

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 23 JULY 2021

### HIGHLIGHTS

[63% of Workers Who File an EEOC Discrimination Complaint Lose Their Jobs](#) [Donald T. Tomaskovic-Devey, Carly McCann and J.D. Swerzenski, *The Conversation*, 13 July 2021] *People who experience sex discrimination, race discrimination and other forms of discrimination at work aren't getting much protection from the laws designed to shield them from it. That's our [main finding](#) after analyzing the outcomes of 683,419 discrimination cases filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from 2012 to 2016—the most recent data available. We focused on workplace complaints filed related to race, sex, disability, age and national origin. Those are the five most common categories. We found that at least 63% of workers who filed a complaint eventually lost their job. That number was even higher for workers who filed a disability-related claim, at 67%. And about 40% of workers reporting experiencing employer retaliation, such as verbal abuse or being passed over for work opportunities like training or promotion, for filing a claim. At 46%, employer retaliation was most common for sex discrimination cases.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[DOD Takes Phased Approach to Implementing Recommendations on Sexual Assault, Harassment](#) [C. Todd Lopez, *DOD News*, 21 July 2021]

*The Defense Department plans to move forward with all of the recommendations made by an independent review commission on sexual assault in the military. The commission's findings and 82 recommendations were made public earlier this month, and the department will move cautiously and deliberately in implementing each of them, the deputy defense secretary said. "I am taking a phased approach to developing comprehensive implementation plans across all of these recommendations," Kathleen H. Hicks said during testimony yesterday before the House Armed Services Committee. "Although we are on a fast timeline, our approach is methodical and deliberate." Hicks said she's been given until the end of the summer to go through all 82 recommendations and find a path forward for implementing each of them. "Once we have our roadmap in place, our efforts will be consistently monitored by me and the department's senior-most leadership via the deputy's workforce council," she said.*

[SEE ALSO] 1. [Senate Committee Reaches Deal on Prosecution Decisions for Most Felonies](#)  
2. [Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the military](#)

[Senate panel votes to make women register for draft](#) [Rebecca Kheel, *The Hill*, 22 July 2021]

*The Senate Armed Services Committee has approved language in its annual defense policy bill that would require women to register for the draft. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) approved by the committee behind closed doors Wednesday "amends the Military Selective Service Act to require the registration of women for Selective Service," according to a summary released Thursday. The United States has not instituted a draft since the Vietnam War, and Pentagon officials have repeatedly said they intend to keep the force all-volunteer. But men ages 18 through 25 still have to register with what's officially known as the Selective Service*

*System or face consequences such as losing access to federal financial aid for college. Congress has been debating whether to expand the registration requirement to women since all combat jobs were opened to female service members in 2016.*

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## CULTURE

[Cleveland's baseball team is changing name to the Guardians](#) [Kevin Stankiewicz, CNBC, 23 July 2021]

*Cleveland's Major League Baseball team will change its name to Guardians, the franchise announced Friday, dropping the racially offensive name it has been known as for more than a century. The name Guardians is a reference to well-known art deco statues located on the Lorain-Carnegie Bridge, which spans the Cuyahoga River and connects downtown Cleveland to the city's trendy Ohio City neighborhood. Those statues are known as the "Guardians of Traffic." The franchise, which announced the name change in a tweet Friday morning, had long faced pressure from activists locally and nationally to ditch the name "Indians," which critics said was racist. It had been the baseball club's name since 1915. The franchise moved away from its longtime "Chief Wahoo" logo after the 2018 season, with MLB commissioner Rob Manfred saying at the time it was "no longer appropriate for on-field use in Major League Baseball."*

[A giant Confederate flag went up in the Ozarks. One woman answered with this billboard](#)

[Roberta A. Cronkleton, *The Kansas City Star* (Kansas City, Mo.), 17 July 2021]

*After a giant Confederate flag was erected this past winter along a popular route to the Lake of the Ozarks, Amanda Burrows of Tuscumbia, Missouri, felt compelled to respond. The flag, she believes, is an "outdated symbol of racism." "I didn't think it was appropriate that the flag would be allowed to speak for everyone in this community," Burrows said. "After being angry about it but not being constructive for several months, I noticed that the billboard in the direct line of sight of the flag was available." That has led to her putting up a billboard with the anti-racist message of "EQUALITY BIGGER THAN HATE." She wanted tourists and visitors to know "that Confederate flag does not represent all of us." The billboard sits near the base of the flag, which is prominently placed on private property along U.S. 54 highway just south of Eldon, Missouri.*

[Historic all-women broadcast team to call Baltimore Orioles-Tampa Bay Rays for MLB Game of the Week on YouTube](#) [ESPN News, 20 July 2021]

*In a historic first for Major League Baseball, a game will feature an all-women broadcast crew when the Baltimore Orioles and Tampa Bay Rays play Tuesday night in Florida as part of the MLB Game of the Week on YouTube. Melanie Newman, the Orioles' radio play-by-play announcer since last year, will call the action while analyst and MLB.com writer Sarah Langs is assigned as the in-booth analyst. Alanna Rizzo will be the on-field reporter, while Heidi Watney and Lauren Gardner will anchor the pregame and postgame shows. Gardner told MLB.com that the all-women crew "can't come soon enough," but also appreciates the milestone that she will be a part of. "I [thought], 'This is awesome,'" Gardner told MLB.com. "Then someone said, 'You know, these are all women.' It took a minute for that to sink in, that we were going to be a part of history."*

[The Marine Corps is now the only service not allowing women to wear ponytails in uniform](#)

[Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 16 July 2021]

*The Coast Guard is officially allowing women to wear ponytails or braids in uniform—making the Marine Corps the only service who hasn't yet gotten with the program. The Coast Guard announced on Thursday that women would be permitted to wear their hair in a ponytail, a braid, or two braids. Rear Adm. Joanna Nunan, deputy commandant for personnel readiness, said in the press release her hope “is that women around the Coast Guard will consider this a load off their minds.” In 2019, the Marine Corps gave the green light for women with medium-length hair to wear half ponytails during PT, and regulations say women with long hair can wear ponytails during PT as well. But otherwise, according to the regulations, unsecured ponytails are prohibited. “The Marine Corps is currently considering the issue,” a statement from the Marine Corps Uniform Board said on Friday. “But until a decision is made by the Commandant to authorize unsecured long ponytails and braids in all uniforms, Marines have to secure their long hair above the bottom edge of their shirt/coat collar.”*

[New marker commemorates Black neighborhood in Warner Robins](#) [The Associated Press, 18 July 2021]

*A thriving Black community established in the 1940s for African American workers at Robins Air Force Base has been commemorated with a historic marker. The new plaque in Warner Robins—unveiled last month—celebrates the Jody Town Community, a segregated neighborhood that became a hub for Black life in the area before an urban renewal plan in the 1970s led to its destruction, The Telegraph newspaper reports. “Jody Town was more than a neighborhood,” Shirlyn Johnson-Granville, chair of the Jody Town Community Reunion Committee, told the newspaper. “It was a community. We had businesses. We had churches. We had organizations. We had entertainment.” But an urban renewal project in the 1970s supported by a federal grant displaced residents and brought down buildings. The neighborhood disappeared. Johnson-Granville called the marker “a symbol of what our ancestors did in the past.” The marker is the latest addition to the Georgia Civil Rights Trail, an initiative led by the Georgia Historical Society that aims to commemorate key events during the Civil Rights movement.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Smithsonian exhibition brings stories of Japanese internment camps to Soldiers Memorial Military Museum](#) [Thomas Humphrey, *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 21 July 2021]

*A Smithsonian traveling exhibition coming to Soldiers Memorial Military Museum confronts the uncomfortable and often forgotten history of Japanese internment camps in the United States. Starting July 24, the downtown museum presents [“Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II.”](#) An addition by the Missouri Historical Society, which operates the museum, explores St. Louis’ contributions to the legacy. The 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the first modern attack on U.S. soil, left the nation in a state of paranoia. In particular, there was concern that Japanese Americans were harboring sympathies for the Japanese government. This fear resulted in a 1942 executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, enabling the U.S. government to relocate people of Japanese descent from the West Coast to internment camps. Some Japanese Americans were able to avoid the internment camps by enrolling in higher education programs. Notably, St. Louis architect Gyo Obata attended Washington University in*

*order to avoid relocation; it was one of the few universities accepting the students at the time. Obata also served in the U.S. military from 1946 to 1947 and co-founded the global architectural firm HOK.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Sports Illustrated's Swimsuit Issue Has A Trans Model On The Cover For The 1st Time](#) [Becky Sullivan, NPR, 20 July 2021]

*Model and actress Leyna Bloom has become the first trans person to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated's swimsuit issue, the magazine's most famous and perennially bestselling edition. "I dedicate this cover to all ballroom femme queens past, present and future," Bloom wrote on Instagram. "Many girls like us don't have the chance to live our dreams, or to live long at all. I hope my cover empowers those, who are struggling to be seen, feel valued." The 27-year-old's star turn on the Sports Illustrated cover is just the latest on a growing list of barriers she's broken since she came out in 2014: one of the first trans women to walk the runway at Paris Fashion Week, the first trans woman of color to star in a film at the Cannes Film Festival, and the first trans woman to grace the pages of Vogue India.*

[Student arrested over Hitler quote, Boston Marathon bomber reference in yearbook](#) [Minyvonne Burke, NBC News, 20 July 2021]

*A Connecticut teenager was arrested after he allegedly gained access to a school's database and changed a yearbook caption to an Adolf Hitler quote and altered another one to include the name of a Boston Marathon bomber. Hollister Tryon, a student at Glastonbury High School, was charged with two counts of third-degree computer crimes, according to a police arrest log. Authorities began investigating in May after school administrators reported that several quotes in the senior yearbook had been changed. One of them was swapped to a Hitler quote that was incorrectly attributed to George Floyd, a Black man who was killed by Minneapolis police, the arrest log states. Another quote was changed to reference drugs and the name Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who was convicted in the 2013 Boston Marathon attack that killed three people and wounded hundreds of others.*

[Tennessee to remove bust of Ku Klux Klan leader Nathan Bedford Forrest from state Capitol](#) [Aya Elamroussi and Rebekah Riess, CNN, 23 July 2021]

*Tennessee officials voted Thursday to remove the bust of a Ku Klux Klan and Confederate leader Nathan Bedford Forrest from the State Capitol and into the Tennessee State Museum. "After more than a year in the making, this process has finally come to a close," said Tennessee Republican Gov. Bill Lee, who voted in favor of the removal. "I thank the members of the Capitol Commission, Historical Commission and State Building Commission for providing thoughtful input and ensuring confidence in the process. The State Museum provides the full historical context for these figures as we remember our state's rich and complex past." The vote was 5-2 in favor of the move—which also includes plans to remove the busts of Admiral David Farragut and Admiral Albert Gleaves—and followed recommendations by the State Capitol Commission and Historical Commission.*

[Why People End Up Mad When AI Flags Toxic Speech](#) [Edmund L. Andrews, *Futurity*, 21 July 2021]

*New research sheds light on why artificial intelligence identification of toxic speech on the internet often frustrates people, despite getting high scores on technical tests. The main problem: There is a huge difference between evaluating more traditional AI tasks, like recognizing spoken language, and the much messier task of identifying hate speech, harassment, or misinformation—especially in today’s polarized environment. Facebook says its artificial intelligence models identified and pulled down 27 million pieces of hate speech in the final three months of 2020. In 97% of the cases, the systems took action before humans had even flagged the posts. That’s a huge advance, and all the other major social media platforms are using AI-powered systems in similar ways. Given that people post hundreds of millions of items every day, from comments and memes to articles, there’s no real alternative. No army of human moderators could keep up on its own. The team hopes their [study](#) will illuminate the gulf between what developers think they’re achieving and the reality—and perhaps help them develop systems that grapple more thoughtfully with the inherent disagreements around toxic speech.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Why There Are Few Openly Gay Athletes In Men’s Professional Sports](#) [Joe Hernandez, *NPR*, 21 July 2021]

*When Nashville Predators prospect Luke Prokop came out this week, it was the first time an active player under contract to an NHL team had ever publicly acknowledged they were gay. Overnight, Prokop’s announcement doubled the number of out gay athletes currently playing in the country’s four major men’s sports—football, basketball, baseball and hockey. Las Vegas Raiders defensive end Carl Nassib came out last month. They also highlighted the dearth of openly gay players in the hypermasculine world of U.S. men’s professional sports, often dubbed “the last closet” for its lack of LGBTQ representation. Though many retired former players have come out, it is more unusual for male professional athletes to say they are gay while still playing. “This is an example of the broader society changing much quicker than the institution of sport or the cultures of sport have done,” said Cheryl Cooky, a professor of American Studies and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Purdue University.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Wyoming bar under fire for selling shirt advocating anti-gay violence](#) [Jo Yurcaba, *NBC News*, 14 July 2021]

*A bar in Wyoming is facing criticism after selling T-shirts that appear to advocate for violence against LGBTQ people. Eagle’s Nest, in Cheyenne, sold shirts that said, “In Wyoming, we have a cure for AIDS, we shoot f---n’ f----s,” according to local news outlets and a statewide advocacy group. The shirt also includes an image of a man with a pistol that’s aimed at the viewer. The bar’s owner, Raymond Bereziuk, has not returned a request for comment, but he told *The Cheyenne Post* on Monday that the shirts are sold out and he doesn’t plan to sell any more. He added that he is “in the bar business, not the apparel business.” Cheyenne, where Eagle’s Nest is located, is less than an hour from Laramie, where gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard died after being brutally beaten in 1998, sparking nationwide protests and vigils.*

## DISCRIMINATION

[Court: UI violated religious club’s First Amendment rights](#) [Margery A. Beck, *The Associated Press*, 16 July 2021]

*A federal appeals court has upheld a 2019 ruling against the University of Iowa, affirming that the university discriminated against a Christian club by stripping it and dozens of other religious clubs of their registered status. A three-judge panel of the U.S. 8th Circuit Court of Appeal on Friday found that a lower federal court correctly ruled that the university can’t selectively deregister student organizations. That ruling came on a lawsuit filed by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship after university administrators deregistered its local chapter along with multiple other religious groups. The university moved to deregister the groups after another faith-based group, Business Leaders in Christ, sued the university for kicking it off campus following a complaint that it wouldn’t let an openly gay member seek a leadership post. The appeals court said Friday that the university engaged in “viewpoint discrimination” by selectively enforcing its policy requiring all clubs to offer equal opportunity and access regardless of classifications including race, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity.*

[Deaf-Blind Athlete Quits Team USA After She’s Told She Can’t Bring A Care Assistant](#) [Bill Chappell, *NPR*, 20 July 2021]

*Becca Meyers, a swimmer seen as a favorite to bring gold home from Tokyo, has canceled plans to compete in the Paralympics after being told she can’t bring a personal care assistant to Japan. Meyers is deaf and blind. U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) officials say they don’t have space for her to bring an aide because of coronavirus restrictions on athletic delegations. “I’ve had to make the gut-wrenching decision to withdraw from the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics,” Meyers said Tuesday in a statement posted on her Facebook page. “I’m angry, I’m disappointed, but most of all, I’m sad to not be representing my country.” Meyers, 26, says officials have not taken her and other athletes’ needs into account. She won three gold medals at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Paralympics—but the experience also left her deeply shaken. In strange new surroundings, she struggled to accomplish essential tasks on her own, such as finding the athletes’ dining hall.*

[Federal judge temporarily blocks Arkansas’ ban on gender-affirming treatment for trans youth](#) [Devan Cole, *CNN*, 21 July 2021]

*A federal judge on Wednesday temporarily blocked Arkansas’ ban on gender-affirming treatment for transgender youth from going into effect later this month. Judge James M. Moody Jr. granted a preliminary injunction against the ban that was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of four transgender adolescents in Arkansas and their families, as well as two doctors who provide gender-affirming care to trans youth in the state. The ruling means that, for now, Arkansas won’t be able to begin enforcing the ban on July 28, the day it was set to go into effect. The state’s GOP-led legislature enacted the ban in April after overriding Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson’s veto of the measure. “This ruling sends a clear message to states across the country that gender-affirming care is life-saving care, and we won’t let politicians in Arkansas—or anywhere else—take it away,” said Holly Dickson, the executive director of the ACLU of*

Arkansas, in a statement. “We won’t rest until this cruel and unconstitutional law is struck down for good,” she added.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Lawsuit: Black couple alleges discrimination by Tyson Farms](#) [Tom Freeman Jr., *The Associated Press*, 20 July 2021]

*A Black couple working at Tyson Farms plant in North Carolina has filed a lawsuit that says a supervisor frequently used racial slurs against them, showed disdain for their Muslim faith and that the company refused to address the issue despite multiple requests. Michelle and Adrian Switzer filed the lawsuit in Forsyth County Superior Court in April. Tyson Farms, with headquarters in Springdale, Arkansas, and 123 plants nationwide, replied in an email that a response could be expected within five business days. Michelle Switzer was fired on April 20, 2019, for reasons related to her race, religion and in retaliation for her complaints, the lawsuit says. Adrian Switzer wanted to keep his job, but was forced to quit because of the team leader’s hostility and the failure of Tyson Farms to address the conduct, the document says. In January, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued a right to sue notice for the Switzers, according to the lawsuit. The couple is seeking a trial by jury, compensatory and punitive damages in excess of \$25,000, and attorney’s fees.*

[Montana tribes sue over Indian Education for All compliance](#) [Amy Beth Hanson, *The Associated Press*, 22 July 2021]

*Montana tribes and the parents of 18 students filed a lawsuit Thursday alleging state education leaders are violating a constitutional requirement to teach about the unique culture and heritage of Native Americans. The [lawsuit](#), filed in District Court in Great Falls, seeks an order to require the Board of Public Education to create specific educational standards for the Indian Education for All program and to require the superintendent of public instruction to ensure schools meet those standards and accurately report how they are spending money allocated for the program. “We need state education administrators to create a system of accountability to ensure every educator teaches this subject in a way that preserves American Indians’ cultural integrity and to ensure the money Montanans voted to invest in Indian Education for All, benefits every student,” Shelly R. Fyant, chair of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, said in a statement.*

[Pregnant Cadets, Midshipmen Must Give Up Their Child Or Their Career. Two Senators Want To Change That.](#) [Jaqueline Feldscher, *Defense One*, 22 July 2021]

*Two senators are teaming up to change an “unfair, antiquated” policy that requires students at military academies who get pregnant to choose between abandoning their military career or their child. Last week, Sens. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., introduced the Candidates Afforded Dignity, Equality, and Training, or CADET, Act of 2021, which would ensure that students at military universities have the option to continue their education while also maintaining their parental rights. Under current policy, students at military schools are not allowed to have dependents. As a result, women who get pregnant or men who father a child have three options. To stay at school, they can either get an abortion or give the baby up for adoption, severing their legal and financial responsibility. To keep the baby, they must leave the military*

*academy. Any student that leaves the school in their junior or senior year has to repay the government for their education, since they will not fulfill their commitment to serve in the military after graduation. It's not clear how many students have been affected by this policy, but the number is likely small.*

[Reporter suing Washington Post for discrimination after coming forward about sexual assault](#) [Dominick Mastrangelo, *The Hill*, 22 July 2021]

*A reporter at The Washington Post is suing the newspaper for allegedly discriminating against her after she came forward with a personal story of sexual assault. Political reporter Felicia Sonmez filed a lawsuit Wednesday in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia against the Post, former Executive Editor Marty Baron, managing editors Cameron Barr and Tracy Grant, national editor Steven Ginsberg and other newsroom leaders. The lawsuit alleges Sonmez experienced “economic loss, humiliation, embarrassment, mental and emotional distress, and the deprivation of her rights to equal employment opportunities” following a ban editors placed on her barring her from covering stories related to sexual assault and the #MeToo movement. The ban followed her disclosure that she was a sexual assault survivor. In a statement issued through her attorney on Thursday, Sonmez said her editors at the Post “took away my ability to decide what stories I was capable of covering.” “Not all survivors publicly share their stories. But all survivors of trauma, including sexual assault, deserve the full support of their newsrooms,” she said.*

[Walmart loses EEOC disability lawsuit that alleged discrimination against a longtime employee with Down syndrome](#) [Melissa Repko, *CNBC*, 16 July 2021]

*A Wisconsin federal court jury ruled that Walmart must pay more than \$125 million in damages in a [disability discrimination lawsuit](#) filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the federal agency announced Friday. That verdict was quickly reduced Thursday to a statutory maximum of \$300,000 by the judge in the case, which involved the termination of Marlo Spaeth, a 16-year employee who has Down syndrome, from the Walmart Supercenter in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The EEOC's complaint in Green Bay court alleged that Walmart in its firing of Spaeth violated the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination based on a person's disability. In the lawsuit, the federal agency said the retailer changed Spaeth's longtime work schedule and refused to accommodate her requests for different hours, even though she faced challenges because of her disability.*

## **DIVERSITY**

[How this mother, daughter got to serve aboard the Ford together](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Navy Times*, 22 July 2021]

*Serving in the Navy runs in the family for the McCrays. Master Chief Logistics Specialist Tanya McCray has been in the Navy almost 30 years, and is also married to another master chief in the Navy. Now, their daughter, Logistic Specialist Seaman Racquel McCray, 25, is following suit and has the opportunity to be temporarily assigned to the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford with her mother. Racquel says that the experience so far has been very rewarding, and noted she feels like a “proud daughter” walking with her mother hearing people address her as master chief. “It's*



*great, this could be her last underway and it's my first. For us to be able to spend it together, it's awesome," Racquel said. "She's kind of bringing me in and I appreciate that a lot. I hope I can fill her shoes, as I hope to make it a 20 year career." Tanya said it was challenging being a dual-military family, and she and her spouse alternated between sea and shore duties. But she said she "thrive[s]" off of challenges, and hopes her daughter has an even more successful career in the service than she has had.*

[More female Marine drill instructors needed as boot camp gender-integration continues](#) [Philip Athey, *Marine Corps Times*, 22 July 2021]

*The Marine Corps is about to be short on female drill instructors and is willing to pay up to \$14,700 to fill its ranks, according to an administrative message released Wednesday. The Marine message is calling for both first term and second term drill instructors to fill positions at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, and Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in fiscal year 2022. Second term drill instructors may also be placed in billets at Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, Quantico, Virginia, the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, along with several other Marine Corps commissioning sights to, "serve as mentors for future Marine and Naval Officers," the MARADMIN said. The integration process will require the Corps to field more female drill instructors, especially on San Diego where the sight of women in that billet has been rare.*

[New Air Force recruiting pitch: It doesn't matter what you look like, just that you can kick enemy ass](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 19 July 2021]

*The Air Force's top general delivered a laser-guided kick to the feels this weekend with a 30-second recruiting commercial that emphasizes the branch's commitment to diversity in its ranks. In the brief 30-second ad spot, which first aired on Saturday during the NBA Finals pregame, Gen. Charles "CQ" Brown Jr. sits alone in an aircraft hangar. As the camera slowly zooms in towards him, he says that the color of his skin doesn't matter when he's in the cockpit. "When I'm flying, I put my helmet on, my visor down, my mask up," said the F-16 fighter pilot, who became the first Black service chief in U.S. history last August. "You don't know who I am—whether I'm African American, Asian American, Hispanic, White, male or female. You just know I'm an American airman, kicking your butt." And the commercial certainly seemed to resonate with some on YouTube, most of whom responded with variations of "Freaking Badass!" and "Hell yes!" The appeal isn't much of a surprise. The [ad's message](#) plays to a common sentiment in the military: When you're in a fight, it doesn't matter where you came from, what you look like, what your politics are. What matters is the job you're there to do, and how well you can do it.*

[Trailblazing Admiral, Hall of Fame Female Diver Retires After Conquering "Fear of the Sea"](#) [Gidget Fuentes, *USNI News*, 20 July 2021]

*One of the first female divers in the Navy and one of the first Filipino-Americans to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy retired this weekend after more than 30 years in the service. For most of her 36-year career, Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar has been a rarity in the Navy: A seasoned, female diver whose path into the Navy followed her father's but which she made into her own from a life-changing experience in her early formidable years. "When I was eight years old, I was a near-drowning victim and had to be resuscitated," she said in an article in the 2016 edition*

*of All Hands featuring Navy female divers. “From then on, I told myself I would conquer both the seas and my fear of the seas by learning more and becoming part of the underwater environment. I took swimming lessons and gradually eased my way back into the water... and eventually earned a degree in oceanography.” “During her decades of service, to the Navy and to her country, Bette Bolivar... has made history as a trailblazer and as a highly respected, inspirational leader,” James Webb, former secretary of the Navy and Marine combat veteran, told the audience during her change-of-command and retirement ceremony on Friday.*

[Wally Funk: The 82-year-old on Jeff Bezos’s Blue Origin flight](#) [BBC News, 20 July 2021]

*Barrier-breaking female aviator Wally Funk has become the oldest-ever person to fly in space. The 82-year-old blasted into space alongside the billionaire Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, his brother Mark, and an 18-year-old student. “I didn’t think I’d ever get to go up,” said Ms Funk, who has spent the past six decades trying to reach space. At 21, Funk volunteered in 1961 for the Women in Space programme where she underwent rigorous physical and mental testing in the hope of becoming an astronaut. But the scheme was later abruptly cancelled and she and the other women—collectively known as the Mercury 13—never made it to space with NASA. She nevertheless became the first female air safety investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board, and the first female flight instructor at a U.S. military base.*

## **EXTREMISM**

[California synagogue shooting suspect pleads guilty](#) [The Associated Press, 20 July 2021]

*A 22-year-old former nursing student pleaded guilty Tuesday to murder and other charges in connection with a deadly shooting at a Southern California synagogue on the last day of Passover. John T. Earnest avoided the death penalty with his plea in San Diego Superior Court. The San Diego County district attorney’s office said he agreed to serve the rest of his life in prison without the possibility of parole in state prison. Sentencing is scheduled Sept. 30. Earnest opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle during the last day of Passover services in April 2019 at Chabad of Poway. The attack killed 60-year-old Lori Gilbert-Kaye and wounded three others, including an 8-year-old girl and the rabbi, who lost a finger. Earnest then called 911 to say he had shot up a synagogue because Jews were trying to “destroy all White people,” authorities said.*

[Capitol rioter who breached Senate gets 8 months for felony](#) [Michael Tarm, The Associated Press, 19 July 2021]

*A crane operator from Florida who breached the U.S. Senate chamber carrying a Trump campaign flag was sentenced Monday to eight months behind bars, the first punishment handed down for a felony charge in the Jan. 6 Capitol riot and one that could help determine the severity of other sentences in hundreds of pending cases. In pronouncing the sentence on Paul Allard Hodgkins, U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss said the 38-year-old had played a role, if not as significant as others, in one of the worst episodes in American history. Thousands of rioters loyal to then-President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol and disrupted the certification of Joe Biden’s election win, in a stunning display of public violence. “That was not, by any stretch of the*

*imagination, a protest,” Moss said. “It was ... an assault on democracy.” He added: “It left a stain that will remain on us ... on the country for years to come.”*

[Ex-Army Ranger weaponized military training to aid Capitol rioters, judge says](#) [Hannah Rabinowitz, CNN, 21 July 2021]

*A federal judge on Tuesday ordered Capitol rioter and ex-Army Ranger Robert Morss to remain in jail before trial, ruling that he was too dangerous to release and slamming him for using his military training to help organize the mob and eventually breach the Capitol. This came hours after the Justice Department released new videos of Morss, which the judge said show how he took on an impromptu leadership role in the attack, coordinating with other rioters and instigating clashes with police. “He is willing to use his training or experience to organize with the rioters on January 6 ... thereby making their actions more effective, more forceful and more violent” Magistrate Judge Michael Harvey said. Harvey went on to say that the rioters “appeared disorganized” until Morss, who was “in his element” as a former Army Ranger, began issuing instructions. According to Pentagon records, Morss was in the Army from 2011 to 2015, and was deployed to Afghanistan three times. He was specialist when he retired from military service.*

[Extremist groups’ recruitment of veterans prompts a closer look from lawmakers](#) [Leo Shane III, Military Times, 21 July 2021]

*House lawmakers will hold a hearing next week on recruitment and involvement of veterans in extremist groups, calling it a threat to “the very core of our democracy and national security.” The House Veterans’ Affairs Committee event, set for the afternoon of July 29, will include testimony from veterans advocates and experts on violent, fringe groups. “Last fall—long before the insurrection on Jan. 6—our committee started investigating the troubling trend of domestic violent extremist groups recruiting veterans into their ranks,” Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif., chairman of the veterans committee said in a statement. The hearing comes as the Defense Department continues its own work on the issue, pursuing new penalties for troops involved in extremist groups or activities. But response from the Department of Veterans Affairs on the issue has been limited thus far, despite past studies which show fringe organizations often target veterans for recruitment because of their military expertise and the public’s respect for their service.*

[Fourth Oath Keeper in Capitol riot pleads guilty, cooperates with FBI](#) [Pete Williams, NBC News, 20 July 2021]

*A fourth person who joined with members of the far-right Oath Keepers during the Jan. 6 Capitol riot pleaded guilty Tuesday and was cooperating with federal investigators. The man, Caleb Berry, 20, of Tampa, Florida, admitted in federal court in Washington, D.C., that he and other group members planned for Jan. 6 and entered the Capitol in a single-file formation. The FBI has been successful so far in persuading members and followers of the Oath Keepers to cooperate with the sprawling federal investigation. Three other people have admitted that they joined other Oath Keepers in storming the Capitol. Two pleaded guilty last month—Mark Grods of Alabama and Graydon Young of Florida. In April, Jon Schaffer of Indiana became the first Oath Keeper to plead, admitting that he entered the Capitol wearing a tactical vest and carrying bear spray.*

[Kirtland airman is sentenced to prison](#) [Ryan Boetel, *The Albuquerque Journal* (Albuquerque, N.M.), 21 July 2021]

*An airman assigned to Kirtland Air Force Base who was accused of keeping a cache of unregistered weapons at his home on base—including an AR-15 propped against a window and photographs showing AR-15 compatible magazines with the names of mass shooters written on them—has been sentenced to prison and discharged from the military. U.S. District Judge Judith Herrera last week sentenced Charles Brent Justice to 20 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release. A search of Justice’s KAFB home led authorities to 17 firearms that weren’t registered to the armory, two silencers, large amounts of ammunition and bomb-making instructions, according to the criminal complaint. They also found photos on Justice’s cellphone with the names of mass shooters written in white ink on AR-15 compatible magazines. Included among the shooters were Alexandre Bissonette, who shot and killed several people at a mosque in Quebec City, Canada, and Luca Traini, who targeted African migrants in Italy. There were also photographs related to the Christchurch mosque shooting in New Zealand, according to court records.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Ohio Man Charged with Hate Crime Related to Plot to Conduct Mass Shooting of Women, Illegal Possession of Machine Gun](#) [DOJ Public Affairs, *DOJ.gov*, 21 July 2021]

*A federal grand jury has charged a self-identified “incel” with attempting to conduct a mass shooting of women and with illegally possessing a machine gun. Tres Genco, 21, of Hillsboro, Ohio, allegedly plotted to commit a hate crime, namely, a plan to shoot students in sororities at a university in Ohio. He was arrested by federal agents today. Genco identified as an “incel” or “involuntary celibate.” The incel movement is an online community of predominantly men who harbor anger towards women. Incels seek to commit violence in support of their belief that women unjustly deny them sexual or romantic attention to which they believe they are entitled. Genco attended Army Basic Training at Ft. Benning, Georgia, from August through December 2019. In January 2020, Genco allegedly wrote a document entitled “Isolated” that he described as “the writings of the deluded and homicidal.” Genco signed the document, “Your hopeful friend and murderer.” Genco is charged with one count of attempting to commit a hate crime which, because it involved an attempt to kill, is punishable by up to life in prison and one count of illegally possessing a machine gun which is punishable by up to 10 years.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Proud Boys leader pleads guilty to burning DC church’s Black Lives Matter banner](#) [Marshall Cohen, *CNN*, 19 July 2021]

*The leader of the far-right Proud Boys pleaded guilty Monday to two misdemeanors stemming from his conduct in Washington, DC, amid violent pro-Donald Trump protests in December. Enrique Tarrío appeared in DC Superior Court to plead guilty to property destruction for burning a Black Lives Matter banner that belonged to a historic Black church in DC. He also pleaded guilty to attempted possession of a high-capacity magazine, a violation of local gun control laws. He will be sentenced next month and could face up to one year in jail, though defendants rarely get the maximum penalty. The charges were filed in local DC court and are separate from the sprawling federal investigation into the January 6 Capitol insurrection—*

during which dozens of Proud Boys stormed the building and have since been charged with conspiracy and other crimes.

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[Virus's impact: More relaxing and thinking, less socializing](#) [Amy DiPierro, *The Associated Press*, 23 July 2021]

*The eruption of COVID-19 last year caused the proportion of people working from home in the U.S. to nearly double, with the shift most pronounced among college graduates and workers in such fields as finance and professional services. The share of employed people working from home shot up from just 22% in 2019 to 42% in 2020, the Labor Department said Thursday. That was among the striking findings of an annual government survey that documents the far-reaching impact the viral pandemic has had on Americans' everyday lives since it struck in March of last year. The [American Time Use Survey](#) details how people spent their time in 2020, from working to relaxing to sleeping. The survey participants, all of whom are ages 15 or over, are interviewed by phone about everything they did in a 24-hour period leading up to the interview. (For 2020, the report covered only May through December, after the virus caused the suspension of data collection earlier in the year.)*

[Why women need male allies in the workplace—and why fighting everyday sexism enriches men too](#) [Meg Warren, *The Conversation*, 21 July 2021]

*Women and groups advocating for gender equality are increasingly urging men to become allies in the fight. [Research has shown](#) that in the absence of male support, women have to shoulder the burden of battling routine workplace sexism such as misogynist humor and microaggressions on their own. This can lead to a sense of isolation, stress and exhaustion. But what difference can one un-sexist man make? My colleagues and I had a hunch that the actions of individual male allies—even through simple acts such as highlighting the strengths of female colleagues or checking in on their well-being—might serve as a counterweight to the negative effects of everyday sexism. But not only that, we decided to study how that might impact men as well. My colleagues and I tested these hunches in a [new study](#) published in the journal *Psychology of Men and Masculinities*.*

[Why Your Leisure Time Is in Danger](#) [Krzysztof Pelc, *The Atlantic*, 17 July 2021]

*Over the past few months, a string of pundits and business columnists has been calling for a four-day workweek, paid parental leave, and tighter limits on mandatory overtime. Many of these thinkers rationalize proposals to give us back our time by promising that they will contribute to overall prosperity. A well-rested workforce, the argument goes, is a more productive one, and that's a "bounty for bosses." Iceland recently concluded a much-publicized five-year experiment in which 2,500 workers from more than 100 different firms reduced their working hours from 40 to 35 or 36 a week. Earlier this year, the Spanish government embarked on a [similar experiment](#), cutting work to 32 hours a week. In 2019, [Microsoft Japan](#) also tried out a shorter workweek. Companies reported improvements in efficiency and overall productivity; in Microsoft's case, productivity rose by 40 percent. These experiments and the well-meaning arguments behind them illustrate a tricky paradox: Leisure is useful—but only insofar as it remains leisure. Once that*

*time is viewed as a means to improve employee morale and higher growth, then leisure loses the very quality that makes it so potent. As Pieper wrote, “Leisure is not there for the sake of work.” Leisure is doing things for their own sake, to pursue what one wants. We should fight the urge to reduce it to a productivity hack.”*

## INTERNATIONAL

[Australia’s Male Olympics Chief Lectured A Female Premier. It Didn’t Go Over Well](#) [Bill Chappell, NPR, 22 July 2021]

*Australian Olympics chief John Coates is being criticized after lecturing Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and ordering her to attend the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics. Palaszczuk had previously said she wouldn’t be attending Friday’s ceremony. “I was reading some questions about you going to the opening ceremony,” Coates told Palaszczuk. “You are going to the opening ceremony,” he then said, crossing his arms as he spoke. He said the premier should attend Tokyo’s kickoff event for her own edification, to help Queensland officials prepare for its hosting duties. “All of you will get along there, and understand the traditional parts of that, what’s involved in an opening ceremony,” Coates said. “None of you are staying behind and hiding in your rooms, all right?” Some of Coates’ critics called his remarks quintessential mansplaining. “John Coates is another one of those men who, even if you’ve never worked with him, you’ve worked with him,” writer Anna Spargo-Ryan said of the [video](#). “His body language and tone is so familiar it makes your stomach turn.”*

[Church in Norway marks name change for transgender person](#) [Jari Tanner, *The Associated Press*, 18 July 2021]

*A Lutheran church in Norway has held a name change ceremony for a 49-year-old transgender person in what officials said marked the first such event in a place of worship in the Nordic country. Elin Stillingen lived the first 40 years of her life as a man and legally changed her name and gender last year. She marked the occasion at Saturday’s ceremony at the medieval Hoff church north of the Norwegian capital, Oslo. Stillingen said it was particularly important for her that the event took place in a church. “I’m a member of the Norwegian church, and I’m also about to come ‘out of the closet’ as a Christian, so this ceremony is important to me,” Stillingen told Norwegian broadcaster TV2 ahead of the ceremony Saturday. The occasion was led by pastor Stein Ovesen who planned the ceremony with the Stensveen Foundation, a Norwegian non-governmental organization supporting people with gender identity and sexual orientation issues.*

[EU politicians urge Olympics to lift “exclusionary” ban on swim cap for natural Black hair](#) [Luke McGee, CNN, 19 July 2021]

*An anti-racist group of members of the European Parliament have accused the global sports community, including the International Olympic Committee (IOC), of having “institutional structures and rules that exclude people of colour and Black women specifically.” In a letter to Thomas Bach and Sebastian Coe, presidents of the IOC and World Athletics, the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup of the European Parliament said that the International Swimming Federation’s (FINA) effective banning of the Soul Cap at international tournaments, including*

*the Olympics, “reflects stigmatisation of Black hair and leads to institutional inequalities, especially targeting Black women.” Soul Cap, a UK-based brand, said that FINA refused to approve the swim caps designed for “thick, curly, and voluminous hair” because they do not “follow the natural form of the head,” the company told the BBC. The politicians’ letter, shared exclusively with CNN, calls for the ban to be lifted because the Olympics are supposed to be based on fair play and equal opportunity. “May the best person win,” it adds.*

[EXPLAINER: Why Japan “rising sun” flag provokes Olympic ire](#) [Hyung-Jin Kim and Mari Yamaguchi, *The Associated Press*, 23 July 2021]

*Japan considers the “rising sun” flag part of its history. But some in the Koreas, China and other Asian countries say the flag is a reminder of Japan’s wartime atrocities, and is comparable to the Nazi swastika. That’s why the flag has created anger at the Olympics, with some of the host nation’s neighbors calling for it to be banned during the Tokyo Games, which start Friday. There’s little prospect that ties between Seoul and Tokyo will improve any time soon. But the flag dispute may ease. Some experts say the COVID-19 restrictions that have banned spectators at most Olympic venues stadiums may prevent the disagreement from growing. Here’s a look at the “rising sun” flag and the long-running unease it has caused in Northeast Asia.*

[Germany’s Olympic soccer team walks off the pitch during friendly match over alleged racial abuse](#) [John Sinnott and Jaide Timm-Garcia, *CNN*, 18 July 2021]

*Germany’s Olympic soccer team walked off the pitch during a friendly match against Honduras after one of the German players was racially abused, according to the German Football Association (DFB). “The game has ended 5 minutes early with the score at 1-1. The Germany players left the pitch after Jordan Torunarigha was racially abused,” tweeted the DFB. Torunarigha, who is Black, plays as a defender for Germany. The Honduran Football Federation did not respond to CNN’s request for comment via email and phone, but the organization said in a tweet that the “alleged racial insult” had been a “misunderstanding” on the pitch. “When of our players is racially abused, playing on is not an option,” Kuntz said in a statement. On Sunday, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said in a statement sent to CNN that the organization has contacted both world football governing body FIFA and the National Olympic Committee of Honduras.*

[Lewis Hamilton racially abused online after British Grand Prix win](#) [BBC News, 19 July 2021]

*Lewis Hamilton has been the target of racist abuse on social media after his victory at Sunday’s British Grand Prix. Hamilton received a 10-second penalty after a collision with title rival Max Verstappen during the first lap of the race, which led to the Dutchman crashing out. Mercedes, F1 and governing body the FIA condemned the abuse “in the strongest possible terms”. “These people have no place in our sport,” read a joint statement. “We urge that those responsible should be held accountable for their actions.” Formula One, the FIA, the drivers and the teams are working to build a more diverse and inclusive sport, and such unacceptable instances of online abuse must be highlighted and eliminated.” Verstappen’s team Red Bull Racing said it was “disgusted and saddened” at the abuse directed towards Hamilton. “While we may be fierce rivals on-track, we are all united against racism,” the team said in a statement. “We condemn racist abuse of any kind towards our team, our competitors and our fans.”*

[Norway mourns 77 dead a decade after extremist attack](#) [David Keyton and Mark Lewis, *The Associated Press*, 22 July 2021]

*Church bells rang out across Norway on Thursday, marking 10 years since the country's worst ever peacetime slaughter as leaders urged their country to fight the extremism that was behind the attack. On July 22, 2011, right-wing extremist Anders Breivik set off a bomb in the capital, Oslo, killing eight people, before heading to tiny Utoya island where he stalked and shot dead 69 mostly teen members of the Labor Party's youth wing. Speaking in front of 77 roses arranged into the shape of a heart, Jens Stoltenberg, Norway's prime minister at the time of the attacks in 2011, told the congregation that "10 years ago we met hatred with love, but the hatred is still there." "The perpetrator was a right-wing extremist. He misused Christian symbols. He grew up in our streets, belonged to the same religion and had the same skin color as the majority in this country. He was one of us," Stoltenberg said. "But he is not one of us, who respects democracy. He is one of those who believe they have the right to kill for their political objectives."*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Olympians Take A Knee Against Racism, Under New Policy Allowing Protests](#) [Bill Chappell, *NPR*, 21 July 2021]

*British women's soccer players took a knee on the first day of competition at the Tokyo Olympics on Wednesday, in a protest against discrimination and racism that was quickly reciprocated by their opponents from Chile. It was the first time Olympians in Japan utilized newly relaxed rules on athletes expressing their views. "Taking the knee was something we spoke about as a group. We feel so strongly and we want to show we're united," said Steph Houghton, one of Britain's co-captains, as quoted by the BBC. "We want to fight all forms of discrimination and as a group of women, we wanted to kneel against it." "We are delighted that the IOC has made room for athletes to use their voices for good at the Olympic Games and are proud of our athletes for making a global stand for greater racial equality," said Rob Waddell, who is the New Zealand Olympic Committee's chef de mission for the Tokyo Games.*

[Olympic opening ceremony director fired for Holocaust joke](#) [Mari Yamaguchi, *The Associated Press*, 22 July 2021]

*The Tokyo Olympic organizing committee fired the director of the opening ceremony on Thursday because of a Holocaust joke he made during a comedy show in 1998. Organizing committee president Seiko Hashimoto said a day ahead of the opening ceremony that director Kentaro Kobayashi has been dismissed. He was accused of using a joke about the Holocaust in his comedy act, including the phrase "Let's play Holocaust." "We found out that Mr. Kobayashi, in his own performance, has used a phrase ridiculing a historical tragedy," Hashimoto said. "We deeply apologize for causing such a development the day before the opening ceremony and for causing troubles and concerns to many involved parties as well as the people in Tokyo and the rest of the country." Soon after a video clip and script of Kobayashi's performance were revealed, criticism flooded social media. "Any person, no matter how creative, does not have the right to mock the victims of the Nazi genocide," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean and global social action director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Los Angeles-based human rights group.*



[Tokyo Olympics: Composer Keigo Oyamada resigns over bullying at school](#) [BBC News, 19 July 2021]

*A composer has quit the team creating the Tokyo Olympics opening ceremony after it emerged he had bullied classmates with disabilities at school. Old magazine articles resurfaced in which Keigo Oyamada, 52, boasted of the bullying and said he had no regrets. After the scandal broke, the performer apologised. But the outrage in Japan has now led to his resignation. In a statement, the Tokyo 2020 organising committee said Mr Oyamada's actions were "absolutely unacceptable". "In light of his sincere apology, we expressed a willingness to allow Mr Oyamada to continue his work on preparations in the short time remaining before the opening ceremony," it said. However, the committee later decided to accept his resignation and apologised for the "offence and confusion caused".*

[Tokyo 2020: The referee making Olympic history](#) [Lebo Diseko, BBC Sport, 20 July 2021]

*Sara Gamal has a track record of achieving big things, and now the Egyptian civil engineer and basketball player-turned-referee is about to make Olympic history. She will be the first hijab-wearing Muslim woman to referee basketball at the Games. Not only that, but the form of basketball she's refereeing is itself making a debut in Tokyo this July. 3x3 basketball is thought to be the world's most-played urban team sport, which has grown out of the game played worldwide in parks and recreation areas, known as Streetball, Blacktop or Playground Ball. Sara will also be the first Arab and African woman to officiate 3x3 basketball at the Olympics. Her family are all bursting with pride, says Sara. But she is aware that with such a great achievement comes the weight of expectation. "It's a big responsibility when you represent not only yourself, but also [both Africa and the Arab world]. It's not easy, but I want to be a good representative for them, so I'm putting my best into it".*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Biden Is Reviving An Effort To Change How The Census Asks About Race And Ethnicity](#) [Hansi Lo Wang, NPR, 19 July 2021]

*President Biden's White House is reviving a previously stalled review of proposed policy changes that could allow the Census Bureau to ask about people's race and ethnicity in a radical new way in time for the 2030 head count, NPR has learned. First proposed in 2016, the recommendations lost steam during former President Donald Trump's administration despite years of research by the bureau that suggested a new question format would improve the accuracy of 2020 census data about Latinos and people with roots in the Middle East or North Africa. The proposals also appear to have received the backing of other federal government experts on data about race and ethnicity, based on a redacted document that NPR obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request. The document lists headings for redacted descriptions of the group's "recommended improvements," including "Improve data quality: Allow flexibility in question format for self-reported race and ethnicity."*

[Military to remove "stepchild" designation from new ID cards after complaints](#) [Chad Garland, Stars and Stripes, 16 July 2021]

*The new military dependent ID cards issued to military spouses' children from previous partners will be changed to remove the designation of "stepchild," the Pentagon said Friday after advocates complained that the label was insensitive. The issue gained attention this week after a Twitter user named @justjsides posted a photo of a new plastic "next generation" ID card displaying "stepchild" in bold to describe the dependent's relationship to their military sponsor. "The Defense Manpower Data Center has reviewed the concerns raised and DMDC will modify the ID Card System, so that the term 'Step Child' is replaced with the word 'Child,'" said Maj. Charlie Dietz, a Defense Department spokesman. Child and stepchild appeared in a less conspicuous location on the paper-based ID cards that are being phased out, abbreviated as CH and SC. Dietz said three other categories were also used: foster child (FC), ward (WARD) and pre-adoptive child (PACH). Those are also now spelled out on the replacement cards. "The relationship field's primary purpose is for benefits eligibility," Dietz said. "For example: Foster children are not eligible for TRICARE. Step children are not eligible for benefits if the parents divorce."*

[No Black voices during Missouri hearing on racism teachings](#) [Summer Ballentine, *The Associated Press*, 20 July 2021]

*A Missouri legislative committee on Monday held a hearing on how educators teach K-12 students about race and racism without hearing from any Black Missourians. No Black parents, teachers or scholars testified to the Joint Committee on Education during the invite-only hearing on critical race theory. Aside from an official from Missouri's education department, the only people who testified Monday were critics of critical race theory, which is a way of thinking about America's history through the lens of racism. Missouri NAACP President Rod Chapel called it "ridiculous" to have a conversation about inequity while "excluding the very people who are saying we've been treated inequitably." Heather Fleming, a former Missouri teacher who now offers diversity and inclusion training, said she wanted to testify Monday but was not allowed. She said without any African Americans involved in the discussion, "you're talking about us, without us." "What not having any African Americans in the room really showed was that this wasn't really about understanding," Fleming said.*

[The pandemic drove women out of the workforce. Will they come back?](#) [Megan Cassella, *Politico*, 22 July 2021]

*"The longer I'm out of it, the more I'm just kind of like, well, should I go back?" [Sandee] Barrick said. "The longer time goes by, the more ambivalent I get." Barrick is far from alone. Nearly 1.8 million women have dropped out of the labor force amid the pandemic and are now grappling with whether and how to return to work in a vastly different landscape—one where some jobs have disappeared, others are vulnerable to automation, and nearly all involve some level of health risk. Returning to work after so many months at home also means, for many mothers, finding a new form of child care and giving up the additional time spent with families and kids that the pandemic provided. Taking into account how the labor force was growing pre-pandemic, 2.3 million fewer women are working now than would have been without the disruption. Economists are warning that failing to get women back to work would have detrimental effects on the broader economy: Every 10 percent increase in women working is*

associated with a 5 percent increase in wages for all workers as overall labor force productivity increases, one [University of Akron](#) economist found.

## MISCONDUCT

[DEA agent charged with breaching police lines during Capitol riot](#) [Josh Gerstein, *Politico*, 20 July 2021]

*A special agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration has become the first federal law enforcement charged in connection with the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol. Mark Ibrahim of Orange County, Calif., who joined the pro-Trump crowd outside the Capitol while armed with his DEA-issued pistol, faces felony charges of entering a restricted area with a weapon, possession of a firearm on Capitol grounds and lying to investigators. Ibrahim allegedly told investigators from the Justice Department's Office of Inspector General that he did not display his DEA badge or firearm during the protest, but an [affidavit](#) supporting the charges against him says he posed for several photos in which he appeared to be deliberately showing his badge as well as the gun holstered on his hip. Two were included in the court filing. After media reports emerged in March that Ibrahim had been at the Capitol, his attorney Darren Richie acknowledged that the DEA had suspended Ibrahim over his presence at the event.*

[GOMORs galore: Punishments to be issued for unvaccinated troops caught unmasked at Fort Knox](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 19 July 2021]

*Leaders at Fort Knox, Kentucky, will punish dozens of soldiers unvaccinated against COVID-19 who were caught entering on-post facilities without wearing a face mask last week, Army officials confirmed. "The Fort Knox senior commander [Maj. Gen. John Evans] and other commanding generals across Fort Knox are preparing to issue approximately 40 General Officer Memoranda of Reprimand to individuals found to have violated General Order Number 1, dated 17 May 2021," said Fort Knox spokesperson Kyle Hodges in a statement emailed to Army Times. GOMORs are a dreaded form of administrative punishment considered to be a "career-killer" when included in a soldier's permanent personnel file, though the Army has faced criticism in the past for utilizing them and other administrative punishments in lieu of court-martial proceedings for more serious infractions of discipline. The reprimands are among the first publicly-acknowledged punishments for U.S. troops who have declined the COVID-19 vaccine but failed to wear masks.*

## RACISM

[Alabama city leader won't quit after using racial slur](#) [*The Associated Press*, 21 July 2021]

*A White city leader captured on video using a racial slur toward Black people during a council meeting said he won't apologize, and might run for mayor. Others are calling for his resignation. Tarrant City Council member Tommy Bryant told news outlets his use of the n-word on Monday night reflected something the city's Black mayor, Wayman Newton, had said during an earlier private meeting. Standing up from his council seat during a public session and referring to a Black female council member, Veronica Freeman, Bryant asked: "Do we have a house (n-word) in here?" Some in the audience gasped at his use of the phrase, which was broadcast on*

*Facebook Live, and Freeman left crying, but Bryant was unapologetic. The mayor declined comment and said the video speaks for itself. Asked whether he is a racist, Bryant demurred. “It’s according to what your definition of the word racist is. What a lot of the public’s definition is, I might be a racist. But according to what the true definition of a racist is, absolutely not,” he told the station.*

[Delaware state lawmaker apologizes for using racist slur against Asian women](#) [Sakshi Venkatraman, *NBC News*, 21 July 2021]

*A state lawmaker in Delaware apologized on Tuesday after he sent an email using a racist, sexist slur for Asian women in an unrelated email about sex work. Democratic State Rep. Gerald Brady, who represents Wilmington, inadvertently sent the email on June 27 to an advocate working on decriminalizing prostitution. “Is the dude basically saying, if we provide free (sex acts) for Uncle Pervie there will be few rapes and few (slur for Asian women) will be shipped in CONEX containers to the Port of Wilmington??” Brady replied from his official government email address in messages obtained by The News Journal of Wilmington. Brady intended to forward the message to a private citizen he knows, but clicked “reply” instead of “forward” and sent a response to the original sender, a spokesperson for the Delaware House Democratic Caucus told The News Journal. Despite neither the study nor the sender directly mentioning Asian women, Brady introduced them into the conversation by using a slur. In a [statement](#) posted to his Facebook account, Brady apologized, saying “I have to do better.”*

[Descriptions of Asian Olympians’ bodies are part of trend of dehumanizing Asians in U.S.](#) [Victoria Namkung, *NBC News*, 20 July 2021]

*In 2010, the figure skating coach Frank Carroll, who has coached Asian American Olympians such as Michelle Kwan and Mirai Nagasu, said that skaters of Asian descent had found success on the ice because their bodies are “often small and willowy.” Carroll’s remarks were part of decades of Olympics commentary that zeroes in on Asian bodies, often focusing on athletes’ size, beauty and fragility. Experts say this type of generalization is racist and dehumanizing and part of a longer history of exotifying and sexualizing Asian women in the U.S. Asian Americans first made an impact in Olympic sports when Victoria Manalo Draves, who was called the Olympics’ “prettiest champion” by Life magazine, won a gold medal in platform and springboard diving at the 1948 games, becoming the first Asian American to earn gold. “Had there been a beauty contest at last year’s Olympic Games, the raven-haired girl shown here would have won it just as she won both of the women’s diving championships,” Life said. Two days after Draves’ wins, Sammy Lee became the first Asian American man to earn an Olympic gold medal, winning in platform diving; he repeated in 1952. The San Francisco Examiner referred to the legendary athlete and U.S. Army medic as “Little Sammy,” calling him “pint sized” and “tiny.” Decades later, descriptions of Asian American athletes remained much the same.*

## RELIGION

[How “In God We Trust” bills are helping advance a Christian nationalist agenda](#) [Kristina M. Lee, *The Conversation*, 16 July 2021] [COMMENTARY]

*City vehicles in Chesapeake, Virginia, will soon be getting religion. At a meeting on July 13, 2021, city councilors unanimously voted in favor of a proposal that would see the official motto of the U.S., “In God We Trust,” emblazoned on every city-owned car and truck, at an estimated cost to taxpayers of US\$87,000. Meanwhile, the state of Mississippi is preparing to defend in court its insistence that all citizens, unless they pay a fee for an alternative, must display the same four-word phrase on their license plates. Gov. Tate Reeves vowed last month to take the issue “all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court should we have to.” “In God We Trust” became the national motto 65 years ago this month. But over the past few years a string of bills and city ordinances has sought to expand its usage and presence. Such efforts include legislation requiring or encouraging the motto be displayed in government buildings and schools, on license plates and on police vehicles. As a scholar of religious and political rhetoric, I have observed how Christian nationalists are using what I call “theistnormative” legislation—government-endorsed policies, rituals, laws and symbols that use vague religious references, such as “God”—to encourage people to view the United States as a theistic collective—that is to say, as a nation of believers in God.*

[Mandira Bedi: What Hindu scriptures say about women at cremations](#) [Greeta Pandey, *BBC News*, 21 July 2021]

*Indian actress and TV presenter Mandira Bedi recently hit the headlines for performing her husband’s last rites. Cremations are traditionally done by men, and women are often discouraged from even attending. But where does this belief come from and what do Hindu scriptures say about it? With a clay pot in one hand and holding up the bier—a bamboo frame—carrying the body of Raj Kaushal with another, Bedi wept as she did the rituals and lit his funeral pyre. Kaushal, a 49-year-old filmmaker, died suddenly on 30 June from cardiac arrest in the western city of Mumbai. The actress received messages of heartfelt condolences and won praise for what many described as standing up to patriarchy even while grieving. But Bedi breaking with tradition upset some conservative Indians and right wing-trolls who ridiculed her on social media, insisting that the pyre should have been lit by her 10-year-old son. Some pointed out that it was against tradition for a woman to even visit a crematorium. Manoj Kumar Pandey, a priest who specialises in funeral rites, says the current belief that a cremation should be done by the eldest son is rooted in the Garun Puran—a Hindu religious text that deals with funeral rites, and is believed to be at least 1,000 years old. The book though is silent on the role of women and does not forbid them from funeral rituals.*

[Muslims mark Eid al-Adha holiday in pandemic’s shadow](#) [Mariam Fam and Amr Nabil, *The Associated Press*, 20 July 2021]

*Muslims around the world were observing Tuesday yet another major Islamic holiday in the shadow of the pandemic and amid growing concerns about the highly infectious delta variant of the coronavirus. Eid al-Adha, or the “Feast of Sacrifice,” is typically marked by communal prayers, large social gatherings, slaughtering of livestock and distributing meat to the needy. This year, the holiday comes as many countries battle the delta variant first identified in India, prompting some to impose new restrictions or appeal for people to avoid congregating and follow safety protocols. This year’s hajj has been limited to 60,000 vaccinated Saudi citizens or residents of Saudi Arabia. On Tuesday, pilgrims wearing masks and maintaining social*

*distancing performed the symbolic stoning of the devil in the valley area of Mina—using sterilized pebbles they received ahead of time.*

[U.S. Catholic official resigns over “improper behavior” claim](#) [David Crary, *The Associated Press*, 20 July 2021]

*Citing allegations of “possible improper behavior,” the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on Tuesday announced the resignation of its top administrative official, Monsignor Jeffrey Burrill, ahead of a media report that probed his private romantic life. Shortly after the announcement, the Roman Catholic news outlet The Pillar published its article based on data it said was “correlated to Burrill’s mobile device” and indicated he had visited gay bars and private residences using a dating app popular with gay people. The Pillar alleged “serial sexual misconduct” by Burrill — homosexual activity is considered sinful under Catholic doctrine, and priests are expected to remain celibate. The Rev. James Martin, a Jesuit priest and prominent advocate for greater LGBTQ inclusion in the Catholic Church, criticized The Pillar’s report. “Priests should obviously keep their promises of celibacy. But Catholic journalists should not use immoral means to spy on priests,” Martin said. “Because what comes next? Spying on Catholic school teachers? Spying on parishioners? And where does it end—when we have a church where no one has ever sinned? The church will be empty.”*

[U.S. churches reckon with traumatic legacy of Native schools](#) [Peter Smith, *The Associated Press*, 22 July 2021]

*The discoveries of hundreds of unmarked graves at former residential schools for Indigenous children in Canada have prompted renewed calls for a reckoning over the traumatic legacy of similar schools in the United States—and in particular by the churches that operated many of them. U.S. Catholic and Protestant denominations operated more than 150 boarding schools between the 19th and 20th centuries. Native American and Alaskan Native children were regularly severed from their tribal families, customs, language and religion and brought to the schools in a push to assimilate and Christianize them. Some U.S. churches have been reckoning with this activity for years through ceremonies, apologies and archival investigations, while others are just getting started. Some advocates say churches have more work to do in opening their archives, educating the public about what was done in the name of their faith and helping former students and their relatives tell their stories of family trauma. This painful history has drawn relatively little attention in the United States compared with Canada, where the recent discoveries of graves underscored what a 2015 government commission called a “cultural genocide.”*

## **SEXISM**

[Megan Rapinoe among 28 U.S. soccer players to appeal equal pay ruling](#) [Alex Butler, *United Press International*, 23 July 2021]

*Megan Rapinoe and 27 other current and former United States Women’s National Team players filed an appeal Friday in their ongoing gender-based pay discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Soccer Federation, a player spokeswoman said. “We believe in our case and know our value,” Rapinoe said in a news release. “It’s time the [federation] does, too.” The appeal is in response*

*to federal Judge R. Gary Klausner’s dismissal of the players’ claims of unequal pay, compared to United States Men’s National Team players. “If a woman has to work more than a man and be much more successful than him to earn about the same pay, that is decidedly not equal pay and it violates the law,” spokeswoman Molly Levinson said. “And yet, that is exactly what the women players on the U.S. National team do—they play more games and achieve better results in order to be paid about the same amount as the men’s national team players per game.”*

[Norwegian women’s beach handball team fined for not playing in bikinis](#) [Caroline Radnofsky, NBC News, 20 July 2021]

*The Norwegian women’s beach handball team has been fined for refusing to play in bikini bottoms during a game in the sport’s Euro 2021 tournament. The team wore thigh-length elastic shorts during their bronze medal match against Spain in Bulgaria on Sunday to protest against the regulation bikini-bottom design that the sport’s Norwegian federation president called “embarrassing.” The team was fined 1,500 euros total (\$1,700) for “improper clothing,” according to a statement from the European Handball Association’s Disciplinary Commission. While male players are allowed to play in tank tops and shorts no longer than 4 inches above the knee, women are required to wear midriff-baring tops and bikini bottoms “with a close fit and cut on an upward angle toward the top of the leg” and a maximum side width of 4 inches, according to International Handball Federation regulations.*

[Senate Democrats propose requiring women to register for military draft](#) [Burgess Everett and Connor O’Brien, Politico, 19 July 2021]

*Senate Democrats are proposing a sweeping rewrite of the military draft laws aimed at requiring women to register for the Selective Service System, according to a draft authored by Senate Armed Services Chair Jack Reed and obtained by Politico. The changes to Selective Service could be attached to the National Defense Authorization Act, a defense policy bill that’s one of the few pieces of legislation considered a “must-pass” by Congress. The move would reignite a contentious debate over whether women should be required to register for the draft, a move the House and Senate have each considered in recent years, though the change has never become law. The language proposed by Reed (D-R.I.) would expand registration for the service to “All Americans,” striking explicit references to males. It’s expected to be considered during committee markup this week; floor action on the bill would wait until later this year. Currently, law states that U.S. men must register for the service when they turn 18 for potential military conscription, though no one has been drafted into the military in more than four decades.*

[SEE ALSO] [Senate panel votes to make women register for draft](#)

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Army War College commandant reinstated, cleared of “inappropriate touching”](#) [Davis Winkie, Army Times, 21 July 2021]

*The Army announced Wednesday that it has reinstated Maj. Gen. Stephen Maranian as commandant of the Army War College after an investigation could not establish “probable cause” that he had inappropriately touched an Army civilian employee. Maranian was suspended on February 9 from his duties at the helm of the Army’s senior, strategic-level staff college. Task*

*& Purpose later revealed that the suspension was related to an abusive sexual contact investigation. Notably, the decision not to prosecute the two-star “was not presented to any commander for a disposition decision,” according to the release. Instead, “an independent special victim prosecutor” and “a former civilian prosecutor with 30 years’ experience who works as a highly qualified expert for the U.S. Army” made the decision not to charge Maranian after they determined the evidence was “not sufficient to establish probable cause that the offense had occurred,” the release stated. The civilian-led process is in line with new efforts to remove sexual assault charging decisions from the chain of command.*

[“Bold action” needed by DOD to prevent consequences of sexual assault and harassment in the military](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 19 July 2021]

*The Defense Department must take bold steps to put prevention and reporting at the forefront of its fight against sexual assault and harassment or the behaviors will remain a persistent problem for the military, according to a [report](#) released Monday by the Rand Corp. The 11 recommendations of the report focus mostly on Defense Department policies and procedures that could do more to better track instances of assault and harassment such as allegations levied against a service member throughout his or her career and improving the quality of training troops receive, as well as the funding and personnel allocated to bases. It also recommended improving accountability of commanders who manage the allegations, while empowering them to use appropriate punishment for low-level offenses that could escalate. The report joined a growing list of findings and investigations—conducted internally and outside the military—that have found the military must do more when it comes to prevention and accountability of sexual assault and harassment.*

[California sues Activision Blizzard over alleged sexual harassment and “frat boy” culture](#) [Olivia Solon, *NBC News*, 22 July 2021]

*The video game company Activision Blizzard, which makes the popular *World of Warcraft* and *Call of Duty* video game franchises, has a “pervasive ‘frat boy’ culture” where female employees are sexually harassed and paid and promoted less than male counterparts, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday by the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing. The state agency conducted a two-year investigation of the Santa Monica-based business, which has about 9,500 employees, and found that the company consistently discriminated against women, who make up about 20 percent of its workforce, [the agency said](#). The lawsuit also describes a “frat boy” culture in which male employees engage in “cube crawls” in the office, where they drink “copious amounts of alcohol” and then crawl their way through team members’ cubicles and “often engage in inappropriate behavior toward female employees,” including groping them. The [lawsuit](#) details some personal experiences of women at the company, including one employee who assumed some management responsibilities and asked a male supervisor about being fairly paid for the additional work. The manager said they couldn’t risk promoting her “as she might get pregnant and like being a mom too much,” the lawsuit alleges.*

[Former 1st Cavalry Division boss cleared by internal investigation](#) [Army Times, 21 July 2021]

*1st-cavalry-division-boss-cleared-by-internal-investigation/*

*The Army announced Wednesday that the two-star general who was suspended from his duties as*



*commander of 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, has been cleared by a yet to be released administrative investigation and is now moving to a new assignment. Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Broadwater was suspended by then-Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy in December, following the release of the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee's report. The committee detailed an environment at Fort Hood that allowed sexual assault and harassment to proliferate, as well as an overburdened CID detachment filled with rookie special agents. The committee was dispatched to Fort Hood in August 2020 following a series of macabre deaths there, including the murder of 3rd Cavalry Regiment trooper Spc. Vanessa Guillen inside an armory, and the subsequent sexual harassment allegations that her family brought forth after her death. But Broadwater has now been cleared and is "not pending any adverse action as a result of either the Fort Hood Independent Review or the Army Regulation 15-6 into the climate and culture of the 1st Cavalry Division," reads a statement issued by Army Headquarters at the Pentagon.*

[Lawsuit against Liberty alleges mishandling of sex assaults](#) [Sarah Rankin, *The Associated Press*, 20 July 2021]

*Twelve women filed a lawsuit Tuesday against Liberty University, accusing the Christian institution of a pattern of mishandling cases of sexual assault and harassment, and fostering an unsafe campus environment. The federal lawsuit filed in New York made various claims under Title IX, the federal law that protects against sex discrimination in education. The lawsuit alleged that Liberty's strict honor code makes it "difficult or impossible" for students to report sexual violence. It said the university had a "tacit policy" of weighting investigations in favor of accused male students, and it said the university retaliated against women who did make such reports. "Liberty University has intentionally created a campus environment where sexual assaults and rapes are foreseeably more likely to occur than they would in the absence of Liberty's policies," the lawsuit said. The Lynchburg, Virginia, university said in a statement that the allegations were "deeply troubling."*

[Marine Corps General Won't Suspend Thae Ohu's Discharge After Plea](#) [Chad Garland, *Military.com*, 16 July 2021]

*A Marine general's decision not to suspend Cpl. Thae Ohu's bad conduct discharge could jeopardize her mental health care, despite a diagnosis that led a judge to recommend the suspension earlier this year. Ohu was the subject of a complicated and high-profile assault case in which the man she attempted to stab in April 2020, her then-boyfriend, had called on the Corps not to punish her, but to help her get treatment for issues stemming from a rape she reported years earlier in Japan. Advocates highlighted it as emblematic of the military's mishandling of sexual assault and mental health issues. "This whole situation has been disparaging towards my service, my assault, my care and now my future," Ohu said in a statement issued on the website justiceforThaeOhu.com Thursday. "I still cannot fathom the contemptuous behavior of the Corps towards me from the moment I reported, along the way when I sought care and now a final infliction to hinder my care post service." Maj. Gen. Julian D. Alford, commanding general of Marine Corps Training Command, suspended any brig time beyond Ohu's 328 days of "time served" before trial, the service said in a statement. But he imposed the remainder of the sentence, including reduction to private and the discharge, "as adjudged without suspension."*

[Racial inequality on the table in the military's discussion of sexual misconduct and justice](#)

[Meghann Myers and Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 21 July 2021]

*The Pentagon and Congress are finally on the same page, after nearly a decade of back and forth: professional prosecutors should make the decisions when it comes to filing charges in sexual assault cases and sending them to trial. But many members of Congress want to go further, taking all major crimes out of the chain of command, an effort some say will tackle the services' suspected bias against people of color when it comes to military justice. DOD is moving ahead with a number of recommendations to come out of an independent review commission on sexual assault, including asking Congress for permission to also remove sexual harassment, domestic violence, child abuse and other interpersonal crimes—primarily because so many assault cases also include these dimensions, and splitting them up would unnecessarily complicate investigations. Senior military leaders have expressed concern that taking all major crimes out of the chain of command—including simple assaults, homicides and more—would degrade commanders' ability to enforce good order and discipline in their units.*

[Tips And Service With A Smile Drive Sexual Harassment In Restaurants, Study Finds](#) [Becky Sullivan, *NPR*, 22 July 2021]

*There is broad agreement that the restaurant industry is rife with sexual harassment. More than 70% of female restaurant employees have been sexually harassed, one [recent survey](#) found, and half experience sexual harassment on a weekly basis, according to another. Harassment complaints come to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from restaurant industry workers more often than from any other sector. Now, a new pair of scientific studies looks to confirm why. Dependence on tipped wages, along with job requirements to appear friendly and pleasant—in other words, “service with a smile”—jointly create a culture of sexual harassment, according to a team of researchers at the University of Notre Dame, Penn State University and the Emlyon Business School in France, who say [their study](#) is the first to empirically link tipping to sexual harassment.*

## SUICIDE

[Fort Leonard Wood reports highest number of basic trainee suicide attempts](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 22 July 2021]

*A new entry in the Pentagon's most recent suicide event report data shows the instances of suicides, suicide attempts and suicidal ideations among new troops during their first six months of service, broken down by where they went to initial entry training. Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, the Army's home of military police, chemical engineer basic training, showed by far the most risk in 2019: 26 suicide attempts and 212 reports of suicidal ideations, with roughly 15,000 basic trainees every year. The data does not delineate whether the events occurred during basic training itself, or after those soldiers got to their first units. By contrast, the Army's biggest training post is Fort Jackson, South Carolina, which reported two attempts and 253 reports of suicidal ideations in 2019, out of roughly 48,000 total trainees every year. The inclusion of those statistics is mandated by the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, so the 2019 DODSER marks its first appearance.*

## VETERANS

[Changes to VA education benefits go into effect Aug. 1](#) [Nikki Wentling, *Stars and Stripes*, 20 July 2021]

*The Department of Veterans Affairs faces an Aug. 1 deadline to implement changes to its GI Bill program approved by Congress earlier this year. Congress in January approved the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, named for former Republican leaders of the House and Senate veterans' affairs committees. The new law is more than 340 pages long and aims to help various segments of the veteran population, including women, Native Americans and students, as well as veterans experiencing homelessness. The VA was early to implement an expansion of the Fry Scholarship, which goes to children and spouses of service members who died in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. The scholarship was expanded to include children and spouses of service members who died while not on active duty. It can also now go to children and spouses of members of the Selected Reserve who died from service-connected disabilities.*

[This business accelerator is designed to help women veterans succeed](#) [Andie Lopez, *Military Times*, 20 July 2021]

*The Department of Veterans Affairs has partnered with PenFed Foundation—the charitable arm of PenFed Credit Union—to announce its Military “Women Veteran Bootcamp Accelerator” On July 13, VA and the [PenFed Foundation](#) brought 80 women veteran entrepreneurs from 29 different states to participate in a six-month accelerator program to help guide and prepare them in federal and commercial marketplaces, according to a statement from the VA. Participants are “VA center for Verification and evaluation verified, with three to five years in business and have past performance as a prime or subcontractor,” the statement said. The six-month program was created to support women veteran entrepreneurs and bring empowerment to those seeking to grow their business. The program provides training and resources to start and grow businesses. Learn more about VA’s mission to empower and educate Women Veteran Entrepreneurs for success and economic opportunities at [Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization](#).*

[Veterans Can Request a Correction to Military Records Through a Review Board](#) [Terri Moon Cronk, *DOD News*, 19 July 2021]

*“Veterans who believe they have suffered an inequity or injustice warranting a correction to their service record or who believe their discharge was unjust, erroneous or warrants an upgrade are encouraged to apply,” said Christa Specht, director of the Office of Legal Policy. Also, on Feb. 19, 2021, the department directed the secretaries of the military departments to identify and examine the records of any service member who was involuntarily separated, discharged, or denied reenlistment or continuation of service in accordance with the prior administration’s policies relating to gender identity. The military departments issued supplemental guidance to their respective Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records for review of service members’ records so that, where appropriate, individuals who meet current accession standards and are otherwise eligible are offered an opportunity to rejoin the military. One incentive for veterans to request an upgrade to their discharge is so they can qualify for Department of Veterans Affairs*

*benefits, such as the GI Bill and VA mortgages, said Margarete Ashmore, deputy director of the DOD's legal policy office.*