

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 22 APRIL 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

[Holocaust Days of Remembrance](#) [DOD Education Activity, 22 April 2022]

The U.S. Congress established the Days of Remembrance as the nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust. DODEA joins the world in honoring the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, as well as the millions of non-Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. This year, the Holocaust Days of Remembrance week will be observed from April 24 to May 1, 2022. Holocaust Remembrance Day will be Thursday, April 28, 2022. This day is observed each year during the week of Remembrance that runs from the Sunday before Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah) through the following Sunday. In 1980 through Public Law 96-388, the United States Holocaust Memorial Council was established to lead the nation in commemorating the Holocaust, and to raise private funds for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The 2022 theme Determination, Hope, and Honor is a testament to the resiliency of Holocaust survivors, a tribute to their protectors and liberators, and a memorial to the fallen.

[\[USDP&R MEMO\]](#)

[More Than 90 Agencies Release Their First-Ever Equity Plans](#) [Courtney Bubl , Government Executive, 14 April 2022]

More than 90 federal agencies released their first-ever equity action plans on Thursday, laying out more than 300 strategies to better help underserved communities. This follows an executive order President Biden issued on day one of his administration, which directed agencies to conduct equity assessments of their top three to five high-impact services for Americans to determine where there were systematic barriers. These findings helped agencies develop their plans. "Taken together these 300 actions demonstrate what it means to take a whole-of-government approach to advancing equity," said a senior administration official on a background briefing call. "For the first time Americans will see a full picture of what it looks like for the entire federal government to advance equity at once

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

["You Shouldn't Choose Between Having a Career and a Family": Army Approves Sweeping New Parenthood Policies](#) [Steve Beynon and Patricia Kime, Military.com, 21 April 2022]

The Army on Thursday unveiled an expansive set of new policies aimed to create one of the most consequential sets of quality-of-life improvements ever for military parents, including expanded leave and making it easier for pregnant soldiers to continue their careers. The new directives will affect 400,000 soldiers who are also parents, including 29,000 single fathers. Most of the policies arose from a grassroots effort by midlevel and noncommissioned officers and feedback from parents on social media, not senior leaders who typically craft new rules. "We want to normalize parenthood in the military," Maj. Sam Winkler, who worked on the new policies and serves in the 4th Cavalry Brigade, 1st Army Division East, told reporters. "It should be celebrated and encouraged, and you shouldn't choose between having a career and a family."

[\[ARMY NEWS RELEASE\]](#) [\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

CULTURE

[Air Force offers resources to service members, families affected by anti-LGBTQ+ legislation](#)

[Brooke Migdon, *The Hill*, 14 April 2022]

The Department of the Air Force (DAF) is offering medical and legal aid to personnel and their families as hundreds of anti-LGBTQ+ measures are considered in state legislatures nationwide. “Various laws and legislation are being proposed and passed in states across America that may affect LGBTQ Airmen, Guardians, and/or their LGBTQ dependents in different ways,” DAF wrote last month in a news release that was not widely publicized. Assignment, medical, legal and other resources are available to support Airmen and their family members, DAF said. “The health, care and resilience of our DAF personnel and their families is not just our top priority – it’s essential to our ability to accomplish the mission,” Under Secretary of the Air Force Gina Ortiz Jones said in a statement. “We are closely tracking state laws and legislation to ensure we prepare for and mitigate effects to our Airmen, Guardians and their families. Medical, legal resources, and various assistance are available for those who need them.”

[Figure Skating in Harlem: 25 years and growing](#) [Barry Wilner, *The Associated Press*, 18 April 2022]

A quarter-century ago, Sharon Cohen founded an organization that, to some, made little sense. After all, how many figure skaters would she find in Harlem? [Figure Skating in Harlem](#) celebrates its 25th anniversary with a gala on April 25, and has become a success story built on academics, social growth and, well, yes, ice time. The organization’s objective is helping girls from various racial and ethnic backgrounds transform their lives by growing in confidence, leadership and academic achievement. Clearly, it has worked. FSH graduates are deep into their careers or attending universities throughout the United States. Figure Skating in Harlem combines the power of education with access to the artistic discipline of figure skating “to build champions in life.”

[It’s time for the Navy to allow sailors on shore duty to have short, trimmed beards](#) [John Cordle, *Navy Times*, 16 April 2022] [COMMENTARY]

What if I told you the Navy could save up to \$5 million and 30,000 wasted man-hours annually, increase advancement and retention of minority officers and enlisted personnel by 5% to 10%, and improve morale in the fighting forces—starting today—for free? What if we could mark April 2022 as Diversity Month with an inherently humane and long overdue decision? Well, we can. Change the Navy grooming policy to allow all male sailors on shore duty to grow short, well-trimmed beards. How would letting me—a White male—grow a beard help minorities compete more fairly with their peers?

[“It wasn’t not racist”: Netflix documentary charts the troubling rise of Abercrombie & Fitch](#) [Oscar Holland, *CNN*, 20 April 2022]

Abercrombie & Fitch’s website is, today, awash with Gen-Z-friendly nods to diversity and inclusion. There are people of color, sizes up to 3XL and even a Pride-themed collection featuring “gender inclusive” rainbow tees. The brand’s Instagram account, meanwhile, proudly promotes models in wheelchairs, stories of body-positivity and statements of LGBTQ solidarity.

Yet, barely disguised in the label's new tagline, "This is #AbercrombieToday," is an admission that there is a yesterday it would rather we forget. Any chance of that has been effectively dashed by Netflix's new documentary "White Hot: The Rise & Fall of Abercrombie & Fitch," which charts Abercrombie's transformation from forgotten 19th-century outdoors retailer to the epitome of late 1990s teen fashion. Through interviews with former models, recruiters, store workers and executives, the 88-minute film suggests that appearing cool, attractive and White wasn't just an exercise in branding: it was an active corporate strategy that came at the expense of non-White employees and consumers.

[Janelle Monáe confirms that they're nonbinary](#) [Scottie Andrew, CNN, 22 April 2022]

Janelle Monáe, the Grammy-nominated performer, actor and author, has confirmed that they identify as nonbinary in interviews tied to their new book. The "Tightrope" singer said they use the pronouns they/them and she/her, in a conversation with the Los Angeles Times this week promoting their book, "The Memory Librarian: And Other Stories of Dirty Computer." Monáe has previously confirmed that they identify as pansexual, which means they're attracted to people regardless of gender or sex. Monáe, whose musical and visual work often references Afrofuturism, has for years eschewed binary thinking. In a 2020 interview with Variety, Monáe said she "always tried to get rid of ... any labels and ... show love to everyone who continues to live outside of the binary." "The Memory Librarian," which was released earlier this week, includes many of the same themes of queerness, sci-fi dystopia and the celebration of Black women and nonbinary people present in Monáe's earlier efforts.

[Military sites honoring Confederates can't be renamed without further action from Congress](#) [Leo Shane III, Military.com, 19 April 2022]

As part of legislative proposals sent to Capitol Hill this month connected to the fiscal 2023 budget request, Defense Department officials said they need new action by lawmakers to finalize the work of the Pentagon's Confederate renaming commission, which was mandated by Congress two years ago. "Although [previous legislation] contemplates that the commission may recommend that the defense secretary assign or modify names of real property, it does not authorize the secretary to implement those recommendations," officials wrote. Potential replacement names would honor well-known military leaders, such as Dwight D. Eisenhower and Colin Powell, or specific soldiers recognized for heroism, like Roy Benavidez and Alwyn Cashe. However, absent new legislation by Congress this year, service officials would only be able to remove the old names, not finalize the new ones.

[The name of this Idaho butte is a slur. It and 71 place names statewide to be replaced](#) [John Sowell, The Idaho Statesman (Boise, Idaho), 21 April 2022]

For generations, names for many Idaho geographical features have used "squaw," a derogatory term for Native American women. Squaw Butte. Little Squaw Creek. Squaw Flat. Squaw Meadow. Squaw Joe Canyon. Of the 660 features on federal lands across the U.S. that use the word, 72, or 11%, are found in Idaho. They're spread among 21 of Idaho's 44 counties. Soon they'll disappear. The U.S. Department of the Interior will rename the buttes and creeks and canyons after taking public comment. The decision has precedent. At one time, 190 places on federal land used the N-word, an offensive name for African-Americans; Interior renamed those in 1962. A

pejorative term for Japanese people was removed from places in 1974. “Racist terms have no place in our vernacular or on our federal lands. Our nation’s lands and waters should be places to celebrate the outdoors and our shared cultural heritage – not to perpetuate the legacies of oppression,” Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said in a news release issued in November.

[Race Is Central to Identity for Black Americans and Affects How They Connect With Each Other](#)

[Kiana Cox and Christine Tamir, *Pew Research Center*, 14 April 2022]

No matter where they are from, who they are, their economic circumstances or educational backgrounds, significant majorities of Black Americans say being Black is extremely or very important to how they think about themselves, with about three-quarters (76%) overall saying so. Beyond the personal importance of Blackness—that is, the importance of being Black to personal identity—many Black Americans feel connected to each other. About five-in-ten (52%) say everything or most things that happen to Black people in the United States affect what happens in their own lives, with another 30% saying some things that happen nationally to Black people have a personal impact. The new survey also explores Black Americans’ knowledge about their family histories and the history of Black people in the United States, with the importance of Blackness linked to greater knowledge. Nearly six-in-ten Black adults (57%) say their ancestors were enslaved either in the U.S. or another country, with nearly all who say so (52% of the Black adults surveyed) saying it was in the U.S., either in whole or in part.

[To Reckon with Theft of Indigenous Land, Change Place Names](#) [Harrison Tasoff, *Futurity*, 14 April 2022]

Addressing place names in national parks could be a starting point for reckoning with the country’s history of dispossessing Indigenous nations from their lands. The [new paper in the journal People and Nature](#) reveals that derogatory names are only the tip of the iceberg—violence in place names can take many forms. The study quantifies the scale of the problem in U.S. national parks and puts the movement to change place names in context. Around the world, statues of historic figures who symbolize colonialism and oppression are being critically examined, and often removed. Across the United States, Confederate figures and statues with clear racist symbolism have been uninstalled or actively torn down. These removals reflect a shifting zeitgeist that seeks to include the history of Indigenous and racialized peoples. But some symbols of oppression are less tangible than a statue.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[TV’s “black-ish” ends 8-season run with legacy, fans secure](#) [Lynn Elber, *The Associated Press*, 18 April 2022]

A surprise awaited “black-ish” creator Kenya Barris and his family on a 2016 visit to the newly opened National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington: An exhibit on the TV series was on display. Talk to admirers of “black-ish” and the same seems probable for the series, which airs its half-hour finale at 9 p.m. EDT Tuesday (midnight EDT on Hulu), followed by ABC News’ “black-ish: A Celebration” on ABC. The series was a network TV rarity: A depiction of a prosperous, tight-knit family of color, the Johnsons, with Black creators shaping their stories. But “black-ish” has a distinctly more layered view of race, starting with the title

that reflects dad Andre “Dre” Johnson’s fear that affluence is separating his children from their ethnic identity. It also has a sharper take on race relations, Harper said.

DISCRIMINATION

[A 16-year former Walmart employee with Down syndrome was awarded \\$300,000 after being fired. Now, Walmart is seeking a new trial.](#) [Hannah Towey, *Business Insider*, 21 April 2022]

Walmart is seeking a new trial in an employee disability-discrimination case that concluded in July after a six-year legal battle, according to court documents filed Tuesday night. The lawsuit is centered around the firing of Marlo Spaeth, an employee with Down syndrome who worked at a Walmart store in Wisconsin for 16 years. Walmart is now requesting a new trial, claiming that management was unaware Spaeth’s “difficulty adjusting to her new schedule was linked to her Down syndrome.” In Tuesday’s court filing, Walmart said this lack of knowledge means Spaeth’s termination was not an act “malice or reckless indifference” toward her disability.

[Disabled people fight U.S. military disqualifications to fulfill their “duty to serve”](#) [Kelly Agee and Alex Wilson, *Stars and Stripes*, 21 April 2022]

Together, Hannah Cvancara and Joshua Martinez fall into at least three of the 30 categories of medical conditions that disqualify potential candidates from service in the U.S. armed forces. Cvancara, 26, of Spokane, Wash., was born with fibula hemimelia, a condition that prevented the bones in her legs, ankle and foot from growing with her body. She lost her left leg and walks with a prosthetic. Martinez, 22, of Gainesville, Ga., survived brain cancer as a child but lives with autism. He said that from the start few people expected much from him. For both, however, military service beckoned. They sought the opportunity to prove themselves capable and to prove the naysayers wrong. Defense Department regulations rule out military service for a range of medical conditions, from deformed eyelids to malignant tumors to a history of frostbite.

[Gay dads with 2 young children say they were harassed on Amtrak, called “abomination” who “steal and rape kids”](#) [Muri Assunção, *New York Daily News*, 16 April 2022]

*Two dads and their two young children were called “an abomination” and “pedophiles” who “rape kids” by a stranger while riding an Amtrak train earlier this week—an ordeal that left the children crying for nearly an hour, according to one of the fathers. Robbie Pierce and his husband Neal Broverman, the editorial director for print at Pride Media, which publishes several LGBTQ publications, including *The Advocate* and *Out*, had planned a trip for their two young children for spring break. On Tuesday, the two dads and the kids, a 6-year-old boy and a 5-year-old girl, hopped on Amtrak’s Coast Starlight to travel from Los Angeles to Oakland, Calif. “A man was suddenly standing next to me, shouting across me at my 6yo son, ‘Remember what I told you. They stole you. They’re pedophiles,’” Pierce wrote Wednesday on Twitter. After telling the man to “get away from my family,” the man replied “Family!? That’s not a family! You’re rapists. You steal Black & Asian kids,” according to Pierce, who said that by the time both children were “openly crying, petrified.”*

[Judge pauses Montana’s enforcement of law that makes it harder for transgender residents to modify their birth certificates](#) [Devan Cole, *CNN*, 21 April 2022]

Montana must pause its enforcement of a law requiring transgender residents to provide proof that they underwent a “surgical procedure” to change their sex in order to modify the sex designations on their birth certificates, a state judge ruled Thursday. The preliminary injunction issued by Judge Michael G. Moses means that, for now, Montanans wishing to change the sex designations on their birth certificates can continue doing so by submitting to Montana’s Department of Public Health and Human Services “a completed gender-designation form attesting to gender transition or providing government-issued identification displaying the correct sex designation or providing a certified court order indicating a gender change.” Two transgender residents sued, claiming the new law violates their constitutional right to privacy and due process, as well as the 14th Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause. They argued that the law was vague and didn’t adequately describe the types of medical procedures required to satisfy the state’s definition of a sex change.

[Kansas governor vetoes transgender sports ban, parental bill of rights](#) [Brooke Migdon, *The Hill*, 18 April 2022]

Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly (D) on Friday vetoed a pair of bills condemned by LGBTQ+ advocates as discriminatory against LGBTQ+ people in the state. One of them, a transgender athlete ban, would have barred trans women and girls from competing on sports teams that match their gender identity. The other would have established a “Parental Bill of Rights,” granting public school parents the ability to review and challenge classroom materials inconsistent with their personal beliefs. Under the first bill, or the “Fairness in Women’s Sports Act,” public school sports teams from the elementary to the university level would be designated by “biological sex,” or a student’s sex assigned at birth. Similar to legislation recently passed in Kentucky, the Kansas bill by including collegiate athletics likely runs afoul of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules, potentially threatening state universities’ participation in NCAA sports and championship events. But many have argued that such legislation is needed to “protect” the integrity of women’s sports, particularly as transgender athletes like the University of Pennsylvania’s Lia Thomas allegedly edge cisgender women out of competitive athletic opportunities.

[Shawnee State to pay professor \\$400,000 in settlement over student’s preferred pronouns](#) [Megan Henry, *The Columbus Dispatch* (Columbus, Ohio), 19 April 2022]

In 2018, Shawnee State philosophy professor Nicholas Meriwether called a transgender student “sir” during a lecture when she raised her hand, which sparked an investigation by school officials who found that Meriwether had created a “hostile environment.” He was given a written warning that he could be fired or suspended without pay for violating the university’s nondiscrimination policy. The settlement, which was reached on April 14, rescinds the written warning the university issued in June 2018 and “affirms his right to address students consistent with his beliefs,” according to the Alliance for Defending Freedom (ADF), a conservative Christian nonprofit organization based in Scottsdale, Arizona, that represented Meriwether in the case. “Though we have decided to settle, we adamantly deny that anyone at Shawnee State deprived Dr. Meriwether of his free speech rights or his rights to freely exercise his religion. We continue to stand behind a student’s right to a discrimination-free learning environment as well

as the rights of faculty, visitors, students and employees to freely express their ideas and beliefs...,” the statement reads.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Woman claims she was kicked out of addiction program because of sexual orientation](#) [Shannon Butler and Adam Poulisse, *WFTV (Orlando, Fla.)*, 19 April 2022]

Kaylin Hevia is beginning a 120-day stint in Seminole County Jail after the judge said she violated her probation by getting kicked out of the adult and teen challenge program. She told Channel 9 from jail on Tuesday that she believes it’s because she is gay. Hevia did the Christian-based drug addiction program as part of a plea deal after she was arrested. The paperwork said she was removed for “an ongoing inappropriate relationship.” But in the rules provided to Channel 9 by Hevia’s attorney, it does not specifically address that violation. Her attorney questioned the pastor during that hearing, asking if the program accepts gay people. “The reality is we work with people with life-controlling problems,” the pastor said. “It doesn’t matter whether they’re homosexuals, gay, drug addicts, alcoholics, prostitutes—those are the type of people we work with.” When pressed on if the program accepts gay people, the pastor said, “We accept them with the understanding that they’re not going to push their agenda, that they’re coming for help, not to push their agenda to want to get a relationship.”

DIVERSITY

[USAID Has a New \(and First Ever\) Chief Diversity Officer](#) [Courtney Bublé, *Government Executive*, 21 April 2022]

*A new chief diversity officer at a federal agency is focused not just on its workforce, but its impact worldwide. Last month, Neneh Diallo was sworn in to be the U.S. Agency for International Development’s first ever chief diversity officer, leading a new office that is overseeing the agency’s diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility efforts. A watchdog said in a [June 2020 report](#) that between fiscal 2002 and fiscal 2018 there was “mixed progress” in increasing diversity at USAID. Diallo told *Government Executive* in an interview on April 14 that, “As representatives of the United States, I think that we would want to have a workforce that is reflective of our country and the diverse talent and lived experiences of the people who represent our country.”*

[VMI Alumni Take Aim at College’s DEI Efforts](#) [Josh Moody, *Inside Higher Ed*, 6 April 2022]

Diversity, equity and inclusion efforts are once again under attack at Virginia Military Institute. The latest skirmish comes months after the military college’s president publicly rebuked an alumnus for claiming in an interview that VMI’s DEI efforts were in fact an effort to establish critical race theory on campus. VMI has denied that critical race theory is part of its curriculum. Unconvinced, outspoken alumni are now circulating a petition asking Virginia’s attorney general to look into the matter. While the petition acknowledges that “no formal course in CRT is being offered in the curriculum at VMI,” it also claims “the elements of that theory are being woven into the fabric, rendering harm to the VMI Experience.” Critical race theory, a once-obscure academic concept, has become a buzzword for conservatives who claim that students are being misled about American history—particularly with regard to race relations—as part of a liberal

ploy. Now some VMI alumni hope that Governor Glenn Youngkin, who seized upon CRT in Virginia's gubernatorial election, will intercede to put an end to the divisive concepts they claim are being taught at VMI.

EXTREMISM

[Feds say Jan. 6 defendant held old secret military documents](#) [Dan Sullivan, *Tampa Bay Times* (St. Petersburg, Fla.), 18 April 2022]

A retired U.S. Army Special Forces soldier who is among those accused in the Jan. 6, 2021, riots at the U.S. Capitol faces new charges that he held onto secret national defense documents from his time in the service. A federal grand jury in Tampa last week returned an indictment alleging that Jeremy Brown had unauthorized possession of the documents, which relate to military activities that occurred in 2004 and 2005. The new charges accompany previous allegations that Brown illegally possessed two guns and a set of hand grenades, which federal agents found when they executed a search warrant last year at his Tampa home. The new indictment is the latest salvo in a complicated case that has seen prosecutors work hard to keep Brown locked up and prevent him from benefitting financially from public support he has received. A criminal complaint references messages in which Brown coordinated travel plans, [to D.C.] writing that he would bring his recreational vehicle, which he referred to as "Ground Force One."

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Florida man pleads guilty to threatening Rep. Ilhan Omar](#) [The Associated Press, 19 April 2022]

A Florida man pleaded guilty Tuesday to threatening U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar nearly three years ago. David Hannon, 67, of Sarasota, pleaded guilty in Tampa federal court to one count of threatening a federal official, according to court records. The charge carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison. A sentencing date wasn't immediately set. According to prosecutors, Hannon sent an email to Omar threatening to kill her in July 2019 following a televised news conference held by the Minnesota representative and three other congresswomen. In an email with the subject line "(You're) dead, you radical Muslim," Hannon referred to Omar and the other congresswomen of color as "radical rats" and asked Omar if she was prepared "to die for Islam." Investigators said the email further stated that Hannon was going to shoot Omar in the head. Omar is one of only a handful of Muslim members of Congress.

INTERNATIONAL

[Unrest sparked by far-right demos continues in Sweden](#) [The Associated Press, 17 April 2022]

Unrest broke out in southern Sweden late Saturday despite police moving a rally by an anti-Islam far-right group, which was planning to burn a Quran among other things, to a new location as a preventive measure. Scuffles and unrest were reported in the southern town of Landskrona after a demonstration scheduled there by the Danish right-wing party Stram Kurs party was moved to the nearby city of Malmo, some 45 kilometers (27 miles) south. On Friday evening, violent clashes between demonstrators and counter-protesters erupted in the central city of Orebro ahead Stram Kurs' plan to burn a Quran there, leaving 12 police officers injured and four police vehicles set on fire. Kim Hild, spokeswoman for police in southern Sweden, said earlier Saturday

that police would not revoke permission for the Landskrona demonstration because the threshold for doing that is very high in Sweden, which values free speech.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Air Force fires 1st Combat Camera Squadron commander due to poor command climate](#) [Caitlin Doornbos, *Stars and Stripes*, 20 April 2022]

The Air Force has fired the commander of its largest combat camera squadron due to the unit's poor command climate, service leaders said Wednesday. Lt. Col. Jamie Humphries of Washington state was relieved as commander of the 1st Combat Camera Squadron on Tuesday "following a careful and deliberate assessment of the current command climate," Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek wrote in an email. Stefanek did not give further details about the climate at the squadron, which is based at Joint Base Charleston, S.C. She said Brig. Gen. Patrick S. Ryder, director of Air Force public affairs, made the decision. Ryder has since appointed Lt. Col. Mindy Yu, "a combat camera veteran," as the squadron's new acting commander, the Air Force spokeswoman said.

[Invictus Games Opens with Prince Harry Tribute to Ukrainians](#) [Mike Corder, *The Associated Press*, 16 April 2022]

The Invictus Games competition for wounded, injured and ill service personnel and veterans opened Saturday night in the Netherlands with a standing ovation and a tribute from Prince Harry for the Ukrainian team members who left their war-torn nation to compete. With Harry and his wife Meghan in the front row for opening ceremony, competitors cheered for nearly a minute as the Ukrainian team waved their nation's blue-and-yellow flag after Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte welcomed them to the event that was delayed for two years by the coronavirus pandemic. Harry founded the Invictus Games to aid the rehabilitation of injured or sick military service members and veterans by giving them the challenge of competing in sports events similar to the Paralympics.

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[Supreme Court revives lawsuit involving a multi-million-dollar French painting, Nazis and Spanish museum](#) [Dan Mangan, *CNBC*, 21 April 2022]

The U.S. Supreme Court in a unanimous ruling Thursday resurrected a lawsuit over the ownership of a French painting—now in the possession of a renowned museum in Spain—that a Jewish woman surrendered to the Nazis in 1939 so that she could flee Germany. The Supreme Court's ruling gave new hope to the Cassirer family that it will recover the Camille Pissarro painting, titled "Rue Saint-Honoré in the Afternoon, Effect of Rain," which is in the possession of the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection Foundation in Madrid. The foundation for more than two decades has refused to return the painting, believed to be worth tens of millions of dollars to the descendants of Lilly Cassier, who was forced to turn it over to the Nazis in exchange for her freedom.

[There Are Racial Disparities in How Much Sleep People Get](#) [Fred Mamoun, *Futurity*, 15 April 2022]

Using data collected by the National Health Interview Survey from 2004 to 2018, [researchers found](#) that the proportion of people who reported sleeping fewer than 7 hours per day increased significantly over the 15-year period, and it was significantly higher among Black people. “As an indicator of sleep health, adequate sleep duration is essential for achieving and maintaining a healthy life,” says lead author César Caraballo-Cordovez, postdoctoral associate at the Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE) at Yale University. The researchers reported that in 2018, the percentage of people reporting short sleep duration was 11 points higher among Black people when compared with White people. Researchers investigated how these findings varied by sex and household income and found that the disparities were the highest for Black women and Black people with middle or high income. The team also found differences between racial and ethnic groups when sleep duration was analyzed by age. For instance, they found that the disparities were the highest for young and middle-aged Black adults, slightly narrowing among the elderly.

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MISCONDUCT

[Patriot battalion CSM faces court-martial on fraternization charges](#) [Davis Winkie, *Army Times*, 18 April 2022]

The former top NCO for a Fort Hood, Texas-based air defense battalion is set to face court-martial in June over allegations that he had an illegal affair with a subordinate and then lied about it in an official statement. Sgt. Maj. Tomas Barrios is charged with fraternization and adultery after carrying on an affair with a subordinate, according to a charge sheet provided to *Army Times* by III Corps officials. He was serving as the command sergeant major for the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade’s 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Regiment when the alleged sexual relationship occurred. Barrios made two false sworn statements about the affair on Sept. 22 and Sept. 25 when he denied having a personal relationship with the corporal, according to the charge sheet. Investigators believe Barrios also lied when he denied their personal communications and their sexual relationship. A III Corps official who provided the charge sheet cautioned that “all accused soldiers are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in accordance with the law.”

RACISM

[Denver Apologizes for Anti-Chinese Riot of 1880](#) [Sarah Kuta, *Smithsonian Magazine*, 21 April 2022]

On the night of October 31, 1880, a fight broke out at John Asmussen’s Saloon in Denver. The scuffle, which involved two Chinese men and several of the bar’s White patrons, spilled out onto Wazee Street in a poor, majority-Chinese neighborhood that bordered the city’s red-light district. Soon, some 3,000 White people had gathered, terrorizing Chinese residents and destroying Chinese-owned businesses and property. Despite a murder and property damage totaling more than \$53,000 (the equivalent of roughly \$1.5 million today), the perpetrators were never punished. Chinese business and property owners were never compensated for their losses, either. Now, 142 years later, the city of Denver is formally apologizing for the incident, believed to be

the Mile High City's first race riot. Per [Rocky Mountain PBS' Kyle Cooke](#), Denver mayor Michael Hancock signed a [letter](#) at an event on April 16 at the [University of Colorado Denver](#) "sincerely apologizing" to Denver's early Chinese residents and their descendants, noting that the city contributed to "nearly a century of violence and discrimination" by way of "racial hostility and institutional inequities" toward Chinese immigrants.

[Divided Supreme Court Denies Appeal Over Race, Death Penalty](#) [Jordan S. Rubin, *Bloomberg Law*, 18 April 2022]

*The U.S. Supreme Court rejected a Black death-row inmate's appeal despite one of his Texas jurors believing non-Whites are more dangerous than Whites. In the latest 6-3 capital-punishment split, the three Democratic appointees said in dissent on Monday that the court should have sent the case back to Texas for "proper consideration" of the issue that wasn't considered on the merits. The Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas denied the defendant "any meaningful review of his federal constitutional claim," Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote, joined by Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan. Racial bias infecting a capital case "deprives a defendant of his right to an impartial tribunal in a life-or-death context" and poisons public confidence in the judicial process, Sotomayor wrote. "The seating of a racially biased juror, therefore, can never be harmless." Sotomayor's dissent cited the high court's 2016 decision in *Buck v. Davis*, where the court ruled for a Black man whose Texas jury was told Black people are more dangerous.*

[Montpelier's fight with descendants of the enslaved brings employee firings](#) [Alana Wise, *NPR*, 20 April 2022]

The foundation that runs Virginia's historic Montpelier, home of the fourth U.S. president, James Madison, and birthplace of the Constitution, said Wednesday it was open to addressing parity on its board and giving equal representation to descendants of those the American statesman had enslaved. But the group that represents the descendant community has said such a move is meant to distract from the mostly White-run board's refusal to share power with Black people. Last year, the two parties struck a power-sharing agreement that would see half of the board's seats selected by the descendants of the enslaved. But last month, the foundation board abruptly voted to change its bylaws, effectively stripping nominating power from the Black descendants, and in the MDC's eyes, robbing Black people of the opportunity to have equal buy-in on managing the grounds that their ancestors for generations toiled and maintained.

[Retracing the Green Book in my city](#) [Blake Rogers Wilson, *The Washington Post*, 6 April 2022]
[COMMENTARY]

First published by New York postal worker Victor H. Green in 1936, the annual travel guide for African Americans printed until 1966 listed gas stations, restaurants, bars and private homes owned by or hospitable to Black patrons. These listings, organized by state, D.C. and later with international additions, tell the story of how segregation and sundown towns affected intrastate and cross-country travel for African Americans. Given my love of history and affinity for maps, it was no surprise that someone gave me a reprint of the 1940 edition of the "The Negro Motorist Green Book." Immediately after receiving the Green Book, I knew it would accompany me on my

own trips. But with no travel plans on the horizon, I turned to the sites in my rapidly changing home base—the D.C. area.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

RELIGION

[How supporting students during Ramadan helps build feelings of belonging](#) [Roby Chavez, *PBS News*, 14 April 2022]

For Muslims, Ramadan is the holiest month of the year. It is a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. However, some practicing Muslim students in Louisiana feel ignored by their public school community. Ramadan, which begins April 2 and ends May 2 this year, also falls during the last stretch of the school year for many school districts in the state. The timing presents an uncomfortable situation for parents with children who are balancing fasting and participation in other religious customs with the demands of school, including critical year-end academic assessments and outdoor activities. As a result, some Muslim parents are seeking accommodations from their schools for practicing students. Parent advocates say a lack of guidance from the Louisiana Department of Education makes it tough to navigate their religious beliefs.

SEXISM

[Why young women earn more than men in some U.S. cities](#) [Kate Morgan, *BBC Worklife*, 19 April 2022]

West Virginia is a U.S. state commonly cited for its coal mines and country roads—not for its place in the pay-gap conversation. But according to a new [Pew Research Center analysis](#) of U.S. Census data, the metropolitan area of Morgantown—the state’s third largest city, home to West Virginia University—is one of only a few places in the nation where women out-earn their male counterparts. In this area, the median salary of full-time female workers younger than 30 is 14% more than the median salary of men in the same group. In fact, the Appalachian city is second—just behind Wenatchee, in the state of Washington—on a top-10 list of metro areas where women younger than 30 come out on top comparatively. Nationally, the gender wage gap persists; on average, U.S. women earn 82 cents for every dollar their male peers are paid. But in 22 of the 250 metros examined in the analysis, women’s salaries are on par or better. Why do women out-earn men in highly specific areas of the U.S.—and do promising figures in certain areas mean the wage gap could be slowly closing?

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Bill to improve Guard response to sexual abuse becomes law](#) [*The Associated Press*, 19 April 2022]

Maine National Guard’s response to sexual assault and harassment in its ranks. The bill signed into law on Monday requires the attorney general to review the law enforcement response to sexual assault and harassment allegations, mandates an annual report to the Legislature, and provides post-discharge travel funds for personnel to attend legal proceedings. The law builds on

the governor's executive order that establishes a permanent advisory council to improve the Maine National Guard's response to sexual assault and harassment, and to ensure assault survivors are connected to available resources. The focus on sexual harassment and assault follows reporting by the Bangor Daily News on a spike in substantiated sexual assaults that corresponded with a permissive attitude toward harassment, mishandling of assault allegations and retaliation against personnel who reported assaults. "We are committed to taking immediate, responsive action to reported allegations, to providing justice and support for survivors, and to delivering accountability for the perpetrators," Mills said.

[DHS reviewing misconduct discipline processes after unpublished IG reports come to light](#)

[Justin Doubleday, *Federal News Network*, 15 April 2022]

The Department of Homeland Security is reviewing its processes for disciplining employee misconduct after draft findings from the office of the inspector general showed sexual misconduct and domestic violence are going uninvestigated, unreported or unpunished at four DHS law enforcement components. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas directed the 45-day review of department-wide misconduct processes in an [April 7 memo](#). Mayorkas ordered the review in reaction to a report from the Project on Government Oversight (POGO), [which obtained and published draft DHS OIG findings](#). The unpublished sexual misconduct review obtained by POGO shows more than 10,000 employees from the four law enforcement components said they have experienced sexual harassment or misconduct in the workplace, representing over one-third of the 28,000 employees who responded to a survey conducted as part of the evaluation. Only 22% of the more than 10,000 respondents who said they experienced harassment or misconduct formally reported it, while 41% of those who did report it said it "negatively affected their careers," according to the survey.

[How an executive officer's misconduct—and a commander who failed to correct him—got them both fired](#) [Geoff Ziezulewicz, *Navy Times*, 19 April 2022]

Before he and his boss were relieved in December, a littoral combat ship's executive officer berated junior officers, told a female subordinate that a military acronym stood for a derogatory sexual term and made jokes to another female colleague about a once-viral pornography video, according to an investigation obtained by Navy Times. That investigation substantiated sexual harassment, maltreatment and hostile work environment allegations against Cmdr. Phillip Lundberg, the former XO of LCS Omaha, but it also found that the ship's onetime commanding officer, Cmdr. Richard Zamberlan, failed to rein in his deputy. The investigation that would lead to the firings was sparked by a female junior officer serving as Omaha's navigator who submitted a formal complaint against Lundberg in November. But even before the junior officer filed a Command Managed Equal Opportunity, or CMEO, complaint against Lundberg, the ship's wardroom had tried to warn Zamberlan of the issues his No. 2 was causing, according to the investigation.

[Marine on Okinawa faces charge of attempted sexual assault resulting in injury](#) [Alex Wilson and Mari Higa, *Stars and Stripes*, 21 April 2022]

Lance Cpl. Jordan Begaye, 22, was charged Dec. 23 with attempted sexual assault resulting in injury, a spokeswoman for the Naha District Public Prosecutors Office told Stars and Stripes by

phone. Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki, in a tweet Tuesday on the prefecture's official Twitter account, called the alleged assault an "inhumane and despicable crime." Japan has requested the U.S. military maintain "stricter discipline" and prevent the recurrence of this type of crime, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said at a Monday news conference. About 65% of the more than 55,000 U.S. service members in Japan are stationed on Okinawa, according to information from U.S. Forces Japan and the Marine Corps.

[Mega dance company bred culture of sex, silence, dancers say](#) [Juliet Linderman, Martha Mendoza and Morgan Bocknek, *The Associated Press*, 20 April 2022]

Every year, one of the world's leading dance competition companies sells the dream of Hollywood fame to hundreds of thousands of ambitious young dancers hoping to launch careers on television, in movies and on stage. But behind the bright lights and pulsing music, some dancers say they were sexually assaulted, harassed and manipulated by the company's powerful founder and famous teachers and choreographers, according to a joint investigation by The Associated Press and the Toronto Star. The problems date back to the founding of Los Angeles-based Break The Floor Productions; as the company has grown into an industry powerhouse, its leaders perpetuated a culture of sex and silence, according to interviews with dozens of former and current staff and students. Allegations of sexual misconduct first hit the dance company in October, when the [Toronto Star revealed allegations](#) of widespread sexual harassment and predatory behavior by Break the Floor instructors.

[MG Cooley's case could mark a change in how the Air Force handles sexual misconduct](#) [Leila Goldstein, *NPR*, 19 April 2022]

This morning in a small courtroom at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base outside Dayton, prosecutors, military defense counsel and the accused gathered. All were in uniform. Major General Cooley is accused of kissing and inappropriately touching the victim without her consent. He pleaded not guilty. On the stand today the alleged victim, a civilian, said she was terrified when Cooley pinned her in the car. But no matter the outcome of the case, the trial itself is remarkable. An Air Force general has never made it this far in court martial proceedings. It's a reflection of the phrase different spansks for different ranks, a sense that higher-up officials are held to a different standard than the enlisted. Rachel VanLandingham Ham is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel who teaches at Southwestern Law School. She argues that structural issues undermine the integrity of the military justice system. For instance, it's commanders, not prosecutors, who decide who will be charged.

[Military Sexual Assault Survivors and Advocates Demand Accountability in a "World of Predators"](#) [Mariel Padilla, *Government Executive*, 18 April 2022]

With the help of her lawyer, Jane, a 22-year-old member of the Nevada National Guard, secured a civilian protection order in January 2020 to protect her from her attacker. Jane, who remains on active duty, is being identified with a pseudonym because she still fears professional and personal retaliation after reporting a higher-ranking officer had sexually assaulted her multiple times over months. Even after the court order, she continued to see her attacker walk past her office and in the buildings she frequented on base. This week, Knapp joined Amy Braley-Franck, a decades-long military victim advocate who was suspended after blowing the whistle on sexual

assault, and other survivors and advocates to launch *Red, White, and Bruised*, a campaign demanding legislative and policy changes to how sexual assault is handled in the military. Several of the women behind the campaign, including Braley-Franck and Knapp, were previously hired to work as victim advocates for the military's sexual assault prevention program before being fired or let go after voicing concerns about how commanders were handling accusations. [\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

SUICIDE

[10 Deaths in 10 Months: String of Suicides on a Single Aircraft Carrier](#) [Konstantin Toropin, *Military.com*, 20 April 2022]

On the morning of April 11, Capt. Brent Gaut, the commander of the USS *George Washington*—an aircraft carrier undergoing major shipyard work at Newport News, Virginia—got on the ship's intercom. Two sailors had died on April 9 and 10, and Gaut was alerting the crew that those deaths were the eighth and ninth suicides the ship had experienced in nine months, three sailors who heard the announcement told *Military.com* on the condition of anonymity to avoid retaliation. Four days after the announcement, another sailor was “found unresponsive on board the ship,” a Navy spokesperson confirmed to *Military.com*, and the sailor later died at a hospital in Newport News. The fact that the carrier is in the shipyards—and for far longer than originally planned—has created a difficult environment, according to the three sailors who spoke to *Military.com*. For sailors, the delays have meant continuing to labor under unpleasant and taxing conditions. *George Washington* crew members who don't have a housing allowance or otherwise live off ship had to move back aboard last year despite the fact that the carrier is still being worked on, all three sailors noted.

[Lakenheath airmen work on method to improve workplace climate, prevent suicides](#) [Kyle Alvarez, *Stars and Stripes*, 18 April 2022]

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Byous has felt disregarded by his leaders before, but someone high up was listening when he spoke out on Facebook about suicide prevention. Now he's part of an effort to address the issue, and he's doing so with support from the service's top enlisted airman. Late last year, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass voiced concerns, urging the service's leaders to head off suicide through “true connection, compassion and being present.” Initially, that sentiment rang hollow for the Lakenheath-based airman. Earlier this year, the group pitched Bass on a new microsurvey tool known as Foundations, which some believe can help alleviate thorny issues plaguing the force, including suicide. “I couldn't be more excited by the work being done on the Foundations program,” Bass said, touting the work of Byous, Freitag and Tech. Sgt. Devan Trammel. “They are transforming the way our airmen provide feedback to help shape their organizations better ... I'd love to see this scaled across the force.”

[More than a third of AAPI LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered suicide in the past year: report](#) [Brooke Migdon, *The Hill*, 20 April 2022]

More than half of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) LGBTQ+ young people reported discrimination based on their race or ethnicity in the past year, [according to a new report](#) by The Trevor Project, coinciding with an uptick in suicide attempts. According to the report published

Tuesday, 40 percent of AAPI LGBTQ+ youth said they had seriously considered taking their own life in the last year, including 49 percent of Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian youth, 47 percent of Korean youth, 41 percent of Filipino youth, 39 percent of Indian youth, 31 percent of Vietnamese youth and 29 percent of Chinese youth. Of that number, 16 percent said they had attempted suicide in the past year, according to the report, which uses data from a national sample of nearly 3,600 AAPI LGBTQ+ youth between the ages of 13 and 24.

[Reducing military and veteran suicide with a push for gun safety](#) [*Military Times*, 20 April 2022] [PODCAST]

Chris Ford is the CEO of Stop Soldier Suicide, where he is responsible for the strategic direction and day-to-day management of the organization. He is the founder of the National Association of Veteran-Serving Organizations, or NAVSO, and a 20-year Air Force veteran. He retired in 2014 from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where he served in the Chairman's Office of Warrior and Family Support. Amber James is a Texan, single mother and surviving spouse of a Marine Corps veteran. She is a passionate advocate for mental health and suicide prevention. She is certified and trained as a laughter yoga leader, life and weight loss coach and erotic blueprint coach. She is also a widow suicide loss peer mentor for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors and a survivor of suicide loss support group facilitator for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

[Second Suicide Battalion: Where Military Justice Weaponizes Mental Health](#) [Thomas Brennan, *The War Horse*, 15 April 2022]

*On a Friday night at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, on the anniversary of his stepsister taking her own life, Lance Cpl. Kameron Duval got drunk. He hallucinated as he walked across Gonzalez Boulevard and began to wade into the New River. Duval planned to kill himself with the knife he carried and to let his body float downstream, he told *The War Horse* during a phone interview. As a Marine attempted to subdue and grab Duval, the knife in Duval's hand cut the Marine. From the moment the Marine was arrested—and throughout the eight months he was imprisoned before his trial in February—mental health professionals for both the prosecution and defense agreed that Duval had severe post-traumatic stress disorder, Duval and a Marine attorney familiar with the case said. Like many other Marines, he was punished for behavior connected to a mental health diagnosis—even after he sought help and didn't receive it. And, like for many others, the punishment could not only cause more damage, but prevent him from getting help in the future. Making the situation all the worse, Marines in similar situations often have no recourse, no legal ability to appeal their cases.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

VETERANS

[Still serving: VA spearheading VetServe 2022 as part of National Volunteer Week](#) [Chris Diaz, *Military Times*, 21 April 2022] [COMMENTARY]

Imagine having a job that is so consuming that you eat, sleep and play alongside your teammates for months at a time in austere environments. You each dress the same way, struggle for a worthy cause and are often called to sacrifice of yourselves for the benefit of others. You are respected

and valued in your community. You sometimes risk your lives for one another, and in so doing, forge an unbreakable bond of camaraderie. Then one day, it all abruptly ends. That's the experience of many veterans like me—that abrupt ending and loss of identity is all too often destabilizing. I know it was destabilizing for me. There are many ways to deal with the perpetual transition to civilian life including talking to someone, staying active, finding your support system, and pursuing a new mission in life. But there's one thing that's been particularly helpful for me, and for many veterans I know: continuing to serve long after taking off the uniform.

[VA releases Equity Action Plan to tackle barriers, assist underserved veteran populations](#) [Sara Samora, *Stars and Stripes*, 18 April 2022]

The Department of Veterans Affairs has unveiled its [Equity Action Plan](#), which the agency said would remove hurdles for marginalized veterans to access health care, benefits and services. Shortly after taking the helm of the VA in February 2021, McDonough vowed to focus on inclusivity, diversity and equity during his tenure as secretary. One of McDonough's first actions was to initiate an agency-wide review of the department's policies to determine how to make it a more welcoming place for LGBTQ+ patients and employees. One of the recommendations from the task force was to collect information from patients and employees about their race, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation. The agency said it's addressing the recommendation by launching a Data for Equity strategy, which will help the agency identify and remove disparities for women, veterans of color, LGBTQ+, and other veterans of underserved communities.