevin G. Hall, *The Miami Herald*, 30 December 2020]

When she joined in 2013, Monique Garbutt embodied much of what Coast Guard leadership wants in today's service—a hard-working, college-educated, tech-savvy African American woman who brought skill and diversity to the ranks. She exited in just six years after a man she said sexually assaulted her received a light penalty and she fought to find out why. "I trusted the system, I did," said Garbutt, choking back tears. "There's a difference between justice and pacification, and what they gave me was pacification." In response to written questions about Garbutt's case, the Coast Guard said the accused man waived his rights and initially spoke with investigators. But he did not provide consent to search his phone, and a search warrant was obtained to do so. Eventually, he was charged with sexual assault and abusive sexual contact, reduced at trial to simple assault. While disputing some of Garbutt's claims, spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Scott McBride said the service was "deeply saddened" by any report of sexual assault.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Hill Air Force Base Equal Employment Opportunity director removed](#) [Todd South, *Air Force Times*, 23 December 2020]

The Equal Employment Opportunity director for Hill Air Force Base in Utah has been removed from her position for “improperly and unlawfully handling complaints involving sexual harassment and discrimination.” Details of the director’s conduct were [posted](#) on the U.S. Office of Special Counsel website Tuesday. The director’s removal came out of multiple reports of sexual harassment by “numerous female employees, including one of the whistleblowers by the former chief of Air Logistics Complex/Business Operations, that was reported to the office in 2017.

SUICIDE

[The Air Force’s top enlisted leader is looking into why an airman was punished for attempting suicide](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 6 January 2021]

*The Air Force’s top enlisted leader is looking into an incident involving an airman who was sent a Letter of Reprimand and a Letter of Counsel shortly after attempting suicide. The airman said their unit, the 460th Space Wing’s Dental Flight based at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., was plagued by toxic leadership problems and a hostile work environment, and other airmen stepped up on Facebook to share their own horror stories from the unit. Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass told *Task & Purpose* that, while the incident took place last year and the airman involved has since left the service, “this situation gives us an opportunity to reflect on the culture we need, where Airmen understand their responsibilities as both leaders and wingmen,” she said. “A culture where respect, trust, accountability, and compassion guide our actions.”*

[Looking for new perspectives on combating suicide](#) [Stephen Losey, *Air Force Times*, 3 January 2021]

The Air Force is planning to create a working group on mental health and resiliency this year as part of its longstanding effort to combat suicide in its ranks. The Air Force has struggled in recent years to stem an alarming increase in deaths by suicide. In 2019, 136 airmen took their own lives, about one-third more than in the previous year. In an October interview, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne Bass said the issue of suicide prevention is a top priority for her, and is talked about each day in her office. The working group will bring together all officials who are involved with building resiliency among airmen and families, Bass said. It will review how the Air Force builds resiliency, as well as issues involving mental health and culture, and how it can improve policies and procedures.

VETERANS

[He spent three years as a POW during WWII. Now he’s finally being recognized for his heroism](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 8 January 2021]

An Army veteran who suffered “unspeakable tortures” while held as a prisoner of war by the Japanese during World War II was recognized this week with “long-delayed honors.” On Monday, Dan Crowley—who joined the Army Air Corps when he was 18 years old in 1940—was promoted to sergeant and awarded with the Prisoner of War Medal for spending three-and-a-half

years imprisoned by the Japanese. He was also presented with an Army Combat Infantryman Badge. Gregory Slavonic, the official performing the duties of the Navy undersecretary, called the ceremony a “rare and humbling opportunity” for him to “be able to recognize Dan for his many sacrifices and accomplishments.” “He truly represents members of the greatest generation, who did so much but asked so little from their country,” Slavonic said. “The valor and professionalism demonstrated by you, Dan, has earned you a permanent place in the heart of every American.”

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