

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 6 MAY 2022

### **SPOTLIGHT: ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH**

[100 ways Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and allies have found solutions to racism and violence.](#) [Angela Yang, Kimmy Yam, Claire Wang and Brahmjot Kaur, *NBC News*, 2 May 2022]  
*Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have reported surges in hate incidents, crimes and violence over the past two years, often related to racist scapegoating because of the pandemic. As a result, AAPIs have spurred their own communities and other leaders and industries to take action. From local fundraisers to rallies to national legislation to systemic changes in schools, AAPIs and others are developing solutions to increase visibility and fight racism. Here are 100 of the ways legislators, teens, artists, schools, athletes and many others nationwide have stepped up to fight hate and increased attacks.*

[The 1898 moment: A turning point in Asian American History](#) [Russell Contreras, *Axios*, 1 May 2022]  
*Few people in the U.S. know much Asian American history beyond Chinese migrants building railroads and Japanese American detention during WWII. Advocates hope attention to an 1898 Supreme Court ruling changes that. The [Wong Kim Ark case](#) affirmed that American-born people of Asian descent were U.S. citizens—giving protections to millions of Asian Americans, Latinos, and even Native Americans decades later. It's an overlooked example of how Asian American civil rights fights transformed the nation.*

[Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Spotlight](#) [DOD News, 1 May 2022]  
*The Defense Department pays tribute to the contributions and dedicated service of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, past and present, in defense of the nation during May and throughout the year.*  
[\[DOD NEWS RELEASE\]](#)

[Burned and vandalized: A history of cherry blossoms bearing the brunt of xenophobia](#) [Angela Yang, *NBC News*, 26 April 2022]  
*This time every year, a sea of bright pink frames outdoor spaces from the Washington Park Arboretum in Seattle to the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C., as thousands of cherry trees reach full bloom. The trees, which are nonnative to North America, now blossom across the country after the U.S. first imported them from Japan more than a century ago. The trees, which symbolize a history of friendship between the two countries, have a variety of meanings—including life, death and renewal—for the Japanese diaspora. Since 1912, Washington [D.C.] has regularly hosted an annual National Cherry Blossom Festival, which draws more than 1.5 million people every year to celebrate the friendship between the two countries. The festival ceased throughout much of World War II as anti-Japan sentiment spiked, according to the National Park Service, and people insisted on renaming the trees “Oriental” cherry trees.*

[Film aims to humanize working-class Asian Americans with elite college dreams](#) [Kimmy Yam, *NBC News*, 3 May 2022]  
*In a documentary on San Francisco’s rigorous Lowell High School, an Asian American student chastises his mother for saying that his father never finished high school. “Don’t say that,” then-senior Alvan Cai says in Mandarin to his mother, Capri, off-camera before speaking to the filmmakers. “I*

*don't want people to think lowly of my dad or anything.” While Asian Americans who strive for top-tier colleges are stereotyped as being from wealthy, educated families, the reality more often resembles stories like Cai’s: children of working-class immigrants who grab onto the idea of higher education as a vehicle for stability in the U.S. It’s these students whom director Debbie Lum said she hoped to humanize in her documentary, [“Try Harder!”](#) which made its broadcast debut Monday on PBS’s *Independent Lens*.*

[Explore Asian American & Pacific Islander Stories](#) [The National Park Service News Media, *NPS.gov*, 1 May 2022]

*Asian and Pacific Islander peoples in all walks of life have played a profoundly important role in American history, contributing to and shaping the rich heritage of the United States in many ways. Explore their stories and their legacy by visiting the units of the National Park System and other places listed in the National Register of Historic Places, most of which are National Historic Landmarks, throughout the nation featured in this itinerary. The National Park Service preserves historic places and stories of America’s diverse cultural heritage and expands and maintains the National Register of Historic Places.*

[House unanimously passes Asian American and Pacific Islander museum bill](#) [Kimmy Yam, *NBC News*, 27 April 2022]

*The House passed a bill Tuesday that would help establish the first national Asian American and Pacific Islander museum. The bipartisan legislation, which was co-sponsored by 120 Democrats and Republicans, passed unanimously by voice vote. The bill, reintroduced in May by Rep. Grace Meng, D-N.Y., would create a commission to study the potential to establish and operate a museum dedicated to the community in Washington, D.C. According to the bill, the commission would be made up of eight people with backgrounds in museum planning or Asian Pacific American history and culture. They would help develop plans for fundraising, acquiring works and general implementation before submitting a legislative plan to Congress on whether to move forward with the institution. In addition, the bill mentions the potential for the facility to be included in the Smithsonian network of museums.*

[Norman Mineta, transportation secretary in 9/11 era, dies](#) [Brian White and Terence Chea, *The Associated Press*, 4 May 2022]

*Norman Mineta, who broke racial barriers for Asian Americans serving in high-profile government posts and ordered commercial flights grounded after the 9/11 terror attacks as the nation’s federal transportation secretary, died Tuesday. He was 90. Mineta broke racial barriers for Asian Americans in becoming mayor of San Jose, California early in his political career. He later became the first Asian American to become a federal Cabinet secretary, serving under both Democratic President Bill Clinton and Republican George W. Bush. The son of Japanese immigrants who spent two years of his childhood at a World War II internment camp, Mineta began his political career leading his hometown of San Jose before joining the Clinton administration as commerce secretary and then crossing party lines to serve in Bush’s Cabinet. In a statement, the former president [Bush] said Mineta was “a wonderful American story about someone who overcame hardship and prejudice to serve in the United States Army, Congress, and the Cabinet of two Presidents.”*

[A Proclamation on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, And Pacific Islander Heritage Month, 2022](#) [Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *The White House Press Office*, 29 April 2022]

*During Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, our Nation recognizes the innumerable contributions, vibrant cultures, and rich heritage of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AA and NHPIs). As some of the fastest-growing racial and ethnic groups in the Nation, AA and NHPI communities represent a multitude of ethnicities, languages, and experiences that enrich America and strengthen our Union. As we celebrate AA and NHPI communities, we must also redouble our commitment to combating the surge of anti-Asian hate crimes. The First Lady and I shared the Nation's outrage as we witnessed these crimes increase by 339 percent last year compared to the year before in cities across America. Many other incidents of anti-Asian bias, xenophobia, and harassment that surfaced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic were not even reported. We cannot allow these horrific acts to continue threatening the safety of AA and NHPI Americans—especially women, girls, and the elderly.*

[The term “Asian American” has a radical history](#) [Harmeet Kaur, CNN, 4 May 2022]

*Asian American is a term that is both ambitious and contentious, depending on who you ask. The label today encompasses more than 22 million people with roots in more than 20 countries, each with distinct cultures, histories, languages and ethnic groups. Those under the Asian American umbrella include people who have been in the U.S. for generations as well as recent immigrants, many of whom have never thought of themselves as “Asian.” The label continues to inspire discourse and debate among the people it’s purported to describe. When it’s used as a demographic marker, as it so often is, the limitations of a single category for such a vast and diverse population quickly become clear. But despite its imperfect nature, scholars of Asian American history say that the term’s origins suggest that it has immense potential, too.*

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## CULTURE

[Alabama church known for role in voting rights movement is on the list of most endangered historic places](#) [Raja Razek, CNN, 4 May 2022]

*A Selma, Alabama, church with historic ties to the 1960s voting rights movement has landed on the 2022 Most Endangered Places list—because of termites. The church was admitted into the AME organization in 1867, its website says. The first frame structure was erected on the present site in 1869 and re-erected in 1908. “During the 1960s the church became known throughout the world for its role in the Voting Rights Movement, that brought about the ‘Bloody Sunday’ confrontation with state and local law enforcement, and the subsequent march from the church to the state Capitol in Montgomery,” says the church on its website. “It is the only building remaining of the work of A.J. Farley, an early 20th Century, Black builder from Dallas County.”*

[Ballerina statue cut down in Tulsa, sold for scrap metal](#) [The Associated Press, 2 May 2022]

*A bronze statue depicting one of Oklahoma’s most famous Native American ballerinas was cut from its base outside a Tulsa museum and sold for scrap to a recycling company, authorities said Monday. Museum officials say the Five Moons statue of Marjorie Tallchief was likely removed Thursday from its plinth outside the Tulsa Historical Society, the Tulsa World reported. Museum officials received a call Monday from CMC Recycling in southwest Rogers County to identify what was believed to be pieces of the bronze statue, the newspaper reported. Michelle Place, director of the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum, checked out the recovered pieces late Monday morning and verified that they came from the*

statue. “I am devastated by this,” she said. The statues known as the Five Moons were created by Tulsa-area artists Monte England and Gary Henson. England worked on two of the pieces before his death in 2005, and Henson completed the project. The other Five Moons statues of renowned American Indian ballerinas depict Yvonne Chouteau, Rosella Hightower, Moscelyne Larkin and Maria Tallchief, Marjorie Tallchief’s sister.

[Destruction of cultural sites in Ukraine puts country’s identity in peril](#) [Joseph Gedeon, *Politico*, 3 May 2022]

*The sprawling architecture of the Kharkiv State Academic Opera and Ballet Theater was once a sight to behold. Large posters of upcoming performances adorned the exterior walls and vibrant rose arrangements decorated tall water fountains on a symmetrical gray plaza. Inside, event goers would be ushered from a cathedral of art-filled walls into vast halls that could seat nearly 2,000 people. But severe Russian shelling killed 10 people and disintegrated the building into rubble. The theater is not the only cultural landmark destroyed. Since the invasion began Feb. 24, UNESCO has registered at least 120 instances of damage or complete destruction of cultural sites, including museums, historic buildings, libraries and religious institutions. It is against international law to intentionally target cultural heritage and property in war, according to the 1954 Hague Convention. Since Russia and Ukraine are among the 133 signatories, the damage to Ukraine’s cultural institutions could become evidence in a potential war crimes case.*

[Face of Defense: To Love, Cherish and Serve](#) [DOD News Service, 29 April 2022]

*Among the 1% of Americans who serve in uniform are a smaller group whose service is twofold: They are both military members and military spouses. The 111,000-plus service members in dual-military marriages all face double doses of the sacrifices that come with military life. Each has their own unique story, too. Air Force Capt. Miranda T. Simmons and Master Sgt. Michael Simmons, part of a blended family, share three daughters—ages 23, 11 and 5—and a 13-year-old son between them. The couple told us about the challenges—as well as the rewards—that they’ve experienced with their dual-military marriage.*

[Harriet Tubman Led Military Raids during the Civil War as Well as Her Better-known Slave Rescues](#) [Kate Clifford Larson, *The Conversation*, 28 April 2022]

*Though Tubman is most famous for her successes along the Underground Railroad, her activities as a Civil War spy are less well known. It is only in modern times that her life is receiving the renown it deserves, most notably her likeness appearing on a US\$20 bill in 2030. The Harriet Tubman \$20 bill will replace the current one featuring a portrait of U.S. President Andrew Jackson. In another recognition, Tubman was accepted in June 2021 to the United States Army Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. She is one of 278 members, 17 of whom are women, honored for their special operations leadership and intelligence work. Though traditional accolades escaped Tubman for most of her life, she did achieve an honor usually reserved for White officers on the Civil War battlefield. After she led a successful raid of a Confederate outpost in South Carolina that saw 750 Black people rescued from slavery, a White commanding officer fetched a pitcher of water for Tubman as she remained seated at a table.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[“I am a homosexual. I am a psychiatrist”: How Dr. Anonymous changed history](#) [Jillian Eugenios, *NBC News*, 2 May 2022]

*Introduced to the room as Dr. Henry Anonymous, wearing a wig and a tuxedo three sizes too big, and speaking through a microphone that distorted his voice, Dr. John Fryer stood in front of a crowd of psychiatrists at their annual meeting donning a garish Richard M. Nixon mask. It was 1972, and he masked himself in order to say the following words: “I am a homosexual. I am a psychiatrist.” His declaration changed the world. It has been 50 years since Fryer’s speech, a moment that was central to removing homosexuality from the list of mental disorders, the impact of which contributed to the progression of LGBTQ rights through the next several decades. Homosexuality was first classified as a disorder in 1952, when the first edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (commonly known as the DSM, the bible of the psychiatric field and the book from which all diagnoses are recognized) was published. The classification meant people could be institutionalized against their will, fired from their job, denied a mortgage or have their rights otherwise limited.*

[It was “hard being gay” at BYU. But at graduation a student showed her “true colors” by flashing a LGBTQ flag.](#) [Kate Balevic, *Insider*, 30 April 2022]

*A graduate of Brigham Young University, where most students are Mormon, flashed her “true colors” when she showed off a gay pride flag during her graduation ceremony. “At BYU it’s against the honor code to be in a homosexual relationship,” Jillian Orr said in a Tik Tok that as of Saturday has over 6 million views. “If you are discovered to be dating or just holding hands there are severe consequences.” Orr, 28, told Good Morning America that she studied social work at BYU, a private school that was founded by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The school abides by a strict Honor Code that requires living a “chaste and virtuous life, including abstaining from any sexual relations outside a marriage between a man and a woman.” In February, the U.S. Department of Education dismissed a civil rights investigation into how LGBTQ students are treated at BYU, The Associated Press reported.*

[Legendary Army vet on military’s evolution on accepting women and minorities](#) [*Defense News Weekly*, 2 May 2022] [VIDEO]

*This week we speak to Carol Barkalow, who was one of the first women to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and served 22+ years in the U.S. Army. In 1990, Retired Lt. Col. Carol Barkalow wrote a book on her experiences at West Point and the military called [“In the Men’s House.”](#)*

[Muslims mark Eid al-Fitr holiday with joy, worry](#) [Mariam Fam, Niniek Karmini and Kathy Gannon, *The Associated Press*, 2 May 2022]

*This year, Muslims around the world are observing Eid al-Fitr—typically marked with communal prayers, celebratory gatherings around festive meals and new clothes—in the shadow of a surge in global food prices exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. Against that backdrop, many are still determined to enjoy the holiday amid easing of coronavirus restrictions in their countries while, for others, the festivities are dampened by conflict and economic hardship.*

[\[PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT\]](#) [\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Space Force Chief Shows Off Latest Service Dress Uniform Prototype. Yes, They Tweaked the Pants.](#) [Thomas Novelly, *Military.com*, 3 May 2022]

*Gen. John Raymond, chief of space operations for the U.S. Space Force, showed off the latest prototype of the service’s dress uniform during a Senate hearing Tuesday. The new version features notable*

changes after critics roasted an earlier iteration last year. Tracy Roan, chief of the Air Force Uniform Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, helped spearhead a lot of the changes. One of the main focuses of the design process was to create unisex pieces, something Roan said can be welcoming to nonbinary service members. “As we look at their new service dress, we’re looking at, in particular, options of neckwear that females, in particular, would be able to wear a tie, like their male counterparts,” she said. “Especially if you’re nonbinary, that you could wear a tie, and there’s no relationship to either gender.”

[West Point cadets graduate with modern mental, physical skills from new Army program](#) [Todd South, *Military Times*, 2 May 2022]

*Army cadets at West Point are getting a healthy dose of training on all-around fitness that goes beyond sweating it out in running shorts by using advanced physical and psychological tools to ensure high-level performance. Each cadet already must compete on an athletic team as part of their curriculum, but in recent years, leaders at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, have also improved basic fitness fundamentals, using the Army’s new Holistic Health and Fitness program. The H2F program looks at mental, spiritual and physical health, with added goals for exercise, nutrition and sleep. West Point cadre revitalized fitness training through revamped military movement coursework and started training future graduates to plan not only their own fitness routines but build programs for soldiers.*

## DISCRIMINATION

[Military college student sues armed forces over HIV policy](#) [Philip Marcelo, *The Associated Press*, 5 May 2022]

*A military college student said in a lawsuit filed Thursday that armed services officials deemed him unfit for service because he tested positive for HIV. The 20-year-old student from Revere, Massachusetts, said in the complaint against state and federal military officials that he tested positive for HIV in October 2020 during his sophomore year at the nation’s oldest private military college, Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont. The student, who is identified in the lawsuit only as John Doe, said in the complaint filed in federal court in Burlington, Vermont, that he was deemed unfit for service and dropped from the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps and the Vermont Army National Guard despite being healthy, asymptomatic and on a treatment regimen that renders his viral load undetectable. Under Department of Defense regulations, HIV is among a [lengthy list of health conditions](#) that automatically disqualify a person from enlisting, being appointed as a commissioned officer or enrolling as an ROTC scholarship cadet. The student’s lawyers argue the military’s HIV policies date to the 1980s when little was known about the condition, which, if left untreated, can lead to AIDS.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Supreme Court says Boston violated First Amendment by refusing to fly group’s Christian flag](#) [Melissa Quinn, *CBS News*, 2 May 2022]

*The Supreme Court unanimously ruled Monday that the city of Boston violated the First Amendment when it rejected a request from a Christian civic organization to fly a flag bearing a cross on a flagpole outside of City Hall. Justice Stephen Breyer delivered the opinion for the court, which sided 9-0 with activist Harold Shurtleff and Camp Constitution, a group whose mission is in part to “enhance understanding of our Judeo-Christian moral heritage,” in the free speech dispute. The case, known as*

*Shurtleff v. City of Boston*, arose in 2017 when Shurtleff, director and founder of Camp Constitution, asked to fly what was characterized as the “Christian flag” outside of Boston City Hall. Since at least 2005, the city has allowed groups to hold flag-raising ceremonies on City Hall Plaza, during which participants can hoist a flag of their choosing on one of the three flagpoles that stand outside the entrance to City Hall. But the city denied Shurtleff’s request due to concerns that displaying a religious flag outside of City Hall would violate the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Texas high school policy banning braided or twisted hair has stopped a teen from attending school, his mom says](#) [Alisha Ebrahimji, CNN, 29 April 2022]

*Nothing makes Dyree Williams feel more like himself than his hair, which he has proudly worn in twists, braids and locks all his life—it’s part of his identity and a direct connection to his ancestors. His new school’s dress code policy stated that “braided hair or corn rows will not be allowed,” a policy that went against his very sense of self. “Once you cut that hair off, you cut off your line to your ancestors, you cut off your lineage, you cut off everything,” Williams’ mother, Desiree Bullock, said. Bullock hoped that after meeting Williams in person, the school would allow some dispensation from the policy, but the school’s administration just referred them back to the student handbook for the dress code policy. She then filed for a religious exemption on behalf of her son with the district’s superintendent, but it was denied. “East Bernard ISD’s hair policy is deeply discriminatory and needs to be changed,” Brian Klosterboer, attorney for ACLU of Texas told CNN in a statement. “The policy contains explicit gender discrimination that recent court decisions have found to be unconstitutional and violate Title IX, and it also explicitly bans “braided hair or twisted rows/strands,” which is a proxy for race discrimination and disproportionately harms Black students in the district.”*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Early transgender identity tends to endure, study suggests](#) [Lindsay Tanner, *The Associated Press*, 4 April 2022]

*Children who begin identifying as transgender at a young age tend to retain that identity at least for several years, a [study published Wednesday](#) suggests. The research involved 317 youngsters who were 3 to 12 years old when they were recruited to the study. Five years later, at the study’s end, 94% were living as transgender and almost two-thirds were using either puberty-blocking medication or sex hormones to medically transition. Most children in the study were from White, high-income families who supported their transitions. On average, the kids began identifying as transgender at around age 6. It’s unknown whether similar results would be found among youngsters from less advantaged backgrounds or those who begin identifying as transgender as teenagers. The study was published online in *Pediatrics*. Politicians seeking to outlaw or criminalize medical treatment for transgender youth have cited evidence suggesting many change children their minds or “retransition.”*

[Karine Jean-Pierre will become the 1st Black White House press secretary](#) [Tamara Keith, NPR, 5 May 2022]

*President Biden has named Karine Jean-Pierre as his second White House press secretary, replacing Jen Psaki later this month. Jean-Pierre, who has been Psaki’s deputy since the start of the administration, will make history several times over. She will be the first Black press secretary in White House history and the first openly gay person in this high-profile role, speaking for both the president*

and the U.S. government in press briefings that are watched by the world. “This is a historic moment, and it’s not lost on me,” Jean-Pierre said at Thursday’s press briefing, where she appeared with Psaki, embracing and holding hands at times. “I understand how important it is for so many people out there, so many different communities, that I stand on their shoulders and I have been throughout my career,” she added.

[State Supreme Courts Are \(Slowly\) Starting to Look More Like America](#) [Marsha Mercer, *Stateline Daily*, 2 May 2022]

State supreme courts wield power over many areas of American life, from school funding to environmental protection, gun laws to voting. Even as the United States population has become more diverse, state high courts have been the domain of White judges, attorneys and staff. Many still are: Nearly half the states don’t have a single justice identifying as a person of color. But a growing awareness of the lack of diversity is slowly leading to change. When Ketanji Brown Jackson becomes the first Black female justice in the U.S. Supreme Court’s 233-year history, three justices of color and four female justices will sit on the nation’s highest court. There’s a consensus that judges and justices from varied backgrounds instill public trust and confidence and bring perspectives that lead to more thoughtful decisions. Now, state supreme courts also are starting to look more like the people they serve. As recently as last year, in 22 states no justices identified publicly as a person of color, including in 11 states where people of color make up at least a fifth of the population, [according to a report](#) by the Brennan Center.

## EXTREMISM

[Former Marine who kicked police officer on Jan. 6 sentenced to more than 2 years in prison](#) [Ryan J. Riley, *NBC News*, 2 May 2022]

Kevin Creek, a 47-year-old former Marine, was sentenced to 27 months in prison by Judge Dabney L. Friedrich for assaulting officers on Jan. 6. Creek was arrested in June and pleaded guilty in December, when he admitted to striking a D.C. police officer in the hand, pushing a Capitol Police officer and kicking that same officer. Prosecutors noted in a [court filing](#) last week that Creek brought a “first aid kit, mace, a boot knife, and binoculars” to D.C. on Jan. 6, and Friedrich said Monday that Creek decided to go “toe-to-toe” with the officers at the Capitol. Friedrich said Creek, who was wearing a camouflage Marines Corps hat on Jan. 6, took actions that were “completely inconsistent with the values that he held as a former Marine officer of the United States.”

[A second Oath Keeper pleaded guilty to seditious conspiracy in the Jan. 6 riot](#) [Ryan Lucas, *NPR*, 29 April 2022]

A member of the far-right Oath Keepers extremist group has pleaded guilty to seditious conspiracy and obstruction in connection with the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol and agreed to cooperate with the government. Brian Ulrich entered his guilty plea at a virtual hearing Friday in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. The 44-year-old from Guyton, Ga., is the second Oath Keeper to plead guilty to sedition charges in the highest-profile case to emerge from the federal investigation into the Capitol riot. According to the statement of offense, Ulrich joined an Oath Keepers encrypted chat group in late November of 2020 in which members, including Ulrich, talked about a possible civil war if Biden were inaugurated. Ulrich later was added to an encrypted Oath Keepers group chat entitled “DC OP: Jan 6

21” that included Rhodes. The members used the chat to plan their travel to Washington, D.C. for Jan. 6. They also discussed what gear to bring, including radios, helmets and weapons.

[U.S. police trainers with far-right ties are teaching hundreds of cops](#) [Julia Harte and Alexandra Ulmer, Reuters, 6 May 2022]

Editor’s Note: This story contains offensive language.

*On social media, Richard Whitehead is a warrior for the American right. He has praised extremist groups. He has called for public executions of government officials he sees as disloyal to former President Donald Trump. In a post in 2020, he urged law enforcement officers to disobey COVID-19 public-health orders from “tyrannical governors,” adding: “We are on the brink of civil war.” Whitehead also has a day job. He trains police officers around the United States. The Idaho-based law enforcement consultant has taught at least 560 police officers and other public safety workers in 85 sessions in 12 states over the past four years, according to a Reuters analysis of public records from the departments that hired him. A Washington state training commission in 2015 temporarily banned Whitehead from advertising courses on its website because of instructional materials that referred to a turban-wearing police officer as a “towel head” and contained cartoons of women in bikinis, according to emails from the commission to Whitehead that were reviewed by Reuters. Other marketing literature touted Whitehead’s “deception detection” technique that, among other things, teaches officers not to trust sexual-assault claimants if they use the word “we” in referring to themselves and their assailant.*

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[How Managers Can Become More Effective Leaders](#) [Andre Claudio, Government Executive, 2 May 2022]

*Shifting demands in the economy and the workforce can mean it’s no longer enough for managers to serve as just “supervisors,” or to simply carry out leadership directives—they instead need to take on more leadership responsibilities themselves. But many companies are falling short investing in their managers to make sure they’re up to that task. That’s [according to a new report from Gallup](#), written by Vibhas Ratanjee, a senior practice expert on organizational and leadership development. The brief focuses on private sector companies, but some of the lessons can surely be applied to public sector organizations in state and local government as well. Based on findings from a study of more than 550 job roles and 360 job competencies, Gallup identifies [seven leadership traits](#) usually found among managers who create successful, high-performing teams in thriving organizations.*

## INTERNATIONAL

[Australian admits to pushing gay American off cliff in homophobic 1988 killing](#) [Rachel Sharp, The Independent, 2 May 2022]

*An Australian man has admitted to pushing a gay American off a cliff in a homophobic murder that went unsolved for over 30 years, as the court heard how the killer often boasted about targeting and attacking homosexual men. Scott White, 51, appeared in the New South Wales state Supreme Court for sentencing on Monday after he shocked his own lawyers by pleading guilty to the murder of Los Angeles-born mathematician Scott Johnson at a pre-trial hearing in January. Mr Johnson’s body was found by a fisherman at the bottom of a cliff known for gay meet-ups in North Head, Sydney, back in 1988. For years, police said he died by suicide—something the 27-year-old’s family refused to accept. In another*

*bizarre twist in the case, the killer has now backtracked on his guilty plea and lodged an appeal against his conviction—with his legal team claiming that he is also gay and feared his homophobic brother finding out.*

[“There’s power in names”: Antigua unearths lost ancestors](#) [Gemma Handy, *BBC News*, 4 May 2022]  
*At precisely 47.5 years old, house carpenter “Polydore”—surname absent—is cited as a “good workman” and the property of His Majesty King George. So reads a 1785 register of enslaved Africans in Antigua in which Polydore appears among hundreds of others. Polydore’s real identity of course was erased the second he was forced onto a ship in Africa bound for Britain’s Caribbean colonies. He was one of several thousand enslaved workers behind the construction and upkeep of Nelson’s Dockyard, then a safe harbour for Royal Navy warships protecting imperialist Britain’s prized sugar-producing islands. Today it’s a yachting hub, Unesco World Heritage Site and thriving tourist attraction as the Western Hemisphere’s only working Georgian dockyard. Local historians recently embarked on a ground-breaking project to formally identify the faceless people who built it, whose stories have been wiped from history.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Biden ends nearly 20-year drought by publicly recognizing 2021 Presidential Rank Awards recipients](#) [Drew Friedman, *Federal News Network*, 3 May 2022]

*Among low rates of public trust in government, President Joe Biden used the 2021 Presidential Rank Awards to highlight accomplishments of the civil service and reemphasize his commitment to the federal workforce. Biden’s acknowledgement of the 2021 recipients is the first public PRA recognition by a president in nearly two decades. Office of Management and Budget Director Shalanda Young said at the Partnership event that even among negative views of the government, there are still ways to change the narrative around the federal workforce. After a year’s hiatus and on the first day of Public Service Recognition Week, 230 [winners](#) across 37 agencies received the award for 2021. In comparison, there were 141 recipients in 2019 and 131 in 2018.*

[Can Feds Comment on Roe v. Wade?](#) [Linda Kyzer, *Government Executive*, 5 May 2022]

*Working for the government is a professional distinction—or obligation—that can be difficult to understand if you haven’t done it. But even if you are a federal worker, sometimes it’s hard to know where the boundary lines are in what you can and cannot say or post on social media. This week’s leak of a pre-decisional draft of a Supreme Court decision on Roe v. Wade has led to a flood of emotions and opinions. But whether it’s water cooler talk or a social media post, government employees are free to comment—however, they need to be careful. “The Hatch Act does not prohibit employees at any time, including when they are at work or on duty, from expressing their personal opinions about issues, even if politically charged, such as healthcare reform, gun control, or abortion, because such expressions do not constitute political activity,” said Ana Galindo-Marrone, a Hatch Act legal expert who works for the Office of Special Counsel. “However, such expressions would constitute political activity if tied to candidates or political parties. For example, while on duty or in the workplace, an employee may not say, ‘If you disagree with healthcare reform, you should support candidate X.’”*

[\[SEE ALSO / PODCAST\]](#)

[Comedian Ashley Gutermuth laughs through military life](#) [*Military Times*, 4 May 2022] [PODCAST]

*Comedian Ashley Gutermuth, winner of “The Tonight Show” Seinfeld Challenge, uses her experiences as a military spouse to inform her jokes. She shares the highs and lows of maintaining a comedy career throughout all the changes of military life and tips for handling backlash on social media—all with a hilarious spin.*

[Jill Biden displays artwork by military kids in new exhibit](#) [Darlene Superville, *The Associated Press*, 29 April 2022]

*With April designated as the Month of the Military Child, Jill Biden added a temporary display of more than 20 pieces of artwork by military-connected children from across the United States and around the world. The exhibit includes painted face masks, framed colored drawings and works of poetry. All will be on display in the White House East Wing through the end of the month. The first lady, the daughter and mother of military service members, is an advocate for military and veteran families, caregivers, and survivors through a White House initiative called Joining Forces. She commemorated the Month of the Military Child by writing essays for various publications and touring a Defense Department school at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. More than 4 million children have parents serving in the active-duty military, or in the National Guard or Reserves, according to the White House.*

[\[PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION\]](#) [\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Language-enabled Airmen support mental health initiative with partner nation](#) [Mikala McCurry, *Air Force News Service*, 3 May 2022]

*A team of seven French Language Enabled Airman Program scholars recently partnered with the Defense Institute for Medical Operations to provide language support for a mental health mobile training team in N’Djamena, Chad. DIMO’s mission is to be the premier provider of security cooperation-focused health education and training that builds strong, resilient, international partnerships. The mental health MTT was part of a multi-phased effort focused on giving military forces in Chad and Nigeria the tools needed to prepare for combat stressors, deal with post-traumatic stress disorder, and return to combat operations. This MTT emphasized the mission of the ongoing [Invisible Wounds Initiative Command Team Campaign](#) launched by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ. Brown, Jr. and Chief of Space Operations Gen. John W. “Jay” Raymond. This campaign was developed to lead, support, and engage Airmen and Guardians living with invisible wounds, such as cognitive, emotional, or behavioral conditions associated with trauma or serious adverse life events.*

[Medal of Honor recipient and WWII Army pilot accounted for](#) [U.S. Army Public Affairs, 4 May 2022]

*The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced on April 13 that U.S. Army Air Forces Lt. Col. Addison E. Baker, 36, killed during World War II and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, was accounted for on April 8, 2022. Baker’s remains are currently located at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, and will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on a date to be determined later. “We all strive each and every day to live up to the legacy of heroes like Lt. Col. Addison Baker,” said Gen. James McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army. “He epitomizes what it means to be a leader, paying the ultimate sacrifice to save others and complete the mission. We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us and will be forever grateful to him and others of our Greatest Generation.” Lt. Col. Baker’s Medal of Honor citation can be found on the [Army’s Medal of Honor website](#).*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Most Feds Won't Actually Be Able to Hold Partisan Office and Keep Their Day Jobs, Despite Precedent](#)  
[Eric Katz, *Government Executive*, 29 April 2022]

*While a newly established precedent allows federal employees to concurrently hold elected partisan office, the agency that enforces the related laws now says it does not plan to allow them to do so going forward. The recently reconstituted Merit Systems Protection Board said in one of its first rulings after enduring five years without a quorum that a U.S. Postal Service employee, Rodney Cowan, did not have to give up his role as a county commissioner in Tennessee or quit his day job. While the decision was precedent setting, OSC—the agency tasked with enforcing the Hatch Act—said the specific case with the USPS worker was “unusual” and it does not plan to enter into such settlement agreements in the future. OSC further encouraged agencies to remind their employees they are not eligible to run for partisan office.*

## MISCONDUCT

[Marine General Used “Full N-Word” in Rant That Led to His Ouster from European Command Post](#)  
[Konstantin Toropin, *Military.com*, 2 May 2022]

*Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Neary was relieved in October 2020 after Marines alleged he used what a report from investigators would categorize as the “full N-word” after overhearing some service members listening to rap music in his headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. According to investigators, on the morning of July 22, 2020, Neary was on Devil Dog Field across from the Marine headquarters building when he heard eight Marines listening to the song “Put It On” by the artist “Big L.” According to one Marine, who later filed a complaint with the inspector general, Neary told the group that “[full n-word] should never be used and it is a word of hate” before adding that “[full n-word] is the reason ‘you people’ are doing riots in the U.S. ‘you people’ are the reason why the country is the way it is.” According to that Marine, Neary went on to tell the group that “it’s your generation that’s burning buildings down and starting these protests”—just months after the murder of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer. “He also said, ‘go ahead and call HR, I am the head of HR,’” the Marine’s account alleged.*

## RACISM

[NASCAR orders Denny Hamlin to undergo sensitivity training after tweet with racist meme](#) [Lorenzo Reyes, *USA TODAY*, 26 April 2022]

*NASCAR officials have ordered star driver Denny Hamlin undergo sensitivity training over a recent tweet he posted to his verified Twitter account with a racist joke about Asian drivers—in reference to fellow racer Kyle Larson. Hamlin must begin the training by the end of the week, a NASCAR spokesperson said. Hamlin posted a tweet Monday that showed a brief clip from the cartoon comedy show “Family Guy” in which an Asian woman speaks in a heavily stereotyped accent and says a comment about a turn signal when changing lanes. Over that clip, Hamlin superimposed “Kyle Larson.” Larson’s mother is Japanese-American. Hamlin later tried to rationalize his reasons for the message and has since deleted the tweet. By Monday night, he apologized.*

[Teacher under fire for cotton, cuffs in class on slavery](#) [The Associated Press, 30 April 2022]

*Rochester [N.Y.] school officials are investigating allegations that a White teacher told his class of mostly Black students to pick seeds out of cotton and put on handcuffs during lessons on slavery in a*

*seventh-grade social studies class. The teacher has been put on leave while the school system investigates the allegations. They came to light after an appalled parent posted on Facebook that her daughter was confronted with the cotton-picking lesson Tuesday. “He made a mockery out of slavery,” the mother, Precious Tross, who also goes by Precious Morris, told news outlets later. Tross and Vialma Ramos-O’Neal, who is Jahmiere’s mother, said the teacher let White children refuse to take part in the cotton-picking while not letting kids of color opt out. On another occasion, the teacher brought in handcuffs and shackles, according to the students. Tross said that when her daughter balked at putting them on, the teacher threatened to send her to the principal’s office or the school counselor. The parents are calling for the teacher’s firing and for his teaching license to be revoked.*

[Tulsa race massacre reparations lawsuit survives motion to deny and will move forward, judge rules](#)

[Amir Vera, Omar Jimenez, Ashley Killough and Leonel Mendez, CNN, 2 May 2022]

*The plaintiffs in a lawsuit seeking reparations for the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre celebrated a judge’s ruling on Monday when she allowed their case to move forward after defendants sought a motion to dismiss the case. The plaintiffs’ attorneys pleaded Monday afternoon for the judge to allow the case to move forward so the survivors and descendants of victims from the massacre could have their day in court, potentially their last chance to get some semblance of justice. A packed courtroom in Tulsa erupted in cheers and applause at the judge’s ruling, including the three remaining survivors who are all over 100 years old and were in the courtroom for the hours-long hearing. The lawsuit was filed in March 2021 and looks to not only set the record straight on what took place between May 31 and June 1, 1921, but also create a special fund for survivors and descendants of the massacre that left at least 300 Black people dead and the once-booming neighborhood of Greenwood destroyed.*

[U.S. pediatricians’ group moves to abandon race-based guidance](#) [Lindsay Tanner, *The Associated Press*, 2 May 2022]

*For years, pediatricians have followed flawed guidelines linking race to risks for urinary infections and newborn jaundice. In a new policy announced Monday, the American Academy of Pediatrics said it is putting all its guidance under the microscope to eliminate “race-based” medicine and resulting health disparities. Dr. Brittani James, a family medicine doctor and medical director for a Chicago health center, said the academy is making a pivotal move. “What makes this so monumental is the fact that this is a medical institution and it’s not just words. They’re acting,” James said. In recent years, other major doctor groups including the American Medical Association have made similar pledges. They are spurred in part by civil rights and social justice movements, but also by science showing the strong roles that social conditions, genetics and other biological factors play in determining health. The academy is urging other medical institutions and specialty groups to take a similar approach in working to eliminate racism in medicine.*

## RELIGION

[New design, mission for site of Pittsburgh synagogue attack](#) [Peter Smith, *The Associated Press*, 3 May 2022]

*The caretakers of the Tree of Life synagogue intend to transform the site of the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history and expand its mission. Newly released design plans show a revitalized complex housing a sanctuary, museum, memorial and center for fighting antisemitism—unified symbolically and physically with a dramatic skylight running the length of the structure. Organizers are also announcing*

*plans Tuesday for a new Tree of Life nonprofit organization that would work with the similarly named congregation, oversee the building complex and offer education, museum exhibits and programming to counter hatred aimed at Jews and other groups. The synagogue building—located in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood, the heart of Jewish Pittsburgh—has been vacant since Oct. 27, 2018. A gunman, who awaits trial on capital federal charges for what prosecutors say was a hate-motivated attack, killed 11 worshipers from Tree of Life and two other congregations—Dor Hadash and New Light—that shared the building.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Justice Delayed or Denied: The National Guard Struggles with Handling Accusations of Sexual Assault and Harassment](#) [Steve Beynon and Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 4 May 2022]

*A convoluted system that has National Guard members working under federal rules—and the Uniform Code of Military Justice—some of the time, while other times being governed by state regulations has created a patchwork of laws complicating justice and confusing troops. All too often, service members don't know where to turn for help or, when they do seek justice, delays upon delays mean that it could be years before accusations are acted upon. When a National Guard member is the victim or alleged perpetrator of a crime, the case is referred to local law enforcement if the soldier or airman is not on federal, or Title 10, orders. In 2020, of 634 reports, just 67 occurred on federal orders, meaning that the U.S. Army or Air Force had jurisdiction to investigate only about 11% of the cases. This means the remainder must be prosecuted by the states. Increasingly, this unique arrangement has placed the federal government and the National Guard at odds, with the state National Guards seemingly deciding what rules to follow on the fly, depending on the training event or mission.*

[Marine intel instructors got caught calling students “whore” and “slut” in private chat. No punishment was recommended](#) [Haley Britzky, *Task & Purpose*, 2 May 2022]

*Marine Corps and Navy intelligence trainers in Virginia demeaned and made homophobic and sexist comments about their students in a private group chat, according to an official military investigation and text messages obtained by Task & Purpose. Many of the allegations regarding the language that instructors used about their students in the group chat were substantiated. The investigating officer concluded in the report that there was a “key flaw” in regards to the “professionalism and discipline” of the instructors and noted that the text messages “exposed the CI-HUMINT [counterintelligence-human intelligence] community to significant risk.” The investigator also said the subjects and witnesses of the investigation “deleted” the group chat in question when they learned of the allegations against them. Experts and veterans say the recent incident is just the latest example of failure for not only the military and Marine Corps specifically to take sexual harassment and sexism seriously, but to properly investigate misconduct.*

[Nowhere safe to hide: What online harassment is doing to service members and the military](#) [Scott Maucione, *Federal News Network*, 26 April 2022]

Editor's note: This article contains explicit language and references to sexual situations and abuse. *“It is simply too early in the goddamn morning for unsolicited dick pics.” That tweet, sent around 8 a.m. on Dec. 30, 2021, was an impassioned stance from a woman working for the military who had reached her limit with online harassers, shortly after a Marine allegedly sent her a picture of his genitals without her consent. The tweet started a maelstrom of discussion about online harassment of and by military*

*service members. Women service members quickly began talking about their experiences with cyberharassment from fellow troops. The picture is just a snippet of what many people in the military community, especially women service members, face every day when they pick up their phones or get on their computers. Social media and text messaging are now a way of life for people in the military—they use the services to keep in contact with friends, for recruiting, to do their jobs, to find like-minded people or just to show their mom what they did today. Those platforms are also wrought with sexual harassment, bullying, hazing and intimidation directed at troops and perpetrated by them.*

[What a General’s Court-Martial Means for the Military’s “Old Boys’ Club”](#) [Rebecca Kheel, *Military Times*, 5 May 2022]

*When the lead prosecutor wrapped up his case against an Air Force general at a recent court-martial, he made sure to drive home a point: No one, not even a general, is so important they are above the law. “He is not someone who can do what he wants and simply get away with it because he’s that important and that good,” prosecutor Lt. Col. Matthew Neil said in his closing arguments. Until recently, it was a point that could have rung hollow. No general in the 75-year history of the Air Force had ever been through a court-martial, let alone been convicted. But in April, both happened. What’s more, the allegations centered on a sexual assault, a crime the military is facing increasing pressure to stop as Congress has stepped in to force the services to change.*

## SUICIDE

[Hundreds of Sailors Being Moved Off Carrier After Surge of Suicides, Captain Tells Crew](#) [Konstantin Toropin, *Military.com*, 29 April 2022]

*The commanding officer of the USS George Washington told his crew Thursday that the Navy will begin to move sailors off of the aircraft carrier following a string of suicides and complaints from service members about conditions aboard the ship, whose projected departure from the shipyards has been pushed back once again. Capt. Brent Gaut announced that the ship will move 260 sailors “to an offsite barracks-type living arrangement on Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth”—specifically, a Navy Gateway Inn and Suites—starting Monday, according to a recording of the announcement reviewed by *Military.com*. The Navy confirmed the plan when asked by *Military.com* and a spokesperson added that the moves will continue “until all Sailors who wish to move off-ship have done so.” The moves comes at the end of a month that saw three sailors aboard the ship die via suicide, after a previously undisclosed string of suicides going back to at least July of last year.*

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

[U.S. Army Alaska to be reflagged as airborne division amid surge in troop suicides](#) [Wyatt Olson, *Stars and Stripes*, 6 May 2022]

*U.S. Army Alaska will be redesignated the 11th Airborne Division with the aim of instilling a better defined “sense of identity” for soldiers as the service grapples with troop suicides in the state, the secretary of the Army told lawmakers Thursday. U.S. Army Alaska has already instituted multiple initiatives aimed at lowering the risks of suicide or detecting those most vulnerable, even as soldiers there have been tasked with implementing the service’s ambitious Arctic strategy. “One of the things we’ve found that we think is contributing to what we’ve found in Alaska is that some soldiers there don’t feel like they have a sense of identity or purpose around why they’re stationed there,” Army Secretary*

*Christine Wormuth said during a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Suicide among Alaska-based soldiers has been on the rise since 2019, with a dramatic leap in the number last year.*

## VETERANS

[Park Police to resume escorts for Honor Flight visits around Washington, D.C.](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 2 May 2022]

*U.S. Park Police officials have agreed to resume escorts for Honor Flight events around the nation's capital, continuing a tradition that had been interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. The news came just one day before the group's celebration on the National Mall of the 250,000th veteran transported through the program. Since 2005, officials have helped veterans from across the country visit Washington, D.C. for an opportunity to tour the war memorials and national landmarks there. Honor Flight activities were largely shuttered by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, but resumed last fall. However, Park Police officials in recent months have told organizers they could no longer assist with the events because of bureaucratic issues with the Department of Interior. On Monday, officials said those problems have been resolved. Escorts will resume starting June 1.*

[This Korean War Vet Waited 70 Years to Receive a Medal of Honor](#) [James Barber, *Military.com*, 3 May 2022]

*First Lt. Ralph Puckett was an Army Ranger during the Korean War when, on Nov. 25, 1950, he exposed himself to Chinese machine-gun fire to allow his fellow Rangers to spot the enemy locations during a battle on Hill 205 near the Chongchon River. There were only 51 men in his unit and they were a mile or more away from reinforcements, and Puckett's tactics kept the men in battle for more than four hours against the superior numbers of the Chinese force. Puckett was injured by both grenade fragments and mortar fire and spent a year recovering from his wounds after a medical evacuation. President Joe Biden called Puckett in early 2021 to let him know that his citation was being upgraded to a Medal of Honor, and the 94-year-old veteran attended the ceremony at the White House on May 21, 2021. Puckett's story is being told in "Medal of Honor: Ralph Puckett," the latest issue of the Association of the United States Army's [graphic novel series](#).*

[VA encourages volunteers to "Carry The Load" for an American hero during trek across country](#) [Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, 25 April 2022]

*Beginning April 28, volunteers organized by Carry The Load, in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Administration will visit 50 national cemeteries during a 20,000-mile march along five separate routes covering 48 states—converging on Memorial Day weekend for final rally in Dallas, Texas. VA and non-profit Carry The Load join forces for what is called "Memorial May" during the month leading up to Memorial Day to honor Veterans and servicemembers interred in national cemeteries across the country. "This is the fifth year the National Cemetery Administration has worked with Carry The Load," said VA Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Matt Quinn. "Throughout this 32-day Memorial May campaign, marchers frequently carry signs, banners and flags honoring a fallen servicemember, Veteran or first responder." Those wishing to participate in a march are asked to [register in advance](#). No donation is required to participate. The list of national cemeteries, along with the dates and times that they will be visited by Carry The Load marchers, can be found [here](#).*