

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 11 MARCH 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

[Air Force reviewing gender-biased policies affecting airmen, guardians](#) [Rachel S. Cohen, *Air Force Times*, 7 March 2022]

The Department of the Air Force has launched a wide-ranging inquiry into outdated policies that disproportionately affect airmen and guardians of one gender over another, the service's undersecretary told reporters here March 3. Scrapping discriminatory gender-biased rules can end certain deep-seated barriers to airmen's success—particularly for women, whose roles in society have dramatically changed since the Air Force was founded in 1947. Gender-biased policies don't only affect women. In February, the Air Force said commanders are not allowed to decide who in an airman's household should serve as the primary and secondary caregivers for a newborn baby or recently adopted child. In the past, it was assumed that women would assume the main responsibility for a child, particularly if they were the one who gave birth. But the growing portion of women in the workforce, men's larger role in parenting and the rising number of same-sex, transgender and nonbinary parents have changed that calculus.

[Congress passes Emmett Till bill to make lynching hate crime](#) [The Associated Press, 8 March 2022]

Congress gave final approval Monday to legislation that for the first time would make lynching a federal hate crime in the U.S., sending the bill to President Joe Biden to sign into law. Years in the making, the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act is among some 200 bills that have been introduced over the past century that have tried to ban lynching in America. It is named for the Black teenager whose brutal killing in Mississippi in 1955—and his mother's insistence on an open funeral casket to show the world what had been done to her child—became a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights era. The bill would make it possible to prosecute a crime as a lynching when a conspiracy to commit a hate crime results in death or serious bodily injury, according to the bill's champion, Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill. "Lynching is a longstanding and uniquely American weapon of racial terror that has for decades been used to maintain the White hierarchy," said Rush.

[DOD Celebrates International Women's Day, Advances in Gender Equity and Equality](#) [DOD News Service, 8 March 2022]

As the Department of Defense commemorates International Women's Day and Women's History Month, we are reflecting on progress we have made towards gender equity and equality at home and abroad, and celebrating the invaluable expertise of women throughout DOD. In 2021, the Department saw the first woman leader confirmed by Congress as Deputy Secretary of Defense. We are making progress in empowering women leaders and a range of initiatives to enhance opportunities for women and minorities across the department—all of which are vital to enhancing U.S. national security. "Around the world, our Allies, partners and major international organizations are celebrating the advancements gender parity brings to the world," said Deputy Secretary of Defense Dr. Kathleen H. Hicks.

CULTURE

[Barbie doll that honors Ida B. Wells faces an uphill battle against anti-Blackness](#) [Toni Sturdivant, *The Conversation*, 9 March 2022] [COMMENTARY]

When Mattel announced in January 2022 that it was releasing a new Barbie doll to honor Ida B. Wells—the famed 19th-century Black journalist and anti-lynching crusader—the company said the idea was to “inspire us to dream big.” However, while the doll may prove helpful to young Black children, its impact is likely to be limited. Although diverse groups are sometimes represented accurately within print and digital media, [racist portrayals of Black people](#) still persist. Young Black children can internalize racial messages from a variety of sources, [including anti-Black messages from the media](#), interactions with peers and school practices, such as being disproportionately disciplined or suspended from school. This internalization can negatively impact young children’s feelings about their race and others. Black dolls, like the one of Wells, can [shape the way](#) young Black children understand their identity and [affect how they see themselves in society](#), but only to a limited degree.

[“The Gilded Age” gives viewers a rare glimpse into the 19th-century Black elite](#) [Alex Portée, *NBC News*, 7 March 2022]

*In HBO’s new series “The Gilded Age,” a frequently glossed-over aspect of Black history is put in the spotlight. Textbooks documenting this time in history would have you believe that the era’s rapid economic and social growth can be credited solely to the likes of Andrew Carnegie, J. P. Morgan, and Cornelius Vanderbilt. In truth, people of color also made significant contributions to the American economy of the 19th century and its vast accumulation of wealth. With its small lineup of impressive Black characters, “The Gilded Age” highlights a time in history when African Americans did more than just escape to New York to seize their freedom—they made history. Erica Armstrong Dunbar is a Rutgers University-New Brunswick historian and served as series co-executive producer for “The Gilded Age.” Dunbar told the *Los Angeles Times* that she aimed “to create a Black elite that respected and centered things like education, thrift, religious piety—things that would perhaps add to the arsenal to protect themselves from racial discrimination.”*

[He grew up with a dog named Dixie; now, he’s renaming Army bases that honor Confederates](#) [Jules Struck, *Syracuse.com*, 6 March 2022]

On Jan. 6, 2021, an insurrectionist with a huge Confederate flag walked past a portrait of Charles Sumner in halls of the U.S. Capitol building. A journalist captured the moment in a photo that made the rounds on the news. The irony of that instance was not lost on retired brigadier general and West Point history professor Ty Seidule, who now lives in Clinton and is a visiting professor at Hamilton College. Seidule’s whole life is like that—a series of historical fishermen’s knots that connect his early life as a Lee devotee to his career now as an outspoken reformist and member of the Congress-appointed Naming Commission to strike Confederate titles from Department of Defense-owned property. Seidule grew up in Virginia and Georgia with a dog named Dixie and a drawing of Confederate battle flags over the mantle of his childhood home. Now he has a book, [“Robert E. Lee and Me: A Southerner’s Reckoning with the Myth of the Lost](#)

[Cause,”](#) and is on the Naming Commission formed by Congress to review and suggest new titles for Department of Defense property named after Confederates.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[How Pixar’s “Turning Red” highlights the complexity of Asian American families](#) [Brahmjot Kaur, *NBC News*, 8 March 2022]

When searching for inspiration for her first feature film, Domee Shi, the Academy Award-winning director of Pixar’s short film “Bao,” turned to her relationship with her mother. The result is “Turning Red,” Pixar’s first feature-length film directed by an Asian woman that’s slated for release on Disney+ on March 11. The movie tells the story of a “confident and dorky” 13-year-old Chinese Canadian girl named Meilin Lee who lives in Toronto in the early 2000s. One day, she discovers that she’s imbued with magical, ancestral powers that turn her into a red panda any time she experiences intense emotions. But underneath the humor and fantasy of the film is a story about the relationship between a mother and her daughter and the struggles Meilin feels between being a dutiful daughter while experiencing the disarray of adolescence.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Marvel is changing a comic book character after Indigenous people criticized it for being demeaning](#) [Harmeet Kaur, *CNN*, 8 March 2022]

Marvel is changing the name and design of a character that debuted in a recent issue of the comic miniseries “King Conan” after it was criticized for its portrayal of an Indigenous woman. The third issue of “King Conan,” published on February 16, finds its protagonist stranded on an island with a scantily clad princess named Matoaka. The princess, as it turns out, has a dark past: She hails from “a land far to the west,” and once fell in love with a man who tried to colonize her people. When the man ransacked her home, she killed him, but her father nonetheless exiled her to the island, where she’s now cursed to lure other would-be colonizers away from her native land. To people in Indian Country, Matoaka’s name and backstory were a clear reference to the real-life Pocahontas, who privately went by the same name.

[Navy reinstates bachelor’s degree program to diversify its pool of officer candidates](#) [Juan King, *Stars and Stripes*, 11 March 2022]

The Navy, as part of a move since summer 2020 to diversify its ranks, has reinstated its Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program, partly as a means of attracting officer candidates from minority communities. The program helps qualified applicants complete their final two years of college on their way to a naval commission. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, at least 19 years old and already have at least 60 semester or 90 quarter hours of credit from an accredited college or university. Reinstating the program was one of about 60 recommendations in a 142-page report released in January 2021 by Task Force One Navy. It looked for ways to enhance diversity in the service by soliciting feedback from hundreds of sailors through focus groups and surveys. The report found that the bachelor’s degree program had previously “produced opportunities for minorities seeking a commission” and provided financial assistance to help them achieve that goal.

[Navy Won't Kick Out Bearded Sailors Who Can't Shave Due to Skin Conditions Under New Policy](#) [Thomas Novelly, *Military.com*, 9 March 2022]

Sailors who grow beards to avoid routine shaving issues will not be kicked out of the service if they can't find a treatment that works for them, according to a new Navy policy released Wednesday. Service members who get frequent ingrown hairs and skin irritations known as pseudofolliculitis barbae, shortened to PFB by the Navy, will not be required to shave, and officers have updated guidance for treating, maintaining and addressing their beards. It's the most notable change to Navy grooming policy since 2019, when the service did away with long-standing no-shave chits, or waivers, that allowed Navy personnel to grow quarter-inch facial hair. The previous rule was condemned for having a racial bias against sailors of color. PFB is often found in curly haired men and occurs in about 60% of African American men, according to studies by the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology.

[Poet Sonia Sanchez to receive Edward MacDowell Medal](#) [Hillel Italie, *The Associated Press*, 7 March 2022]

The poet, activist and educator Sonia Sanchez is this year's winner of the Edward MacDowell Medal, a lifetime achievement honor started in 1960 and previously given to Robert Frost, Toni Morrison and Stephen Sondheim among others. MacDowell is an artist residency founded in 1907, with fellows over the past century including James Baldwin, Leonard Bernstein, Louise Erdrich and Ta-Nehisi Coates. Sanchez was a prominent figure in the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and 1970s, and is known for such poetry collections as "Homegirls and Handgrenades" and "Shake Loose My Skin." Novelist Walter Mosley will present Sanchez her medal on July 10 on the MacDowell grounds in Peterborough, New Hampshire, the first in-person ceremony since 2019, the year before the pandemic.

[This tribe has fought for years to get federal recognition. It's about their identity](#) [Katia Riddle, *NPR*, 6 March 2022]

When Ken Workman looks at the skyline from across the bay in West Seattle, he sees something more than the space needle or the Mariner's ballpark. "This is the first place where the White people would have come around and seen native people," says Workman as he gazed across the water recently. Workman traces his lineage all the way back to Chief Seattle, the Native leader known for welcoming the first White people to these shores more than 150 years ago. Chief Seattle signed a treaty with these colonizers in 1855 called the Treaty of Point Elliott. The terms of the treaty granted benefits to the signatories in a nation-to-nation contract. Workman is an elder in the Duwamish tribe, which he says comprises about 600 people. The Duwamish have been fighting a legal battle for decades with the federal government make good on treaty. They're asking for federal recognition. The Tribe says the fight for federal recognition is about far more than money. Fundamentally, it's about preserving their identity and laying a claim to the land of their ancestors.

DISCRIMINATION

[Fort Lauderdale police chief fired over minority-first practices in hiring and promotions, report says](#) [Paradise Afshar and Claudia Dominguez, *CNN*, 5 March 2022]

The city of Fort Lauderdale has fired its police chief Larry Sciroto, who has been in office for less than a year, following allegations of discriminatory practices for promotions. Sciroto was sworn-in as police chief in mid-August, and the city had hired a law firm by November to investigate complaints of discrimination before he was fired on Thursday, according to a copy of the law firm's report obtained by CNN. The investigation concluded that during his time as police chief, Sciroto implemented an approach to hiring and promotion that was unfairly focused on minority candidates. The report said Sciroto once pointed to a conference room wall displaying photos of the department's command staff and stated, "that wall is too White," and "I'm gonna change that." Sciroto told CNN he promoted 15 people from August to November, and of that group, six were ethnic or gender minorities selected for promotions based on their merit. "None of them were promoted because they were in a protected class," he said. "They were promoted because they were the best candidates."

[Nebraska city's nondiscrimination protections challenged](#) [Brooke Migdon, *The Hill*, 8 March 2022]

The Lincoln City Council in Nebraska last month passed a measure to update its municipal code to include protections related to race, sexual orientation and gender identity. Opponents this month announced they had collected enough signatures to put the issue on the ballot in November. The council's measure, which passed in a vote on Feb. 14, built on a prior "Fairness Ordinance" passed in 2012 that had been derailed by a referendum petition drive organized by its opponents. The Nebraska Family Alliance in a statement dated March 1 said the group had obtained more than four times the necessary signatures needed for the city council to either rescind the new ordinance or put it on the ballot for Nebraska voters to determine its fate. The group's "Let Us Vote" referendum petition garnered more than 18,000 signatures from Lincoln voters in just 15 days. It had required just over 4,000 to stop the ordinance from taking effect.

[Paralympian Brenna Huckaby wins bronze after a legal fight to compete in the games](#) [Wynne Davis, *NPR*, 7 March 2022]

Huckaby's right leg was amputated above the knee when she was a teenager because of bone cancer. A trip to Utah gave her a chance to get back her athletic life. "I knew that if I could just try the snowboard it would give me a piece of my life back that I had before cancer and amputation because it reminded me of a balance beam, and I really, really wanted to feel that again," Huckaby said. As the 2022 games came around Brenna expected to defend her titles, but instead she found herself having to petition to even compete. The International Paralympic Committee decided there weren't enough women in Huckaby's classification and that she wouldn't be able to compete with others who have less severe leg impairments. Essentially, the governing body was saying she was too disabled to compete. "I felt like it was completely wrong for me to be locked out of the competition, and so I fought hard," she said.

DIVERSITY

[Breaking sound barriers and glass ceilings as one of nation's first Black female student pilots](#) [Kat Jeanne, *Enid News & Eagle (Enid, Okla.)*, 6 March 2022]

A fighter and instructor pilot in Enid says casting a vision as one of the first Black female pilots in the military has been a highlight of her career. Lt. Col. Christina Hopper has been blazing a historic trail for women in aviation since she earned her pilot wings over 20 years ago at Vance Air Force Base, where she is now a reserve T-38C instructor pilot with the 5th Flying Training Squadron. “You be the first. You be the one who gets out in front so that the next generation does see somebody who looks like them,” Hopper said. Among her firsts is having been the first Black female fighter pilot in a major war. “I think when we look at the lack of females and minorities in aviation, a lot of it is capturing their hearts and minds, and casting a vision for them when they are young,” Hopper said. Though Hopper said representation is important, the lack of visibility should be seen as an opportunity instead of a barrier.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[First female warrant officer graduates Officer Candidate School, will operate Stingrays](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Navy Times*, 9 March 2022]

Josia Pagler has become the first woman to graduate as a warrant officer from Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, and is now slated to operate MQ-25 Stingray carrier-based refueling drones. Warrant Officer 1 Pagler was previously an aviation electrician’s mate 3rd class with Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 70 based out of Jacksonville, Florida. But after learning she had graduated from California State University Long Beach in 2016, her division officer and assistant maintenance officer encouraged her to apply for the new aerial vehicle operator (AVO) warrant officer specialty. “I honestly haven’t wrapped my mind around being the first of anything, however, I want to tell others to not hold yourselves back from going for something you want,” Pagler said. “Don’t be intimidated in a community where the majority are men.” The Navy specifically tapped warrant officers as the principal operators of the Stingray since they are expected to advance as technical specialists during repetitive assignments.

[“Why our job is awesome”: Female airlifters host Fly Girls event for students at Yokota](#) [Kelly Agee, *Stars and Stripes*, 8 March 2022]

*The 36th Airlift Squadron celebrated women in aviation Tuesday in western Tokyo by taking Yokota High School students aloft and talking about women’s achievements in the air. Air Force women from the squadron shared their stories at the Fly Girls event on International Women’s Day. About 80 students—young women and men—buckled into a C-130J Super Hercules for a flight over Tokyo and nearby Mount Fuji. The vice commander of Yokota’s 374th Airlift Wing, Col. Julie Gaulin, opened the event with a history lesson on the Woman Airforce Service Pilots, or WASPs, of the World War II era. The Fly Girls Women in Aviation Operations event demonstrates how women serve in today’s Air Force, said Master Sgt. Lucy Vieira, a Super Hercules loadmaster. “I think it’s important to showcase what we do,” the 41-year-old Chicago native told *Stars and Stripes*. “When I came in, there was not a lot of women in Air Force, let alone a lot of women in flight suits.”*

EXTREMISM

[Guy Reffitt, first Jan. 6 rioter to go to trial, found guilty on all counts](#) [Ryan J. Reilly, *NBC News*, 8 March 2022]

The first Jan. 6 defendant to take his case to trial has been found guilty on five counts related to his role in the attack on the U.S. Capitol. Guy Reffitt, a Texas man who attempted to storm the U.S. Capitol while allegedly armed with a gun and zip ties, was convicted of all five counts he was charged with, including transport of a firearm in support of civil disorder and obstruction of an official proceeding. Prosecutors, quoting Reffitt's own words, argued that the defendant "lit the match" on the west side of the Capitol, where some of the most brutal attacks on law enforcement took place. Video shows Reffitt, with a blue jacket that covers his waistband, leading the mob up the steps of the Capitol, besides the platform where Joe Biden was inaugurated.

[Proud Boys Leader Enrique Tarrío indicted for conspiracy related to January 6 riot](#) [Robert Legare, CBS News, 8 March 2022]

Enrique Tarrío, leader of the far-right group the Proud Boys, has been indicted for conspiracy related to the assault on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, when Congress was counting the electoral votes cast in the 2020 presidential election, the Justice Department announced in a press release. Tarrío, 38, was arrested in Miami, and is expected to appear in court Tuesday in the Southern District of Florida. The indictment also includes five other Proud Boys members who were previously charged in relation to January 6. The indictment alleges that in December 2020, Tarrío and Proud Boys members conspired to obstruct and stop the certification of the Electoral College vote on January 6, 2021. Prosecutors said in the indictment that in December, an unnamed individual sent Tarrío a document entitled "1776 RETURNS," which described a plan to occupy multiple buildings including congressional chambers. Tarrío later created multiple encrypted messaging groups to discuss plans.

[Trial next for 4 accused in Michigan governor kidnap plot](#) [Michael Tarm and Ed White, *The Associated Press*, 7 March 2022]

Jury selection begins Tuesday in the trial of four men who are accused of conspiring to snatch Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in a stunning scheme to retaliate against her stay-home policies and other COVID-19 restrictions during the early months of the pandemic. During that turbulent time, Adam Fox, Brandon Caserta, Barry Croft Jr. and Daniel Harris were plotting to snatch Whitmer, prosecutors say. They're accused of taking critical steps over several months, including secret messaging, gun drills in the woods and a night drive to northern Michigan to scout her second home and figure out how to blow up a bridge. The FBI, which had infiltrated the group, said it thwarted the plan with the arrests of six men in October 2020. Two of them, Ty Garbin and Kaleb Franks, have pleaded guilty and will appear as crucial witnesses for the government, giving jurors an inside view of what was planned.

INTERNATIONAL

[Chile couples' joy as first same-sex marriages held](#) [Jane Chambers, *BBC News*, 10 March 2022]

Consuelo Morales Aros, 38, and her partner Pabla Heuser Amaya are overjoyed. The two women, who have been together for 16 years, were among the first to tie the knot in Chile on Thursday after a landmark law came into effect allowing same-sex marriages. Same-sex couples have been able to enter into civil unions in the overwhelmingly Catholic country since 2015. But while being in a civil union meant that same-sex couples had more legal benefits than before,

those benefits fell short of those afforded to married couples, especially in relation to children and their care. Chile's LGBT community had long pushed for the legalisation of same-sex marriages, but a bill to that effect languished in Congress for four years. Introduced by the left-wing President Michelle Bachelet in 2017, the bill was finally pushed through by her right-wing successor, Sebastian Piñera, in December 2021—much to the shock of some of Mr Piñera's party colleagues and the Catholic Church.

[Denmark says sorry to children of failed experiment](#) [Adrienne Murray, *BBC News*, 9 March 2022]

Six people who were part of a failed 1950s social experiment have won compensation from Denmark's government and have received a face-to-face apology from the prime minister. "What you were subjected to was terrible; it was inhumane, it was unfair, and it was heartless," Mette Frederiksen told the six Inuit Greenlanders at a ceremony in the Danish capital, Copenhagen. They were among 22 Inuit children sent to Denmark from Greenland in 1951 to learn Danish. It was part of a scheme to raise "model" Greenlanders to help bridge Danish and indigenous cultures. However, the children remained separated from their families, lost their mother tongue and struggled with identity issues. Faced with legal action, the Danish government settled and agreed to pay damages of 250,000 Danish kroner (\$38,000; £28,000) to each of the six. The other 16 people involved have since passed away.

[Femicide detectives: "Counting bodies is the best place to start"](#) [BBC News, 7 March 2022]

Femicide—the killing of women and girls because of their gender—is the most extreme form of gender-based violence, but in many countries no record is kept of the number of cases. Ecuador is one of 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that have adopted laws to criminalise femicide, according to the UN. This means femicide rates are now being officially recorded. But, as in some other countries, women's rights groups say government figures are far too low. "We decided to start recording cases systematically so that we could have data to then question the state institutions," says Geraldina Guerra, president of Aldea Foundation. The group quickly starts investigating, for example by tracing the dead woman's last movements and establishing whether she had previously been a victim of domestic violence. Now they build "life maps", as they call them, which place memories of the woman on a map showing the park where she went on walks, her favourite cafe, the animal shelter where she used to volunteer, or the stadium where she once saw her favourite singer perform.

[LGBTQ refugees fleeing Ukraine face discrimination in countries with anti-gay laws](#) [Miranda Mazariegos, *NPR*, 4 March 2022]

Late on Thursday night, Viktória Radványi, communications director for Budapest Pride, drove with her girlfriend to the border between Hungary and Ukraine. They were picking up four LGBTQ refugees and taking them back to Budapest to provide them with safe housing, food and mental health resources. Armed conflict and war aggravate the vulnerability [of many minority populations](#), and increase the likelihood that they will be exposed to abuse. According to a [2021 report](#) by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, LGBTQ people are likely to face violence, denial of basic services, arbitrary detention and abuse by security forces, among other kinds of discrimination. Many Ukrainians are fleeing to Poland and Hungary, and activists say

they will face particular challenges there, since the European Union has condemned both countries for having anti-gay laws. In 2019, [an opinion poll found](#) that almost a quarter of Polish people believe that homosexuality must not be tolerated, and there are [so-called “LGBTQ-free” zones](#) across the country.

[Nicola Sturgeon apologises to people accused of witchcraft](#) [BBC News, 9 March 2022]

Nicola Sturgeon has offered a formal apology to people accused of witchcraft between the 16th and 18th centuries, many of whom were executed. Witch hunts took place in many countries during that period, but academics say Scotland’s execution rate was five times the European average. In a statement at Holyrood, the first minister said those accused under the act “were not witches, they were people and they were overwhelmingly women”. She said: “At a time when women were not even allowed to speak as witnesses in a courtroom, they were accused and killed because they were poor, different, vulnerable or in many cases just because they were women. “It was injustice on a colossal scale, driven at least in part by misogyny in its most literal sense, hatred of women. Today on International Women’s Day, as first minister on behalf of the Scottish government, I am choosing to acknowledge that egregious historic injustice and extend a formal posthumous apology to all of those accused, convicted, vilified or executed under the Witchcraft Act of 1563.”

[Timbuktu manuscripts: Mali’s ancient documents captured online](#) [Nomasa Maseko, BBC News, 10 March 2022]

A virtual gallery to showcase Mali’s cultural history has been launched, featuring tens of thousands of Timbuktu’s ancient manuscripts. The manuscripts were smuggled to safety from Timbuktu after Islamist militant groups took control of the city in northern Mali in 2012. They contain centuries of African knowledge and scholarship on topics ranging from maths to astrological charts. “Central to the heritage of Mali, they represent the long legacy of written knowledge and academic excellence in Africa,” said Dr Abdel Kader Haidara, a librarian known for smuggling the manuscripts out of Timbuktu, who was also involved in the project. The collection, called [Mali Magic](#), also captures Malian culture beyond the manuscripts. The ancient documents were originally written in medieval Arabic but have now been translated to English, French, Spanish and modern Arabic to make them more accessible, which Google Program Manager and Digital Archaeologist Chance Coughenour told the BBC was a first.

[WHO Africa’s 1st woman leader helps continent fight COVID](#) [Carlet Petesch, The Associated Press, 8 March 2022]

People stand when Dr. Matshidiso Moeti enters a room at the World Health Organization’s Africa headquarters in Republic of Congo. Small in stature, big in presence, Moeti is the first woman to lead WHO’s regional Africa office, the capstone of her trailblazing career in which she has overcome discrimination in apartheid South Africa to become one of the world’s top health administrators. As WHO Africa chief, Moeti initiates emergency responses to health crises in 47 of the continent’s countries and recommends policies to strengthen their health care systems. She has become one of the world’s most compelling voices urging better consideration of Africa’s people—especially women, who’ve in many ways been hit hardest by COVID. Her identity as an

African woman has been both a strength and an obstacle on a continent where much of society is still dominated by patriarchal systems.

MISCELLANEOUS

[2020 Census undercounted Latino population at triple the level of 2010; Black undercount rises, too](#) [Bill Keveney, *USA TODAY*, 10 March 2022]

The nation's Latino population was undercounted in the 2020 census at a level more than three times that of the 2010 census, according to estimates U.S. Census Bureau estimates [announced Thursday](#). The Black population along with Native Americans living on reservations also were undercounted at higher levels in the 2020 census, while non-Hispanic White people and Asian Americans were overcounted, according to comparative demographic data released in conjunction with a Census Bureau virtual presentation. A nearly 5% undercount of Latino people was more than three times larger the population's 2010 undercount (1.54%), marking the biggest differentiation by far for any racial or ethnic group since 2010. Being undercounted carries a hefty cost, from reduced political representation during federal, state and local redistricting, to the loss of billions of dollars of government funds distributed based on community population.

[Digital University offers more educational opportunities for Airmen](#) [Lt. Col. Brian Mahar, *Business and Enterprise Systems Directorate Public Affairs*, 8 March 2022]

[Digital University](#) (DU) has added new course offerings and platform upgrades as it's made the switch from AWS GovCloud to the more secure Cloud One environment. DU's lead designer, Ron Stevens, stated the DU team, which consists of members from vendor partner Omni Federal and [Business and Enterprise Systems Product Innovation](#) (BESPIN), added new learning paths for data science, cloud engineering and secured app development into DU. Students can enroll in multiple training courses at a time and complete them at their own pace. Using feedback from its pool of 15,822 active users, the DU development team also integrated the ability to search across the entirety of courseware accessible through DU, provide those results and then start courses directly inside the DU website. Stevens said users' desire to find specific training they're interested in influenced the creation of this feature.

[Fed Workers Should Be Careful About Donating Directly to Ukraine's Military](#) [Lindy Kyzer, *Government Executive*, 7 March 2022]

The social media savvy of the Ukrainian government in the wake of an invasion has been both impressive and inspiring. Both citizens and government officials have channeled every means available to petition for support. Elon Musk, co-founder and CEO of Tesla, provided Starlink satellite internet connectivity, and the country is even accepting dogecoin and cryptocurrency donations. Many individuals across the government and national security community are empathetic to Ukraine's plight. A sovereign nation has been attacked, and those who have committed themselves to public service may feel particularly invested in Ukraine's tragedy. But when it comes to a crowdsourced conflict, those who work in the government—and particularly anyone with an active federal security clearance—may want to think twice. With so many ways to give, or be involved, many people are also beginning to ask if making a donation is legal.

Donations to an overseas government or agent have to be reported, and federal employees are responsible for ensuring their donation goes where it should.

[How are military teens coping? Landmark study will follow them over time to find out](#) [Karen Jowers, *Military Times*, 8 March 2022]

The largest and longest-running health research in military history will soon embark on a study of military-connected adolescents. As the school year begins in the fall, researchers will contact about 50,000 adult participants, already involved in the [Millennium Cohort Study](#), who are parents of children between the ages of 11–17, according to Hope McMaster, principal investigator of the study. The Study of Adolescent Resilience, or SOAR, aims to capture the experiences of military-connected adolescents and their parents, to help inform the services provided by military family readiness programs, she said. Researchers will explore how military-related experiences are associated with adolescents’ psychosocial adjustment and physical health, academic achievement, and educational and career aspirations, McMaster said. They’ll also look at how parenting behaviors, the quality of the parent-adolescent relationship and parents’ marital quality influence adolescents.

[Libraries Hiring Social Workers as Mental Health Issues and Homelessness Soar](#) [Sharon O’Malley, *Route Fifty*, 10 March 2022]

Public libraries in San Francisco, Denver and more than 50 other cities have added full-time licensed social workers to their staffs to help patrons experiencing homelessness, mental illness or other issues—problems that are all proliferating and that librarians are not trained to handle. Nearly 600,000 Americans experience homelessness on any given night and the number is rising by about 2% a year, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Many of them spend their nights in shelters or on the streets and their days in public libraries. “This place has become a place of sanctuary, a place of rest,” said Leah Esguerra, the social services supervisor for the San Francisco public library system. “The library staff are the ones who are faced with having to help them address the issues that are brought to them, and they’re not equipped to do that,” Esguerra said.

RACISM

[74% of Asian American, Pacific Islander women experienced racism in past year, report says](#) [Kimmy Yam, *NBC News*, 3 March 2022]

As anti-Asian attacks on Asian American and Pacific Islanders continue to rise, a [report released Thursday](#) underscores how women in the racial group endure a disproportionate number of such incidents. The research, spearheaded by the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum, revealed that 74 percent of Asian American and Pacific Islander women reported having personally experienced racism or discrimination in the last 12 months, roughly the time since the Atlanta-area spa shootings, in which eight people, most of them Asian women, were murdered, the report pointed out. Researchers surveyed more than 2,400 Asian American and Pacific Islander women online and over the phone across several languages, including English, Hindi, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog and Vietnamese. Not only did a majority of women report racist

encounters, but 38 percent also reported having experienced sexual harassment. And 12 percent said they experienced gender- or race-based physical violence.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Human Rights Campaign rejects former president’s accusations of racism](#) [Olafmihan Oshin, *The Hill*, 8 March 2022]

The Human Rights Campaign, the largest LGBTQ advocacy group in the U.S., has rejected racism accusations presented by its former president Alphonso David, The Washington Post reported. In a court filing on Monday, HRC attorneys argued that David’s claims are mostly false including an allegation from a senior HRC executive that David’s support for racial justice was viewed as a risk; which could alienate White donors, specifically “White gay men.” The advocacy group also denied David’s claims that he was paid less than his predecessor and an HRC chairman told him that he received a low paycheck due to his race, adding an accusation that the organization wasn’t ready to be led by a Black person. In a statement, David told the newspaper his former employer’s response is “yet another sign that HRC’s leadership is out of touch with its organizational reality and woefully blind to the systemic inequities that continue to run rampant within it.”

[Individual arrested, facing hate crime charges for assaulting Asian man with a hammer](#) [Laura Studley and Mark Morales, *CNN*, 10 March 2022]

An individual in New York was arrested and is facing hate crime charges after assaulting a 29-year-old Asian man at a subway station on Tuesday, according to the NYPD. Christian Jeffers, 48, was arrested on Wednesday and police say they have recommended charges of assault as a hate crime, aggravated harassment as a hate crime, menacing as a hate crime, and criminal possession of a weapon. The incident comes amid a spate of recent subway attacks that have pushed city officials to implement new safety measures to combat crime. Mayor Eric Adams, a former transit police officer, and Gov. Kathy Hochul highlighted a joint initiative last month to deploy law enforcement agencies and social services to tackle the issue.

[The U.S. highway that helped break segregation](#) [Larry Bleiberg, *BBC Travel*, 7 March 2022]

*Along U.S. Route 40, African diplomats were routinely denied service at local establishments. But their treatment set off a civil rights struggle that led to outlawing segregation. Adam Malick Sow had a headache. He was several hours into his trip from New York to Washington DC, and after his limousine crossed into the state of Maryland, he asked his driver to find a place to stop. A few miles later, the newly appointed ambassador to the United States from the African nation of Chad stepped into a diner along U.S. Route 40 and asked for a cup of coffee. The answer on a summer day in 1961 would change history. The wife of the diner’s owner refused to serve the diplomat because he was Black. “He looked like just an ordinary run of the mill [N-word] to me. I couldn’t tell he was an ambassador,” Mrs. Leroy Merritt later told the national magazine *Life*. The insult sparked an international incident, making the front page of newspapers across Africa and Asia.*

[Woman charged with fake abduction story used racist stereotypes to describe kidnappers, advocates and scholars say](#) [Nicole Chavez, *CNN*, 9 March 2022]

When Sherri Papini claimed she was abducted in Northern California, investigators were led to believe they were looking for two Hispanic women who spoke Spanish, played Mariachi music and fed her mostly tortillas and rice. Papini’s elaborate story of her 2016 kidnapping, which federal prosecutors now allege was false, reinforced a number of racist stereotypes and the anti-Latino rhetoric that has fueled racial division across the United States in recent years, advocates and scholars say. “She fell into stereotypes about the Latino community that are far too prevalent in the population at large but clearly, she was also counting on law enforcement relying upon stereotypes,” said Thomas Saenz, the president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), a Latino legal civil rights group.

SEXISM

[NJ bakery highlights gender wage gap with discount coffee on International Women’s Day](#) [Jenna Romaine, *The Hill*, 8 March 2022]

A New Jersey bakery is selling discount coffee on International Women’s Day on Tuesday to highlight the gender wage gap. “We also offer coffee at a discount (to all women and like-minded men) to highlight the disparity in wages between men (more) and women (less). This year, its 82¢ on the dollar,” The Able Baker, located in Maplewood, N.J., wrote on Instagram. “We double down and donate the savings. According to a [recent analysis by the U.S. Census Bureau](#), the national median earnings for those working full-time, year-round in the U.S. was \$53,544 for men versus \$43,394 for women—an average pay disparity of \$10,150. In New Jersey, men, on average, earn an annual salary of \$67,367, while women earn \$53,933. “We celebrate all women on this day,” The Able Baker wrote, “the progress that has been made, and how far we have to go.”

[Pay transparency can close the gender gap—if done correctly](#) [Donald Tomaskovic-Devey, *The Hill*, 10 March 2022] [OPINION]

As we approach Equal Pay Day we can expect reaffirmation by the Biden administration of their strong commitment to reducing gender pay gaps. But how to do it is not so clear. One idea is that pay transparency will help. There are two very different policy models for pay transparency. In the first, the argument is that if women knew what their male coworkers were earning, they would bargain for themselves more effectively. In the second, the government mandates pay transparency, which encourages firms to confront internal pay disparities and as a result, reevaluate their pay practices.

[Study: More Than Half of Women Say Their Gender is Limiting Their Tech Careers](#) [Frank Konkel, *NextGov*, 9 March 2022]

52% of women in the tech industry believe their gender limits their career progression, according to a [study](#) released in February. The study polled 363 women working in technology, an industry where men make up about two-thirds of the total workforce. The study indicates about one in five women said they were thinking about leaving their current positions, and respondents cited numerous career barriers hindering potential advancement. A lack of promotion opportunities was cited as a career barrier by 38% of women, followed by lack of confidence (35%), lack of relatable senior role model or senior sponsorship (33%), difficulty balancing work and other

responsibilities (31%) and sexism or gender bias (29%). The study was conducted by [Ipsos and Tech Talent Charter on behalf of the organization WeAreTechWomen](#).

[Using humor in the workplace can be tricky for some women, study finds](#) [Adam Barnes, *The Hill*, 10 March 2022]

Using humor in the workplace can be especially challenging for women as the perception of their jokes can be tied to their status and whom the humor is directed at, a [recent study](#) found.

Christopher Robert, an associate professor at the University of Missouri, analyzed in a study how men and women react to humor in the workplace to determine the effect a person's gender had on how their humor was received. Ninety-two college students were surveyed after reading several scenarios where men and women made humorous comments. The scenarios were varied to indicate the gender and status of person making the comment, the gender of the comment's target and whether the expression was friendly or aggressive. Respondents were then asked to rate the foolishness of the comment. Researchers found both high and low-status men and high-status women were viewed more positively when using aggressive humor than lower-status women making the same comments.

[When counties need fines, more women go to jail](#) [Kim Eckhart, *Futurity*, 3 March 2022]

Counties in Washington state that started supplementing revenue with court-imposed fines also increased the rate at which they sentence women to jail, [research finds](#). According to new research, this association indicates that monetary sanctions, also known as legal financial obligations or LFOs, have far-reaching social, economic, and punitive effects. In other words, what may seem like a system of low-level penalties (like traffic citations and court processing fees) aimed at individuals actually affects whole communities. "Here in Washington state, men's incarceration rates have been trending downward for over a decade whereas women's incarceration rates have continued to increase," says lead author Kate O'Neill, a postdoctoral researcher in sociology at the University of Washington. "This paper suggests this is because women have not benefitted from the legal system's shift away from carceral sentencing toward monetary sanction sentencing in the same ways men have benefitted."

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[In Army culture, silence is still interpreted as consent](#) ["Kinmuan," *Army Times*, 8 March 2022]

[OPINION]

"I find that [the] appellant reasonably interpreted the victim's silence, lack of physical resistance, and lack of positive verbal or physical response as consent, given the surrounding circumstances." That was the dissenting view written by one senior Army judge in a Feb. 23, 2022 memorandum opinion from the United States Court of Criminal Appeals. A sexual assault conviction could have been overturned because an Army judge decided that the victim's complete silence and lack of response could reasonably be interpreted as consent.

[Senior NCO convicted of sex crime will be allowed to retire at a lower rank](#) [Rachel S. Cohen, *Air Force Times*, 9 March 2022]

Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall is allowing a former senior master sergeant to retire after being convicted of abusive sexual contact and dereliction of duty, though the airman's wing commander recommended he be fired, the service said Tuesday evening. Master Sgt. Jeremy Zier, a manager at the Air Force Public Affairs Agency at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, was found guilty in a special court-martial in August 2020. An administrative discharge board decided in December 2020 to keep Zier in the Air Force. In April 2021, 502nd Air Base Wing commander Brig. Gen. Caroline Miller sent the case on to Kendall to review and potentially reverse that outcome. Zier then asked to retire instead of being discharged, complaining that the Air Force was trying to push him out without a pension. It was up to Kendall to decide the final outcome.

SUICIDE

[DOD starts interagency suicide prevention campaign aimed at firearms](#) [Scott Maucione, *Federal News Network*, 3 March 2022]

The Defense Department is beginning a new effort this month to reinforce safer gun and medication storage tools in an attempt to stop service member suicides. Karin Orvis, director of the Pentagon's suicide prevention office, told Congress on Wednesday that DOD will be using a suite of evidence-based methods to keep service members and veterans from impulsively reaching for lethal means. Orvis told members of the House Armed Services Committee that adding time and distance between an individual's suicide risk and lethal means can be lifesaving. She added that DOD's efforts will supplement other efforts, such as training nonmedical counselors, health care professionals and family members about safe storage. That strategy states the agencies will "jointly create a plan for addressing lethal means safety awareness, education, training, and program evaluation. The agencies will work together to identify, develop, and test tailored messaging for a coordinated lethal means safety public education campaign."

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

VETERANS

[Finding help for teens who grow up caregiving for their disabled military parents](#) [Carson Frame, *NPR*, 7 March 2022]

The Garey family home outside of Austin, Texas, is a revolving door of medical professionals coming to assist Tom, the patriarch — an Air Force veteran with advanced ALS. Tom Garey is bedbound and paralyzed with a tracheal tube. He communicates with a camera that turns his eye movements into strokes on a keyboard. Their son, Trey, was 13 years old when his dad was diagnosed with service-connected ALS. He's 19 now. The Elizabeth Dole Foundation recently commissioned a [first-of-its-kind study](#) on military caregiver children like Trey. It found that they often suffer from stress and anxiety, and many reported social isolation. Sometimes, their relationship with their healthy parent suffered as well. The Dole Foundation is building a coalition of government agencies, schools, nonprofit organizations and medical institutions called "[Hidden Helpers.](#)" The idea is to create programs that strengthen caregiving families' interpersonal relationships at home and in the community, offer mental health care, make support

more accessible, and help kids and teens learn how to care for loved ones while still growing themselves.

[Native American veterans encompass resilience, overcome health care challenges](#) [Courtney Degen, Catherine Buchaniec, and Jonathan Lehrfeld, *Medill News Service*, 7 March 2022]
For Melodi Serna, 44, serving in the military is a family tradition. Her great grandfather served in World War I, her great aunt in World War II, her grandfather in Korea, and her great uncle in Vietnam, she said. “Then it was my turn,” said Serna, who is from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, based in North Dakota, and the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. Native American women, like Serna, comprise a higher segment of the veteran population compared to other races, proportional to the size of their demographic group. Women make up 11.3% of the Native American veteran population, which is a higher percentage than women in other demographic groups. For all other races, women only make up 9% of the veteran population, according to a 2020 report from the Department of Veterans Affairs that used data collected in 2017. Serna attributed Native American participation in the military to their role as protectors.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[WWI veteran considered for Medal of Honor receives recognition in Texas](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 4 March 2022]
Army Pvt. Marcelino Serna came back to Texas from World War I as the state’s most decorated veteran of the war. Gen. John J. Pershing pinned the Distinguished Service Cross on the soldier for heroic actions that included single-handedly killing and capturing 50 enemy soldiers during the Meuse-Argonne offensive in France. But to his great-grandchildren, who referred to Serna by the nickname Tata, he was a quiet man who gardened at his home in El Paso. Calls to upgrade Serna’s award to the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest valor award available to U.S. service members, began during his lifetime and remain ongoing today, with many citing discrimination against his Mexican heritage for denying him the honor in the first place. As those efforts continue in Washington, Stopani and her sister Socorro Gurden said they were grateful Wednesday to receive the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor on behalf of Serna.