

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 1 JULY 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

[Biden executive order aims to further equity, inclusiveness in federal hiring](#) [Joe Davidson, *The Washington Post*, 25 June 2021]

President Biden [issued an executive order Friday](#) to “advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility across the Federal Government.” The directive builds on Biden’s Inauguration Day promise for “an ambitious whole-of-government equity agenda,” according to a White House fact sheet accompanying the order. The White House statement said “the enduring legacies of employment discrimination, systemic racism, and gender inequality are still felt today. Too many underserved communities remain under-represented in the Federal workforce, especially in positions of leadership.” The order, the White House said, is designed to “take a systematic approach to embedding” diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility in federal hiring and employment. Not limited to diversity based on race and gender, the executive order includes, among others, immigrants, first-generation professionals, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, rural residents, seniors facing age discrimination and religious people who need workplace accommodations at work.

[\[REPRINT\]](#) [\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Maritime service chiefs push back on criticism that the military is becoming “too woke”](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 30 June 2021]

The uniformed leaders of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard all pushed back Wednesday against concerns that the services are becoming too “woke” in their renewed focus on diversity and inclusion in the ranks. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger and Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Karl Schultz were all asked the question at the beginning of a panel that was part of the annual WEST naval conference. “It’s an assertion that isn’t really grounded in facts,” Gilday said in response to whether his service is “too woke.” “We’re definitely focused on warfighting first, readiness first, but an essential element of that readiness has to do with people,” he said. “We know that diverse teams outperform those teams that are not as diverse.” Talking about such issues, and “closing those gaps” while working to make the ranks look as much like America as possible, yields a stronger Navy, Gilday said.

[The U.S. Will Add A Third Gender Option On Passports](#) [Laurel Wamsley, *NPR*, 30 June 2021]

Starting immediately, an applicant for a U.S. passport can simply check “M” or “F” as their gender—without needing to provide medical certification if that gender doesn’t match their other documents. And soon, applicants will have the option to select a gender option that isn’t male or female, the [State Department said Wednesday](#). Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the changes as “further steps toward ensuring the fair treatment of LGBTQI+ U.S. citizens, regardless of their gender or sex.” It will take some time to create a third gender option on passports, the State Department warned. People cannot yet apply for a passport with a nonbinary, intersex, or gender nonconforming gender marker. LGTBTQ rights organization Lambda Legal expressed disappointment at the lack of a firm date for the new gender marker, but said it was nonetheless a victory for its client, Dana Zzym, who has been fighting for years for additional gender markers on U.S. passports.

CULTURE

[Air Force Academy distributes George Takei’s “They Called Us Enemy” to cadets](#) [Cynthia Silva, *NBC News*, 29 June 2021]

The U.S. Air Force Academy has distributed actor and activist George Takei’s graphic memoir “[They Called Us Enemy](#),” which recounts his family’s incarceration during World War II, to cadets as part of a new reading initiative. In the bestselling book, Takei, known for playing Lt. Hikaru Sulu in the original “Star Trek” TV series, describes what it was like to be a 5 year old who was one of the approximately 120,000 people of Japanese descent who were forcibly removed from their West Coast homes and put into concentration camps in the 1940s. The academy’s dean of the faculty, Brig. Gen. Linell Letendre, shared her excitement for the program’s book selection this year as she welcomed the new class of cadets on [social media](#). “Our shared institutional read this year focused on dignity and respect,” she said on a separate Instagram post. “We are getting our basics ready for what’s ahead.”

[California high school stripped of basketball title after tortillas were thrown at opposing Latino players](#) [Aya Elamroussi and Alexandra Meeks, *CNN*, 1 July 2021]

A mostly White high school basketball team in Southern California has been stripped of its regional title after tortillas were thrown at a predominately Latino opposing team following a championship game last month, officials announced Wednesday. “After a thorough review and analysis of the incident following the conclusion of the Division 4-A regional basketball championship game between Coronado High School and Orange Glen High School, the (California Interscholastic Federation) state executive director reiterates that discriminatory and racially insensitive behaviors toward an opponent contravene the principles of education-based athletics,” the federation said in a [news release](#). Based on investigations of the incident, “The 2021 Southern California Boys Basketball Division 4-A Regional Championship is vacated,” the release states.

[Chicago’s Lake Shore Drive renamed to honor Black settler](#) [*The Associated Press*, 25 June 2021]

Chicago’s City Council voted Friday to change the name of Lake Shore Drive to the name of a Black man recognized as a key settler of the city. In a compromise, aldermen voted to rename one of the city’s iconic roads to Jean Baptiste Point DuSable Lake Shore Drive. DuSable, a native of Haiti, is considered Chicago’s first permanent, non-indigenous settler. He had a successful trading post in the late 1700s. He died in 1818. Chicago was incorporated as a town in 1833 and as a city four years later. South Side Alderman Donald Moore proposed changing the name of the ribbon of concrete along Lake Michigan to DuSable Drive two years ago after a riverboat tour of the city during which he claimed DuSable’s name wasn’t mentioned. Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa said the lack of proper honor for Black leaders has a harmful impact on Black children. Naming the road for him “is a small but important step to addressing racial injustice,” Ramirez-Rosa said.

[City requires anti-harassment training over pronoun comments](#) [*The Associated Press*, 29 June 2021]

The city of Warrenton [Oregon] is requiring anti-harassment and discrimination training after a library board member and planning commissioner complained about a library employee's preferred gender pronouns. In newspaper column in May, Kelly Knudsen, the director of the Warrenton Community Library, introduced the new library employee using the pronouns, "they" and "them," The Astorian reported. Mary Ann Brandon, who served on the library board, sent an email to Christine Bridgens, a planning commissioner, describing the column as "disturbing." "I don't like being forced to read such pronoun drivel. And I'm sure this liberal wokeness is most likely permeating our little library," Brandon wrote in the email obtained by The Astorian through the state's public records law. "I surely hope our little library does not fall victim to perversion indoctrination." Bridgens wrote in response to Brandon, among other comments. City Manager Linda Engbretson in response mandated training.

[Facebook posts get SC lawyer a 6-month suspension](#) [The Associated Press, 28 June 2021]

South Carolina's highest court suspended the law license of an attorney for six months for Facebook posts the justices said used foul language and could incite racial conflict. The state Supreme Court also ordered lawyer David Paul Traywick to take a diversity class and have an anger management assessment with a licensed therapist before he gets his license back. The Office of Disciplinary Counsel received complaints from 46 different people about Traywick's Facebook posts, which identified himself as an attorney and referenced his law firm, The State newspaper reported. Traywick admitted to misconduct with the posts and agreed to the six-month suspension of his law license, according to the opinion. The justices said the incendiary post could have intensified racial conflict not just among his Facebook friends but in all of Charleston and beyond. Traywick's posts were "intended to incite and had the effect of inciting, gender and race-based conflict beyond the scope of the conversation Respondent would otherwise have with his Facebook 'friends,'" the justices wrote in their unanimous opinion.

[First Miss America to marry a woman announces they're having a baby](#) [Meghan Holohan, TODAY, 25 June 2021]

The first Miss America to marry a same sex partner shared she is expecting a baby with her wife this September. On an episode of the [podcast](#) Pregnantish, Dr. Deidre Downs Gunn revealed that her wife, Abbott Downs, is pregnant via IVF. She is carrying the baby and Downs Gunn, Miss America 2005, and now a reproductive endocrinologist, performed her wife's embryo transfer. Downs Gunn said that growing up in Alabama she never imagined life as an openly gay woman. "In my formative years, thinking about some of these things, it was not acceptable. It was not really a path that you even thought of," she said on the podcast. "That's what took me so long." While in her third year of medical school, Downs Gunn married her college boyfriend, and gave birth to her son, now 11. They were married from 2009 to 2015, but they began having problems during her residency and fellowship. Downs Gunn started therapy and soon picked up on an unexpected reason why she might be struggling. "That was really the first time I maybe reflected and realized that I was gay," she said on the podcast.

[Four-star Marine general's family returns ancient bell to Japan](#) [Dania Kalaji, Pensacola News Journal (Pensacola, Fla.), 22 June 2021]

An ancient Japanese temple bell that has been at the center of a Pensacola family for decades began its journey back to its birthplace Monday, thanks to the generosity of the patriarch's surviving family members. The family of Pensacola Gen. Roy S. Geiger, a four-star general who was one of only two Marines to receive the Navy Cross for heroism in both world wars, has held possession of the bell for 74 years. "I see my life, when I look at the bell, my lifetime flashes before my eyes," said Geiger's granddaughter, Melanie Curtis. "It's been part of me since before I was born. Memorabilia and other "treasures," including the temple bell from the Japanese prefecture Okinawa, are the last pieces of Geiger's physical war bequest that have lived with Curtis and her family. The bell will be placed in the Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum after an online ceremony Monday evening in Pensacola between the Curtis family and Alex Kishaba, president of the Japanese nonprofit organization Ryukyu America Historical Research Society in Okinawa. Curtis said Geiger was given the bell from Okinawa residents after the Battle of Okinawa in World War II, the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

["High on the Hog" aims to eliminate the erasure of Black contributions to American cuisine](#)

[Charlayne Hunter-Gault and Maea Lenei Buhre, *PBS News*, 28 June 2021]

"High on the Hog" tells the sweeping history of African-American food—first as a book and now in a highly acclaimed [four-part series on Netflix](#). Special correspondent Charlayne Hunter-Gault talked with some of the show's creative team about why this approach has sparked such interest.

[House votes to remove Confederate statues and replace Roger B. Taney bust](#) [Alex Rogers, *CNN*, 29 June 2021]

The House passed a resolution Tuesday to expel Confederate statues from the U.S. Capitol and replace its bust of Roger B. Taney, the chief justice who wrote the Dred Scott decision, with one honoring Thurgood Marshall, the first African American Supreme Court justice. "It's never too late to do the right thing, and this legislation would work to right a historic wrong while ensuring our Capitol reflects the principles and ideals of what Americans stand for," said House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer after he introduced the resolution again this year. The House legislation would not only replace Taney's bust in the old Supreme Court chamber and remove statues of those who voluntarily served the Confederacy against the United States in the Civil War, but also oust statues of three elected officials who defended slavery, segregation and White supremacy: John C. Calhoun, Charles Aycock and James P. Clarke. Throughout the U.S. Capitol, there are statues honoring soldiers and generals wearing Confederate uniforms, including Jefferson Davis, who was president of the Confederacy.

[Kataluna Enriquez crowned the first openly transgender winner of Miss Nevada USA pageant](#)

[*USA TODAY*, 30 June 2021]

For the first time in the pageant's history, the title of Miss Nevada USA has been won by an openly transgender woman. The 27-year-old Enriquez won the Miss Silver State USA pageant in March, a preliminary competition for the Miss Nevada USA pageant. She beat 21 other candidates to represent Nevada in the Miss USA pageant that will be held on Nov. 29. Anthony Allen Ramos, head of talent for GLAAD released a statement on Tuesday praising Enriquez. "Kataluna Enriquez being crowned Miss Nevada is a huge win for trans visibility and sends a

powerful, but simple message to the world: trans women are women,” Ramos said in a statement. “Enriquez’s presence on the Miss USA stage later this year will not only help to accelerate acceptance of the trans community, but also inspire so many other trans women who feel like they have not seen themselves represented in that space before.”

[LGBTQ Pride Month: Don’t you dare say we need “straight pride”](#) [Chris Hanna, *USA TODAY*, 28 June 2021] [OPINION]

If anyone even mentions “straight pride” in my vicinity, I will scream. And I don’t mean get into a shouting match. Or yell about LGBTQ+ rights (hard-fought, fleeting, at risk). I mean a loud, guttural, sustained scream. It seems any time a minority group desperately—though deftly, miraculously—manages to make enough noise to have their concerns heard, the majority quickly see it as a threat to their very comfortable status quo. “Black Lives Matter” must mean White ones don’t; women’s empowerment must weaken men; and so, every June, Pride revelers must dodge blaring refrains of “what do they want now?” or “what if we had a straight pride?”—on top of the usual social, legal, professional and personal hurdles they already face year-round.

[Marines No Longer Have to Prove They’re Compliant With Strict Tattoo Policies to Reenlist](#) [Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 28 June 2021]

The Marine Corps has relaxed some of its stringent tattoo policies, terminating a rule requiring troops to submit a 360-degree photo of themselves to extend their contracts or in applications for special duty assignments, according to a force-wide memo issued last week. The old policy required Marines submit photos of themselves in their physical training uniform to prove they are in compliance with the Corps’ tattoo rules when seeking special assignments such as being an instructor or hoping to stay in the service. Marines who do not have visible tattoos when wearing a physical training, or PT, uniform no longer have to submit photographs or artistic sketches of non-visible tattoos, the guidance states. The rules have prompted concerns over recruiting prospects and retention over the years given the popularity of tattoos. A 2019 Ipsos study found that 40% of Americans ages 18-34 have at least one tattoo.

[Missouri curators reject interpretive Thomas Jefferson sign](#) [The Associated Press, 25 June 2021]

The University of Missouri Board of Curators has rejected a proposal to add information about Thomas Jefferson’s history as a slaveowner near a statue of the 3rd U.S. president on the Columbia campus, which has been roiled by racial tension for years. The board voted 7-1 Thursday to disregard a task force recommendation to add the information about Jefferson, in response to a push last year by Black students and organizations who wanted the statue removed. The board also rejected a proposal to add a Legacy Walk on campus to acknowledge the role Black people played in building the university, The Columbia Daily Tribune reported. The school drew national attention in 2015, after months of protests over reports of racist incidents and a perceived lack of response from administrators. A graduate student held a hunger strike and the football team threatened to refuse to play. Students camped in tents and held daily rallies calling for System President Tim Wolfe to step down or be fired. Wolfe and Columbia campus Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin resigned in November 2015.

[Montpelier Shares Power With Enslaved People’s Descendants](#) [Clint Schemmer, *Culpeper Star-Exponent* (Culpeper, Va.), 22 June 2021]

In a breakthrough culminating nearly 30 years of work at James Madison’s Montpelier, descendants of enslaved persons at a major national historic site for the first time will be co-equals in governing the place that held their ancestors in bondage. Gene Hickok, board chair of [The Montpelier Foundation](#), said changing how the site is run caps “a 28-plus years engagement with the Montpelier descendants community, and more recently, a deliberate, year-long process by the board to achieve organizational and structural parity, which reflects the complete history of this specific place and America as a whole.” Hailed by Hickok as a historic decision, it is a first for U.S. museums and historic sites that are former places of enslavement, Montpelier said in a statement. James Madison is also considered the architect of the Bill of Rights. His most powerful idea: government by the people.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[“Summer Of Soul” Celebrates A 1969 Black Cultural Festival Eclipsed By Woodstock](#) [Eric Deggans, *NPR*, 1 July 2021]

Crafted from footage of the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival—an event so filled with stars from soul, R&B, blues and jazz they called it the Black Woodstock—Summer of Soul is a breathtaking chronicle of Black culture in a pivotal moment. A wide constellation of stars turned up for the festival, which drew more than 300,000 people over six free concerts held in the space now known as Marcus Garvey Park. The roster of performers included Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Gladys Knight and the Pips, Mahalia Jackson, The Staples Singers, B.B. King, Ray Barretto, The Temptations’ former frontman David Ruffin, The 5th Dimension, and more. Just documenting their jaw-dropping live work would add up to an amazing concert film. But Summer of Soul uses the music as both inspiration and foundation, setting the scene for subjects to talk about everything from the debate over non-violence in civil rights work to Harlem’s status as a cultural oasis for Black people. If this sounds like the remix work of a master DJ, that’s because it is. Summer of Soul is the directorial debut of Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson, the renowned DJ, drummer, producer and bandleader behind hip hop legends The Roots.

[\[TRAILER\]](#)

[There’s a lot more to be outraged about in the U.S. military than “wokeness”](#) [Paul Szoldra, James Clark, Jeff Schogol and Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 30 June 2021]

[\[COMMENTARY\]](#)

American military service members often complain of black mold growing in their barracks and in base housing. A staggering number of veterans have died by suicide. The number of reported sexual assaults in the military continues to rise. And many troops wonder whether civilians even care about them at all after most Americans ignored the war in Afghanistan for years. But if you watch cable news the most pressing national security issue these days seems to be the supposed sharp left turn of the Department of Defense into “wokeness” amid an embrace of “critical race theory,” though it’s unclear what the phrase actually means anymore. Critics say the DOD reading program “undermines America’s security.” One television host suggested “wokeness” may explain an embarrassing 2016 incident in which Iran captured 10 sailors and held them hostage for about 15 hours. Most Americans support the U.S. military but have little

understanding of it, which may explain why the purported rise of “wokeness” in the ranks has generated so much interest. But there are larger and more pervasive issues impacting service members and their families than the debate over whether or not the military should teach critical race theory or if it is becoming too woke.

DISCRIMINATION

[Army releases new transgender policy, but can it prevent discrimination?](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 26 June 2021]

*The [Army announced new service-level policy Thursday that allows transgender soldiers to serve openly](#)—in accordance with Defense Department guidance announced in March—while receiving medical care and setting entry standards for prospective recruits diagnosed with gender dysphoria. Some advocates, however, remain concerned that the force may not be willing to protect transgender soldiers from discrimination after a field-grade chaplain officer received only a local reprimand this week for calling transgender troops “a MedBoard for Mental Wellness waiting to happen” and “a waste of military resources and funding” in public Facebook comments. After his Facebook comments about trans troops, an Army investigator found that the 3rd Security Force Assistance Brigade chaplain, Maj. Andrew Calvert, [violated the anti-discrimination policy and prohibitions against online misconduct](#). When *Army Times* asked about Calvert’s punishment for substantiated allegations of discrimination against transgender soldiers, Stitt—the G-1 MPMO director—said simply that “all soldiers are treated with dignity and respect, and the policy provides that no otherwise qualified soldier may be...subjected to adverse action or treatment solely on the basis of gender identity.”*

[California bans state-funded travel to five new states over anti-LGBTQ laws](#) [Paul LeBlanc and Stella Chan, *CNN*, 28 June 2021]

*California will ban state-funded travel to five new states over their “discriminatory” LGBTQ laws, state Attorney General Rob Bonta announced Monday, citing the importance of “aligning our dollars with our values.” The new travel restrictions target Arkansas, Florida, Montana, North Dakota and West Virginia over what the attorney general’s office called “dangerous” new laws that “directly work to ban transgender youth from playing sports, block access to life-saving care, or otherwise limit the rights of members of the LGBTQ+ community.” While the California attorney general’s office said the ban applies to all state-funded travel, there are exceptions; for example, if travel is required to maintain grant funding or licensure, or for auditing and revenue collection purposes. The state attorney general’s office told *CNN* in a statement that “it’s ultimately up to each California agency, including universities, to make determinations about the steps they’ll need to take to comply with [AB 1887](#).”*

[Conservatives want to ban transgender athletes from girls sports. Their evidence is shaky.](#) [Rachel Axon and Brent Schrottenboer, *USA TODAY*, 30 June 2021]

*Across the nation, state lawmakers supporting transgender athlete bans have painted a picture that girls sports teams will be overrun by athletes with insurmountable physical advantages. But a *USA TODAY* investigation of the lobbying effort shows that narrative has been built on vague examples that have been overstated or are untrue, and lawmakers have accepted them as fact*

with little effort to verify their accuracy. The more than 70 bills lawmakers have offered in at least 36 states would suggest a bigger problem facing girls sports, but that didn't check out either. Instead, USA TODAY could find few transgender athletes participating and even fewer complaints about them. "The lack of examples just goes to show that they're grasping for straws here," said Chris Mosier, a U.S. triathlete and transgender advocate. "There is not a problem, and there is not a problem at the scale they're trying to make it. There's not a problem that would warrant any types of laws against these young people. "Their entire argument here is based on myths, misconceptions and stereotypes, not on anything that's actually happening in our country or around the world."

[For transgender Americans, the doctor's office experience often a difficult one](#) [Sarah Szilagy, *The Columbus Dispatch* (Columbus, Ohio), 25 June 2021]

In a 2015 survey of more than 24,000 transgender Americans, nearly 30% of participants experienced a form of transgender-based discrimination by a health care provider. The [survey, done by the National Center for Transgender Equality](#), also included nonbinary people, who don't identify as only "men" or "women" but rather both, somewhere between or not along the traditional gender binary at all. For many transgender people, navigating health care—whether or not it's related to their gender identity or transition—can make them uncomfortable or avoid seeking care altogether. It's something Jody Davis, a nurse and social worker, said she experienced when she went to the hospital for complications from her sex-reassignment surgery in 2016. From having to explain to the front desk receptionist why she had surgery to the emergency room nurse asking when her last period was, Davis said she had to out herself as transgender "every step of the visit"—often in front of other patients.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[More Black Women Are Being Elected To Office. Few Feel Safe Once They Get There](#) [Candace Norwood, Chloe Jopne and Liz Bolaji, *PBS News*, 17 June 2021]

Across the country, groups like [The Collective](#) have tried to help Black women overcome those barriers, and the political sphere has slowly been diversifying. The current session of Congress began with a historic high of 26 Black women out of 535 voting members. A record nine Black women currently serve as mayors of the country's largest 100 cities. This year, Kamala Harris became the country's first woman, first Black and first Asian vice president. Yet as many people celebrate this growing representation, women and people of color continue to bear the brunt of harassment and threats at all levels of government. The abuse is compounded for Black women, who experience both systemic racism and sexism. An [Amnesty International study](#) examining abusive tweets targeted at women journalists and politicians in the U.S. and U.K. in 2017 found that Black women were 84 percent "more likely than White women to be mentioned in abusive or problematic tweets."

[Queer valedictorian's silenced LGBTQ identity speech may see federal civil rights review](#) [Carly Q. Romalino and Gabriela Miranda, *USA TODAY*, 29 June 2021]

A New Jersey high school valedictorian was silenced briefly during commencement remarks about mental illness and his own experience as a queer-identifying teen surviving high school. Now, the Voorhees school district wants a federal agency to review whether it acted improperly

in muting Bryce Dershem's microphone and allegedly crumpling the paper copy of his speech on the dias before 450 graduates and their families. Padovani said he's filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights in Cherry Hill, requesting the agency investigate whether the school district discriminated against Dershem. "There is an act of discrimination that is now being alleged against us," Padovani said. "We can't really conduct our investigation ... let an independent see if we did anything wrong. That's fair."

[Supreme Court passes on transgender bathroom challenge](#) [Bianca Quilantan, *Politico*, 28 June 2021]

The Supreme Court on Monday passed on a long-winding legal battle over transgender students' rights to use bathrooms that match their gender identity. Gavin Grimm, a transgender man, sued his school board in 2015 over its policy that barred him from using the boys' restroom. Gloucester County School Board in Virginia had implemented a policy that forced Grimm to use unisex restroom facilities. The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals has sided with Grimm twice, ruling the policy is unconstitutional under the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause. The court also said barring students from using the bathroom that matches their gender identity violates Title IX, an education law that prohibits sex-based discrimination. In their dissent, the justices warned that the high court's decision to interpret sex-based discrimination as encompassing of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity "is virtually certain to have far-reaching consequences." They pointed to issues surrounding the use of bathrooms, locker rooms and campus housing, and alluded to the brewing battle over transgender athlete's rights.

[Transgender recruit sues New Orleans Police Department for alleged hiring discrimination](#) [Jo Yurcaba, *NBC News*, 29 June 2021]

Britton Hamilton said, as a trans man, he wanted to become a police officer to help promote change from the inside. He applied to the New Orleans Police Department in June 2020, and after several exams and a panel interview, he received a conditional job offer in December. The offer was conditional on him passing a routine medical and psychological evaluation, during which he said the psychologist asked him questions about his transition. On Jan. 26, he received an email from the police department rescinding the conditional offer "based on a psychological assessment" of his "emotional and behavioral" characteristics. In May, Hamilton filed a federal complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleging hiring discrimination. His attorney, Chelsea Cusimano, said the EEOC has since opened an investigation. Hamilton's experience isn't unique, said Julie Callahan, a former law enforcement officer in San Jose, California, and the founder of the Transgender Community of Police and Sheriffs, a peer support group for trans law enforcement officers. Trans people face disproportionate employment discrimination generally, and she said law enforcement, which she described as a relatively conservative field, is no exception.

DIVERSITY

[4 Ways To Make Your Workplace Equitable For Trans People](#) [Tuck Woodstock, *NPR*, 16 June 2021]

No matter where you work, being openly trans on the job can be tough—and it is simply not safe for many trans people to advocate for themselves. Seemingly innocuous elements of many jobs (think paperwork, dress codes and restroom access) can become obstacles for trans employees to navigate. On June 15, 2020, the Supreme Court ruled that all LGBTQ people are protected under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Up until then, workers could be fired for being trans in 26 states. And it's important to note that the ruling doesn't mean workplace discrimination against trans folks just magically disappears—it just means trans people can sue for it now, if they have the resources to do so. Even if employers and coworkers genuinely want to be inclusive, they often aren't sure where to start. Here are four ways that you can make your workplace—digital or otherwise—more welcoming and equitable for trans people.

[Building On Biden's EO on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) [Howard Risher, Government Executive, 29 June 2021]

President Biden's Executive Order on diversity, equity, inclusion could have a profound effect on the federal workforce. But it's a little late. Prominent companies were on this bandwagon several years ago. Today companies like Microsoft and Johnson & Johnson link achieving diversity goals to year-end executive bonuses. In 2015, McKinsey undertook a [research project](#), "Diversity Matters," analyzing the relationship between the level of diversity (defined as a greater share of women and a more mixed ethnic/racial composition in the leadership of large companies) and financial performance. The research is based on financial data and leadership demographics compiled "from hundreds of organizations and thousands of executives." They found companies in the top quartile of gender diversity and those in the top quartile of racial/ethnic diversity were more likely to generate financial returns above their national industry median. A core issue is creating a psychologically safe environment where employees know they are expected to contribute, and they can make mistakes without fear of repercussions. From a practical perspective, limiting the pool of talent in filling vacancies ignores roughly half of the nation's workforce. It also affects the way women and minorities view government.

[Gen Z Could Lead a Renaissance in Public Service—If Only They Could Get In](#) [Kaitlyn Rental, Government Executive, 30 June 2021]

If you had to guess, what percentage of the federal government do you think is under the age of 30? A year and a half ago, I would have probably said around 20%, maybe 15%. I knew the percentage was lower in the public sector than in the private sector, but I never imagined it was as low as 7%, the actual statistic. The numbers are even worse in tech. Just 3% of the government's 84,097 tech specialists are under the age of 30, while 14% of IT workers are over the age of 60. In some agencies, like in the Veteran Affairs Department, the number of tech specialists over 60 outnumber their under-30 counterparts 19 to 1. These numbers alone are troubling but combined with the fact that 25% of federal employees plan on retiring within the next five years, the lack of young people in government threatens the very health of the federal system. Altogether, a staggering 150,000 federal employees are set to retire in the near future, leaving a gap of leadership and expertise in the federal government. So why aren't young people going into public service? It's not because of a lack of interest. According to a [report](#) by the Partnership for Public Service and the National Association of Colleges and Employers, 24.9%

of college students ranked government (federal, state, and local) as one of their top three target industries.

[It's time for CEOs to do more for the LGBTQ community than flash rainbow logos](#) [Richard Ditzio, *CNN Business Perspectives*, 28 June 2021] [OPINION]

When my brother died of AIDS 26 years ago this week, there were no celebratory Pride flags waving, no rainbow-clad corporate logos flooding social media with support. Instead, on that June day, I had to peruse a scant list of crematoriums willing to burn his virus-ravaged body, then flew back home with a plastic container holding his ashes between my feet. Much has changed for how we treat LGBTQ people since then; but it has not been enough. As we celebrate Pride month, it's important to acknowledge that not only does discrimination still exist, it continues to be codified into laws across the nation at an alarming pace. Case in point: The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is forecasting 2021 to be the worst year for state legislature attacks on LGBTQ people in history. Now is the time for corporate leaders to go far beyond their rainbow-clad media presence and use their platforms to take real action. CEOs have a responsibility to stand up for their LGBTQ employees, customers and shareholders by demanding that Congress pass the Equality Act, which would expand federal civil rights protections for the LGBTQ community to cover sexual orientation and gender identity.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

["Pride is back at the White House": Biden pushes for LGBTQ civil rights act](#) [Quint Forgey, *Politico*, 25 June 2021]

President Joe Biden [formally recognized](#) Pride Month in a celebratory White House ceremony on Friday, touting his administration's accomplishments on behalf of LGBTQ people and calling on Congress to pass a sweeping civil rights proposal known as the Equality Act. Among its many provisions, the Equality Act would help counteract what Biden described as a "disturbing proliferation of anti-LGBTQ bills" that are making their way through Republican-controlled state legislatures, including measures focused on transgender youth. Although the House approved the Equality Act in February, the bill remains stalled before the Senate. Biden demanded its final passage on Friday and quoted the legendary, gay California politician Harvey Milk as he made his case. "It takes no compromise to give people their rights," the president said.

[Serving with pride: LGBTQ Soldiers celebrate diversity, speak their truth](#) [Thomas Brading, *Army News Service*, 29 June 2021]

Soldiers representing the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community virtually celebrated Pride Month Thursday as part of a discussion that marked another step in the Army's growing recognition toward the LGBTQ community. The participants shared personal stories and experiences, as well as equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts taken by the Army, along with how the policies have impacted their lives. The Soldiers also discussed the importance of LGBTQ representation within military ranks. Truth seemed to be the theme of the night, as each panel member shared their own personal journey. The panel showcased an array of Soldiers, each with unique experiences and backgrounds, and who, according to the moderator, were examples of what the Army of today represents. "People who identify under the greater LGBTQ umbrella, and

those who don't, whether allies or adversaries, need to take the time to understand each other first," said Maj. Rebecca Ammons, a now retired transgender Army chaplain. "Meet me as a human. I will meet you as a human first, and we can figure out the other stuff later."

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The Spouse Angle Podcast—Up this week: How the Military Has Been a “Welcoming Community” for This Gay Military Spouse](#) [*Military Times*, 29 June 2021]

In 2018 Brian Alvarado was the first same-sex military spouse to receive the Navy Spouse of the Year Award. Now he's using his national platform—including an appearance on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show”—to advocate for military spouses and families. In this episode he also shares how the military's transformation since the “don't ask, don't tell” era has shaped his family's service.

[\[PODCAST\]](#)

[Veteran-run LGBTQIAP+ employee organization celebrates launch with DHS](#) [Jack Erwin, *Military Times*, 28 June 2021]

*On June 23rd, the founding members of the LGBTQIAP+ employee association, DHS Spectrum, celebrated the launch of their organization more broadly into the Department of Homeland Security. The ribbon-cutting ceremony ties in with the DHS's 2021 Pride Month theme of “Not a Straight Line: The Ebbs and Flows of Progress.” In accordance, seven DHS members, Chief Michelle Duty, Cdr. Royce James, Ph.D., Lt. John Mack, Petty Officer Derek Smith, Lt. Junior Grade Caleb Tvrdy, Prof. Alex Waid, Ph.D., and Cdr. Kimberly Young-McLear, Ph.D., have been recognized for founding DHS Spectrum—an anti-racist, multicultural, intersectional, and diverse employee association that exists to create and promote “Healthy to Innovate” work environments where all employees can thrive. “Our purpose is to ensure that everyone can be their authentic selves in the workplace by creating safe spaces for people to serve and work genuinely while also educating others, including allies, on how to actually build these working environments... so everyone can thrive,” Young-McClear told *Military Times*.*

[Women in Submarines: 10 years later](#) [Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Cameron Stoner, *SUBLANT Public Affairs*, 25 June 2021]

Female officers in the U.S. Navy have been serving on multiple platforms throughout the Submarine Force for more than 10 years now. “The integration of women on submarines served to increase the talent pool available to the Submarine Force,” said Lt. Sabrina Reyes-Dods, the Women in Submarines (WIS) coordinator at Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic. “Women make up 57 percent of all degree-seeking college students and earn half of all science and engineering-based bachelor degrees. Twenty percent of U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen and 28 percent of NROTC midshipmen are women. With the ongoing challenge of recruiting highly trained officers, integrating women allowed the Submarine Force to attract the nation's best and brightest.” “From its inception, female submariners have always wanted to be treated as submariners, not ‘female’ submariners,” said Reyes-Dods. The Submarine Force is currently taking both male and female conversion Sailors and new accession Sailors in all submarine ratings. If a female sailor wants to serve on a submarine, she should visit:

<https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Community-Management/Enlisted/Submarine/Enlisted-Women-Submarines/>

EXTREMISM

[He was preparing for “a coming civil war,” feds say. Now he faces up to 30 years in prison.](#)

[Jaclyn Peiser, *The Washington Post*, 23 June 2021]

*Sometimes Paul Miller dressed as Batman’s nemesis, the Joker—face paint and all. Other times he wore army-green tactical gear with a red armband adorned with a swastika. But in each video, Miller toggled between chats on Omegle, a website that randomly pairs users, waving a gun and making hateful statements. “Do you think we should gas the Jews?” he asked a group of young teenage boys. “Ship them all back to Africa ... make them slaves again,” he said to another man, referring to Black people as the n-word. “White power,” he said emphatically, raising his right arm in the Nazi salute. Miller, a 32-year-old who went by “GypsyCrusader” online, was open about his extremist beliefs in videos reviewed by *The Washington Post* that remain active on BitChute, a posting site popular with the far right. In March, the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force took his threats seriously. On Tuesday, Miller pleaded guilty to three felony counts for possession of an unregistered firearm and ammunition and possession of a weapon as a felon. He faces a maximum of 30 years in federal prison. The [case](#) follows the FBI’s emphasis on combating domestic terrorism following the January insurrection as officials warn that far-right extremism poses the greatest threat of violence.*

[The Pentagon is hiring someone to focus on extremism in the military](#) [Paul Szoldra, *Task & Purpose*, 28 June 2021]

*The Pentagon’s Inspector General is looking for a senior executive to prevent and respond to “supremacist, extremist, and criminal gang activity” in the U.S. military, according to a [job listing posted](#) to the federal government’s hiring website. The listing for the Deputy Inspector General for Diversity and Inclusion and Extremism in the Military says the role would serve as the principal advisor to the IG on such matters and would lead the Office of Inspector General’s Diversity and Inclusion and Extremism in the Military, or DIEM. The Department of Defense recently added the extremism-focused deputy inspector general role, according to *The New York Times*, though the position appears to have been rebranded from a focus on “military insider threats” to extremism. According to the listing, this person would also work to establish and maintain relationships with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, military branches, and other inspectors general; develop and implement a “comprehensive strategic plan” for DIEM oversight; prepare semiannual reports to Congress, and develop instructions, policies, and programs.*

[“Perfect storm”: Bulletin warns of extremist violence as pandemic restrictions lift](#) [Pierre Thomas and Aaron Katersky, *ABC News*, 20 June 2021]

*Federal authorities are deeply concerned about the possibility of domestic terror and violence, including mass shootings, as the July Fourth holiday approaches and the summer season gets fully underway. A new Homeland Security bulletin obtained exclusively by *ABC News* warns that “violent extremists might seek to exploit easing COVID-19 restrictions, increased access to mass*

gatherings, and possible changes in levels of violence during the summer months to conduct attacks against a range of potential targets with little or no warning.” “In recent weeks, domestic violent extremists (DVEs) motivated by various violent ideologies have continued to advocate violence and plan attacks,” the bulletin said. “As of 16 June, racially or ethnically motivated violent extremist-White supremacists (RMVE-WSs) were sharing downloadable links to a publication discussing targeting mass gatherings, critical infrastructure, and law enforcement officers.”

[What we know about the Air Force veteran killed in an alleged hate crime in Massachusetts](#)

[David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 28 June 2021]

Multiple law enforcement agencies are investigating a deadly shooting that took place in Winthrop, Massachusetts on Saturday afternoon and claimed the lives of an Air Force veteran and a retired Massachusetts State Police trooper. The Air Force veteran, Ramona Cooper, 60, served from 1980 to 1985 as a specialist in information systems and telecommunications at Fairchild Air Force Base Washington, according to her LinkedIn profile. At the time of her death, Cooper worked at the supply store at the Department of Veterans Affairs Boston’s Jamaica Plain Campus. She had also previously participated in the VA’s compensated work therapy program, said Kyle Toto, a spokesman for the VA Boston Healthcare System. Local authorities are investigating the shooting as a hate crime. Both Cooper and the other victim, David Green, 58, were Black, while the alleged shooter, Nathan Allen, 28, was White. Allen had also espoused White supremacist beliefs, said Rachael Rollins, the Suffolk County district attorney. Allen was killed at the scene by police responding to the attack.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

HUMAN RELATIONS

[Stop just saying “I’m sorry.” Here’s how to actually apologize—and mean it.](#) [Sara Kuburic, *USA TODAY*, 30 June 2021]

We tend to misuse apologies. Whenever someone bumps into me in public, I automatically blurt out a “sorry.” And it is certainly not the only time people misuse the word. Many of us apologize as a way to avoid conflict, sneak in a justification (sorry, but...) or use it to launch into a shopping list of previous grievances. Why is apologizing so important? A sincere apology can go a long way. It doesn’t matter if we hurt someone intentionally or accidentally—we have to take responsibility. By owning our mistakes, we have the chance to rebuild trust, validate experiences and heal wounds. But when we refuse to take ownership, we ignore the consequences of our actions and lessen the safety of the relationship, and ultimately, deepen the hurt.

[Stuck In A Rut? Sometimes Joy Takes A Little Practice](#) [Michaeleen Doucleff, *NPR*, 29 June 2021]

During the pandemic, many people have felt their mental health decline. The problem has hit essential workers and young adults, ages 18 to 24, the worst, the [Kaiser Family Foundation reported in May](#). The percentage of adults with signs of anxiety or depression has grown threefold, from about 10% to 30%. Although some people are starting to test the waters of public life again, planning vacations and socializing more, others may still have lingering signs of what

psychologists call languishing. They may feel an emptiness or dissatisfaction in day-to-day life. Or feel like they're stuck in weariness or stagnation. For thousands of years, there's been a common belief in Western culture about emotions—that they are hard-wired and reflexive, psychologist Lisa Feldman Barrett writes in the book *How Emotions Are Made: The Secret Life of the Brain*. “When something happens in the world ... our emotions come on fast and uncontrollable, as if somebody flipped a switch,” she writes. But when researchers look at what's going on inside the brain and inside the body during specific emotional states, the theory doesn't hold up.

INTERNATIONAL

[377: The British colonial law that left an anti-LGBTQ legacy in Asia](#) [Tessa Wong, *BBC News*, 29 June 2021]

For much of the past two centuries, it was illegal to be gay in a vast swathe of the world—thanks to colonial Britain. Till today, colonial-era laws that ban homosexuality continue to exist in former British territories including parts of Africa and Oceania. But it is in Asia where they have had a significantly widespread impact. This is the region where, before India legalised homosexual sex in 2018, at least one billion people lived with anti-LGBTQ legislation. It can be traced back to one particular law first conceptualised in India, and one man's mission to “modernize” the colony. Activists say these laws have left a damaging legacy on these countries, some of which have long had flexible attitudes towards LGBTQ people. Transgenderism, intersex identity and the third gender, for example, have traditionally been a part of South Asian culture with the hijra or eunuch communities.

[Amsterdam mayor apologizes for city fathers' role in slavery](#) [Aleksandar Furtula and Mike Corder, *The Associated Press*, 1 July 2021]

The mayor of Amsterdam apologized Thursday for the extensive involvement of the Dutch capital's former governors in the global slave trade, saying the moment had come for the city to confront its grim history. Debate about the role of Amsterdam's city fathers in the slave trade has been going on for years, but it has gained more attention amid the global reckoning with racial injustice that followed the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. “It is time to engrave the great injustice of colonial slavery into our city's identity. With big-hearted and unconditional recognition,” Mayor Femke Halsema said. “Because we want to be a government for those for whom the past is painful and its legacy a burden.” While apologizing, she also stressed that “not a single Amsterdammer alive today is to blame for the past.” The Dutch government has in the past expressed deep regret for the nation's historic role in slavery, but has stopped short of a formal apology. Prime Minister Mark Rutte said last year that such an apology could polarize society.

[British Jews' fear and defiance amid record monthly anti-Semitism reports](#) [Mary O'Connor, *BBC News*, 29 June 2021]

A record number of anti-Semitic incidents have been recorded in the UK since the start of last month's violence between Israel and the Palestinians, the Community Security Trust (CST) says. From 8 May to 7 June, 460 incidents were reported to the charity—the highest monthly total

since records began in 1984—with 316 happening offline and 144 online. The previous record was 317 in July 2014—coinciding with the last major eruption of violence between Israel and the Palestinians as part of a decades-long conflict. In the month before 8 May, 119 anti-Semitic incidents were reported to the CST. On 17 May, Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick told the House of Commons that there had been a “deeply disturbing” upsurge in anti-Semitism in recent years, particularly on social media.

[Canadian lawmakers pass bill criminalizing LGBT conversion therapy](#) [Julie Gordon, Reuters, 22 June 2021]

Canada’s House of Commons on Tuesday passed a bill criminalizing LGBT conversion therapy 263 to 63, handing a win to the minority ruling Liberal party which promised to ban the practice during an unveiling of its election platform in 2019. Aimed at changing a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity, conversion therapy can include talk therapy, hypnosis, electric shocks and fasting. The American Medical Association has condemned the practice as harmful and ineffective. The vote took place as the House tried to clear its legislative agenda before the summer break set to begin on Wednesday, and possible elections later this year. The bill now goes to the Senate.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[EU leaders defend LGBT rights amid concern over Hungary law](#) [Samuel Petrequin, Lorne Cook and Justin Spike, The Associated Press, 24 June 2021]

European Union leaders clashed with Hungary’s prime minister during a heated summit Thursday over new legislation in his country that will ban showing content about LGBT issues to children, a measure that has been widely criticized across the region and has angered human rights groups. A majority of the leaders insisted that discrimination must not be tolerated in the 27-nation bloc and told Viktor Orban that the new Hungarian law goes against the EU’s fundamental values. “Being homosexual is not a choice; being homophobic is,” Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo told Orban during the meeting, according to an EU diplomat. The person spoke anonymously according to usual practice. Hungarian Justice minister Judit Varga said on Twitter that Hungary has no intention of leaving the EU. “On the contrary, we want to save it from hypocrites,” she wrote. Speaking upon arrival at the meeting in Brussels, Orban ruled out withdrawing the law, insisting it does not target homosexuals. “It’s not about homosexuality, it’s about the kids and the parents,” Orban said. “I am defending the rights of homosexual guys but this law is not about them.”

[Germany passes new citizenship law for descendants of Nazi victims](#) [BBC News, 26 June 2021]

German lawmakers have approved changes that will make it easier for descendants of those who fled Nazi persecution to obtain citizenship. Under German law, people stripped of their citizenship on political, racial or religious grounds can have it restored, and so can their descendants. But legal loopholes had prevented many people from benefiting. Campaigners say the move allow many to reconnect with their German heritage, particularly in the Jewish community. “We acknowledge the work that the German people have undertaken to honour the memory of those lost and those who suffered in the [Holocaust],” said Felix Couchman, chair of the Article 116 Exclusions Group, which has been lobbying on the issue for years. “These

measures have been necessary stepping stones to rebuilding trust,” he added. While Germany's post-war constitution allows citizenship to be restored, the lack of a legal framework meant many people had their applications rejected. Some were denied because their ancestors had taken another nationality before their citizenship was revoked. For others it was because they were born to a German mother, but not a German father. Until a change to the law in 1953, German citizenship could only be passed on paternally.

[Interfaith marriage: Pew survey says most Indians oppose it](#) [Lebo Diseka, *BBC News*, 29 June 2021]

Most Indians see themselves and their country as religiously tolerant but are against interfaith marriage, a [survey](#) from Pew Research Center has found. People across different faiths in the country said stopping interfaith marriage was a “high priority” for them. The research comes after laws were introduced in several Indian states criminalising interfaith love. According to the survey, 80% of the Muslims who were interviewed felt it was important to stop people from their community from marrying into another religion. Around 65% of Hindus felt the same. The survey also asked about the relationship between faith and nationality. It found that Hindus “tend to see their religious identity and Indian national identity as closely intertwined”. Marriages between Hindus and Muslims have long attracted censure in conservative Indian families, but couples are also facing legal hurdles now.

[More churches burn down on Canada indigenous land](#) [*BBC News*, 27 June 2021]

Two more Catholic churches burned down in indigenous communities in western Canada early on Saturday. The fires at St Ann's Church and the Chopaka Church began within an hour of each other in British Columbia. Officers said both buildings were completely destroyed, and they were treating the fires as “suspicious”. Last Monday two other Catholic churches in the province were destroyed in fires, as Canada marked National Indigenous People's Day. It comes after hundreds of unmarked graves were discovered at sites of former residential schools in Canada. The government-funded compulsory schools were run by religious groups in the 19th and 20th centuries with the aim of assimilating indigenous youth. Indigenous groups have demanded a nationwide search for more graves.

[A Pride symbol vandalised in Canada's “prettiest little town”](#) [Emma Elsworthy, *BBC News*, 29 June 2021]

It took one night for a Pride rainbow pedestrian crossing on the busiest street of Paris, a small Canadian town just over an hour's drive from Toronto, to be smeared with burnt rubber. Was a rainbow a bridge too far for the town, or is a new era of progressive politics forcing Paris to change its stripes? Dotted with Carolinian foliage, church spires and cobblestone architecture, Paris wears its unofficial tagline—“Canada's prettiest little town”—proudly. Nathan Etherington, 39, who spearheads Pride celebrations in Paris, calls the town “literally a microcosm of Canada”—a rural area near urban centres, with a large First Nations reserve nearby. He was thrilled when the rainbow crossing passed 10-1 before council. But his elation was short-lived: there have been several reports of vandalism on rainbow crossings elsewhere in Canada. Placing the crossing on Paris' busiest road came with a risk, Etherington admits, but he

says “symbolism matters”. “That’s really what the crosswalk has become—it’s a symbol of the discussion that needs to happen,” he says.

[Vicky Hernández: Court says Honduras to blame for trans woman’s murder](#) [BBC News, 29 June 2021]

A regional human rights court has ruled that Honduras was responsible for the murder of a transgender woman in 2009. In its landmark ruling, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ordered the government to pay reparations to the family of Vicky Hernández, 26, who was fatally shot in northern Honduras. The country has also been ordered to enact new measures to prevent violence and discrimination against LGBT people. Campaigners have hailed the decision as a watershed moment for Honduras. The ruling, made on the anniversary of Ms Hernández's death, will set a legal precedent in Latin America, however the Honduran government has not yet commented on the court’s decision. Rights groups say Latin America is one of the most dangerous regions in the world for transgender people, and has seen a wave of violence and discrimination against the LGBT community since a coup in June 2009 which ousted then-President Manuel Zelaya. Almost 500 transgender women were killed in Latin America between 2014-2019, according to Sin Violencia, an LGBT rights organisation in the region.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Case files on 1964 civil rights worker killings made public](#) [The Associated Press, 27 June 2021]

Never before seen case files, photographs and other records documenting the investigation into the infamous slayings of three civil rights workers in Mississippi, are now open to the public for the first time, 57 years after their deaths. The 1964 killings of civil rights activists James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner in Neshoba County sparked national outrage and helped spur passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. They later became the subject of the movie “Mississippi Burning.” The three Freedom Summer workers, all in their 20s, had been investigating the burning of a Black church near Philadelphia, Mississippi when they disappeared in June of 1964. A deputy sheriff in Philadelphia had arrested them on a traffic charge, then released them after alerting a mob. Mississippi’s then-governor claimed their disappearance was a hoax, and segregationist Sen. Jim Eastland told President Lyndon Johnson it was a “publicity stunt” before their bodies were dug up, found weeks later in an earthen dam. Nineteen men were indicted on federal charges in the 1967 case. Seven were convicted of violating the victims’ civil rights. None served more than six years.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who oversaw Iraq war, dies at 88](#) [Amanda Macias, CNBC, 30 June 2021]

Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has died at the age of 88, his family said Wednesday. “It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Donald Rumsfeld, an American statesman and devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. At 88, he was surrounded by family in his beloved Taos, New Mexico,” the statement read. “History may remember him for his extraordinary accomplishments over six decades of public service, but for those who knew him best and whose lives were forever changed as a result, we will remember his

unwavering love for his wife Joyce, his family and friends, and the integrity he brought to a life dedicated to country.” Rumsfeld, who served in the Republican administrations of Presidents Gerald Ford and George W. Bush, oversaw the Pentagon’s response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

[SOCOM To Test Anti-Aging Pill Next Year](#) [Theresa Hitchens, *Breaking Defense*, 29 June 2021]
Special Operations Command expects to move into clinical trials next year of a pill that may inhibit or reduce some of the degenerative effects of aging and injury—part of a broader Pentagon push for “improved human performance.” The pill “has the potential, if it is successful, to truly delay aging, truly prevent onset of injury—which is just amazingly game changing,” Lisa Sanders, director of science and technology for Special Operations Forces, acquisition, technology & logistics (SOF AT&L), said Friday. SOCOM is using Other Transaction Authority (OTA) funds to partner with private biotech laboratory Metro International Biotech, LLC (MetroBiotech) in the pill’s development, which is based on what is called a “human performance small molecule,” he explained. SOCOM has “stayed out of long-term genetic engineering—that makes people very, very uncomfortable,” Sanders said, “but there’s a huge commercial marketplace for things that can avoid injury, that can slow down aging, that can improve sleep.”

[Their ancestors were enslaved workers. Now they’re getting \\$2,100 a year in reparations](#) [Faith Karmi, *CNN*, 27 June 2021]

Linda Johnson-Thomas’ grandfather worked at the Virginia Theological Seminary for more than a decade, first as a farm laborer before moving up to head janitor. Her grandparents lived in a little white house on campus with their four children, including her mother. But until two years ago, she had no idea that her grandfather, John Samuel Thomas Jr., had been forced to work at the school in Alexandria, just outside of Washington, D.C. For more than a century—during slavery, Reconstruction and beyond—the seminary used Black Americans for forced labor. Between 1823 and 1951, hundreds of Black people were forced to work for little or no pay on the campus as farmers, dishwashers and cooks, among other jobs. Back then faculty members and students also brought their own enslaved people, said Ebonee Davis, an associate for programming and historical research at the seminary. In 2019 the school announced it had set aside \$1.7 million to pay reparations to the descendants of slaves who worked on its campus. Earlier this year it made good on its promise and began handing out annual payments of \$2,100 each to direct descendants of those who worked there.

MISCONDUCT

[Acting SecNav Clears Record of Marine Officer Separated over Scout Sniper Urination Scandal](#) [Hope Hodge Seck, *Military.com*, 30 June 2021]

Seven years after Marine Capt. James Clement was found to have failed in his supervisory duties over snipers in Afghanistan and involuntarily separated from the Corps, the acting secretary of the Navy has moved to overturn the actions taken against him and grant him relief. Clement was the final and most senior Marine to face punitive action in connection with an international scandal in which six scout snipers attached to 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, filmed

themselves urinating on Taliban corpses during a 2011 deployment. The 39-second video, later posted to YouTube, embarrassed the Marine Corps and prompted statements of condemnation from the White House and the highest levels of military command. But actions against the unit were also tainted by allegations of unlawful command influence by the commandant of the Marine Corps, who made statements and took steps that seemed intended to sway the outcome of the cases.

[Lawyer: Marine played minor role in soldier's hazing death](#) [Ben Finley, *The Associated Press*, 1 July 2021]

A defense attorney for a U.S. Marine told jurors Wednesday that he played a minor role in the hazing of a U.S. Green Beret and should not be found guilty of murder and other crimes in the soldier's death. Speaking inside a Navy base in Virginia, Marine Lt. Col. Timothy Kuhn said that Mario Madera-Rodriguez never touched Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar during the fatal hazing incident in Africa in 2017 until he tried to help revive him. "Facts have been manipulated and moved around like a puzzle to fit the government's theory," Kuhn said. Kuhn spoke during closing arguments at the trial for Madera-Rodriguez. The Marine is the last of four American servicemembers to face a court-martial in Melgar's killing. Madera-Rodriguez, who belongs to a special operations group in the Marines known as the Raiders, is the only one of the four men to plead not guilty. The others, who include another Marine and two Navy SEALs, have already made plea deals with military prosecutors.

RACISM

[America's housing market is racist. Congress could easily help fix it if they wanted to.](#) [Skylar Baker-Jordan, *Insider*, 27 June 2021] [OPINION]

In 2020, Black borrowers were 80% more likely to be denied a mortgage than White borrowers. While this statistic is jarring, it is hardly surprising to those of us familiar with the U.S. mortgage industry. A holistic look at America's housing market shows that it disadvantages people of color in some startling and systemic ways that are not always obvious at the loan level. The [Fair Lending for All Act](#) aims to change that. Introduced by Congressman Al Green, a Democrat from Texas, the bill clarifies the language of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA) to better address systemic discrimination in mortgage lending. At the same time, it establishes a new bureau within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to test whether lenders are following federal guidelines as set out in the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) and ECOA. While seemingly obscure and legalistic, the Fair Lending for All Act will go a long way to making mortgage lending fairer and ending racial disparities in home ownership.

[U.N. rights chief: Reparations needed for people facing racism](#) [Jamey Keaten, *The Associated Press*, 28 June 2021]

The U.N. human rights chief, in a [landmark report](#) launched after the killing of George Floyd in the United States, is urging countries worldwide to do more to help end discrimination, violence and systemic racism against people of African descent and "make amends" to them—including through reparations. The report from Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, offers a sweeping look at the roots of centuries of mistreatment faced by Africans and people

of African descent, notably from the transatlantic slave trade. It seeks a “transformative” approach to address its continued impact today. The report, a year in the making, hopes to build on momentum around the recent, intensified scrutiny worldwide about the blight of racism and its impact on people of African descent as epitomized by the high-profile killings of unarmed Black people in the United States and elsewhere. The report aims to speed up action by countries to end racial injustice; end impunity for rights violations by police; ensure that people of African descent and those who speak out against racism are heard; and face up to past wrongs through accountability and redress.

RELIGION

[Christians, let’s stop fighting each other and serve our neighbors in need instead](#) [Chris Palusky, USA TODAY, 29 June 2021] [OPINION]

A few weeks ago, I invited an influential evangelical pastor in Northern California to tour a local Bethany Christian Services location and meet with our social workers. We talked about a variety of things, including care for parents facing an unintended pregnancy, children waiting for adoptive homes, the foster care crisis in America, and welcoming our neighbors who are refugees or unaccompanied children. We discussed another interesting topic as well. I asked, “How can we help Christians move forward in unity for the sake of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, despite our many differences?” You don’t have to look far to see division within American Christianity. We’re still divided over the 2020 election, racial justice, even wearing face masks.

[“A glimmer of hope”: New leadership for Southern Baptists offers an opportunity for racial reconciliation](#) [Krista Johnson, The Montgomery Advertiser (Montgomery, Ala.), 26 June 2021]

In the heart of some of the country’s most horrific racial milestones, stands the church of the newly elected Southern Baptist Convention President Ed Litton. Litton has presided over his congregation of about 1,000 worshipers since the mid-1990s. Until 2014, the church was known as First Baptist North Mobile. To some, its name change, to Redemption, is symbolic of the bridges Litton hopes to build within the country’s largest Protestant denomination. Known for his racial reconciliation efforts, Litton’s election comes at a time when political and educational leaders grapple over how the country’s historical acts of racism relate to today’s America, and whether young children should explore that connection in school. His willingness to confront this difficult and painful conversation as a White pastor, offers hope to his supporters and those who fear issues of race will drive out Black pastors and other Southern Baptists of color questioning their connection to the convention.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

SEXISM

[She’s up! Bat girl 60 years in making reaches Yankee Stadium](#) [Ronald Blum, The Associated Press, 29 June 2021]

Gwen Goldman exchanged fist bumps with the New York Yankees she had been admiring for decades from afar, walked onto the field and waved to the crowd. She got to be a Yankees’ bat

girl on Monday night at age 70—a full 60 years after she was turned down because of her gender. Shaking with excitement, she beamed while recounting how it felt to be at Yankee Stadium on this day for the game against the Los Angeles Angels. “I don’t know where to start, of which was the best, what did I enjoy the most?” she said during a news conference in the fourth inning. Goldman had been rejected by then-Yankees general manager Roy Hamey, who wrote her in a letter on June 23, 1961: “While we agree with you that girls are certainly as capable as boys, and no doubt would be an attractive addition on the playing field, I am sure you can understand that it is a game dominated by men a young lady such as yourself would feel out of place in a dugout.” Current Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said he had been forwarded an email written by Goldman’s daughter, Abby. In a letter dated this June 23, Cashman wrote “it is not too late to reward and recognize the ambition you showed in writing that letter to us as a 10-year-old girl.”

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Actor Allison Mack gets 3 years in NXIVM sex-slave case](#) [Tom Hays, *The Associated Press*, 30 June 2021]

TV actor Allison Mack, who played a key role in the scandal-ridden, cult-like group NXIVM, was sentenced to three years in prison Wednesday on charges she manipulated women into becoming sex slaves for the group’s spiritual leader. Mack—best known for her role as a young Superman’s close friend on the series “Smallville”—had previously pleaded guilty to the charges and began cooperating against NXIVM leader Keith Raniere. Prosecutors credited her with helping them mount evidence showing how Raniere created a secret society of brainwashed women who were branded with his initials. At her sentencing in Brooklyn federal court, Mack renounced the self-improvement guru. “I made choices I will forever regret,” she said, also telling the judge she was filled with “remorse and guilt.”

[Bill Cosby is a free man after Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturns sex assault conviction](#) [Ray Sanchez, Sonia Moghe and Kristina Sgueglia, *CNN*, 30 June 2021]

Bill Cosby was released from prison Wednesday after Pennsylvania’s highest court overturned his sexual assault conviction, saying the disgraced actor’s due process rights were violated. The stunning decision in the case of the man once known as “America’s Dad” reverses the first high-profile celebrity criminal trial of the #MeToo era. The panel of Pennsylvania State Supreme Court judges said in their opinion that a former Montgomery County district attorney’s decision to not prosecute Cosby in 2005 in return for his deposition in a civil case was ultimately used against him at trial. “In light of these circumstances, the subsequent decision by successor D.A.s to prosecute Cosby violated Cosby’s due process rights,” the judges wrote. Cosby was sentenced in 2018 to 3 to 10 years in a state prison for drugging and sexually assaulting Andrea Constand at his home in 2004.

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

[Ex-command sergeant major accused of desertion amid CID probe into sex assault](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 29 June 2021]

A former command sergeant major at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, faces a second court-martial on sexual assault charges this October. And this time, prosecutors say he obstructed justice by asking an officer—who he is now also charged with sexually assaulting—to destroy evidence ahead of his first court-martial, during which he was acquitted of sexually assaulting a private first class. Clinton Murray, now a master sergeant, also faces desertion charges over a retirement that prosecutors say he obtained by forging paperwork. The faux retirement allowed him to leave the Army despite an ongoing CID investigation that ultimately led to new charges of sexual assault, extortion and fraternization. Murray was convicted of an inappropriate relationship with the private in his first court-martial, leading to his relief and reduction in rank. But he was acquitted of the far more severe sexual assault charge. Army Times reviewed publicly available court documents detailing Murray’s career and alleged misconduct. The documents became public when Murray sued the Army for revoking his retirement orders in July 2020, after prosecutors said he forged signatures on his discharge papers. A federal judge dismissed Murray’s suit two months later.

[Facebook message leads to warrant in years-old rape claim](#) [Maryclaire Dale, *The Associated Press*, 29 June 2021]

Authorities in Pennsylvania on Tuesday filed an arrest warrant in a 2013 campus attack at Gettysburg College, nearly eight years after the woman went to police and a year after she received an online message that said, “So I raped you.” Police say they are looking for 28-year-old Ian Cleary of Saratoga, California, but had not yet located him. The affidavit filed with the warrant accuses Cleary of stalking 18-year-old Shannon Keeler at a party in December 2013, following her home to her dorm and then sexually assaulting her. Keeler had discussed the experience—and her long push for charges—in a [recent story](#) by The Associated Press that detailed the frequent reluctance among prosecutors to file charges in campus rape cases. Keeler went to police hours after the encounter and had a rape kit done at a local hospital, only to graduate three years later without an arrest. Authorities at the time told her it was hard to prosecute cases when the victim had been drinking, she said. The rape kit was later lost.

[Fox News Pays Record Fine Over #MeToo Violations of NYC Human Rights Law](#) [David Folkenflik, *NPR*, 30 June 2021]

Fox News Media has agreed to pay a record \$1 million fine as part of a broader settlement following an investigation by the New York City Commission on Human Rights into patterns of sexual harassment and retribution at the cable news channel. For Fox News, the financial penalty is symbolic, as it is believed to make more than \$2 billion a year in profits. Yet the figure marks the maximum the commission could levy in the case. The conditions of the settlement are more consequential: along with specifying training programs and ways for employees to report harassment, Fox News agreed not to issue any new or extended contracts that compel people to resolve disputes in binding and confidential arbitration for the next four years. That has been a key objection of many women who sued Fox News or accused influential men at the network of harassment. And it means that people will be able to publicly accuse Fox or its employees of violating New York City human rights law in state or federal courts, rather than being shepherded into closed arbitration hearings.

[Groping, sex toys and lewd gifts: Feds accuse NC company of allowing sexual harassment](#)

[Hayley Fowler, *The Lexington Herald-Leader* (Lexington, Ky.), 29 June 2021]

Christin Smith was warned about an “extremely flirtatious” supervisor when she was hired at a manufacturing plant in Gaston County three years ago, according to court filings. But the federal agency that’s taken up her case said it wasn’t just flirting she experienced—it was sexual harassment. A male supervisor gifted her underwear, ran his hands along her lower back and thighs, showed her his sex toys, and even asked her to use one on herself, an attorney representing Smith said in court documents filed last week. The company, Modern Polymers Inc., is accused of discriminating against Smith by allowing a culture of sexual harassment. Smith’s allegations were included in a larger [lawsuit filed last month by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#), or EEOC. The federal agency is charged with safeguarding and enforcing anti-discrimination laws in the workplace.

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SUICIDE

[For some U.S. Muslims, raw talk on suicide, mental health](#) [Mariam Fam, *The Associated Press*, 27 June 2021]

Dr. Rania Awaad was attending a virtual religion program this Ramadan when discussion turned to an unexpected question: Is it religiously acceptable to say a prayer for someone who died by suicide? Suicide is a complex and delicate topic that Awaad, as director of the Muslim Mental Health & Islamic Psychology Lab at Stanford University, knows much about—but one she says isn’t discussed nearly enough in U.S. Muslim communities. When it is, she said, it’s often poorly understood and shrouded in misconceptions. Awaad and other mental health professionals are trying to change that, working alongside some faith leaders and activists to bring nuance and compassion to such conversations, raise awareness in Muslim communities about suicide prevention and mental health and provide religiously and culturally sensitive guidance. The effort took on new urgency in the aftermath of an apparent murder-suicide that left six family members dead in Allen, Texas, in April, sending shock waves through Muslim communities in the area and beyond. Investigators believe two brothers made a pact to kill their parents, sister and grandmother before taking their own lives.

VETERANS

[Chinese American veterans in Fresno receive gold medal for WWII service](#) [Thaddeus Miller, *The Fresno Bee* (Fresno, Calif.), 26 June 2021]

Four living Chinese American veterans and several more who have died were honored Saturday in Fresno, earning what their families said was long overdue praise for serving in World War II. Wing Tuck Chin tried to enlist in his hometown of Columbus, Ohio, but was turned away when the recruiter said he was only looking for White recruits, according to Chin’s daughter Daphne Chin Croy. That didn’t stop him. Chin enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942 hoping to fly fighter planes, his daughter said. He passed the test, though he didn’t yet have a high school diploma, and became a 1st lieutenant, flying C-47 transport planes. He also trained pilots to fly B-52 bombers, saw time in Italy and rose to the rank of captain before his service ended, according to

his family. The 98-year-old veteran was one of several at the Fresno Veterans Memorial Museum on Saturday awarded a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest level of appreciation from the U.S. Congress. About 40% of those who served were not U.S. citizens due to laws that denied citizenship to people of Chinese descent. Chinese Americans served in all branches of the armed forces and all theaters of the war, according to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

[“Deficiencies remain”: Bill would address issues with Veterans Crisis Line](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 30 June 2021]

Two lawmakers introduced a bill Wednesday in response to multiple watchdog reports of deaths after calls were mishandled by the Veterans Crisis Line. The bill, titled the Revising and Expediting Actions for the Crisis Hotline (REACH) for Veterans Act, would require an independent agency to evaluate the training for Veterans Crisis Line responders. It would also require responders to be retrained on how to handle high-risk callers, and it aims to increase oversight of calls. The VA Office of Inspector General released two reports within the last year that found fault with how the Veterans Crisis Line handled high-risk callers. One report focused on a veteran who died July 4, 2018, after speaking to two crisis line responders. The responders failed to consider his or her risk for overdose and didn't contact local authorities.

[Johnnie Jones, civil rights icon, gets Purple Heart 77 years after World War II wounds](#) [Gary Kunich, *VA Media Relations*, 28 June 2021]

It's been 77 years and Johnnie Jones still sees the German sniper who tried to kill him as he came ashore on Omaha Beach for D-Day. "I remember it all," he said. "Sometimes reminiscing is a terrible thing. I close my eyes at night and still see him. I lay down at night and as soon as I close my eyes, I relive the whole D-Day invasion." Jones almost never made it to the beachhead that day. His ship hit a mine and he was blown from the second deck to the first. He never got the Purple Heart for any of those battle injuries. Now 101, he finally received the award Saturday at the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Jones grew up in a farming family. His parents insisted he go to school. He graduated from Southern University and was drafted into the Army in 1942. By 1943, he rose to the rank of Warrant Officer Junior Grade. Though he fought for freedom overseas, he wasn't given it when he came back home. While driving in 1946 to New Orleans to get shrapnel removed from his neck, he was pulled over by a White police officer. "He knocked me down and started kicking me," he said. "Things weren't right. 'Separate but equal' was unconstitutional and I wanted to fight it and make it better." Jones got his law degree. Just 15 days out of school, the Rev. T.J. Jemison recruited him in 1953 to help organize the United Defense League's eight-day bus boycott in Baton Rouge and defend the participants. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King used that event to plan his larger bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, two years later.

[VA's Million Veteran Program wants thousands of more women to sign up for genetic study](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 26 June 2021]

The [Veterans Affairs Million Veteran Program](#) has reached almost one million veterans, but it needs more women. The project, launched in 2011, is one of the world's largest research efforts on genetics and health. More than 840,000 veterans have participated, forming a massive database that's the backbone of 65 scientific studies already and at least 30 more pending. But

only about 75,000 of those participants thus far are women, a small fraction of the more than 2 million women veterans in the United States today. Program officials for the last few months have been working to boost that number in the hopes of providing new medical breakthroughs to aid not just women veterans, but all Americans. “[Our research projects] represent a large number of disease areas that are highly prevalent in veterans, like post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and Gulf War illness,” said Sumitra Muralidhar, director of the Million Veteran Program. “And then we have other chronic conditions, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, chronic kidney disease. “Genetics is only part of the risk for most diseases ... so in order to tease out the genetic contribution, you really need very large numbers of specimens.”