

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 1 APRIL 2022

### HIGHLIGHTS

[Armed services didn't implement dozens of measures to help stop sexual assault, GAO finds](#) [Chad Garland, *Stars and Stripes*, 30 March 2022]

*The military failed to keep up with the mushrooming number of measures that Congress has required the armed services to implement to address sexual assault, a government watchdog revealed. As of October 2021, the Defense Department had not fully implemented 18% of the nearly 200 unique requirements imposed in legislation since 2004, the [Government Accountability Office found in a report published this week](#). The Homeland Security Department had not fully implemented six of 36, or about 16% of those affecting the Coast Guard, the report said. The departments' lack of full implementation of dozens of requirements could have stymied efforts to combat what Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has called "persistent and corrosive problems" of sexual assault and harassment.*

[Lynching is now a federal hate crime after a century of blocked efforts](#) [Eric McDaniel and Elena Moore, *NPR*, 29 March 2022]

*After multiple failed attempts across twelve decades, there is now a [federal law](#) that designates lynching as a hate crime. In a Tuesday ceremony at the White House, President Biden signed the Emmett Till Antilynching Act into law. "Racial hate isn't an old problem. It's a persistent problem," Biden said. "Hate never goes away, it only hides under the rocks. If it gets a little bit of oxygen, it comes roaring back out, screaming. What stops it? All of us." Under the legislation, perpetrators can receive up to 30 years in prison when a conspiracy to commit a hate crime results in death or serious bodily injury. There were more than 4,000 racial terror lynchings in the United States between 1877 and 1950, [according to a comprehensive report by the Equal Justice Initiative](#). The attacks overwhelmingly targeted Black people.*

[Pentagon links leadership failures to violence at bases](#) [Lolita C. Baldor, *The Associated Press*, 31 March 2022]

*Military bases with a high risk for sexual assault, harassment and other harmful behaviors often have leaders who don't understand violence prevention, don't make it a priority and focus more on their mission than on their people, a Pentagon review has concluded. The review studied 20 bases in the United States and Europe, including 18 with some of the more severe problems identified in command climate surveys. It found that the failures were worse in a number of bases in Germany and Spain where key leaders and resources weren't on site. Senior defense officials described the report to *The Associated Press* on condition of anonymity to discuss the findings before the review was publicly released. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered the report as part of his effort to strengthen sexual assault and harassment prevention across the forces, identify what programs work and ensure high-risk bases get attention quickly.*

[\[DOD REPORT\]](#) [\[SECDEF DOD ACTIONS MEMO\]](#)

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## CULTURE

### [Ariana DeBose makes history as first Afro Latina, openly queer actor of color to win Oscar](#)

[Nicole Acevedo, *NBC News*, 27 March 2022]

*Actor Ariana DeBose has made history as the first Afro Latina and first openly queer woman of color to win an Academy Award for acting. DeBose won in the best supporting actress category for her performance reviving the iconic role of Anita in Steven Spielberg’s version of “West Side Story.” “Imagine this little girl in the back seat of a white Ford Focus. When you look into her eyes, you see an openly queer woman of color, an Afro Latina, who found her strength in life through art. And that’s what I believe we’re here to celebrate,” DeBose said in her acceptance speech. With her Oscar win, DeBose and legendary actor Rita Moreno, who originated the role in the 1961 film version of the acclaimed Broadway musical, are now part of a small group of pairs of actors who’ve won an Academy Award for playing the same character. When Moreno won her acting Oscar for her portrayal of Anita 60 years ago, she made history as the first Latina to win the honor.*

### [Asian elders are less happy, get less support than elders of other races, study shows](#)

[Claire Wang, *NBC News*, 28 March 2022]

*Asian American elders experience significantly lower life satisfaction and receive less emotional support than their peers of other races, according to a [recent study](#) published in the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*. The research, published in January and peer-reviewed, draws on 2018 data from the California Health Interview Survey, the largest state health survey in the U.S. The sample consisted of nearly 8,200 individuals 65 years and older, including people of Chinese, Korean, Filipino and Vietnamese descent. Only 54 percent of Asian American older adults surveyed said they were satisfied with their lives, compared with 80 percent of respondents of other races and ethnicities.*

### [Celebrating Harriet Tubman’s 200th birthday in Auburn, N.Y.](#)

[Andrea Sachs, *The Washington Post*, 30 March 2022]

*Highlight reels of Tubman’s life often focus on the first half of her biography: her escape from slavery in Maryland, her valiant acts as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, her heroic feats as a Black woman in the Civil War. The 2019 film “Harriet,” for instance, ends with the “Moses of Her People” leading Union soldiers in the Combahee River Raid in South Carolina, a military operation that liberated more than 700 enslaved people. However, the more than half a century she spent in Auburn—from 1859, when she purchased seven acres of land from a prominent political family, to 1913, when she died of pneumonia—is equally stirring. A variety of attractions illuminate Tubman’s time in Auburn, where she was an active member of the community and in the equal rights movement that flourished upstate. Here, you can see where Tubman attended church, participated in a town hall meeting about garbage collection, cared for elderly Black people and, finally, after a tireless life, rested.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

### [“CODA” brings home the Oscar for best picture, a historic win for the Deaf community](#)

[Fi O’Reilly, *NPR*, 27 March 2022]

*Written and directed by Sian Heder, CODA is based on the 2014 French film La Famille Bélier. The English-language remake centers on Ruby Rossi, the only hearing member of a Deaf family, who struggles to balance family obligations and her love of music. “CODA does have a double meaning in the title because it’s Children of Deaf Adults, but it’s also the end of a piece of music,” director Sian Heder told NPR’s Here and Now. “It’s a story about the end of childhood.” Distributed by Apple TV+, it is also the first best picture win for a streaming service. The film earned three of Apple TV+’s six Oscar nominations, and won each one: best picture, best adapted screenplay for Sian Heder, and best supporting actor for Troy Kotsur, who joins his co-star Marlee Matlin as the only Deaf actors ever win Oscars for acting.*

[Complete list of military “items” named for Confederacy is more than 750 long](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 30 March 2022]

*A congressionally-mandated commission spent the past year traveling to military installations, meeting with interested groups and sifting through thousands of recommendations as part of an effort to rename posts, ships, buildings, streets and anything else the Defense Department has named in honor of the Confederacy. All told, the commission is looking at 757 things, [according to a database posted Wednesday](#). Some of the proposed changes cover installations as far flung as Germany and Japan, including three Yokohama-based Army landing craft named after Confederate battle victories: Mechanicsville, Malvern Hill and Harpers Ferry.*

[Famed Gee’s Bend Quilters are now on the runway and online](#) [Megan Thompson, *PBS News*, 26 March 2022]

*A blockbuster exhibition in the early 2000’s made the women of Gee’s Bend, Alabama, famous for their visually stunning quilts. But the success didn’t translate into meaningful economic gains for their isolated community. Now, new opportunities are helping change that. With support from the Souls Grown Deep Foundation, the quilters now have sold-out Etsy shops and collaborations with high-profile fashion designers. It’s well known that jazz, blues and other great forms of American music came from the musical traditions of African Americans in the deep South. But less recognized is the rich tradition of African American visual art from the same region.*

[Google cuts racy results by 30% for searches like “Latina teenager”](#) [Paresh Dave, *Reuters*, 30 March 2022]

*When U.S. actress Natalie Morales carried out a Google search for “Latina teen” in 2019, she described in a tweet that all she encountered was pornography. Her experience may be different now. The Alphabet Inc. (GOOGL.O) unit has cut explicit results by 30% over the past year in searches for “latina teenager” and others related to ethnicity, sexual preference and gender, Tulse Doshi, head of product for Google’s responsible AI team, told Reuters on Wednesday. The search giant has spent years addressing feedback about offensive content in its advertising tools and in results from searches for “hot” and “ceo.” It also cut sexualized results for “Black girls” after a 2013 journal article by author Safiya Noble raised concerns about the harmful representations.*

[House passes bill to honor Ginsburg and O’Connor with Capitol statues](#) [Christina Marcos, *The Hill*, 28 March 2022]

*The House cleared legislation on Monday to honor former Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor with statues in the Capitol. The Senate previously passed the bill, authored by Senate Rules and Administration Committee Chairwoman Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), by unanimous consent in December. The legislation states that the statues of Ginsburg and O'Connor should be placed "in a prominent location in the Capitol or on the Capitol grounds." It also directs the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library, which oversees art in the Capitol complex, to consider selecting artists from "underrepresented demographic groups" to make the statues.*

[The human body is often seen through a male lens. 30 female photographers present a different view](#) [Jacqui Palumbo, CNN, 23 March 2022]

*Before film was invented, early portrait photographers first discovered the titillating pleasure of exposing images of nudes on silver copper plates. Since then, the male gaze has largely shaped how bodies are visualized in printed media. But a new exhibition at Fotografiska New York features 30 contemporary female artists who offer new perspectives on the naked form as a symbol of beauty, self-expression, identity, eroticism or politics—and not just the slender female forms overrepresented in media, but a range of cis, non-binary and trans figures of all skin tones and body types. There are installations, videos and works around performance too, the last of which includes photographs of Nigerian artist Jenevieve Aken, who rallies against violence and injustice toward women by taking on the spirit form of "La bella Elvira," a 22-year-old Italian girl who was murdered in a village near Pisa 75 years ago, and whose case was never solved.*

[The surprising history of Hawai'i's hula tradition](#) [Rachel Ng, National Geographic, 22 March 2022]

*Over the past two centuries, the cherished Hawaiian dance has moved from a sacred religious practice to a tourist attraction, along the way falling prey to cultural appropriation and near erasure. For Hawaiians, hula is a living archive of their history and stories. Preserving it is their kuleana (responsibility). "Hula is our highest expression of who we are. It's our language put into motion," says Māpuana de Silva, a kumu hula who has been teaching hula on O'ahu since 1976. "The stories encompass not just our way of living, but our existence, our world." Hawaiian cultural organizations are now reclaiming and safeguarding a more authentic version of hula—both for residents and visitors. "People are history seekers today," says Kumu Kamohoali'i. "They want to know the truth, and they crave something more authentic."*

[U.S. Navy to name ship after late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg](#) [Reuters, 1 April 2022]

*The U.S. Navy plans to name a ship after late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in honor of her advocacy for women's rights and gender equality. "She is a historic figure who vigorously advocated for women's rights and gender equality," Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro said in a statement on Thursday. "She is instrumental to why we now have women of all backgrounds, experiences and talents serving within our ranks, side by side with their male Sailor and Marine counterparts." Del Toro cited Ginsburg's work issuing the majority opinion for United States v. Virginia, a landmark 1996 case that struck down Virginia Military Institute's male-only admissions policy. The future USNS Ruth Bader Ginsburg (T-AO 212) will be a John*

*Lewis-class replenishment oiler (T-AO) ship, a class of vessel named after late civil rights leader and U.S. Representative John Lewis.*

[Will Smith’s slap sparks debate on defense of Black women](#) [Aaron Morrison, *The Associated Press*, 30 March 2022]

*It started with a Black man slapping another Black man on live television at the globally televised Oscars, presumably in defense of a Black woman who was being ridiculed over her hairstyle. But to many Black people, it was about more than a slap or an insult. It was about Black manhood, about what is expected of Black men in the 21st century—and about attitudes toward Black women. The stunning physical altercation between actor Will Smith and comedian Chris Rock at the 94th Academy Awards on Sunday has sparked debate about the appropriate ways for Black men to publicly defend Black women against humiliation and abuse. While many women have long rejected the misogynist premise that their safety and protection is the province of men, some see Smith’s professed defense of his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, as a principled act of love and pushback to those who say Black men don’t do enough to protect Black women.*

## DISCRIMINATION

[Biden: Government standing up to “hateful” transgender bills](#) [Darlene Superville, *The Associated Press*, 31 March 2022]

*President Joe Biden said Thursday that his administration is “standing up” for transgender Americans against “hateful bills” being passed at the state level and that he is committed to advancing equality across society. Biden commented in [a brief video message](#) commemorating Transgender Day of Visibility. “The onslaught of anti-transgender state laws attacking you and your families is simply wrong,” Biden said in the video. “This administration is standing up for you against all these hateful bills. And we’re committed to advancing transgender equality in the classroom, on the playing field, at work, in our military and our housing and health care systems.” The administration [announced several actions](#) to make the federal government more inclusive for transgender people.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Hard to tell how much impact EO will have on federal pay equity](#) [Amelia Brust, *Federal News Network*, 28 March 2022]

*President Joe Biden used this year’s Equal Pay Day on March 15, which marks how far into the year women would have to work to earn the same as men did in the previous year, to [sign Executive Order 14068](#). The EO directs the Office of Personnel Management to issue a proposed rule on using salary history in the hiring and pay-setting processes for federal employees. The directive echoes the president’s June EO on diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, especially as it pertains to federal procurement. And while March 15 may be Equal Pay Day for women overall, the breakdown of pay gaps by race means different demographics have to wait longer to earn the same as White men. [According to the American Association of University Women](#), Equal Pay Day for Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women is actually May 3. Black Women’s Equal Pay Day is Sept. 21, Native Women’s Equal Pay Day is*

*Nov. 30, and Latinas' Equal Pay Day is all the way on Dec. 8—essentially requiring Latinas to work twice as long as White males to earn the same amount.*

[More States Consider Bills to Prohibit Discrimination Against Black Hair](#) [Aallyah Wright, *Stateline*, 31 March 2022]

*This year, more states are weighing measures to prohibit hair discrimination in work or school settings, joining 14 other states that have enacted similar laws over the past few years. For decades, Black Americans have been villainized and discriminated against because of their natural hair, whether they're showcasing their hair texture or wearing protective styles such as braids, twists or dreadlocks. In many cases, employers have demanded Black people cut or change their hair or fired them for not doing so. Angela Onwuachi-Willig, dean of Boston University School of Law, said she suspects more states will pass laws. Multiple factors, she said, have contributed to the heightened interest in legislation, including the U.S. Army's 2017 decision to lift its ban on dreadlocks, calls for racial justice following the 2020 murder of George Floyd and the awareness of Black hair through publication of books and films.*

## DIVERSITY

[Air Force pilots at U.S. air base in Japan leveling the odds for military women](#) [Kelly Agee, *Stars and Stripes*, 29 March 2022]

*Capt. Madeline Atkinson never felt that being a woman interfered with her lifelong dream of becoming an Air Force pilot, she told Stars and Stripes recently. The lopsided ratio of men to women in the military is steadily changing due to growing changes in societal norms, she said. "I think it's a cultural thing," she said. "I think that in the history of humanity, it's usually been men that are in the military. So, as our society develops, and it becomes a more normal for women and men doing the same jobs, you're going to see more and more women being involved in the military." Atkinson, 29, a C-130J Super Hercules instructor pilot and chief of training for the 36th Airlift Squadron, took her experience to Bangladesh in February as the squadron mission commander for the weeklong Cope South 2022 exercise. She and squadron operations director Lt. Col. Kira Coffey, the detachment commander, worked with two of the first women in the Bangladesh Air Force and two of the first to fly the Super Hercules. Women were not permitted to become military pilots in that country until 2014.*

["An American dream:" Navy warrant officer retires with 30 years of service that began in the last class of Filipino recruits](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 31 March 2022]

*Growing up in the Philippines, Jules Amores loved to read about science and medicine, thinking he might become a doctor one day. But he also pined for life in America, which was fueled through copies of the U.S. Navy's *All Hands* magazine that his uncle would bring home from his job at the American Embassy. "Along the years, I kind of wished I could be there. Life in the Philippines is hard," he said. "Going to the U.S. has always been my dream." Amores, then 21 years old, earned his shot through a competitive recruitment program that enlisted Filipino men into the U.S. Navy. He took the oath on March 13, 1992, as part of the last group to do so. *All Hands* magazine ran a short article about the program, which began in 1947 and enlisted more than 35,000 Filipino men into the Navy, with the headline, "The last recruits." "I'm an example*

*of an American dream. From E-1, I made it to a [warrant] officer, coming from a third-world country,” he said last week as he prepared for the ceremony. “I’m not doing this [ceremony] for myself. I’m doing for my family, and for the Navy as well, to put a spotlight on what it’s done for me and for my family.”*

[DOD Grows University Affiliated Research Center Partnerships With HBCUs](#) [DOD News, 23 March 2022]

*Maintaining technological superiority for the nation is a top goal for the Defense Department, and ensuring that happens means DOD must seek out diverse input from a variety of sources, including researchers at historically Black colleges and universities, as well as minority-serving institutions, also known as HBCU/MIs, David A. Honey, the deputy undersecretary of defense for research and engineering said. “As the federal department with the largest research and development investment, the DOD must continue to make strides in removing the barriers of equal opportunity in contracting and research partnerships,” Honey said. “This begins with developing an inclusive culture to help build trusted relationships between our university-operated contract laboratories and the HBCU/MI community.” The department has 14 university-affiliated research centers, or UARCs, which Honey said serve as a critical element of its innovation base.*

[Fort Hood female command team leads unique mission](#) [Brandy Cruz, Fort Hood Public Affairs, 24 March 2022]

*1st Sgt. Amanda Hoover describes Capt. Rosa Meeks as the Yang to her Yin—the perfect balance for a first sergeant and commandant who are carving out their place in history as the first-ever command team of the People First Center here, never mind the fact that they are also one of very few female command teams in the Army. With 10 years of experience in the Army, Hoover admitted that it is often difficult to find a female battle buddy who balances out one’s own qualities. With Meeks, however, Hoover has found that unique dynamic. “We don’t argue, we talk things out. We always communicate, we always have each other’s back and at the end of the day, she’s my confidant. We have those conversations that I don’t think I’ve ever had before,” Hoover added. Becoming the first command team for a first-of-its-kind organization has had its challenges, but they said they work through it together. Both leaders described building the organization from the ground up has been both fun and challenging.*

[Newest California Supreme Court judge is the first Latina in the role](#) [Ayana Archie, NPR, 29 March 2022]

*California has sworn in a new judge to its Supreme Court, and she’s making history by becoming the first Latina in the role. Justice Patricia Guerrero has been an associate justice in a federal appeals court, a trial court judge, a law partner and a federal prosecutor. Guerrero’s swearing in is a significant move in California. As the country’s most populous state and where nearly 2 in 5 residents identify as Hispanic or Latino, California is situated in the country’s debate on immigration. She was joined by her father, sister, husband and two sons during her swearing in ceremony Monday. Guerrero moved to California when her parents immigrated to the Imperial Valley region from Mexico.*

[NFL announces creation of new “Diversity Advisory Committee” amid Brian Flores’s Lawsuit](#) [Zach Koons, *Sports Illustrated*, 28 March 2022]

*Less than two months after former Dolphins coach Brian Flores filed a lawsuit against the NFL and three franchises alleging discrimination in league hiring practices, commissioner Roger Goodell and the league office announced the creation of a new “Diversity Advisory Committee.” In an official release on Monday, the NFL revealed that it has established a six-person committee of outside experts that will “evaluate league and club diversity, equity and inclusion strategies and initiatives,” which includes hiring processes with a focus on senior-level coach and front office positions. The group’s members will then provide “comprehensive recommendations to league office and club ownership for consideration.” “We’ve worked for years and made progress in many areas to ensure that staff and leaders in our office and at our clubs reflect the racial and gender makeup of America, but we have more work to do, particularly at the head coach and front-office level,” Goodell said in a statement Monday.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[VA Employees and Contractors Can Now Add Pronouns to Digital Signatures](#) [Kurt DelBene, *NextGov*, 31 March 2022]

*Creating an organization that promotes a culture of inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility for our nation’s Veterans builds trust, both with those we serve and with our workforce. In January 2022, the Department of Veterans Affairs updated Veterans’ health records to display gender identity, and today, in recognition of Transgender Day of Visibility, all VA employees and contractors have the option to add personal pronouns to their VA display name. Taking these actions are relatively minor technical solutions, but they are significant in signaling to the nation that we do not just talk about culture as a buzzword. At VA, we represent every Veteran we serve with respect and appreciation for who they are. Correctly using pronouns is a simple way to show respect and cultivate an inclusive culture at VA for our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning (LGBTQ+) Veterans and employees. Correct pronoun use also enhances Veteran trust in VA service providers and makes it easier for more trans and gender diverse employees to come out at work.*

[Woman makes history as first on-field player for a professional baseball team](#) [Lexi Lonas, *The Hill*, 25 March 2022]

*Alexis Hopkins on Monday became the first woman to be drafted as an on-field player for a professional baseball team. “Alexis “Scrappy” Hopkins is the best story in sports! The first female in professional baseball history to be drafted, and sign a contract for an on-field position,” the Atlantic League tweeted. She was drafted to the Kentucky Wild Health Genomes as a catcher. MLB.com reported she was the eighth pick in the league’s annual draft. “I’m really excited for this,” Hopkins said. “About two or three years ago in one of my college classes, they said to write down a dream of yours. I was going to put down ‘professional baseball player,’ but I actually didn’t because I was like, ‘That’s never going to happen.’ But I guess here we are today, making a dream come alive.”*

[Women are still missing in the music industry, especially behind the scenes](#) [Andrew Limbong, *NPR*, 31 March 2022]

*The music industry is nowhere near reaching gender parity. According to a [new study from the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative](#), women lag behind men as artists, but the problem is particularly severe when it comes to fields such as songwriting, producing and engineering. The study, which was funded by Spotify, examined the artists, songwriters and producers credited on songs that appeared on the Billboard Hot 100 Year-End Chart since 2012. According to their count, less than a quarter of the artists on the chart in 2021 were women. Over the past ten years, that number has been stagnant at 21%. In 2019 the Recording Academy launched an initiative named Women in the Mix to try to combat the dearth of women in production and engineering positions, asking participating artists, labels and managers to consider at least two women when hiring for a producer or engineer. According to the study, the effort has so far failed to produce any quantifiable improvement.*

[The Women of USS Wyoming Make History](#) [Chief Petty Officer Ashley Berumen, U.S. Navy Press Office, 24 March 2022]

*It has been more than 12 years since women were authorized to serve aboard submarines. While women comprise nearly one-fourth of the Department of Defense’s total force, only a small fraction of women serve on submarines. The 15 enlisted women serving aboard the ballistic-missile submarine USS Wyoming’s (SSBN 742) Blue Crew, homeported at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia, recently reached a milestone accomplishment for all women who serve. These submariners made history when they became the first enlisted female crew to complete a ballistic-missile submarine “boomer” deterrent patrol. Enlisted women currently serve aboard four guided-missile submarines and one ballistic-missile submarine. There are 70 active submarines in the fleet. Female officers have been deploying aboard submarines since 2011, but it was a few more years before the Navy began the process of incorporating enlisted women on submarine crews.*

## **EXTREMISM**

[1-in-6 Election Officials Report Being Threatened](#) [Andre Claudio, Route Fifty, 28 March 2022]

*One in six election officials surveyed have experienced threats and 50% have been threatened in person, according to a report by Benenson Strategy Group, a consulting and strategic research firm. In addition, 77% say these threats have increased in recent years, and that they need more support at the federal and local levels. However, more than 50% of threats against local election officials go unreported. In fact, only 46% of those surveyed said they report threats to law enforcement; of those that are reported, 89% are to local officials and 22% to federal and state ones. Local election officials say social media is making their jobs more difficult and dangerous, according to the report. In fact, more than three in four surveyed (77%) want social media companies to do more to stop the spread of false information.*

[Man who brought “small armory” ahead of U.S. Capitol riot gets almost four-year sentence](#) [Jan Wolfe, Reuters, 1 April 2022]

*An Alabama man found with a “small armory” of guns, ammunition and Molotov cocktails in his pickup truck ahead of the Jan. 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol riot was sentenced to almost four years in prison, one of the stiffest sentences so far handed down. U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-*

*Kotelly said the 46-month sentence reflected the seriousness of the charges against Lonnie Coffman, 72, who had pleaded guilty to possessing unregistered firearms. Inside Coffman's truck, officers found an AR-15-style rifle, a shotgun, a crossbow, several machetes, smoke grenades and 11 Molotov cocktails. They also found a note with the name of at least one member of Congress and a judge, alongside the notation "bad guy." Prosecutors said at the time that the combination of weapons and political messages "suggest that these weapons were intended to be used in an effort to violently attack our elected representatives."*

[Veterans groups, community leaders need to play a key role in countering extremism, experts warn](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 31 March 2022]

*Preventing disenfranchised or unstable veterans from drifting into extremist ideology will require better outreach from federal planners and the veterans community, advocates said on Thursday. "This is a small but growing challenge," William Braniff, director of the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism at the University of Maryland, told members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. "We need to have a prevention ecosystem in place now before those numbers continue to rise." Thursday's hearing on extremism in the veterans community was the second in six months on the topic, and follows reports about growing numbers of veterans among violent groups focused on racist and anti-government activities. Committee members and witnesses both emphasized that military experience does not appear to make individuals more susceptible to extremist views, but that those violent groups often prize finding veteran recruits because of their skills and respect by the American public.*

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[Teenage social media use linked to less life-satisfaction for some](#) [BBC News Health, 28 March 2022]

*The more time girls aged between 11 and 13 spend on social media, the less likely they are to be satisfied with life a year later, a study suggests. The [UK study](#), in *Nature Communications*, shows the same pattern for boys aged 14 to 15, and 19-year-old boys and girls. Scientists speculate the vulnerability to social media at particular ages may be linked to brain, hormonal and social changes during adolescent development. They say more research is needed to fully understand and prove the link. Researchers, from the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford and the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour, say social media companies need to share more of their own data with scientists to allow further research. Experts say social media can be a force for good, such as helping young people maintain social contact during the Covid pandemic.*

[The workers with social anxiety fearing the return-to-office](#) [Katie Bishop, *BBC News Worklife*, 27 March 2022]

*Jumping back into office life isn't always a matter of strolling through the front door and getting down to work. For an increasing number of workers, it can be cause for panic. Alexis believes her social anxiety started when she was a child. The 21-year-old, who lives in North Carolina, U.S., moved around often, and always found herself struggling to fit in. When she entered the working world, her social struggles were amplified—she often found herself so anxious she would stay in her cubicle all day to avoid interactions with colleagues. Alexis is one of many struggling*

*with social anxiety after two years of limited social interaction and periods of enforced isolation. Experts say anxiety has rocketed among young people during the pandemic, and although there's little data on exactly how many people are dealing with it, [it's estimated that 12.1% of U.S. adults experience social anxiety at some point in their lives.](#)*

## INTERNATIONAL

[In pictures: The Ukrainian religious sites ruined by fighting](#) [Jack Hunter, *BBC News*, 30 March 2022]

*Ukraine has accused Russia of damaging or destroying at least 59 religious sites across the country since its invasion began. They include an Orthodox cathedral with its steeple ripped apart, a Jewish school struck by shelling, and parish churches left almost totally flattened. Targeting historic monuments and cultural heritage sites is a war crime under international law, according to the Hague Convention. Russia denies targeting civilian infrastructure, but the BBC has identified a number of religious sites that have suffered damage.*

[LGBT people in Iraq live in fear of lives—Human Rights Watch](#) [*BBC News*, 24 March 2022]

*Armed groups in Iraq, including the police and one of the country's most powerful militias, attack LGBT people with impunity, a new report says. Cases include abductions, torture, rape and murder, with LGBT people living in fear of their lives, campaigners Human Rights Watch (HRW) and IraQueer found. HRW said the Iraqi government had failed to hold perpetrators accountable. Iraq's interior ministry has denied any such attacks by its security forces. Accounts paint a harrowing picture of life as an LGBT person in Iraq, where the community is disproportionately affected by laws against extra-marital sex and undefined "immodest acts" in public. The worst cases involved groups belonging to the umbrella organisation Popular Mobilisation (PM), a powerful Shia-led paramilitary unit which officially became part of the Iraqi armed forces in 2018.*

[Nightly midnight jog by Indian teen inspires millions on Twitter](#) [Kamala Thiagarajan, *NPR*, 28 March 2022]

*At 11:45 p.m. on March 19, Vinod Kapri, a former TV journalist and award-winning filmmaker, was returning home from a dinner. As he was cruising along Golf Course Road in the northern Indian city of Noida, near New Delhi, he spotted a kid racing along in the dead of the night. Kapri says he was alarmed at first—worried that the boy was in trouble. Surprised by his refusal, Kapri says he whipped out his cellphone and started filming their conversation because he could tell that there was a story behind the midnight run. After asking permission to post the video, Kapri uploaded the recording, a little over 2 minutes and titled "A young boy running at midnight," to his Twitter account. It has 11.4 million views so far. The boy turned out to be 19-year-old Pradeep Mehra, who had just finished his shift at McDonald's and was returning home. Mehra explained that he was running to keep fit so he could fulfill his dream of joining the army. A career in the army has proven to be reliable for many young men in India.*

[Pope Francis apologises for Canada residential school harms](#) [*BBC News*, 1 April 2022]

*Pope Francis has apologised to a Canadian indigenous delegation for the Catholic Church's role in the country's residential school system. The schools, operated for more than a century, were run as part of government policy to assimilate indigenous children and destroy their cultures. The Roman Catholic Church operated up to 70% of residential schools. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and indigenous leaders welcomed the Pope's apology, calling it a step forward. Echoing other indigenous leaders gathered on Friday, Dene Nation National Chief Gerald Antoine called the papal apology "long overdue", saying it was a day "that will be lifted up in history". The Pope on Friday confirmed he would make a trip to Canada later this year to meet indigenous communities and to assist with reconciliation efforts.*

[S. Korean court upholds tattooing ban](#) [Yeni Seo and Minwoo Park, *Reuters*, 31 March 2022]  
*The Constitutional Court in Seoul upheld a ban on tattooing on Thursday, confirming South Korea as the only developed country that permits no one but medical professionals to perform the procedure. Tattoo artists derided the decision, calling it backward and lacking cultural understanding. Despite the decades-old ban, South Korea has nearly 50,000 tattoo artists, who risk police raids and prosecution for practising their trade. Violating the ban is punishable by fines of up to 50 million won (\$41,300) and prison terms—usually two years, though the law provides for as much as life. Tattooist associations have initiated a series of court actions since 2017 challenging the law, saying it breaches their freedom of expression and right to engage in an occupation.*

[World Cup 2022: "Issues of concern" remain for LGBTIQ+ people in Qatar](#) [BBC Sport, 31 March 2022]  
*LGBTIQ+ organisations engaging with Fifa over the 2022 Qatar World Cup have said "progress has been slow" and "issues of concern" remain. The 16 groups feel reassurances over the safety of LGBTIQ+ people in the host country "have not been adequate". They added that if safety reassurances cannot be given they would have to question if the risk facing LGBTIQ+ people wanting to attend is too high. They also said there had been "a high level of cooperation" from Fifa. The decision to stage the tournament in Qatar, where homosexuality is illegal, has been heavily criticised. The international coalition of groups representing LGBTIQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, queer or questioning) fans has presented eight action points on LGBTIQ+ rights it wants to see implemented by Fifa and the Qatari authorities before the tournament begins on 21 November.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Groundbreaking Held in Texas For Medal of Honor Museum](#) [The Associated Press, 25 March 2022]

*The National Medal of Honor Museum will be built in Arlington, just west of Dallas. The museum will tell the stories of the recipients of the medal, which is awarded by Congress for risking life in combat beyond the call of duty. Fifteen Medal of Honor recipients attended the ceremony, including 98-year-old Hershel Woodrow "Woody" Williams, who is the nation's last living*

recipient from World War II. About 3,500 service members have received the award. The museum, which will have permanent and rotating exhibits, is expected to open in 2024.

[A Proclamation on the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War](#) [Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *The White House Press Office*, 28 March 2022]

*On National Vietnam War Veterans Day, we honor all those who bravely served in the Vietnam War and who sacrificed, as did their families and caregivers, on behalf of our Nation. For almost two decades, Americans raised their right hands and committed to serve and defend our Constitution as uniformed members of the United States Armed Forces during a tumultuous period in our country's history. Throughout the years of the Vietnam War, 9 million Americans earned the title of United States veteran. Today and every day, we honor their bravery and commitment and give thanks to a generation of Americans who valiantly fought in service of the country they love while recognizing the continuing impact on so many veterans of the Vietnam conflict, along with their families, caregivers, and survivors. We will always remember those we lost and honor those who came home.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Scientists finally finish decoding entire human genome](#) [Laura Ungar, *The Associated Press*, 31 March 2022]

*An international team described the first-ever sequencing of a complete human genome – the set of instructions to build and sustain a human being—in research published Thursday [in the journal Science](#). The previous effort, celebrated across the world, was incomplete because DNA sequencing technologies of the day weren't able to read certain parts of it. Even after updates, it was missing about 8% of the genome. “Some of the genes that make us uniquely human were actually in this ‘dark matter of the genome’ and they were totally missed,” said Evan Eichler, a University of Washington researcher who participated in the current effort and the original Human Genome Project. “It took 20-plus years, but we finally got it done.” Scientists said this full picture of the genome will give humanity a greater understanding of our evolution and biology while also opening the door to medical discoveries in areas like aging, neurodegenerative conditions, cancer and heart disease.*

## MISCONDUCT

[Air Force chief master sergeant convicted of dereliction of duty for distributing “sexually explicit” photos and other charges](#) [David Roza, *Task & Purpose*, 25 March 2022]

*An airman with the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force and a decorated service record pleaded guilty last month to dereliction of duty and failure to obey an order or regulation. Chief Master Sgt. Jamie Kohr was found guilty during a special court-martial at a deployed location in the Middle East or Southwest Asia, according to the Air Force Judge Advocate General's legal docket. Of the 11 violations, the two involving sexual harassment and one of the instances of pursuing an unprofessional relationship were withdrawn and dismissed at trial, according to Master Sgt. Arthur Wright, superintendent for public affairs at the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing, where Kohr was assigned at the time of the court-martial. Ever since 1990, when U.S. troops arrived in the Middle East en masse for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, alcohol and*

*pornography have been forbidden for troops in the Central Command area of responsibility, due to local laws in countries where U.S. troops are deployed or stationed.*

[Army leaders: Young soldiers make honest mistakes. Don't react too harshly](#) [Said Eljadidi, *Army Times*, 28 March 2022] [COMMENTARY]

*Young, inexperienced soldiers will make mistakes; it is inevitable as we are all human. Ask any retired officer or NCO about their time in the service and what they have learned from it. Nine times out of 10, their stories will involve a mistake and the repercussions that followed. We have an all-volunteer force. To keep quality soldiers in the service, leaders must understand that although the military holds the highest standards of morality, justice, and ethics, human error will still occur. It has happened to me. I had a lapse in judgment early in my career that could have ended it before it started. What I discovered from that experience has taught me far more about the command process and outstanding leaders than any of my successes.*

## **RACISM**

[California panel OKs reparations limit for slave descendants](#) [Janie Har, *The Associated Press*, 30 March 2022]

*California's first-in-the-nation task force on reparations has decided to limit state compensation to the descendants of free and enslaved Black people who were in the U.S. in the 19th century, narrowly rejecting a proposal to include all Black people regardless of lineage. Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation creating the two-year reparations task force in 2020, making California the only state to move ahead with a study and plan, with a mission to study the institution of slavery and its harms and to educate the public about its findings. Reparations efforts at the federal level have not gone anywhere, but cities and universities are taking up the issue. The Chicago suburb of Evanston, Illinois, became the first U.S. city to make reparations available to Black residents last year, although some say the program has done nothing to right a wrong.*

[How one Civil Rights activist posed as a White man in order to investigate lynchings](#) [Dave Davies, *NPR*, 30 March 2022]

*White Lies* author A.J. Baime tells the story of Walter White, a light-skinned Black man whose ancestors had been enslaved. For years White risked his life investigating racial violence in the South. When lynchings and other violence against Black people were a regular occurrence in the first half of the 20th century, details of many of those crimes were reported by an intrepid, mixed-race investigator with blue eyes and straight hair who could move with ease among rural White communities. His name was Walter F. White, and he worked for the NAACP in its early years, eventually becoming chief executive of the organization. As executive secretary, White developed legal strategies to fight discrimination and recruited top litigators for the effort, including future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. White also built the political power of the NAACP, becoming a regular visitor to the White House in the Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Truman administrations, winning important changes in federal policy.

## **RELIGION**

[South Asian Americans face a complicated relationship with the swastika](#) [Sakshi Venkatraman, NBC News, 25 March 2022]

*The swastika, when softer, non-angled, left-facing or decorated with dots, has a very different meaning in the iconography of several Asian religions, where it has been ingrained for thousands of years. From Stone Age drawings in 10,000 B.C. to carvings in the ancient Greek city of Troy, swastikas were used on virtually every continent as a symbol of good fortune. The swastika has a particularly strong presence in Hindu, Buddhist and Jain communities across the world. In paintings and sculptures, it can be found on the palms of the Buddha's hands, on Jain and Hindu temples, and in designs in the traditional powder art form of rangoli. But as the Asian diaspora continues to grow, the two versions of the swastika have begun to meet more frequently in the West. The religious symbol, meaningful to communities in their art and worship, is often confused with the hate symbol twisted by the Nazis into a mark of White supremacy. National reckonings about race, religion and ethnicity in the last few years have brought conversations about racism and xenophobia to the fore. And a renewed effort by some leaders to ban the swastika has been met with questions from Asian communities who say there need to be exceptions.*

## SEXISM

[As women were slowly gaining equality in the 80s, the Army put a “pause” on them](#) [Kelsey Baker, *Task & Purpose*, 1 April 2022] [COMMENTARY]

*The Army recently announced that the 100th female soldier has completed Ranger School. That's quite a shift: It wasn't so long ago that the Army sought to put a “pause” on women in general. They thought too many women anywhere in the ranks would harm readiness. Yep. The “Woman Pause” of the 1980s. The Army's reaction to the 1970s women's liberation movement was to pause women entirely. For decades, the military had enforced strict caps on the number of women it would admit—women could not comprise more than 2% of the total armed forces. Each service was limited to one female O-6. So what changed? Why were women in the military suddenly “put on pause” after a decade of robust progress? Retired Marine Lt. Col. Beth Wolny, a military gender expert, says there are two reasons for the jump, and subsequent drop, in women's numbers during the 1970s and 1980s: the end of the draft and the arrival of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).*

[The States With the Highest and Lowest Wage Gaps](#) [Andre Claudio, *Route Fifty*, 24 March 2022]

*While the gender-based wage gap in the U.S. has decreased in recent years, discrepancies remain, [according to a report by the U.S. Census Bureau](#). Wyoming tops the list for states with the highest wage gaps between men and women—\$21,676—while Vermont ranks as the state with the lowest—\$4,600, according to a report by the U.S. Census Bureau. While the gender-based wage gap in the U.S. has decreased in recent years, discrepancies remain, according to the bureau. The national median earnings for people who worked full time year-round for 12 months was \$53,544 for men and \$43,394 for women, [according to the Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey](#). In 2020, women earned 83 cents to every dollar earned by men, the report*

*says. Some factors contributing to earning differences between women and men are age, worked hours, children and education, the report shows.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[DOD's and U.S. Coast Guard's Efforts to Prevent Sexual Assault In The Military](#) [Brenda Farrell, *GAO Watchdog*, 28 March 2022] [PODCAST]

*Sexual assault is a heinous crime that can have a lasting, harmful effect on victims. But when it occurs among the ranks of military service members, it can have the additional effect of undermining the military's ability to carry out its missions. Congress has directed the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard to improve its efforts to prevent and respond to sexual assault incidents. We find out more about the status of these efforts from GAO's Brenda Farrell.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Judge approves Activision Blizzard \\$18 million settlement in sexual harassment suit](#) [Andrew Limbong, *NPR*, 29 March 2022]

*A California judge says she will approve a settlement between video game giant Activision Blizzard and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The case stems from a complaint the federal agency filed in September, after a years-long investigation, alleging that employees at Activision Blizzard were subjected to severe sexual harassment and pregnancy discrimination, and that the company engaged in retaliation against employees who complained. The settlement includes an \$18 million fund for eligible claimants who worked at the company starting in Sept. 1, 2016. The EEOC's lawsuit is just one that the company has faced recently for its alleged toxic workplace culture. The California Department of Fair Employment and Housing is also suing the company for equal pay violations, sex discrimination and sexual harassment.*

[Top military official seeks outside probe of Maine National Guard's handling of sexual assault cases](#) [Callie Ferguson, *Bangor Daily News (Bangor, Maine)*, 24 March 2022]

*Maine's top military official has asked for an outside investigation of how the Maine National Guard handles sexual assault cases, Gov. Janet Mills said Thursday. Maj. Gen. Douglas Farnham, the guard's adjutant general, contacted the National Guard Bureau's Office of Complex Investigations last week to ask for the independent review, Mills said in a statement. The announcement came a day before lawmakers are set to hold a hearing on a bill calling for an independent investigation of Maine's guard following pressure from survivors of military sexual violence and a three-part Bangor Daily News series that revealed a predatory culture on the Army-side of the organization. It marks the most aggressive step the guard has taken to hold itself accountable following those reports, after leadership recommended more modest improvements earlier this month.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## **VETERANS**

[5 ways to make Veterans Affairs more friendly to trans veterans](#) [Lindsay Church, *Military Times*, 30 March 2022] [COMMENTARY]

*March 31 is Transgender Day of Visibility and this year I'm reflecting on what it means to live as both a veteran and a trans person in 2022. On this day each spring, trans people celebrate the lives of those in our community who have made it this far and speak out about the ongoing discrimination we face. This year marks a decade since I returned home from military service. The scars of those years, literal and figurative, live at the forefront of my mind. Under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and looking as I do now—short hair, no makeup, and clothing and appearance others view as masculine—I received continuous abuse that I was forced to remain silent about. Today, I lead [Minority Veterans of America](#), where I have found my voice to speak out against the abuses so many of us endured just to serve our country.*

[Black Vietnam service members help carry the banner for today's military veterans](#) [Ron Chimelis, *The Republican (Springfield, Mass.)*, 30 March 2022]

*Bernard McClusky said when he went off to serve his country in Vietnam, he was a happy-go-lucky guy. "My goal was to be an entertainer. Actually, it still is," said McClusky, whose war experiences in 1967 and 1968 led him on a path to help modern veterans that continues today. "By the time I came back, things I used to think were funny no longer seemed funny. The only comfortable times were when I was around other Vietnam veterans. I didn't know why I had changed," he said. For African American veterans in greater Springfield and beyond, their loyalty and devotion to their fellow veterans, and to their country, remains as strong as ever. "Even as African Americans and descendants of slaves, we have a lot of unbelievable rights compared to many other nations," says Milton Jones, past commander of the Springfield NABVETS chapter. "We have the opportunity to make change here. If I had to make a choice of where to live, I'd choose here."*

[REPRINT]

[Justices Cast Doubt on Texas Immunity Claim in Vet's Lawsuit](#) [Mark Sherman, *The Associated Press*, 29 March 2022]

*The Supreme Court on Tuesday cast doubt on Texas' claim that it can't be sued by a former state trooper who says he was forced out of his job when he returned from Army service in Iraq. The justices heard arguments in a dispute over a federal law that was enacted in 1994 in the wake of the Persian Gulf war to strengthen job protections for returning service members. Over 90 minutes, the justices discussed the Vietnam War, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Alexander Hamilton and even Hamilton, the musical, as they tried to sort through whether states are shielded from lawsuits filed by veterans who complain that their jobs were not protected, in violation of the federal law. At the heart of the case is Congress' power to wage war and states' acknowledgments that they lacked similar authority, both laid out in the Constitution.*

[Women leaving the military face extra challenges—but they don't have to do it alone](#) [Nikki Madison, *Military Times*, 30 March 2022]

*Depression, isolation, loneliness and loss of purpose are common struggles among those transitioning from military to civilian life. Many also face challenges with applying for a civilian job for the first time or reentering the workforce. However, women veterans may also encounter*

*gender pay gaps, bias against mothers, financial instability, gender-related health concerns, stereotypes about female soldiers, and stress caused by military sexual trauma. Add to these obstacles the frequent lack of a trusted peer network, and one thing is clear: Transitioning to life outside the military can be particularly hard for women veterans.*