

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 4 FEBRUARY 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

[Army judge again rejects prospect of court-martial conviction in sex assault case without a unanimous verdict](#) [Nancy Montgomery, *Stars and Stripes*, 2 February 2022]

An Army judge has ruled in a second case that a unanimous guilty verdict is required to convict a soldier facing a court-martial for alleged sexual assault, putting the trial on hold while the determination is reviewed. Judge Col. Charles Pritchard's latest ruling, on Jan. 13, caused the Army Court of Criminal Appeals this week to order postponement of the court-martial of Master Sgt. Keith Ferreira. His case is to be tried in Vicenza, Italy. The appellate court previously ordered a stay in the proceedings against Lt. Col. Andrew Dial, who is slated to be tried in Kaiserslautern, Germany, on three counts of sexual assault. Pritchard, a judge in the Army's 5th Judicial Circuit in Europe, appears to be the sole military trial judge to have set the higher threshold for conviction. For decades, military law has allowed for majority verdicts.

[Lunar New Year 2022: What does the holiday and the Year of the Tiger represent?](#) [Jordan Mendoza, *USA TODAY*, 31 January 2022]

The Lunar New Year is an international holiday celebrated in many Asia countries but not all. People may know the holiday as China's Chinese New Year, Vietnam's Tết Nguyên Đán or South Korea's Seollal. The United States is also home to some celebrations. Overall, over about 1.5 billion people across the world will take part in the festivities. "In this day, for many Asian countries, Lunar New Year is perhaps the equivalent of Thanksgiving or Christmas," Eddy Keming Chen, philosophy professor and faculty member of the Chinese Studies Program at University of California, San Diego, told USA TODAY. Each Lunar year is represented by a cycle of 12 zodiac animals. This year is the Year of the Tiger, the first since 2010. "The tiger is commonly associate with something like bravery, courage and strength," Chen said.

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

[U.S. service members balk at some duty posts over racism fears, survey finds](#) [J.P. Lawrence, *Stars and Stripes*, 2 February 2022]

Military personnel who are minorities or have family members of color can face an agonizing decision when they receive assignments to places where they think they will face racial discrimination, a [study commissioned by a military family advocacy group found](#). The results of the survey, which polled 2,731 respondents who identified as non-White, were published Wednesday. It was designed by Blue Star Families and Syracuse University's Institute for Veterans and Military Families. The sample included 303 active-duty troops as well as veterans and military family members who identified as Black, Asian, Latino or Hispanic. Troops and their families specifically expressed concerns about discrimination and racial profiling by police in much of the U.S., including the Midwest, South and West. More than half of surveyed active-duty personnel or their family members living in these regions said they feared for their safety at least once since the start of 2020 because of their race or ethnicity, the poll said. In the Northeast, 43% of respondents said the same.

SPECIAL: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

[Black Army Veteran’s historical stand paves way for changes](#) [Tass Mimikos, *Vantage Point*, 1 February 2022]

Sarah Keys was a young, Black soldier serving at Fort Dix, New Jersey. She traveled on her way home to Washington, North Carolina, Aug. 1, 1952. “I boarded this bus to take my first journey home after entry in the military,” she said. She bought a direct ticket to make sure she had no changes. At the time, buses in the South were segregated. However, a 1946 law declared buses originating in the North did not have to follow Southern laws. But several hours later, after pulling into Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, the bus changed drivers. The bus driver then ordered everyone off the bus. Keys went to the bus station to get a ticket. “When I got to the ticket window, the lady behind the curtain in the ticket window pulled down the curtain and dimmed the lights,” she said. Keys turned around to find a janitor sarcastically asking if she knew where she was—a perceived reference to being in the South. For the next 13 hours, law enforcement held Keys, placing her in a jail cell.

[Boxer, grunt, flyboy: the wild life of the first Black American combat pilot](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 3 February 2022]

If there were ever a candidate for a real-life ‘most interesting man in the world,’ it would be Eugene Jacques Bullard. The son of a former slave, Bullard ran away from home in Georgia and moved to Europe at an age before most learn how to drive. He went on to fight in two world wars, brushed elbows with some of the most famous artists of the early twentieth century; become a French national hero; and, on a bet, become one of the world’s first Black combat pilots. Born in Columbus, Georgia, on October 9, 1895, Bullard came face-to-face with that racism early on when his father was nearly killed by a lynch mob, according to the Public Broadcasting Service. The Bullard home itself was a troubled one, according to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, so in 1906, the 11-year-old Eugene ran away from home, joined a group of gypsies and worked as a stable boy before eventually stowing away aboard a freighter bound for Scotland in 1912.

[“Celebrate Soulfully” Returning to Walt Disney World, Debuting at Disneyland Resort for Black History Month](#) [Ashley Carter, *Spectrum News*, 1 February 2022]

For Black History Month, Disney World has brought back its “Celebrate Soulfully” activities. The celebration, which first debuted last year, features live music, art and food that “honor Black heritage and culture.” At Disney Springs, there will be live performances of Motown favorites, jazz, R&B and pop hits. Select restaurants are also offering “Cooking with Soul” menu items. There will also be treats inspired by Disney-Pixar’s “Soul” and Disney’s “The Princess and the Frog” available at Amorette’s Patisserie and The Ganachery. Disney Springs will also have murals and art displays, including some inspired by the upcoming Disney+ series “The Proud Family: Louder and Prouder.” “The Soul of Jazz: An American Adventure” exhibit has returned to the American Adventure at Epcot after traveling to museums across the country.

[DOD, Nation Celebrate Black History Month](#) [Dave Vergun, *DOD News*, 31 January 2022]

Black people have fought in every United States war, from the Revolutionary War through the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Ninety African Americans have been awarded the Medal of Honor. Yet, throughout most of American history, Black service members were placed in segregated units. Desegregation didn't occur until Jan. 26, 1948, when President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981 directing the armed services to integrate. The origin of Black History Month is associated with the noted African-American historian Carter G. Woodson. In 1926, he initiated the celebration of Negro History Week during the second week in February. The celebration was expanded to the entire month of February in 1976 by President Gerald Ford; since that time, every president has designated February as Black History Month.

[Face of Defense: Serving Excellence](#) [DOD News, 1 February 2022]

Benjamin Spencer is best known for being a “first”: He is the first Black dean of the nation’s first law school. But there are at least a couple of other numbers that stand out when considering his life and achievements so far. There’s nine, the number of children he and his wife, Marlette, share. And then there’s 40, his age when, as a tenured professor at a top-tier law school, he joined the Army Reserve, later going through rigors of basic training with men and women close to half his age. As the son, grandson and great-grandson of soldiers, Spencer grew up with an appreciation for service. He also came from a tradition of trailblazing: Spencer’s grandfather was the first African American professor at the University of Notre Dame. His father was the first African American chief judge in the Eastern District of Virginia, and the first African American federal judge in Virginia before that. The dream of serving his country is still a reality in the life of now-Capt. Benjamin Spencer, as he balances his work as a Judge Advocate General’s Corps officer in the Government Appellate Division with his day job at William & Mary Law School and family duties.

[Family trees fill in the gaps for Black people seeking their ancestral roots](#) [Curtis Bunn, NBC News, 31 January 2022]

Genealogy websites like Ancestry, 23andme and African Ancestry have proliferated, giving the average person interested in obtaining at least some basic family information access to records. The increase in Black people searching for relatives is illustrated in the rapid growth of the Facebook page Our Black Ancestry, which has grown to nearly 36,000 members in seven years. The interest in genealogy has become so prevalent that last year Ancestry.com released, free of charge, more than 3.5 million records of previously enslaved Black people, documents obtained from Freedman’s Bureau, a federal agency created in 1865 toward the end of the Civil War. Genealogists conduct most family searches, but Black people can learn about their family history in a much more specific way by working with geneticists. The difference between the two: Genealogists probe family history through records, articles and other files like deeds, birth certificates and marriage licenses. Geneticists trace family history through DNA, providing a much more precise connection that can lead all the way back to Africa.

[Foot Locker Unveils 2022 Sole List Honoring Black History Month](#) [Sydney E. Kohan, Forbes, 31 January 2022]

The 2022 Sole list was announced by Foot Locker celebrating Black photographers whose work champions authentic Black stories through art. As Black History Month begins, the company

wanted to honor artists and designers who are amplifying Black experiences and representing Black communities in a raw and authentic manner. Last year, the company introduced the Sole List to celebrate the next generation of Black innovators and creators who are shaping the future of sneaker culture. The photographers recognized this year include Andy Jackson, Joshua Renfroe and Flo Ngala. Each photographer brings a unique contribution to the visual arts. Foot Locker will showcase the campaign content in an upcoming gallery exhibition (open to the public) in February to coincide with Black History Month, allowing these thought-provoking artists the opportunity to create new Black history.

[In the crucible of historic change, I grew up Black and proud](#) [Nichelle Smith, USA TODAY, 1 February 2022] [COMMENTARY]

My parents were young when Black was beautiful. They were just starting out in the late 1960s. They bought a small bungalow in a nice neighborhood once fair housing laws allowed Black people to move out of the segregated center of Gary, Indiana. They were among the first Black people to get jobs locally at Indiana Bell, mom as an operator, dad as a lineman. They were citizens of a Gary that bustled with the pride of Black-owned businesses, the excitement of new Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher's Black city government and the idea that their generation could achieve the dreams of success that led their own parents to leave the Jim Crow South so many decades before. I am their firstborn and their witness. But in 1972, I had no idea that history was being made all around me. I turned 4 the same weekend that the National Black Political Convention brought 10,000 activists, politicians and delegates to my city to craft an agenda that would irrevocably change the face of U.S. politics.

["King of Calypso" Harry Belafonte Was WWII Sailor](#) [David Vergun, DOD News, 2 February 2022]

Singer, songwriter, actor and social activist Harry Belafonte was in the Navy during World War II, dropping out of high school in New York City to enlist and contribute to the war effort from 1944 to 1945. At the time, the military services were segregated. Belafonte, a Jamaican American, was assigned to Port Chicago, California, 35 miles from San Francisco. During World War II, Black service members were not normally assigned to frontline fighting units. Rather, they were assigned mostly to supporting specialties. His job was to load military ships bound for the Pacific theater. Just before Belafonte arrived in Port Chicago, California, a massive explosion took place, involving military ships loaded with ammunition. About 320 people were killed—two-thirds of them Black sailors. "The Port Chicago mutiny was one of America's ugliest miscarriages of justice, the largest mass trial in naval history, and a national disgrace," Belafonte said. He credited television producer Ted Turner and his staff with having the courage to put the story on television.

[A Proclamation on National Black History Month, 2022](#) [Joseph R. Biden, Jr., The White House Press Office, 31 January 2022]

Each February, National Black History Month serves as both a celebration and a powerful reminder that Black history is American history, Black culture is American culture, and Black stories are essential to the ongoing story of America—our faults, our struggles, our progress, and our aspirations. Shining a light on Black history today is as important to understanding ourselves

and growing stronger as a Nation as it has ever been. That is why it is essential that we take time to celebrate the immeasurable contributions of Black Americans, honor the legacies and achievements of generations past, reckon with centuries of injustice, and confront those injustices that still fester today.

CULTURE

[Brian Flores discusses NFL lawsuit, calls legal action bigger than himself: “We’re at a fork in the road”](#) [Jordan Dajani, *CBS Sports*, 2 February 2022]

Former Miami Dolphins head coach Brian Flores is suing the NFL, the Dolphins, the New York Giants and Denver Broncos, alleging racial discrimination. The lawsuit claims that Flores went through multiple “sham” head coaching interviews and was treated unfairly by the Dolphins during his three seasons in Miami. The lawsuit is not just about Flores being disrespected, as the 58-page filing brings up several other instances of Black coaching candidates being treated unfairly. Established in 2003, the Rooney Rule requires teams looking for new head coaches to interview minority candidates. Flores felt as though teams were just checking boxes by interviewing some Black head coaches. “The Rooney Rule is intended to give minorities an opportunity to sit down in front of ownership,” Flores said. “But I think what it’s turned into is an instance where guys are just checking a box.”

[ESPN to have all-woman crew for Warriors-Jazz game next week](#) [Joe Reedy, *The Associated Press*, 3 February 2022]

Beth Mowins made ESPN history in 2017 when she was the first woman to call a “Monday Night Football” game. She will again be part of a network first on Wednesday when ESPN produces an NBA game announced and directed by all women. Mowins will work the Golden State Warriors-Utah Jazz game with analyst Doris Burke and reporter Lisa Salters. In addition, 33 other women will handle production roles on site in Salt Lake City and in the control room from ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Connecticut. Mowins believes the time is coming when having a game called and produced by a majority crew of women will be routine. “I think it’s important to still celebrate some of these big milestones, but I really do believe we’re getting closer to the day where it won’t be such a big deal and it will be very natural and very comfortable,” she said.

[Fort Cashe? A new name for Fort Benning gains support](#) [James R. Webb, *Army Times*, 2 February 2022]

Will Fort Benning, Georgia, soon be called Fort Cashe? At least one lawmaker hopes so, as she advocates for the name change to honor posthumous Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn Cashe. The suggestion comes as the Naming Commission, which is charged with renaming military sites that currently honor Confederate leaders, develops a renaming plan that must be delivered to Congress by Oct. 1, 2022. The secretary of defense will implement the plan by Jan. 1, 2024. In a Wednesday letter to the commission, Rep. Stephanie Murphy, D-Fla., wrote that renaming Fort Benning in honor of Cashe will fulfill the objectives laid out in the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act. Murphy’s congressional district includes the town where Cashe grew up. “Cashe is a legend in military circles, beloved in life and revered in death, a hero in the

purest sense of the term,” Murphy wrote. “I believe he would be an honorable and unifying choice and hope you will consider recommending him in your report to Congress.”

[How to rename a place](#) [David A. Graham, *The Atlantic*, 27 January 2022]

Examine a detailed map of pretty much any part of the United States and you can find scars left by racism. A reservoir in New Mexico is named Wetback Tank. Mulatto Bayou, in Louisiana, is one of several places using that slur. A half-dozen, from Florida to Colorado, include “Redskin”; Oregon has a Dead Injun Creek. Hundreds of place names include “Negro” or “Squaw,” among other, similarly offensive names. The new names are the work of the Board on Geographic Names, a little-known federal body with the remarkable power to literally remake the map. Founded in 1890, it is an Ocean’s 11 of civil servants: subject-matter experts from across the government—including the Pentagon and the Postal Service, the Commerce Department and the CIA—who have come together not to conduct a heist but to approve official names of lakes, mountains, and valleys on government documents.

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[Judge to hear suit over Confederate memorial in Tuskegee](#) [*The Associated Press*, 29 January 2022]

A Macon County judge is scheduled to consider arguments this week in a legal fight over a Confederate monument that has stood for 116 years in mostly Black Tuskegee. Circuit Judge Steven Perryman has set a hearing for Thursday in a lawsuit filed on behalf of Macon County and some residents against the local and state chapters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, which erected scores of rebel monuments across the South in the early 1900s. The lawsuit, filed by civil rights attorney Fred Gray, argues that Macon County wrongfully gave a square to the Confederate group for the statue and a segregated, Whites-only park in 1906. A decision in favor of the county could lead to removal of the monument, which features a statue of a Confederate soldier and has been the subject of on-and-off protests for decades.

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[“Maus” is back on best seller lists after its ban from a Tennessee school district](#) [Scottie Andrew, *CNN*, 31 January 2022]

Within weeks of a Tennessee school district moving to ban “Maus,” a Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel depicting the horrors of the Holocaust, readers are propelling it to the top of best seller lists more than 30 years after it was first published. The hardcover edition of “The Complete Maus,” which includes parts one and two of Art Spiegelman’s opus, is topping Amazon’s list of best-selling books, holding the No. 1 and No. 2 slots at different times Monday morning. Parts one and two of “Maus” hold the third and ninth spots on the best sellers list respectively. “Maus” also appears on Barnes & Noble’s top 100 list and Bookshop’s index of best-selling books. On January 10, the McMinn County, Tennessee, Board of Education removed “Maus” from the eighth-grade English language arts curriculum, citing “rough, objectionable language” and a drawing of a nude woman.

[Racist Post in Alumni Facebook Group Condemned by Citadel, Latest in String of Incidents](#) [Thomas Novelly, *Military.com*, 3 February 2022]

The Citadel is condemning a fake news release posted in an alumni Facebook group that made racist comments falsely attributed to the historic military college's administrators. The fake news release mimicked the look of the school's own press statements, using The Citadel's logo with the headline "Achieving Racial Equity: The Citadel to install African-American Water Fountain in the lobby of Mark Clark Hall." It included a photo, underneath the headline, of two water fountains, with a sign over one reading "African-American Cadets Only," emblematic of Jim Crow-era policies levied against Black Americans. The fake release featured three fraudulent quotes attributed to the Citadel's president, the president of The Citadel's African American Alumni Association and the historic military college's new chief inclusive excellence officer.

[Team Links Social Media Use to Worse Physical Health](#) [Bert Gambini, *Futurity*, 26 January 2022]

"Social media use has become an integral part of many young adults' daily lives," says David Lee, an assistant professor of communication at the University at Buffalo and first author of the [study in Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking](#). "It's critical that we understand how engagement across these platforms contributes to physical health." For decades, researchers have devoted attention to how social media engagement relates to users' mental health, but its effects on physical health have not been thoroughly investigated. The researchers found participants who used social media excessively had higher levels of C-reactive protein (CRP), a biological marker of chronic inflammation that predicts serious illnesses, such as diabetes, certain cancers, and cardiovascular disease. In addition to elevated CRP levels, results suggest higher social media use was also related to somatic symptoms, like headaches, chest and back pains, and more frequent visits to doctors and health centers for the treatment of illness.

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[University of Nebraska mascot's hand gesture revised to avoid connection with White supremacy](#) [Brad Dress, *The Hill*, 29 January 2022]

The University of Nebraska updated the image of its mascot to avoid any connection with White supremacy, switching out the character's OK hand gesture to a "No. 1" gesture. For nearly 50 years, the University of Nebraska's Cornhuskers mascot—a cartoon caricature named Herbie Husker with a red cowboy hat, blue overalls and an ear of corn in his pocket—displayed the OK hand sign, according to the Flatwater Free Press, which first reported the news on Friday. But the college decided to change the mascot so it displayed the "No. 1" gesture instead after it learned the OK hand sign has been associated with far-right extremists and White supremacist groups in recent years, according to the outlet.

[Washington Football Team officially renamed "Commanders"](#) [Sarah Sicard, *Military Times*, 2 February 2022]

After 87 years as the Redskins and 18 months as the Washington Football Team, the franchise is now officially the Commanders. The decision has been a year-and-a-half in the making after much built-up tension and public outcry against the racist connotations associated with the team's previous name. Commander, basically, is Washington D.C.," retired NFL quarterback Joe Theismann, who led Washington to the Super Bowl in 1983, said in a Monday interview with CBS Sports Radio. "A lot of commanders in Washington D.C., in the Pentagon and a lot of

different branches of the service.” And while this closes out a controversial chapter in Washington football history, the program itself still faces myriad issues. Off the field, the program has been called dysfunctional and mismanaged by an owner who has been embroiled in scandal.

[Whoopi Goldberg suspended for 2 weeks over Holocaust race remarks](#) [David Bauder, *The Associated Press*, 2 February 2022]

Whoopi Goldberg was suspended for two weeks Tuesday as co-host of “The View” because of what the head of ABC News called her “wrong and hurtful comments” about Jews and the Holocaust. “While Whoopi has apologized, I’ve asked her to take time to reflect and learn about the impact of her comments. The entire ABC News organization stands in solidarity with our Jewish colleagues, friends, family and communities,” ABC News President Kim Godwin said in a statement. The suspension came a day after Goldberg’s comment during a discussion on “The View” that race was not a factor in the Holocaust. Goldberg apologized hours later and again on Tuesday’s morning episode, but the original remark drew condemnation from several prominent Jewish leaders. “My words upset so many people, which was never my intention,” she said Tuesday morning. “I understand why now and for that I am deeply, deeply grateful because the information I got was really helpful and helped me understand some different things.”

DISCRIMINATION

[Colleges and universities across the U.S. are moving to ban caste discrimination](#) [Harmeet Kaur, *CNN*, 30 January 2022]

On paper, the change was subtle—the word “caste” appearing in parentheses after the term “race and ethnicity.” But for many advocates and student leaders, the tweak to California State University’s anti-discrimination policy that quietly went into effect on January 1 was a civil rights victory: An acknowledgment from the nation’s largest, four-year public university system that the insidious form of oppression that has long haunted some on campus is, in fact, real. Caste-oppressed students, who mostly hail from South Asian immigrant and diaspora backgrounds, say that casteism tends to manifest in U.S. colleges and universities through slurs, microaggressions and social exclusion. But because these dynamics play out within these minority communities, most other Americans have little understanding of how they operate—leaving these students, many of whom refer to themselves as Dalits, without recourse.

[A former Tennessee officer was convicted of civil rights violations for using excessive force against suspects](#) [Josh Campbell, *CNN*, 30 January 2022]

A former Tennessee law enforcement officer was convicted Friday of federal civil rights offenses for using excessive force against two suspects, federal prosecutors said. Anthony “Tony” Bean, 61, faced a bench trial on charges related to separate incidents in 2014 and 2017. In 2014, when he was acting as the Tracy City police chief, Bean used excessive force twice during an arrest, a [statement](#) from the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Tennessee said. “Civil Rights violations are always of great concern, particularly when an officer betrays the oath to protect and serve,” said FBI Special Agent in Charge Joseph E. Carrico. “When that trust is violated, the law enforcement community is tarnished, and the community’s confidence is broken.”

DIVERSITY

[African immigrant finds success in U.S. Army](#) [Capt. Taylor Criswell, *U.S. Army News Service*, 31 January 2022]

Fourteen years ago, Staff Sgt. Kokou Vimenyoh took a monumental leap of faith to chase the dream he shared with many of his neighbors in Togoville; to immigrate to the United States, on a quest to find “El Dorado.” Vimenyoh, now a Geospatial Intelligence Imagery Analyst with the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, came from a lower middle-class family; his father, a construction worker of small projects, and his stepmother a peddler of crafts in the city marketplace. Nevertheless, he said his parents did their best to provide for him and his sisters. “I was living by myself and sending money back home to help support my family,” Vimenyoh continued. “At the end of the day, I had been working hard and had nothing in my savings. I was thinking ‘what kind of life is this?’” “When I was a little kid, the only movies my dad watched were of the American Army. Growing up, when I thought of American Soldiers, I felt that’s the best you can be in the world. Since I was a kid, this was a dream for me.” It was then he knew what he had to do and promptly enlisted.

[Girl Scouts’ first Asian American CEO credits her diverse girlhood](#) [Kimmy Yam, *NBC News*, 28 January 2022]

Unlike many of her predominantly White peers, Sofia Chang, the new CEO of the Girl Scouts, had a unique upbringing, spending much of her childhood working at her parents’ Chinese restaurant in Philadelphia. Though she was exposed to elements of real life that were at times uncomfortable, she said the experience left a lasting impression. “There were assumptions that were made about me because of where I worked, or what my parents did, or what I looked like,” Chang said. “And I think that experience of, what I would call ‘exclusivity,’ really sort of pushed me to have an even greater desire to create inclusivity.” Chang, who came to the U.S. with no English skills at 10 years old, became the first Asian American to hold the leadership position in the Girl Scouts’ 110-year history. Having officially started her role on Thursday, Chang said her mission is to build the inclusive environment she’s always wanted to provide for others.

[Harvard Law Review elects first Latina president](#) [Nate Raymond, *Reuters*, 31 January 2022]

The Harvard Law Review has named a California-born daughter of Mexican immigrants as its newest president, elevating a Latina to the top of one of the most prestigious U.S. law journals for the first time in its 135-year history. Harvard Law School student Priscila Coronado, 24, said in an email Sunday that her experiences growing up as a Mexican American have informed her perspectives and that she wanted to “work hard to show how being a Latina is an important part of who I am.” Law reviews are staffed by the top students at U.S. law schools, who are often recruited for judicial clerkships and other prestigious jobs in the profession. Legal and political luminaries who have worked at the Harvard Law Review include President Barack Obama, who was named the journal’s first Black president in 1990. Three serving members of the U.S. Supreme Court have served as editors.

EXTREMISM

[FBI identifies 6 juveniles as persons of interest in bomb threats at Black colleges](#) [Antonio Planas and Ron Allen, *NBC News*, 2 February 2022]

Six “tech savvy” juveniles have been identified as persons of interest by the FBI in threats to historically Black colleges and universities that appear to be racially motivated. More than a dozen historically Black colleges and universities received bomb threats on Tuesday, the first day of Black History Month. A law enforcement official says the FBI has identified six persons of interest around the country, all juveniles, who are suspected of making the threats. The official says they appear to be “tech savvy,” using sophisticated methods to try to disguise the source of the threats, which appear to have a racist motivation.

[Feds: Kansas Woman Led All-Female Islamic State Battalion](#) [Matthew Barakat, *The Associated Press*, 29 January 2022]

The U.S. Attorney in Alexandria, Virginia, announced Saturday that Allison Fluke-Ekren, 42, has been charged with providing material support to a terrorist organization. The criminal complaint was filed under seal back in 2019 but made public Saturday after Fluke-Ekren was brought back to the U.S. Friday to face charges. Her alleged participation in the Islamic State had not been publicly known before Saturday's announcement. Prosecutors say Fluke-Ekren wanted to recruit operatives to attack a college campus in the U.S. and discussed a terrorist attack on a shopping mall. She told one witness that “she considered any attack that did not kill a large number of individuals to be a waste of resources,” according to an FBI affidavit.

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[“It is really dizzying for our community”: Growing anti-Semitism forcing Jewish Americans to be more vigilant](#) [Nicole Chavez, *CNN*, 3 February 2022]

Michael Igel had listened to his grandparents’ memories of the Holocaust for years when as a tween, he first confronted a friend who had a swastika drawn on his shoe. At that moment, he quickly realized the atrocities his family survived were unknown to many. The other boy drew the symbol without knowing its meaning simply because it caught his eye, said Igel, who is now 41 years old. Decades after that encounter, Igel and many other Jewish people in America are reminded in 2022 that ignorance and intolerance continue fueling perceptions about their communities. “You see anti-Semitism coming at Jews from all sides,” said Jonathan Greenblatt, the CEO of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). “It is really dizzying for our community, and it’s a growing crisis for the country.” Semitic incidents in the U.S. have been on the rise for years, with 941 incidents in 2015 and 2024 incidents tracked in 2020 by the ADL.

[NYPD officer facing hate crime charges for anti-Muslim attack on motorist, district attorney’s office says](#) [Mirna Alsharif, *CNN*, 1 February 2022]

A New York City police officer is facing hate crime charges after he allegedly punched a motorist until he was unconscious while using anti-Muslim slurs, [according to the district attorney’s office](#). Riggs Kwong, 50, was off-duty when the incident occurred on January 16, according to a news release from the office of Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez. Kwong was charged with “third-degree assault as a hate crime, third-degree menacing as a hate crime, third-degree

assault, third-degree menacing, second-degree aggravated harassment, falsely reporting an incident and improper use of colored or flashing lights,” according to the release.

[Swastikas scrawled on Union Station in Washington](#) [Ashraf Khalil and Rick Gentilo, *The Associated Press*, 28 January 2022]

Vandals scrawled swastikas on the outside of Union Station, the central hub for regional train transportation in the nation’s capital. The graffiti was discovered Friday, one day after International Holocaust Remembrance Day, with crude Nazi symbols marked on columns across the front of the massive building and several clustered around the escalator entrance to the underground D.C. Metro. Metropolitan Police Department Chief Robert Contee said the investigation would be led by the Amtrak Police, who handle security for the building. But Contee indicated that investigators were looking at some of the several people experiencing homelessness who frequently camp around the building. The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington posted a statement on Instagram, calling the timing “particularly offensive” and added, “This anti-Semitic and hateful symbol has no place in our society.”

[Videos Show Neo-Nazis Waving Flags, Chanting Slogans, Assaulting Driver in Florida Suburb](#) [Jason Lemon, *Newsweek*, 30 January 2022]

Videos and photos shared to social media show a gathering of neo-Nazis in a Florida suburb, where the far-right demonstrators chanted antisemitic slogans, waved Nazi flags and appeared to assault a driver who confronted them. Twitter users began posting videos of the neo-Nazi rally after they passed by on Saturday. Daily Kos reported that the antisemitic and racist event took place about five to 10 minutes south of the University of Central Florida, within the Alafaya and Waterford Lakes region of the Orlando metro area. The demonstrators were chanting “the Jew is the devil,” “Jews rape children and drink their blood” and “Jews brought slaves here,” according to AntiSemitism.org. Another StopAntisemitism.org reported that the far-right demonstrators also chanted anti-Black slogans. Another Twitter user reported that the group made “monkey noises” at a Black woman passing by.

HUMAN RELATIONS

[There is much more to mindfulness than the popular media hype](#) [Pierce Salguero, *The Conversation*, 31 January 2022] [COMMENTARY]

Mindfulness originated in the Buddhist practice of “anapana-sati,” a Sanskrit phrase that means “awareness of breath.” Buddhist historian Erik Braun has traced the origins of the contemporary popularity of meditation to colonial Burma—modern-day Myanmar—in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Meditation, which was practiced almost exclusively inside monasteries until then, was introduced to the general public in a simplified format that was easier to learn. A pivotal moment in this transformation was the creation of the [Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction \(MBSR\)](#) protocol by Jon Kabat-Zinn, a professor of medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, in 1979. Research on this new kind of “medicalized” mindfulness began to gather steam in the past two decades. As of today there are over 21,000 research articles on mindfulness in the [National Library of Medicine’s online database](#)—two and a half times as many articles as have been published on yoga, tai chi and reiki combined.

INTERNATIONAL

[#MeToo Scandal at a Dutch TV Show Spurs a Sexual Assault Reckoning](#) [Claire Moses, *The New York Times*, 31 January 2022]

The Netherlands has long been considered open and liberated when it comes to sexuality. Sex work is legal, and nudity and sex scenes on television and in movies barely raise an eyebrow. But allegations of widespread sexual misconduct that have engulfed a popular Dutch TV talent show recently have highlighted how that culture of permissiveness can allow issues of consent, gender and misconduct to be ignored. The Netherlands has an image that anything can be discussed regarding issues of sexuality, “but if you really zoom in on this theme, it’s disappointing,” said Gerda de Groot, a coordinator at Sexual Assault Center, a national organization that helps the victims of abuse and misconduct. “Really talking about consent is very difficult.” Since allegations of widespread sexual misconduct on the TV talent show, “The Voice of Holland,” came to light this month, implicating some of the Netherlands’ best-known celebrities, Dutch organizations say that they have seen a surge in calls reporting sexual abuse.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Ayia Napa: Woman wins appeal against gang rape lie conviction](#) [Caroline Lowbridge, *BBC News*, 31 January 2022]

A British woman who reported being gang-raped in Cyprus has had her conviction for allegedly lying about the attack overturned. The woman, then 19, told Cypriot police she had been raped by 12 Israeli men and boys in Ayia Napa in July 2019. The Derbyshire teenager retracted the allegation after being held without a lawyer, and was then tried and convicted of causing public mischief. Her conviction was overturned at the country’s Supreme Court. The woman’s family now want the original rape allegations she made to be investigated, in order for her to get “true justice”. Cypriot lawyer Nicoletta Charalambidou, who is part of the legal team, said: “This is a very important day for women’s rights and in particular for victims of rape or other forms of sexual violence in Cyprus.”

[Karnataka hijab row deepens as students petition court](#) [BBC News, 4 February 2022]

A high court in the southern Indian state of Karnataka is set to hear two petitions that argue that Muslim women wearing headscarves should be allowed to attend classes. The development comes after weeks of protests by six teenage students at a government-run pre-university college—equivalent to a high school. The protesters have been barred from attending classes by the college’s management, who say students can wear the headscarf on campus but must remove it inside the classroom. The stand-off has increased fear and outrage among India’s minority Muslims, who say the country’s constitution guarantees them the freedom to wear what they want.

[Manchester United suspends star after sexual assault charge](#) [Monique Beals, *The Hill*, 31 January 2022]

Manchester United has suspended its forward Mason Greenwood and prohibited him from playing matches and training after he was accused of sexual assault. A woman accused

Greenwood, a star player and regular starter for the soccer club, of assault in a social media post that included images, video and an audio recording, [The New York Times reported](#). Shortly after the post began trending, the club issued a statement that it was aware of the allegations and was waiting to comment until more facts were established. A few hours later, United said it would temporarily suspend the 20-year-old player, the Times added.

[One trans woman’s fight against a bill that would criminalise Ghana’s LGBT+ community](#)

[Francis Kokoroko, Reuters, 3 January 2022]

In a dimly-lit room with racks of women’s clothing, Ghanaian artist and LGBT+ activist Va-Bene Elikem Fiatsi flipped through photo self-portraits illustrating her transition to womanhood. Transitioning is not illegal in Ghana, but it will become so if a new law is passed, intended to tighten already strict anti-LGBT+ regulations which render same-sex relations illegal. Homophobia is pervasive in the West African country and trans people are generally considered to be gay. Fiatsi first exhibited the photographs, dubbed “Rituals of Becoming”, in 2017. Supportive audiences flocked to see the show in Ghanaian galleries. Her work reflects how LGBT+ people in Ghana have navigated legal and social constraints to carve out a space to express their identities. But Fiatsi fears that even that limited space could now be closing with the new bill, which if it passes would see her risk prosecution every time she puts on a dress.

[Rio Tinto says 21 female workers reported sexual assaults](#) [BBC News, 1 February 2022]

Anglo-Australian miner Rio Tinto says 21 of its female employees reported an actual or attempted rape or sexual assault at work in the past five years. The mining giant—which operates in 35 countries—did not provide details on the incidents or where they took place. But the numbers were revealed in a wider workplace culture report that found sexism, racism and bullying systemic across the firm. It follows recent scrutiny over the treatment of women at mining camps. Last year, Western Australia’s state government launched an inquiry into the issue following a number of court cases and media reports. Both companies—among Australia’s richest—run large operations in the state’s remote Pilbara region, to unearth iron ore, copper and other minerals. Thousands of workers are flown in each season and housed in village camp-style accommodation. Critics have long raised concerns about the hard-drinking, male-dominated culture that has been allowed to flourish at these sites for years.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

[Air Force general openly shares his mental health appointment: “Warrior heart. No stigma”](#) [Jeff Schogol, Task & Purpose, 31 January 2022]

The four-star general in charge of Air Mobility Command has announced that he has an upcoming mental health appointment to let service members know that seeking care is a sign of strength, not weakness. Air Force Gen. Mike Minihan recently shared on social media that his appointment is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Tuesday. Minihan tweeted a photo of his calendar along with the words: “Warrior heart. No stigma.” With his tweet, Minihan is taking aim at a pervasive belief within the military that service members are at fault for their mental health issues, or that seeking help rather than toughing it out, is a sign of weakness. The military also needs to address

underlying structural issues that continue to stigmatize mental health care, said Rita Nakashima Brock, senior vice president and director of the Shay Moral Injury Center in Alexandria, Virginia. “Rather than risk this possibility, service members often avoid MH [mental health] counseling and use chaplains instead, who are not allowed to report conversations due to confidentiality,” Brock said.

[Gold Star Families Day would be celebrated each September under new proposal](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 1 February 2022]

America recognizes troops’ time in service each November on Veterans Day, but now a bipartisan group of senators wants to set aside a day for Gold Star families each September to better honor their sacrifices. On Tuesday, the lawmakers introduced the new Gold Star Families Day Act, which would make the last Monday in September—just about six weeks before Veterans Day—a federal holiday to recognize families who have lost a loved one while serving in the military. “For the countless American families spanning generations who have given and sacrificed so much to defend our nation and protect our freedoms and way of life, our country is eternally grateful,” said Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa and an Army National Guard veteran. Ernst and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., are leading the effort, which would establish a 12th federal holiday in honor of the families. Veterans Day (Nov. 11) and Memorial Day (the last Monday in May) are among the 11 existing ones.

[It’s Time to Bridge the Divide Separating Policymakers and Researchers](#) [Donald F. Kettl, *Government Executive*, 28 January 2022] [COMMENTARY]

It’s been a long while since I got a homework assignment. That, however, is just what the General Services Administration and the Office of Management and Budget have rolled out, in their request for help in shaping learning for President Biden’s management agenda. How can we get the research we need to solve some of government’s toughest problems? This is truly a historic effort, not only to reach out for help on the management agenda’s big questions. It’s also an unparalleled opportunity to bridge the often-huge chasm between policymakers and researchers. It’s a gap that frustrates those on both sides of the divide. The new president’s management agenda is sharp and crisp, with a focus on three big issues: strengthening and empowering the government workforce; improving customer service; and advancing equity. These are things that researchers know a lot about. So, if there were ever a time to build a bridge, it’s now.

[She Struggled With Alcohol Abuse. Now This Sailor Wants to End the Stigma of Seeking Help.](#) [Theresa Carpenter, *The War Horse*, 2 February 2022] [COMMENTARY]

When I became an officer, I dreamed of telling the Navy’s story aboard an aircraft carrier. In July 2017, I was at the pinnacle of my public affairs naval career. I was in charge of a media department, working along with 25 sailors aboard an aircraft carrier, one of the Navy’s largest vessels. On the evening of the opening day of the exercise, I attended a cocktail reception on an Indian Navy warship along with diplomats from the State Department, commanding officers from all the navies involved, and many other high-ranking military officers. The evening should have been one of the most memorable and enjoyable evenings of my 25-year military career. Instead, I nearly destroyed it because I couldn’t control my drinking.

MISCONDUCT

[Navy investigating top enlisted sailor over alleged misconduct](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz and Megan Eckstein, *Navy Times*, 3 February 2022]

The Naval Inspector General has launched an investigation into allegations of misconduct by the top enlisted sailor in the Navy, according to a defense official with direct knowledge of the probe. Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Russell L. Smith is the second consecutive enlisted leader of the sea service to come under such scrutiny. Smith became the sea service's 15th MCPON in 2018, following the abrupt resignation of his predecessor, former MCPON Steven Giordano. Giordano left the post following a series of Navy Times stories detailing allegations about his hair trigger temper and accusations he behaved like a Hollywood diva. While declining to discuss specific allegations against Smith, the defense official said they were not at the level of the misconduct alleged against former MCPON Giordano.

RACISM

[Black doctor sues JPMorgan Chase alleging she was refused service at Texas branch because of race](#) [Antonio Planas, *NBC News*, 3 February 2022]

A Black doctor in Texas says she was humiliated last year when she was denied opening a bank account with a \$16,000 check from her employer, according to a federal lawsuit alleging racial discrimination. Dr. Malika Mitchell-Stewart, 34, recently completed her residency and was excited to open an account on Dec. 18. with a \$16,780.16 signing-bonus check from Valley Oaks Medical Group, [according to the lawsuit filed Wednesday](#) against JPMorgan Chase and two of its employees at a branch in Sugar Land. Mitchell-Stewart's sense of accomplishment, however, quickly turned into humiliation after workers at the location raised questions about the check's authenticity, her employment as a doctor and ultimately accused her of fraud before turning her away, the lawsuit said.

[Human Rights Campaign's first Black leader sues over firing, alleging racial bias](#) [Matt Lavietes, *NBC News*, 3 February 2022]

The former president of the Human Rights Campaign, the country's largest LGBTQ advocacy group, sued the organization in federal court on Thursday, alleging that he was underpaid and then terminated "because he is Black" and saying the HRC has a "deserved reputation for unequal treatment of its non-White employees." Alphonso David, a Black civil rights lawyer who led the HRC for over two years, was fired in September after a report by New York Attorney General Letitia James described how he had helped "discredit" a sexual harassment accuser of former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo. David, who was Cuomo's chief counsel from 2015 to 2019, has denied any wrongdoing. In his [lawsuit](#), filed in the Eastern District of New York, David contends that he was fired "because he is Black" and that the group "maintained discriminatory employment practices."

[Louisiana governor denies he delayed probe in deadly arrest](#) [Jim Mustian, Jake Bleiberg and Kevin McGill, *The Associated Press*, 2 February 2022]

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards defiantly denied Tuesday that he delayed or interfered with investigations into the deadly 2019 arrest of Ronald Greene—and for the first time he characterized the actions of the troopers seen on video stunning, punching and dragging the Black man as racist. “I can’t imagine if Mr. Greene had been White he would have been treated that way,” an emotional Edwards told a news conference. “We have to acknowledge racism when we see it. We have to call it what it is.” The governor’s news conference came just minutes after a heated, closed-door meeting with the Legislative Black Caucus that at times erupted with members cursing over his muted response to Greene’s deadly arrest.

[Robert E. Lee’s descendant proves his lineage and pushes for “honest” history of racism](#) [Maya Brown, CNN, 1 February 2022]

Rev. Robert W. Lee felt like his integrity was being challenged when Confederate defenders continued to accuse him of lying about being a distant relative of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. He proved them wrong with a 400-page genealogy report he received in October, but the North Carolina pastor and social justice advocate says the accusations were a distraction from the difficult conversations Americans need to have about history. “I believe it was an attempt to discredit the hard work I put into removing the statues and monuments to my ancestor,” Lee told CNN last week. In January, [Axios reviewed the genealogy report and interviewed the pastor](#), his father and his grandmother. The family has consistently disputed claims by Confederate sympathizers that the social justice advocate was not related to the Confederate general. They hired a genealogist to put an end to the false reports.

[UCLA gymnasts say coaches told them to be more tolerant after accusing a teammate of using the N-word](#) [Meredith Cash, *The Insider*, 28 January 2022]

Several UCLA gymnasts accused one of their then-teammates—Alexis Jeffrey—of using racial slurs, including the N-word and epithets against Asian people, [according to a Los Angeles Times report](#). Jeffrey denied any wrongdoing when fellow Bruins confronted the first-year athlete to explain why her use of that language was hurtful, several team members told the LA Times. According to the report, those same student-athletes then brought the issue to the attention of UCLA gymnastics coaches and representatives of the Bruins’ athletics department. The team was then subjected to programming featuring racism and mental health experts. But some of the gymnasts on the team—particularly those who are Black—did not feel the administration’s actions were sufficient. “It seemed like these were things put in place to check off boxes,” senior Margzetta Frazier told the LA Times. “It was performative, and it did not do anything.”

RELIGION

[As Much Soldier as Muslim, More Patriot Than Believer](#) [Will Martin, *The War Horse*, 26 January 2022] [COMMENTARY]

New to the unit, I was a freshly minted second lieutenant with a background in journalism and public affairs. Even more damning, I’d been selected to serve as aide-de-camp to our brigade’s commanding general. “How’s it going, Sir?” came the lazy, obligatory greetings, the more courageous offering rhetorical jabs: Why hadn’t they seen me on the .50 cal or MK19 range? Ignoring them, Mohammed leaned in and engaged me in full. I learned Mohammed and I were a

study in contrasts. He was a Sunni Muslim, while my spiritual journey was mostly of the evangelical variety. We'd both experienced divorces, but unlike Mohammed, my questionable choice in spouses was my own. His parents had hand-picked his future ex-wife. And though we were both committed soldiers, this would be Mohammed's fourth combat tour; my foreign travel, on the other hand, consisted of college day trips to Ontario, inspired by Canada's lower drinking age. I also learned where Mohammed was from. Because I asked him. Like, in that unbearable way White folks ask conspicuous ethnic minorities where they're from, as if we're welcoming them to our country.

[Opinion: Is There a Place For Spirituality in Space Science?](#) [Adam R. Shapiro, *Undark*, 27 January 2022]

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson wasn't the only person to observe, following the successful launch of the James Webb Space Telescope last month that the long-awaited feat had occurred on Christmas Day. Rather, Nelson's comments raised eyebrows for their "spiritual tone." "It's significant that we had the delays and it kept us all the way to today, Christmas Day," Nelson said in a video released by NASA shortly after the launch. He went on to quote a passage from Psalm 19: "The heavens declare the glory of God. The firmament shows his handiwork." To some viewers—especially those who believe religion and science are incompatible—the very mention of a religious text seemed to undercut the messaging of scientific achievement. The suggestion that the telescope served a Christian purpose, or that its use would reinforce a Christian worldview, also seemed to belie a commitment to inclusivity in science that NASA has claimed to value. (The agency is still reeling from the controversy over its decision to name the telescope after James Webb, a man alleged to have been complicit in the persecution of LGBTQ government workers.)

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[Religious services for all soldiers at Army fort in Arizona](#) [Lyda Long, *Herald Review (Sierra Vista, Ariz.)*, 23 January 2022]

At this Army installation, nourishing the soldier's soul is just as critical as making sure the soldier is ready for his or her mission. That's done on Fort Huachuca by the performance and availability of a myriad of religious services for various faith groups and anyone who wants to worship. If a religious service is not performed on the installation, chaplains will connect soldiers, their families and civilians with a source that will provide them with the spiritual program they're looking for. It seems that some kind of religious or spiritual connection is being made on Fort Huachuca all the time. Whether Catholic, Jewish, Muslim or Norse Pagan, there is a religious service available at the installation, or at least a place where one can worship privately or meditate.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

SEXISM

[Making waves- after twice being denied tenure, this Naval Academy professor says she is seeking justice](#) [Cathy Alter, *The Washington Post*, 31 January 2022]

At the U.S. Naval Academy, assistant professor Carolyn Chun stood alongside a memorial outside of the academic building where she teaches math to midshipmen. “It’s funny,” said Chun. “The USNA named a building after an expert in light and is, at the same time, doing bad deeds in the dark.” Chun is making a veiled reference, based on her experience, to the ways in which the Naval Academy awards tenure. Yard-wide (“Yard” is academy vernacular for campus) in 2021, 11 men and four women, including Chun, applied for tenure. Ten of those men and no women were successful. (The lone male denied tenure was from the math department.) Chun explains: “There are 3,003 scenarios where 10 people can be chosen from the 15 applicants, and only 11 scenarios where all 10 are men. All things being equal, the chance that the top 10 applicants would all be male is 11 out of 3,003.” Or, as Chun calculates it, the likelihood that gender discrimination occurred in the tenure process last year is over 99.6%. “This is a straightforward, discrete math problem that my students would compute for you.”

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[Soccer: NWSL, union agree to higher salaries, free agency, health benefits](#) [Alex Butler, *United Press International*, 1 February 2022]

National Women’s Soccer League players will receive higher salaries and be introduced to free agency for the first time as part of a new labor agreement, the 10-team league and players union [announced](#). The NWSL and the NWSL Players Association announced their first-ever collective bargaining agreement late Monday. The pact runs through the 2026 season. NWSL owners project to commit nearly \$100 million over the term of the agreement. The league plans to raise minimum salaries for players by nearly 60%, to \$35,000, with 4% increases each year. The previous minimum salary was \$22,000. Players will receive increased levels of free housing, transportation, health insurance and more. The average total compensation for players is expected to be increased to \$54,000 over the 2021 season. “This is a historic moment for women’s soccer in the United States,” NWSL interim CEO Marla Messing said in a news release.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[More than 1,000 students were sexually abused at this university. An ex-NFL player wants their stories to be heard](#) [Amy Woodyatt, *CNN*, 30 January 2022]

A former University of Michigan and NFL football player, [Jon] Vaughn is one of more than 1,000 people—mostly men—who says they were abused by athletics doctor Robert Anderson, who worked for the university from 1966 to 2003 treating students across sports including football, track, and wrestling. Anderson, who died in 2008, subjected students, 90% of whom were men, to “sexually abusive conduct” and invasive exams, including unnecessary genital and rectal examinations, according to a 2021 independent report commissioned by the university. Many of Anderson’s victims were Black—and survivors say this has played a part in why the abuse was allowed to continue for decades. This month the university announced a \$490 million settlement with over a thousand victims of Anderson’s alleged sexual abuse, pending approval by the Michigan Board of Regents and the claimants. But despite the settlement, the University is still facing calls to take responsibility for its role in the abuse, which spanned more than three decades—as well as the university’s failures to address alleged present day sexual misconduct and abuse by and of students and university staff.

[Utah teacher sues school district after she says officials retaliated against her for reporting sexual harassment among 5th-grade students](#) [Michelle Watson, CNN, 26 January 2022]

A teacher in Utah is suing her former employer after she said it retaliated against her for reporting sexual harassment among her students, according to court documents filed last week. Kathryn Moore is suing Utah's Park City School District "for violations of Title IX" and "state breach of contract," according to the suit filed in the 3rd District Court for Summit County, Utah. In December 2020, a few of the girls in Moore's fifth-grade class told her that "one of the boys in the class was touching them inappropriately and staring at them in ways that made them uncomfortable," according to the lawsuit. Moore "immediately" told the principal, and the principal suggested that she tell the girls' parents, the suit said. Two weeks later, the principal suggested that Moore "segregate her classroom by gender, seating all the boys on one side of the classroom and all the girls on the other." the complaint says. "No teacher should be retaliated against for protecting their students," Moore said in a news release from her attorney. "I am concerned for the safety of our Park City School District students."

SUICIDE

["A debt I can never repay"—How Reddit is filling gaps in the military's failing mental health care system](#) [Daniel Johnson, Task & Purpose, 2 February 2022]

The suicide rate for young military service members aged 18-24 in 2020 was more than double that of civilians in the same age bracket, and higher than those of all age demographics among civilians, according to [Department of Defense data and findings recently released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Although young people in the United States report the highest level of social media use of any demographic among the U.S. population, neither the U.S. Army nor the DOD has an official system in place to respond to reports of mental health harm or distress online. The systems that are in place—such as suicide hotline numbers—are often defunct, or only reachable during normal business hours. An unofficial subreddit, [R/Army](#), run by current and former U.S. Army personnel has been forced to fill the gap left by an unresponsive DOD, providing counseling to service members struggling with thoughts of self-harm.

VETERANS

["A Crisis of Confidence"—After Decades of Failures, VA Sec Seeks "Game-changers"](#) [Kelly Kennedy, The War Horse, 3 February 2022]

[VA Secretary Denis] McDonough has come forward with a new set of promises: transparency. A proactive, rather than reactive, system. Again working for internal cultural change so veterans no longer chant: "Delay, deny ... until you die." Enough changes have been made in the early days of McDonough's term that even the veterans' service organizations say they are, after years of expressing frustration, "hopeful." What McDonough learned from his mentors could strike fear into the heart of any government official. But he says he's decided to focus on the veterans—and to do that by taking accountability for quick action. "I think that public frustration too often leads to a crisis of confidence," McDonough says. "And, a lot of times, I feel like my job around here is to just hold up a mirror to people who are doing things really, really well. So they can see and be reminded of how well they're doing those things."

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[New committee to help improve care for native American veterans](#) [Jonathan Lehrfeld, *Medill News Service*, 26 January 2022]

VA officials said they are creating the Office of Tribal Health within the Veterans Health Administration to manage health care for all American Indian and Alaska Native veterans, from those who live in urban environments to those on rural reservations. The department also plans to expand its Rural Native Veteran Health Care Navigator Program, which began in 2020, to several new VA facilities. The pilot program aims to decrease barriers to health care services in rural areas by partnering native veterans with peers in their communities—similar to case managers—who can help them reach culturally competent care, according to Jay Shore, a population specialist at the VA Office of Rural Health, who spoke to the advisory committee on Jan. 26.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Sen. Bob Dole Laid to Rest at Arlington National Cemetery with Full Military Honors](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 2 February 2022]

Former Army captain and U.S. senator Bob Dole was laid to rest Wednesday in Arlington National Cemetery in a ceremony that reflected his honorary promotion to colonel in 2019. The flag-draped casket of Dole, who earned the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts as a lieutenant with the 10th Mountain Division in Italy in 1945, was carried by caisson to his final resting place, a riderless horse accompanying the procession to symbolize the officer's final look at those he has left behind. Dole died Dec. 5 at the age of 98. Dole is remembered as a three-time presidential candidate and former senator from Kansas who served in Congress, first in the House and then the Senate, from 1960 to 1996. But to many veterans, he is remembered as a soldier who spent his senior years supporting former service members; co-chairing a commission that investigated a scandal over the egregious living conditions for wounded warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; and connecting with World War II veterans and visitors at the National World War II Memorial in D.C.