

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 25 FEBRUARY 2022

### HIGHLIGHTS

[Older Feds Are Facing Persistent Racial and Gender Pay Disparities, the EEOC Has Found](#) [Erich Wagner, *Government Executive*, 14 February 2022]

*The federal government consistently outperforms the private sector on equity for employees over the age of 40, but age discrimination and pay disparities across gender and racial lines persist, according to a new study from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The [report](#), which examines data from fiscal 2017, found that while a greater percentage of federal workers than private sector workers are at least 40 years old and the federal workforce is generally more diverse than the private sector, older women are less represented at federal agencies than in the private sector. Compared to the private sector, where 45% of workers are men 40 and older, 57% of the federal workforce is made up of men who are at least 40 years old. Additionally, pay disparities persist among the federal government's 40-and-over workforce. On average, men in this age group make around \$7,400 more per year than women.*

[President Biden Nominates Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to Serve as Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court](#) [*The White House Press Office*, 25 February 2022]

*Today, President Biden will announce his intent to nominate Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson as Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Currently a judge on U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, Judge Jackson is one of the nation's brightest legal minds. If confirmed, she will be the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court. Judge Jackson was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Miami, Florida. Her parents attended segregated primary schools in the South, then attended Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Both started their careers as public school teachers and became leaders and administrators in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. When Judge Jackson told her high school guidance counselor she wanted to attend Harvard, the guidance counselor warned that Judge Jackson should not to set her sights "so high." That didn't stop Judge Jackson. She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College, then attended Harvard Law School, where she graduated cum laude and was an editor of the Harvard Law Review.*

[Sex assault reports at military academies soared as students returned to campus](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 17 February 2022]

*The military service academies reported their highest number of sexual assaults ever during the last academic year, after returning to campus following the initial outbreak of the coronavirus, since the Defense Department began tracking reports in 2005. The new high came a year after the academies reported a precipitous drop in sexual assault reports in 2020, as cadets and midshipmen abandoned campus in the spring, according to [data released by the Pentagon](#) on Thursday. All told, cadets and midshipmen reported 131 sexual assaults during the 2020-21 school year, a nearly 50% increase from the previous year. That also represented a 7% increase between from 2019, when students were on campus all year. Additionally, according to the data, another 16 cadets or midshipman were reported for sexually assaulting non-students during the*

2020-21 school year. Of the assaults that year, 46 came from USMA—doubling the previous year’s count—along with 33 from USNA and 52 from USAFA.

[SEE ALSO]

[Service Academies Directed to Build Up Sexual Assault Prevention Programs](#) [Todd Lopez, *DOD News*, 24 February 2022]

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## CULTURE

[Abolition newspaper revived for nation grappling with racism](#) [Philip Marcelo, *The Associated Press*, 23 February 2022]

America’s first newspaper dedicated to ending slavery is being resurrected and reimagined more than two centuries later as the nation continues to grapple with its legacy of racism. The [revived version of \*The Emancipator\*](#) is a joint effort by Boston University’s Center for Antiracist Research and *The Boston Globe*’s Opinion team that’s expected to launch in the coming months. Deborah Douglas and Amber Payne, co-editors-in-chief of the new online publication, say it will feature written and video opinion pieces, multimedia series, virtual talks and other content by respected scholars and seasoned journalists. The goal, they say, is to “reframe” the national conversation around racial injustice. The original *Emancipator* was founded in 1820 in Jonesborough, Tennessee, by iron manufacturer Elihu Embree, with the stated purpose to “advocate the abolition of slavery and to be a repository of tracts on that interesting and important subject,” [according to a digital collection of the monthly newsletter](#) at the University of Tennessee library.

[Apple gives Siri a less gendered voice](#) [Ina Fried, *Axios*, 22 February 2022]

With the latest version of iOS, currently in testing, Apple is offering a Siri voice that is less explicitly male- or female-sounding, *Axios* can confirm. The voice, option number 5 in the Siri UI menu, was added with the beta versions of iOS 15.4 that were released to developers and the public on Tuesday. As of last year, Siri no longer defaults to a female voice—users must pick their preference from the available options. Apple confirmed the new voice was recorded by a member of the LGBTQ+ community, but did not offer further details. “We’re excited to introduce a new Siri voice for English speakers, giving users more options to choose a voice that speaks to them,” Apple said in a statement to *Axios*. “Millions of people around the world rely on Siri every day to help get things done, so we work to make the experience feel as personalized as possible.”

[Artwork from the Black Lives Matter memorial has a new home: the Library of Congress](#)

[Jonathan Franklin, *NPR*, 12 February 2022]

The fence that once stood between protesters and the White House at Lafayette Park during the summer of 2020 (also known as the Black Lives Matter memorial), displayed hundreds of signs, posters and artwork left by protesters following the murder of George Floyd. While authorities took down the fence in early 2021, activists made it their mission to preserve every artifact—knowing that each sign represents a part of the nation’s history. Now, thanks to the help of activists and archivists, the pieces of artwork that once served as a memorial of the movement are

being displayed in a new online exhibit on the Library of Congress' website. According to the Library, more than 30 pieces of artwork are now available [online](#).

[Black innovators who reshaped American gardening, farming](#) [Jessica Damiano, *The Associated Press*, 22 February 2022]

*The achievements of George Washington Carver, the 19th century scientist credited with hundreds of inventions, including 300 uses for peanuts, have landed him in American history textbooks. But many other agricultural practices, innovations and foods that traveled with enslaved people from West Africa—or were developed by their descendants—remain unsung, despite having revolutionized the way we eat, farm and garden. Among the medicinal and food staples introduced by the African diaspora were sorghum, millet, African rice, yams, black-eyed peas, watermelon, eggplant, okra, sesame and kola nut, whose extract was a main ingredient in the original Coca-Cola recipe. History did not record many inventions of enslaved Africans, in no small part because slaveowners often claimed credit. Some, however, were recognized, as were the accomplishments of many who came after them.*

[The creator of the viral Black fetus image will have his illustrations published in a book](#) [Amarachi Orié, *CNN*, 18 February 2022]

*An illustration of a Black fetus in the womb went viral last December with many people commenting on social media that it was the first time they had seen a depiction of a dark-skinned fetus or pregnant woman. The attention came as a surprise to Chidiebere Ibe, the Nigerian first-year medical student who created the image, and describes it as “just one of my drawings to advocate for diversity in medical illustrations.” The image started a discussion about a lack of representation in these illustrations—images that are mostly found in textbooks and scientific journals to show medical pathologies and procedures. Ibe, 25, who is creative director at the Association of Future African Neurosurgeons, has now been invited to have some of his illustrations published in the second edition of a handbook designed to show how a range of conditions appear on dark skin.*

[Even in Black History Month, Interpreting the Past Can Be a Challenge for Local Governments](#) [Tom Shoop, *Route Fifty*, 23 February 2022] [EDITORIAL]

*Last year, the National Park Service awarded Rock Island, Illinois, a \$33,500 grant to create a Black history heritage trail highlighting 10 sites of great significance in the city. Earlier this month, after a heated discussion, the Rock Island City Council voted to return the money. The problem was that African American residents of Rock Island said they weren't included in a process that involved city officials and two consultants. “We feel that the city has acted with total disrespect for the Black community,” members of the coalition said earlier this month. Many cities and towns look to Black History Month as an opportunity to honor the contributions of African Americans in their history. Inclusiveness and the need to balance priorities are among the issues officials nationwide face.*

[Highlighting contributions of the 108th US Colored Troops at Rock Island Arsenal](#) [Linda Lambiotte, *ASC Public Affairs*, 22 February 2022]

*The month of February was officially designated as Black History Month by President Gerald Ford in 1976. Ever since, the United States and other countries in the world, including the United Kingdom and Canada, have devoted a month to celebrating Black history. Going back a little over a century, we can trace contributions that Black American Soldiers made at Rock Island Arsenal during the Civil War. “By July of 1862 the American Civil War had fully engulfed the nation and almost every American citizen and industry were being impacted by the demands of the war,” said Kevin Braafladt, U.S. Army Sustainment Command historian. The United States War Department issued General Order 143 in 1863, which established the Bureau of Colored Troops, which began recruiting Black American men to serve in all branches of the U.S. Army. Braafladt said that the 108th United States Colored Troops was one of the many regiments formed during the war.*

[Inside the Air Force Chief’s Mission for Racial Equity](#) [Tara Copp, *Government Executive*, 22 February 2022]

*Since Floyd’s death, the Air Force has released two major reviews on disparity in its ranks, and is still issuing updates as needed. In December 2020, the Air Force [inspector general identified 16 areas](#) where Black or African American airmen, and Guardians in the Space Force, faced unequal circumstances, ranging from how commanders dedicate resources to investigate sexual harassment complaints, to how fewer Black or African American candidates are selected for development schools, and statistical underrepresentation in enlisted and officer leadership ranks. This week Air Force Materiel Command announced the latest service change, a new process for evaluating airmen for performance awards. The new policy requires that an airman’s name, race, ethnicity, gender-specific language and photos are redacted in an awards nomination packet, and that the board members reviewing those applications reflect the diversity of the organization giving the award.*

[The Long Blue Line: A look at the Coast Guard Academy producing minority Coast Guard officers for 80 years](#) [William H. Thiesen, *Coast Guard Atlantic Area*, 25 February 2022]

*The United States Coast Guard has had a history of ethnic diversity that rivals all other federal agencies. Therefore, it is only fitting that we should document the diversity history of the Coast Guard Academy, which has produced minority officers for 80 years. While many commissioned officers have followed in their path, these men and women were the first known minority service members to get commissions through academy training and education. During their time in the service, they considered themselves ordinary Coasties not pioneers of ethnic diversity in the U.S. military. They were members of the long blue line who used their education to serve the Coast Guard and the nation.*

[Lukas Book Prize shortlist titles encompass U.S. social issues](#) [Jemma Romaine, *The Hill*, 25 February 2022]

*The titles making up the 2022 shortlist for the [J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize, announced Thursday](#), shed a light on a variety of social issues facing the United States. The \$10,000 prize honors nonfiction works of substantial original reporting research surrounding political and social issues. This year, the five shortlisted works examine poverty and homelessness, race and racism,*

*the opioid crisis, the root and effects of bias, and abortion. The winners and finalists will be announced on March 16, 2022.*

[Navy creates separate PRT plank standards for men, women](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Navy Times*, 22 February 2022]

*The Navy has released new plank standards for the physical readiness test for men and women, and is also reducing the max out standards for both groups after evaluating records from last year's assessment. Whereas the plank standards the Navy originally released in 2020 were gender neutral for all age groups, the new standards are slightly different for men and women, according to the Navy. The shift stems from analysis done on 26,000 forearm plank records from the 2021 PRT, which found there was a "minor gender performance differential," the Navy said in a new naval administrative message. As a result, there is now a 10 second difference between the maximum scores for men and women in the plank event.*

[On 80th anniversary, Camp Amache families remembered and honored by Sect. of Interior Deb Haaland](#) [Shanna Lewis, *Colorado Public Radio*, 20 February 2022]

*All that's left from the original camp are wind-blown prairie grass and old building foundations. "It's a part of American history that for many years, people wanted to sweep under the carpet," said Derek Okubo of Denver, whose father, Henry, was incarcerated on these grounds 80 years ago. It was February 19, 1942, shortly after the American entrance into World War II, when more than 120,000 people of Japanese descent were confined to so-called relocation camps on a directive from the President of the United States, Executive Order 9066. Many were American citizens. Some 7,000 were forced from their homes on the west coast and ordered to move to the Granada Relocation Center in the plains of southeastern Colorado. That place, more commonly known as Camp Amache, is now on track to be officially designated as a National Historic Site.*

["Segregated Skies" tells the story of the first Black pilot for a commercial airline](#) [Elizabeth Blair, *NPR*, 18 February 2022]

*When American Airlines hired David Harris in 1964, he became the first African American pilot for a commercial airline. The story of how he broke the color barrier in the clouds is the subject of the young adult book [Segregated Skies](#) by Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Cottman. Even though President Truman desegregated the armed forces in 1948, racism within the airline industry persisted. "There were certainly people who were saying 'Well, a Black man cannot fly an airplane,'" says Lyn May, who was married to Harris when he began his training for the U.S. Air Force in the late 1950s. After six and a half years in the military, he applied to be a pilot at several commercial airlines. As a light-skinned African American with green eyes, Harris was often mistaken for White. Cottman says that during the American Airlines interview, Harris went out of his way to set the record straight. "He stopped them and just said, 'Hey, look, I just want you to know, before we proceed, that I'm Black,'" says Cottman, "Because he is so proud of his heritage that he didn't want to pass as White."*

[This Inuk woman is teaching her Indigenous language online to help others reconnect with Inuit culture](#) [Alaa Elassar, *CNN*, 19 February 2022]

*Like many Indigenous people of North America, Miali Coley-Sudlovenick fears that her native language is dying. European colonization left Inuit struggling to preserve their culture and tongue in an environment of horror and abuse, she says. That's why she has taken to the internet to teach Inuktitut, one of the dialects spoken by the Inuit, to her people and anyone else who wants to learn. She believes it is vital to her culture's survival. There are an estimated 180,000 Inuit in the world, most of whom live in Alaska, Canada and Greenland. Nearly 65,000 Inuit live in Canada, according to the Canadian government. Coley-Sudlovenick learned Inuktitut from her mother who spent her childhood in a Federal Day School, where she was abused and forbidden from speaking her native language, she said. "She was belittled, mocked and scolded for speaking Inuktitut," Coley-Sudlovenick said of her mother. "If the system had their way, she would have lost it completely."*

[TV study: LGBTQ characters rise in number with streaming](#) [Lynn Elber, *The Associated Press*, 17 February 2022]

*LGBTQ representation on scripted TV series has grown along with the footprint of streaming services, according to an annual study by the advocacy group GLAAD. "TV is leading entertainment in telling LGBTQ stories," Sarah Kate Ellis, president and CEO of GLAAD, said in the "[Where We Are on TV](#)" report on the 2021-22 season that was released Thursday. In recognition of the increased number and profile of streaming services, the study added five relative newcomers to the trio—Amazon, Hulu and Netflix—included in previous GLAAD diversity tallies. Broadcast networks and cable channels are part of the study, which also looks at broadcast representation of women, people of color and those with disabilities. Netflix, which has consistently topped its streaming competitors in LGBTQ inclusivity, according to GLAAD, ranked first again, with 155 regularly seen or recurring characters on its original comedy and drama series.*

[The U.S. looks to replace a derogatory name used hundreds of times on federal lands](#) [Rina Torchinsky, *NPR*, 23 February 2022]

*The Department of the Interior is moving forward with plans to remove a name the department declared to be derogatory from federal lands. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland formed a task force and declared the word "squaw" derogatory in November 2021. Now, the department is seeking public comment on name replacements for the more than 660 geographic features that contain the word. Historically, the term has been used as "an offensive ethnic, racial, and sexist slur, particularly for Indigenous women," the department noted. The term originated from the Algonquian word for "woman," but its meanings has been skewed for centuries by White people. "Words matter, particularly in our work to make our nation's public lands and waters accessible and welcoming to people of all backgrounds," Haaland said. "Consideration of these replacements is a big step forward in our efforts to remove derogatory terms whose expiration dates are long overdue."*

[Victoria's Secret features its first model with Down syndrome](#) [Deepa Shivaram, *NPR*, 17 February 2022]

*Sofia Jirau is making history as Victoria's Secret's first model with Down syndrome. She joins 17 other women in the company's newest campaign. Jirau, who is also Latina, is part of the Love*

*Cloud collection, which features women described by the company as being from a “myriad of backgrounds.” “One day I dreamed of it, I worked on it and today it is a dream come true. I can finally tell you my big secret,” the Puerto Rican model posted on her Instagram page in Spanish. “I am the first Victoria’s Secret model with Down syndrome!” “Love Cloud Collection is a major moment in the brand’s evolution,” said Raúl Martínez, Victoria’s Secret’s head creative director. “From the cast of incredible women that bring the collection to life, to the incredible inclusive spirit on set, this campaign is an important part of the new Victoria’s Secret standard we are creating.”*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[3 ex-cops convicted of rights violations in Floyd killing](#) [Amy Forliti, Steve Karnowski and Tammy Webber, *The Associated Press*, 25 February 2022]

*Three former Minneapolis police officers were convicted Thursday of violating George Floyd’s civil rights, as a federal jury rejected their arguments that inexperience, improper training or the distraction of shouting bystanders excused them from failing to prevent Floyd’s killing. Tou Thao, J. Alexander Kueng and Thomas Lane were convicted of depriving Floyd of his right to medical care as the 46-year-old Black man was pinned under fellow Officer Derek Chauvin’s knee for 9 1/2 minutes while handcuffed, face down on the street on May 25, 2020. Kueng knelt on Floyd’s back, Lane held his legs and Thao kept bystanders back. Thao and Kueng were also convicted of failing to intervene to stop Chauvin in the videotaped killing that sparked protests in Minneapolis and around the globe as part of a reckoning over racial injustice.*

[Alabama lawmakers advance transgender students bathroom ban](#) [Kim Chandler, *The Associated Press*, 23 February 2022]

*Alabama lawmakers on Tuesday night approved legislation that would bar transgender students from using school bathrooms and locker rooms that match their current gender identity. The bill mandates K-12 schools require students to use multi-person restrooms and locker rooms that match the sex on their original birth certificate. The Alabama House of Representatives voted 74-24 for the bill after two hours of contentious debate where Republicans said it would address an ongoing problem in public schools but opponents said it targets trans youth to score political points. The bill now moves to the Alabama Senate. Similar policies in other states have resulted in litigation. The U.S. Supreme Court last year rejected a Virginia school board’s appeal to reinstate its transgender bathroom ban, handing a victory to transgender rights groups and a former high school student who fought in court for six years to overturn the ban.*

[Families at Scott AFB allege discrimination in base housing, ask for an investigation](#) [Kelsey Landis, *Belleville News-Democrat (Belleville, Ill.)*, 24 February 2022]

*A group of families living in Scott Air Force Base housing complained earlier this month to base leadership about racist incidents and policies they say are discriminatory against people of color and LGBTQ people. But Col. Christopher Robinson, commander of the 375th Air Mobility Wing at the base, says leaders responded swiftly and appropriately, while social media has fueled speculation and ill-will between base residents. A series of incidents in January, a report of bullying and a mounting feud over yard signs prompted families to send letters to 375th brass*

asking for a “formal investigation.” Robinson said the base has no control over housing policies and that investigations showed the events were isolated. The families also said Hunt, the military’s largest privatized housing owner, has unfairly issued citations to families with LGBTQ pride and Black Lives Matter signs in front of their homes.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[High court takes case involving refusal to serve gay couples](#) [Jessica Gresko, *The Associated Press*, 21 February 2022]

*The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a new clash involving religion and the rights of LGBT people. The high court said Tuesday it would hear the case of Colorado-based web designer Lorie Smith. Smith offers graphic and website design services and wants to expand to wedding website services, but she says her religious beliefs would lead her to decline any request from a same-sex couple to design a wedding website. She also wants to post a statement on her website about her beliefs, but that would run afoul of a Colorado anti-discrimination law. Smith had argued the law violates her free speech and religious rights. The Supreme Court said in taking the case, however, that it would look only at the free speech issue. It said it would decide whether a law that requires an artist to speak or stay silent violates the free speech clause of the First Amendment.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Two students and ACLU sue Missouri school district over removing 8 books from libraries](#)

[Amanda Musa, *CNN*, 18 February 2022]

*Two students have sued a Missouri school district over its decision to remove eight books from school libraries, arguing the novels were banned because they discuss issues surrounding race, gender and sexual identity. The lawsuit was filed Tuesday by the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri (ACLU) against the Wentzville School District on behalf of the students who are minors and not named in the complaint. “The banned books engage their readers with a diversity of ideas and minority viewpoints, including with respect to race, gender, and sexual identity,” the ACLU argues in the class action lawsuit. The American Library Association’s executive director Tracie Hall warned against banning books as it affects child development in relation to real-world challenges. “It is so important to provide access to a free range of reading to young people to help them actually problem solve before they encounter the problem in real life,” Hall said.*

[USWNT players and U.S. Soccer settle equal pay dispute](#) [Reuters, 22 February 2022]

*The U.S. women’s national soccer team (USWNT) and governing body U.S. Soccer said on Tuesday they have agreed to resolve a years-long dispute over equal pay on what the players described as a landmark day for the sport. The settlement will see \$22 million distributed in a manner proposed by the players and approved by a district court. U.S. Soccer also committed to providing an equal rate of pay going forward for the women’s and men’s national teams in all friendlies and tournaments, including the World Cup. The agreement ended a dispute dating back to 2016 when some players filed a federal wage discrimination complaint claiming they were paid less than male players even though they generate more income for the United States Soccer Federation.*



## DIVERSITY

[A general’s explanation of “critical military theory” is short on substance and dead wrong on diversity](#) [Kelsey Parker, *Task & Purpose*, 21 February 2022] [OPINION]

*Retired Marine Lt. Gen. Gregory Newbold’s recent commentary seeks to emphasize the importance of having a military consistently focused on lethality. He highlights that to win wars, both military and civilian leadership must place lethality as the top priority—lethality does win battles and stymies gratuitous loss of life for our forces. Lethality is critical. “To be true to its purpose,” Newbold argues, “the U.S. military cannot be a mirror image of the society it serves.” The thing is, our military will never be a mirror image of the society it serves unless we bring back the draft. It takes a unique personality to decide to enlist in the all-volunteer era. And he’s wrong to imply that lethality and inclusivity are mutually exclusive, and wrong to imply that inclusivity is the root of modern institutional military woes. It’s not inclusivity—gender integration, racial diversity, or “softness”—that’s the problem.*

[COUNTERPOINT]

[A retired Marine 3-star general explains “critical military theory”](#) [Gregory Newbold, *Task & Purpose*, 10 February 2022] [OPINION]

[Percentage of LGBTQ adults in U.S. has doubled over past decade, Gallup finds](#) [Jo Yurcaba, *NBC News*, 17 February 2022]

*The percent of U.S. adults who identify as something other than heterosexual has doubled over the last 10 years, from 3.5 percent in 2012 to 7.1 percent, according to a [Gallup poll](#) released Thursday. Gallup found that the increase is due to “high LGBT self-identification, particularly as bisexual, among Generation Z adults,” who are 18 to 25. As the youngest Americans slowly outnumber and replace the oldest, Gallup predicts the number of LGBTQ-identifying adults will only increase—and likely at a much faster rate than past generations. Gallup notes that the proportion of Gen Z Americans who identify as LGBTQ is increasing at a faster pace than previous generations, and that they are growing up at a time when 70 percent of Americans support same-sex marriage rights, and a majority also support nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people.*

## EXTREMISM

[Military Is “No Place for Extremism,” Says Guard Leader. But He’s Powerless to Boot Capitol Rioters](#) [Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 22 February 2022]

*Lt. Gen. Jon Jensen, director of the Army National Guard, said Tuesday that taking part in the insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, was antithetical to the Army’s values and there’s no room for those soldiers who participated to continue their service. Yet, the service component’s top leader conceded that the decision to boot soldiers rests with the adjutants general of the states where those soldiers serve. “It’s obvious that extremism does not match the Army Values,” Jensen said during an interview with the Center for a New American Security, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank. “As it relates to any particular case, I really have to defer to each of those adjutants general that are responsible for those decisions. But I can tell you we take extremism very seriously in the National Guard. There’s no place for extremism inside of our ranks.” Some of the*

*Guard's inaction on its members may be attributed to its troops' dual obligations to both the governors they serve and the federal government. When not on federal orders, there's apparently little that can be done if the state's adjutant general declines to act.*

[Sentence upheld for former Coast Guard officer tied to terror plot](#) [Michael Kunzelman, *The Associated Press*, 22 February 2022]

*A federal appeals court Tuesday upheld a prison sentence of more than 13 years for a former Coast Guard officer accused of stockpiling weapons and plotting politically motivated killings inspired by a far-right mass murderer. Christopher Hasson argued the district court judge who sentenced him in January 2020 improperly applied a "terrorism enhancement" that more than tripled the recommended range of a prison term under federal sentencing guidelines. Hasson was not charged or convicted of a terrorism-related offense. U.S. District Judge George Hazel sentenced Hasson to 13 years and four months in prison after he pleaded guilty to possessing unregistered and unserialized silencers, being a drug addict in possession of firearms and illegal possession of tramadol, an opioid painkiller. Justice Department prosecutors called Hasson a domestic terrorist who appeared to be planning attacks inspired by the manifesto of Anders Behring Breivik, the Norwegian far-right terrorist who killed 77 people in a 2011 bomb-and-shooting rampage.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## INTERNATIONAL

[Dating apps accused of ignoring sexual assault](#) [Hannah Price, *BBC Three*, 23 February 2022]

*The number of reported sexual offences linked to dating apps doubled between 2017 and 2020, a BBC Three investigation has found. The Freedom of Information requests, which 27 out of 45 police forces in the UK responded to, also revealed that more than 6,000 people reported crimes linked to online dating platforms between this time period. This comes as data from the National Crime Agency (NCA) reveals an increase in the number of female victims of online dating-related sexual assaults aged 19 and under. Young people from across the UK have told BBC Three that their reports of sexual assault and harassment were ignored by dating apps. Now sexual violence charities and campaigners are launching fresh calls for online dating platforms to do more to protect users. A survey carried out for new [BBC Three documentary Dating's Dangerous Secrets](#), suggests a quarter of people who have used dating platforms in the last four years experienced sexual assault while on a date, whilst a third said they experienced harassment or abuse on a dating app.*

[Kuwait overturns law criminalising "imitation of opposite sex"](#) [BBC News, 16 February 2022]

*Kuwait's constitutional court has overturned a law that criminalised "imitation of the opposite sex" and was used to prosecute transgender people. The Gulf state's parliament amended Article 198 of the penal code in 2007 to make the offence punishable by up to one year in prison and a fine. But Wednesday's court ruling said the amendment violated the constitution. Amnesty International called the development "a major breakthrough for transgender rights in the region". Lynn Maalouf, the human rights group's deputy Middle East director, said the law was*

*“deeply discriminatory, overly vague and never should have been accepted into law in the first place”.*

[New Zealand passes law banning conversion therapy](#) [Praveen Menon, *Reuters*, 15 February 2022]

*New Zealand’s parliament on Tuesday near-unanimously passed a legislation that bans practices intended to forcibly change a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, known as conversion therapy. The government has said practices such as conversion therapy do not work, are widely discredited and cause harm. The legislation also lays out what is not conversion practice and protects the right to express opinion, belief, religious belief or principle which is not intended to change or suppress a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.*

[South Korea’s presidential race puts misogyny in spotlight](#) [Juwon Park, Kim Tong-Hyung and Kim Jung Yoon, *The Associated Press*, 23 February 2022]

*As South Korea enters a bitter presidential race, Hong Hee-jin is one of many young women who feel that the country’s politics has become dominated by discrimination against women, even outright misogyny. “Women are being treated like they don’t even have voting rights,” the 27-year-old office worker in the capital, Seoul, said. For years, South Korean women have made slow but steady progress in the workplace as they confronted an entrenched culture of male chauvinism and harassment. But this extremely tight presidential race, which culminates March 9, has exposed the fragility of what’s been won. Top conservative candidate Yoon Suk Yeol and his liberal rival Lee Jae-myung—both men above 55—are fighting for what they see as a “male” vote crucial for victory. They have increasingly focused their messages on young men who decry gender equality policies and the loss of traditional privileges in a hyper-competitive job market.*

[Swahili’s bid to become a language for all of Africa](#) [BBC News, 16 February 2022]

*East Africa, is one of the world’s 10 most widely spoken languages and, as Priya Sippy writes, there is a renewed push for it to become the continent’s lingua franca. “It’s high time we move from the coloniser’s language.” This is not part of a rousing speech by a pan-African idealist but rather the sentence is uttered quietly and calmly by Ghanaian Swahili student Annabel Naa Odarley Lankai. But her words echo declarations by the continent’s visionaries down the decades. In its heartland, Swahili and its dialects stretch from parts of Somalia down to Mozambique and across to the western parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Swahili, which takes around 40% of its vocabulary directly from Arabic, was initially spread by Arab traders along East Africa’s coast. If Swahili is to become truly pan-African it will take political will, an economic imperative and financial investment to reach all regions.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Army posthumously promotes first Black colonel to one-star general](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 24 February 2022]

*The Army has awarded a posthumous honorary promotion to the service’s first Black colonel, elevating him to brigadier general more than 100 years after his death, Army Times has learned.*

*Col. Charles Young's career, which stretched from his West Point graduation in 1889 to his forced medical retirement in 1917 that kept him from fighting in World War I, "broke new ground time and again," said Army Secretary Christine Wormuth in a statement to Army Times confirming the promotion. Wormuth acknowledged that "discriminatory practices not only held him back but forced him into retirement." Wormuth expressed her pride that "the Army redressed that wrong [recently] with a long overdue posthumous, honorary promotion." She will preside over a promotion ceremony "at West Point this spring—where his Army career first started as the Academy's third Black Graduate."*

[Black immigrants are more likely to be denied U.S. citizenship than White immigrants, study finds](#) [Giselle Rhoden and Nicole Chavez, CNN, 23 February 2022]

*Black male immigrants are less likely to be approved for United States citizenship than White immigrants, a [new study](#) released this week shows. Researchers at the University of Southern California analyzed more than 2 million citizenship applications filed by U.S. permanent residents between October 2014 and March 2018, and found racial disparities among those whose applications were approved. Black immigrants, researchers say, have been denied citizenship more often than any other racial and ethnic group. About 94% of White women and about 92% of White men were approved for U.S. citizenship while Black men and women received an approval rating at or below 90%, the study shows. Black Muslim immigrants also had lower approval ratings at around 86%.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[George Takei got reparations. He says they "strengthen the integrity of America"](#) [Neda Ulaby, NPR, 18 February 2022]

*On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. It sent approximately 70,000 U.S. citizens into internment camps for years, including a very young George Takei. "I was five years old at the time," recalls the actor. "It was a terrorizing morning I will never be able to forget. Literally at gunpoint, we were ordered out of our home." Collectively, Japanese-Americans forced into internment camps lost more than six billion dollars adjusted for inflation, according to an estimate from the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. This is a story George Takei has told over and over: in a memoir, on Broadway, and to members of Congress in 1981. Takei testified at a hearing as part of an effort to push for redress. George Takei dedicated the money he received from the federal government to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Now, he's a passionate supporter of redress for descendants of enslaved people in the U.S.*

[These are America's Black Medal of Honor recipients](#) [Daniel Johnson, Task & Purpose, 22 February 2022]

*Black Americans have participated in every war of our nation's history, fighting not just for the American ideal, but also their place in it. For many, fighting for their nation overseas was only one front; the second one being against racism and discrimination back at home. 92 MoHs have been awarded to 90 Black recipients. Up until World War I, the vast majority were given to Black recipients in a timely manner, but during WWI and WW2, Black service members were refused the right to be honored for their valor. The awards for those conflicts took over 50 years to be*

*given, and only one Black servicemember was still alive when the ceremony occurred. The most recent award of a MoH was given to Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn Cashe on Dec. 16 2021 to his widow Tamara, sixteen years after his actions in Iraq on Oct. 17, 2005, where he gave his life rescuing soldiers under his command while under fire and aflame.*

[The tough conversations military families of color are having](#) [Military Times, 16 February 2022] [PODCAST]

*Active-duty service members of color are generally satisfied with the military itself, according to a [new survey](#), but many reported lower levels of pay in the civilian workforce for spouses or fearing for safety in communities with a history of racism. Blue Star Families Racial Equity and Inclusion Initiative Director CT Moss shares the details and her story as a Black woman veteran.*

## MISCONDUCT

[Army 3-star general suspended amid investigation into toxic climate and racist comments](#) [Haley Britzky, Task & Purpose, 16 February 2022]

*An Army three-star general at the Pentagon has been suspended while the service investigates claims that he created a toxic climate, regularly degraded others in public forums, went out of his way to criticize the performance of Black officers, and made racist remarks, Task & Purpose has learned. Lt. Gen. Duane Gamble, the Army deputy chief of staff for logistics—head of an office commonly referred to as the G-4—was reported to the Army’s Office of the Inspector General in September 2020 amid accusations that he cultivated a toxic environment in the office. Two months later, an official investigation was launched. Gamble, who is White, almost exclusively made disparaging comments about Black general officers he worked with and knew, the sources said. He often spoke down to Black subordinates in meetings and overlooked their suggestions, only to praise the same suggestion when it came from a White colleague.*

[Top Army public affairs officer retiring after command climate inquiry](#) [Davis Winkie, Army Times, 22 February 2022]

*The Army’s chief of public affairs is retiring after an inspector general investigation into allegations stemming from a command climate survey in which 97% of respondents reported experiencing “workplace hostility,” Army Times has learned. An Army spokesperson, speaking on background to offer additional detail about administrative actions, confirmed that Brig. Gen. Amy Johnston will soon leave the Army. The investigation “substantiated that BG Johnston’s leadership style violated the standards set forth in Army Regulation 600-100,” the spokesperson explained. Allegations of so-called counterproductive or toxic leadership typically fall under that regulation. Respondents also reported a significant level of racial and sexual harassment in the workplace, according slides documenting the command climate survey results, and which were obtained by Army Times.*

## RACISM

[Ahmaud Arbery’s killers convicted on all federal hate-crimes charges](#) [Rich McKay, Reuters, 22 February 2022]

*The three White men convicted of chasing down and murdering a young Black man, Ahmaud Arbery, as he was out jogging in their suburban Georgia community, were found guilty on Tuesday of committing federal hate crimes and other offenses in the 2020 killing. All three men were found guilty of violating Arbery's civil rights by attacking him because of his race, and of attempted kidnapping, capping the latest high-profile trial to probe issues of vigilantism and racial violence in America. The two McMichaels had agreed last month to plead guilty to the federal hate-crimes offense, and the son acknowledged at a federal court hearing that he singled out Arbery because of his "race and color." A predominantly White jury deliberated for about four hours over two days before returning the verdict against Travis McMichael, 36, his father, former police officer Gregory McMichael, 66, and a neighbor, William "Roddie" Bryan, 52, in U.S. District Court in Brunswick, Georgia.*

[Air Force base leaders speak out against racism](#) [Jasmine Hall, *Wyoming Tribune Eagle* (Cheyenne, Wyo.), 18 February 2022]

*Col. Catherine Barrington has been stationed in Cheyenne three times since 1998. But she said she never knew she experienced a different community than her fellow airmen. The commander of the 90th Missile Wing at F.E. Warren Air Force Base discovered not only was her command chief master sergeant encountering racist behavior, but so were families and their students off-base. She came forward in the past two weeks to ask for the support of Cheyenne Mayor Patrick Collins and Laramie County School District 1 Superintendent Margaret Crespo to address the issue. Barrington said enduring hatred is a lesson she doesn't approve of. She requested commanders and senior leaders speak with their airmen and give them the opportunity to share their own experiences. Command Chief Master Sgt. Nicholas Taylor joined her in the inquiry, and said many of his fellow minority airmen reported being treated differently out of uniform.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Houston area littered with antisemitic, racist flyers](#) [Brad Dress, *The Hill*, 16 February 2022]

*Two neighborhoods in Houston were littered with racist and antisemitic flyers over the weekend, about a week after residents in a separate area of the city woke up to similar hate messages. A Harris County resident told CNN she found 400 flyers tucked inside plastic bags around two neighborhoods in the Houston area on Sunday. They featured messages of hate, including an image of Adolf Hitler and the caption "We can do it again." Cypress, a community in Harris County, experienced a spate of hate messages last week. According to KHOU 11, men in ski masks distributed the flyers across the area, placing them in front of homes and on cars. Those flyers included racist images of African Americans captioned with "2026: A Race Odyssey."*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## RELIGION

[An Alabama high school basketball team say they were forced to choose faith over a tournament game. The governor is demanding answers](#) [Sara Smart, *CNN*, 23 February 2022]

*Alabama's governor is demanding answers after a high school basketball team say they were forced to choose between their faith or a game. Oakwood Adventist Academy is a Seventh-Day Adventist school in Huntsville, located 100 miles north of Birmingham. Their men's basketball*

*team had advanced to the semifinals of the state tournament last week, the school's Athletic Director, Calvin Morton, told CNN Wednesday. But the regional semifinal game was set for Saturday, February 19 at 4:30 p.m., and would interfere with Sabbath, which is observed from sundown Friday to sundown on Saturday. Morton said he emailed the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) to ask if they could play at 7:30 p.m. instead, after sunset, to meet their religious beliefs. That request was denied.*

[A Tennessee couple's struggle to adopt shows religious freedom is under siege in America](#)

[Guthrie Graves-Fitzsimmons and Maggie Siddiqi, CNN, 15 February 2022] [OPINION]

*Elizabeth and Gabriel Rutan-Ram, a Tennessee couple, were denied access to a state-sponsored foster parent certification program because they are Jewish. The rationale? The foster agency they applied to claims that they should be allowed to turn away Jewish people because they are a Christian adoption agency. The Rutan-Rams (and six others) have now filed a lawsuit against the Tennessee Department of Children's Services and its commissioner. According to court documents cited by the Washington Post, the Holston United Methodist Home for Children (which is not named as a defendant in the suit) told the couple in an email, "As a Christian organization, our executive team made the decision several years ago to only provide prospective adoptive families that share our belief system in order to avoid conflicts or delays with future service delivery." Despite the fact that they are, in part, being funded by the state to care for all children and serve all prospective parents, the agency asserts that such discrimination is part of their religious freedom.*

[VA Bible lawsuit dismissed, separate display proposed](#) [Kathy McCormack, *The Associated Press*, 23 February 2022]

*A judge on Wednesday granted the dismissal of a lawsuit over a Bible displayed on a table at a New Hampshire veterans hospital after the plaintiffs' lawyer proposed a separate display. Two U.S. Air Force veterans filed the lawsuit in federal court in 2019 against the Manchester VA Medical Center director, saying the Bible's inclusion on a "missing man" table near the entrance honoring fallen or missing veterans and prisoners of war is a violation of the U.S. Constitution. The table, usually set up near military dining facilities, is set for one person and features a white tablecloth, single rose, a lit candle and more. In some displays, a Bible is also on the table. The lawsuit said the table should be a memorial to all who have served. The veterans had suggested replacing the Bible with a Book of Faith containing the writings and prayers from seven religious groups. Government lawyers argued the lawsuit should be dismissed, saying some of the allegations were vague and undefined, and that the lead plaintiff acknowledged he wasn't offended by the display.*

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## **SEXISM**

[Guardsman says not being "feminine" cost her a job. The government is fighting her lawsuit](#)

[Rachel S. Cohen, *Air Force Times*, 23 February 2022]

*The Army and Air Force's top civilian leaders are pushing to throw out a federal district court lawsuit alleging that an airman in the West Virginia National Guard lost out on a human*

*resources job due to discrimination over her sexual orientation and her appearance. William Thompson, a Justice Department attorney for Army Secretary Christine Wormuth and Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall, denied the allegations in paperwork filed Feb. 14. The legal scuffle sheds light on underlying cultural issues within the organization and may derail the careers of multiple airmen in the process. Kristin Kingrey, now a technical sergeant with the 130th Airlift Wing, enlisted in the West Virginia Air National Guard in 2007.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Culture of fear at Merchant Marine Academy silences students who say they were sexually harassed and assaulted](#) [Blake Ellis and Melanie Hicken, CNN, 16 February 2022]

*On a 1,000-foot cargo ship in the middle of the ocean, the 19-year-old student felt trapped. Trapped by the crew member she said sexually harassed and groped her, and trapped by the academy that sent her there. She still had at least 40 more days at sea. If she left the ship before completing “Sea Year,” a mandatory training program at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy where students are placed on commercial or government ships to gain “self-reliance,” she risked derailing her graduation and worried she would be shut out of a career in the shipping industry. So she stayed silent. The woman, who graduated in 2016 and went on to work in the military, received permission from her supervisors to share her experience with CNN anonymously. She and others in the school community told reporters that sexual assault and harassment are disturbingly common at the academy, but a culture of fear has silenced victims for years. They spoke out in the wake of an explosive account from a current student who wrote that she was raped at sea in 2019 by her supervisor.*

[Five Arrested at Christian School For Covering Up Sexual Assault: Police](#) [Jake Thomas, Newsweek, 17 February 2022]

*Police in West Texas have arrested five employees at a Christian school on charges that they failed to report an alleged sexual assault on a student during a baseball practice and tried to hide evidence. Police on February 16 arrested three administrators and two coaches at Midland Christian School on charges of failing to report abuse with intent to conceal, according to a press release the Midland Police Department provided to Newsweek. A [report released by the U.S. Education Department in 2020](#) found the number of incidents of sexual violence in K-12 schools increased 55 percent between the 2015-2016 school year and 2017-2018. The number of incidents rose from 9,649 to 14,938 during that time period. However, the report found that Texas was among the lowest rates of students experiencing sexual assault.*

[San Francisco Police will review its policies after DA claims it used sexual assault victims’ DNA in unrelated investigations, chief says](#) [Alisha Ebrahimji, CNN, 15 February 2022]

*The San Francisco Police Department immediately will start reviewing its DNA collection practices and policies after the city’s top prosecutor accused it of using a law enforcement database with the DNA of rape and sexual assault victims to search for and identify possible suspects in unrelated investigations, its chief said Monday. The pledge followed San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin’s claim that the police department’s crime lab tries to identify crime suspects by searching a database of DNA evidence that contains DNA collected from rape*



*and sexual assault victims, but Boudin has not provided specific evidence to support his claim. Boudin said conversations with leadership of the SFPD crime lab “suggest that this is a routine practice not only in San Francisco but at other crime labs across the state.” Boudin condemned the practice Monday as “legally and ethically wrong” and said he’s committed to working with law enforcement partners to end it.*

[Whistleblowers say they’re bullied for exposing prison abuse](#) [Michael Balsamo and Michael R. Sisak, *The Associated Press*, 24 February 2022]

*As the federal Bureau of Prisons faces increased scrutiny over its latest scandal—allegations staff and even a warden sexually abused inmates at a women’s prison known as the “rape club”—people striving to hold it accountable say they’re being attacked for speaking up. Whistleblower employees say high-ranking prison officials are bullying them for exposing wrongdoing and threatening to close the women’s lockup if workers keep reporting abuse, and members of Congress say they’re being stonewalled as they seek to bring greater oversight to the beleaguered bureau. The Bureau of Prisons’ proclivity for silence and secrecy has endured, workers and lawmakers say, even after [an Associated Press investigation](#) revealed years of sexual misconduct at the women’s prison—the federal correctional institution in Dublin, California—and detailed a toxic culture that enabled it to continue for years.*

## SUICIDE

[Federal lawsuit alleges Chicago police didn’t help prevent military veteran’s suicide in custody](#) [Mark Guarino, *The Washington Post*, 22 February 2022]

*A federal lawsuit filed Tuesday alleges that Chicago police officers did not prevent an Army veteran from dying by suicide while in their custody in December. While handcuffed in a holding cell, Irene Chavez repeatedly told officers that she was experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and needed to see a therapist. Forty-five minutes later, she was found dead. The case is being framed as a systemic failure by police to seriously respond to mental health crises. Chavez had no prior police record. According to the lawsuit, she served two tours overseas, first in Afghanistan and Kuwait, and then in South Korea, for a total of six years. She also suffered at least two concussions and, upon returning home, began drinking heavily and became paranoid and withdrawn from her family. Chavez struggled to maintain a job and was ultimately fired from Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where she worked as an intake specialist. Records from the local veterans hospital, where she was receiving mental health treatment, showed a diagnosis of PTSD that was serious enough that she had a suicide safety plan.*

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[What suicides tied to overdose tell us about disparities in mental health care](#) [Laura Santhanam, *PBS News*, 17 February, 2022]

For those suffering with depression and suicide ideation, or if someone you know is struggling, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or find them online at <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org>.

*For two decades, drug overdose deaths and suicides have been rising across the United States, exposing tragic gaps in mental and behavioral health care in the years before the coronavirus*

pandemic, [according to new federal research](#). From 2001 to 2019, intentional overdoses increased most steeply among the nation's youngest generations, oldest generations and Black women, researchers found. And experts agreed these rates were very likely undercounts. Published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* in early February, the study explored cause-of-death data from the National Vital Statistics System for patterns of suicidal behavior, studying the frequency of these tragedies by month of the year, day of the week and time of day (suicides were less likely to happen on Saturdays or in December, for instance). The researchers wanted to better understand what leads to intentional overdoses and untimely deaths, and these datapoints will inform suicide prevention strategies and could be used to shore up resources for people who need them most.

## VETERANS

[Army, VA honor Black soldiers hanged in the aftermath of 1917 Houston Riots, pledge to review their courts-martial](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 23 February 2022]

Jason Holt's family has preserved a letter that his uncle, Army Pfc. Thomas Hawkins, wrote nearly 105 years ago. The letter and the events it describes led Holt on a decade's long journey to clear the legacy of his uncle, who was one of 19 Black soldiers executed in 1917 and 1918 after courts-martial found them guilty of charges stemming from a race riot in Houston that left 19 people dead. Hawkins professed his innocence in his letter. On Tuesday, Holt said he felt one step closer to clearing his uncle's name. The Department of Veterans Affairs unveiled a sign at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio to acknowledge the race riots that led to Hawkins' court-martial and death sentence and the changes that trial sparked in the military justice system. "To many, the Houston Riots is simply a footnote in history," Holt said. "But for us, the family members, it's a little different. For us, it's a time when we know that we lost someone dear to our family."

[Black History Month: WWII veterans paved way for civil rights advances](#) [Bill Schackner, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 21 February 2022]

The John L. Ford Sr. African American Heritage Celebration is offered through the Soldier's & Sailors Hall and Museum Trust. This year's announced topic, "Breaking Barriers in World War II," will feature a discussion of Pittsburgh's place in the struggle for civil rights in America during those years, including The "Double V" Campaign by *The Pittsburgh Courier* that shed light on unequal treatment of Blacks in civilian and military life, and the 80 Western Pennsylvanians who were among the famed Tuskegee Airmen. The event is named for Mr. Ford, the late historian and curator at Soldiers & Sailors who developed the celebration in 2011 and died in 2019. What is typically an in-person event went virtual after COVID-19 hit in 2020, and this year's presentation will again allow those to attend without leaving their homes via live Facebook and YouTube streams.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Orlando VA appoints full-time position for LGBTQ veterans care](#) [Jeremy Williams, *Watermark Online*, 2 February 2022]

*Orlando Veterans Affairs has named Keri Griffin as the medical center's full-time LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Program Coordinator and LGBTQ+ Special Emphasis Program Manager. Griffin, who has been with the Orlando VA for the last 16 years, has been in charge of LGBTQ programs at the Orlando VA in an additional duties capacity. "When I began running the LGBTQ programs here at the VA they were collateral duties that weren't paid but it was something I was passionate about," Griffin says. "As time progressed and we got bigger, we've gone from one site to nine sites and a hospital here in Central Florida, the number of LGBTQ patients and staff jumped exponentially, and the job became more and more." Orlando has the fourth largest population of same-sex couples and is one of the top five veterans populations in the country. Griffin says the VA is going to great strides to let LGBTQ veterans know that they are safe and welcome when they come to any one of the Orlando VA sites.*

#### [Sailors and Marines with PTSD or other trauma to have their discharge upgrade cases reexamined](#)

[Diana Stancy Correll, *Navy Times*, 17 February 2022]

*Navy and Marine Corps veterans who were suffering the effects of trauma related to their service when they were involuntarily separated from service—and who later tried and failed to have their discharges upgraded—will have their cases reevaluated. Under terms of the final settlement of the class-action lawsuit *Manker v. Del Toro*, the Navy has agreed to review the discharges of veterans with other than honorable or general characterizations of service due to behavior connected to post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma and other mental or behavioral conditions. The Navy will automatically review discharge-status-upgrade decisions from the Naval Discharge Review Board from March 2, 2012, to Feb. 15 for cases where the sailor or Marine didn't receive an upgrade to honorable discharge and was diagnosed with, or displayed evidence of, one of those conditions. Sailors and Marines whose upgrade decisions were issued between Oct. 7, 2001, and March 2, 2012, are eligible to reapply for an upgrade to honorable.*

#### [Wounded veterans still struggle to access mental health support: survey](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 22 February 2022]

*Despite already receiving benefits for other injuries, many veterans working with the Wounded Warrior Project aren't sure where to access mental health services to help with issues like depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts, [according to a new survey](#) by the organization. Nearly 88 percent of the individuals who took part in the advocacy group's annual survey have used Veterans Affairs health care in the past, and 77 percent of the group have a disability rating of 70 percent or more, making them eligible for a host of Veterans Affairs assistance. However, nearly one in five WWP members surveyed said they have had problems receiving mental health care. Of that group, 59 percent they were unsure what professional mental health care options were available to them, and 66 percent said they would be "embarrassed or ashamed" to use those services.*