

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 8 JULY 2022

### HIGHLIGHTS

[Air Force strengthens policy to kick out sexual assaulters](#) [Scott Maucione, *Federal News Network*, 4 July 2022]

*The Department of the Air Force is strengthening its process for discharging airmen and guardians who commit sexual assault, as the service continues to try to banish sex crimes from its ranks. The [new policy](#) states that service members who commit sexual assault will be subject to immediate initiation of discharge procedures. Only in very few circumstances can an airman or guardian be considered for an exception. Those exceptions are what DAF is updating; under previous policy there were more situations where assaulters would have an opportunity to stay in the service. Exceptions are now strengthened for and bar exceptions when an airman or guardian assaults a child or if that person has a prior assault or harassment charge. There are also factors that DAF will no longer consider when making an exception. Those include personal, family or financial circumstances, good military character and medical or mental health condition.*

[Department of the Navy Implements Policy to Protect Sexual Assault Victims from Discipline](#) [U.S. Navy Public Affairs, 30 June 2022]

*The Department of the Navy implemented a [Safe-to-Report Policy](#) for victims of sexual assault on June 29, eliminating a critical barrier to service member reporting of sexual assault. Effective immediately, a sailor, Marine, cadet or midshipman who makes an unrestricted report of sexual assault through the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office or the Family Advocacy Program will not be disciplined for minor collateral misconduct. Prior to implementation, there was no policy to protect victims from disciplinary action associated with their own misconduct in connection to an alleged assault. As a result, victims may have had to choose whether to implicate themselves for misconduct by reporting an assault. The policy also requires data collection for the Department to understand how frequently these protections are being utilized and under what circumstances.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Team Investigating Racial Disparity in Military Justice Embarks on Installation Visits](#) [C. Todd Lopez, *DOD News Service*, 7 July 2022]

*In May, Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen H. Hicks directed the creation of an internal review team to look into the root causes of racial disparities in the military's investigative and justice systems. Now, members of that team have embarked on conducting a series of listening sessions and visits to military installations to undertake the work that will help them deliver a final report to the deputy secretary. In the [memorandum](#), the internal review team was given three months to look into the root causes of racial disparities in the investigative and military justice systems. "The review will provide actionable recommendations that the Department can implement to improve policies, programs, processes and resources to address these disparities," Hicks said of the team's work. The team began work June 1 and will deliver the findings to Hicks by August 24.*

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## CULTURE

[5 Awesome Things to Know About U.S. Coast Guard History for Its Coming Birthday](#) [Blake Stilwell, *Military.com*, 5 July 2022]

*For more than 230 years, the first line of American coastal defense has been the United States Coast Guard, in some way, shape or form. Whether protecting the nation's waterways, rescuing sailors at sea or enforcing maritime law, the Coast Guard was there. While other branches of the Armed Forces have a good time joking about whether their "Coastie" brethren are actually a branch of the military (they are), the Coast Guard continues to quietly straddle the dual mission of serving as a military force abroad and a law enforcement agency at home. It might be hard to understand just how this branch of service manages to do all of that without knowing a few key facts and awesome stories about its history. With the Coast Guard's 232nd birthday on Aug. 4, 2022, here are just a few of those little details.*

[Army Swiftly Backpedals on Policy Dropping High School Diploma Requirement](#) [Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 30 June 2022]

*After only a week, the Army has swiftly reversed a new policy that would have allowed potential recruits to enlist into the force without a high school diploma or GED, according to an internal memo reviewed by *Military.com* and confirmed by a spokesperson. On June 23, the service said that it would drop the requirement for completing high school under the condition that enlistees quickly ship out to boot camp, setting a deadline of Oct. 1 to begin training. However, the move was met with some mockery online and accusations of it being a desperate measure, lowering standards to fill in the ranks wherever the Army could.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[The Case for Creating an Older Workers Bureau](#) [Howard Risher, *Government Executive*, 1 July 2022] [COMMENTARY]

*Older workers need help. The problems are multiple and started decades ago. Over the years, the federal government's unvoiced message has been the same as industry's: "You're largely on your own." Ageism and discrimination are a problem in the United States, and globally. The coronavirus pandemic triggered the reversal of a decades-long trend to defer retirement. Now, inflation threatens everyone on a fixed income. The issues facing older workers have been discussed on several websites, including a recent four-part Bloomberg opinion series, which declared that "America's Retirement Crisis is a Financial Crisis Too." A new report from the Social Security Administration stated that scheduled benefits will have to be reduced after 2034. The adequacy of retirement income is clearly a concern, but it is unlikely Congress could agree to help those within a few years of retirement. There are changes, however, that could help workers plan their lives, defer retirement and continue contributing to society.*

[Friends creator says show used wrong pronouns for Chandler's trans parent](#) [BBC News, 6 July 2022]

*The co-creator of 1990s U.S. sitcom *Friends* has admitted it was "a mistake" not to use the appropriate pronoun for Chandler's transgender parent. Marta Kauffman said she now regrets the representation of the character, who was played by Kathleen Turner. "We kept referring to her as Chandler's father, even though Chandler's father was trans," she said. "Pronouns were not yet something that I understood. So we didn't refer to that character as she. That was a mistake." Turner appeared in the hit sitcom in three episodes in season seven, which was first broadcast in 2001. Her character was the butt of jokes from others, including Matthew Perry's Chandler and his mother, about her gender identity and appearance.*

*In a 2018 interview, Turner said she would not take on the role if she was offered it again, and would leave it to a trans woman.*

[Hawaii museum revisits history of gender-fluid healers](#) [Audrey McAvoy, *The Associated Press*, 8 July 2022]

*More than 500 years ago, Hawaiians placed four boulders on a Waikiki beach to honor visitors from the court of Tahiti's king who had healed the sick. They were "mahu," which in Hawaiian language and culture refers to someone with dual male and female spirit and a mixture of gender traits. The stones were neglected for many years, as Christian missionaries and other colonizing Westerners suppressed the role of mahu in Hawaiian society. At one point a bowling alley was built over the boulders. Officials restored the stones multiple times since the 1960s but informational plaques installed next to them omitted references to mahu. The stones and the history of the four healers now are featured in an exhibit at Bishop Museum in Honolulu. The display highlights the deep roots of gender fluidity in Polynesia. Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu is mahu and one of the exhibit's curators. She said the healers were revered for their skill and hopes their story will show children in Hawaii that "proper Hawaiian culture" doesn't pass judgment against those "who have elements of duality."*

[New Reserve Maternity Leave Policy Issued by Pentagon 18 Months After Congressional Order](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 5 July 2022]

*The military Reserve components and National Guard are rolling out new maternity leave policies, providing up to six days of inactive duty pay and retirement points for members who give birth, with the Navy being the latest service to outline its policies last week. But Reserve moms who gave birth within the past 18 months—after Congress passed the law directing the Defense Department to offer the benefit, but before the agency and the services issued their guidance—will not be eligible. The Defense Department published a policy June 9 on Reserve Component Military Leave, ordering the services to provide paid authorized absences in lieu of inactive duty for training, also known as IDT, for at least 12 training periods, or the equivalent of three weekends.*

[Texas education officials proposed changing "slavery" to "involuntary relocation" when teaching second graders](#) [Caitlin O'Kane, *CBS News*, 1 July 2022]

*Texas education officials are considering a change in the way slavery is taught to second graders—replacing the word "slavery" with "involuntary relocation" in state standards. When the agency presented the idea to use "involuntary relocation" at a recent State Board of Education meeting, board member Aicha Davis said she was "not OK with that at all." A member of the agency told Davis that the work group that came up with this language discussed "what would make sense to second graders" while also recognizing there are ideas that need to be addressed throughout kindergarten to eighth grade. "They were looking at some trade books that exist and kind of talking about how you would explain to second graders that a lot of people got to this country in very different ways and for very different reasons—some of which were voluntary and some were not. I think the very best way to address that was what they were struggling with," the agency member said.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[For gay couples hoping for a military burial, the fight for love doesn't end with death](#) [A.J. Willingham, *CNN*, 3 July 2022]

*The right to a military burial for gay spouses was guaranteed nationwide with the legalization of same-sex marriage in 2015, but only a handful of known same-sex military couples are buried across the 172 national cemeteries in the U.S.—grounds reserved chiefly for military members and selected family. A resting place at a national cemetery is a great honor for military veterans, one that was denied many same-sex couples until 2015. However, gay veterans have always fought for their right to be included and celebrated in such spaces. Since 1980, LGBTQ activists have taken part in memorial ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, the largest and most famous national cemetery in the country. And yet, no same-sex military couples are known to be marked among the 400,000 graves there. Not far from Arlington, the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, DC, is the site of a one-of-a-kind LGBTQ section that honors military members and national leaders who fought for equality and dignity. Their tombstones shout into the silence: “Gay is good,” reads a plaque below the grave of Frank Kameny, an iconic activist, civil servant and World War II veteran.*

[State, feds reach sexual harassment agreement with employer](#) [The Associated Press, 2 July 2022]

*A Vermont corporation that operates as a McDonald’s restaurant franchisee has been ordered to pay \$1.6 million in damages and penalties after authorities said it failed to protect young workers from harm and sexual harassment, the state attorney general’s office announced Friday. The agreement reached by the state and the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission with Coughlin Inc. is the largest public sexual harassment settlement in the history of the Attorney General’s Office and one of the largest reported employment discrimination settlements in Vermont, the state says. The state says the litigation began when the EEOC sued Coughlin in March 2021 for failing to protect young workers at its Randolph restaurant from a manager whose conduct over a period of years included hitting employees, as well as making offensive and degrading sexual comments.*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Deaf cast challenges musical theater norms in production of “The Music Man”](#) [John Yang, Anne Azzi Davenport and Allison Thoet, PBS News, 5 July 2022]

*The classic American musical “The Music Man” has been a big hit this year with its revival on Broadway and on many regional and local stages across the country. John Yang went to see a novel take on the standard and how art can be a model for a more inclusive society. The spirited musical numbers, the sly scam, the Midwestern Americana, all the familiar touches of “The Music Man” are on display in this production at the only theater center in Maryland. But take a closer look. This isn’t your grandfather’s River City. It’s envisioned as a place where the deaf and hearing communities live side by side, and not being able to hear isn’t the barrier. Half the cast is deaf or hard of hearing. There were see-through COVID masks, so the non-hearing actors could read lips and facial expressions. American Sign Language interpreters were positioned across the stage. The set was created by a deaf designer with a minimum of stairs, so deaf actors don’t have to take their eyes off their signing castmates.*

[GSA Looks to Help Get LGBTQI-owned Small Businesses in the Contracting Mix](#) [Natalie Alms, Government Executive, 6 July 2022]

*The General Services Administration announced a new collaboration with the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce last week in an effort it says will enhance access to GSA contracting for LGBTQI-owned small businesses. The effort falls in line with the agency’s equity plan and its goals to increase the diversity of businesses that work with the federal government, both of which are also part of the Biden-Harris administration’s larger goals on equity, the agency says. Specifically, GSA, which works as a*

centralized procurement arm for the federal government, announced Thursday that the two groups are going to collaborate on an awareness-building campaign to increase information about GSA programs and services among LGBTQI-owned small businesses via a [new memorandum of understanding](#) with the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

[The Las Vegas Raiders have hired the first Black female team president in the NFL](#) [Ayana Archie, NPR, 8 July 2022]

The NFL's Las Vegas Raiders have hired the first Black female team president in the league's history. Sandra Douglass Morgan, a Las Vegas native, is not new to firsts. She was the first Black city attorney in Nevada, when she served for the City of North Las Vegas, and she was the first person of color named chair of the Nevada Gaming Control Board, the team said Thursday. She is also an independent director at Allegiant Airlines, Caesars Entertainment and Fidelity National Financial, Inc. The hire of Morgan comes less than a year after Jon Gruden was dismissed as head coach of the team. In October 2021, a league investigation into the Washington Football Team examining workplace misconduct uncovered emails Gruden had sent years earlier that showed he used racist, misogynistic, and homophobic slurs.

[LGBTQ+ people account for less than one percent of school board members nationwide](#) [Brooke Migdon, The Hill, 6 July 2022]

LGBTQ+ people are acutely underrepresented on school boards, new research shows, accounting for less than one percent of board members nationwide. Of the roughly 90,000 school board members in the U.S., 90 are openly LGBTQ+, according to a [report published Wednesday](#) by the LGBTQ Victory Institute, a partner organization of the LGBTQ Victory Fund, a political action committee working to elect more openly LGBTQ+ people to public office. Put another way, openly LGBTQ+ people make up just 0.1 percent of all school board members across the country, despite accounting for more than 7 percent of the U.S. adult population. Roughly 6,000 LGBTQ+ school board members would need to be elected to close the representation gap, the Victory Institute estimated.

[Mike Grier becomes first Black general manager in NHL history](#) [David Close, CNN, 5 July 2022]

Mike Grier has been named the San Jose Sharks new general manager. Grier's hire is historic as he becomes the National Hockey League's (NHL) first Black general manager, according to the team. The Sharks say Grier, who has spent nearly a lifetime around the game as a player and later as coach, scout and executive, will have "overall authority regarding all aspects of the Sharks hockey-related operations." During his 14-season NHL career as a player, skating in more than 1,000 games, Grier played for the Sharks for three years. He served as the team's alternate captain while scoring 78 points (35 goals, 43 assists) during his time with the franchise.

[A transgender pilot's advice for serving authentically](#) [SECAF Public Affairs, 30 June 2022]

He always knew he wanted to be a rescue pilot, serving a higher purpose and rushing to the aid of others in harm's way. Fighting courageously to save lives no matter the terrain or conditions. His rescues garnered him multiple awards and decorations to include the Jolly Green Association Rescue Mission of the Year Award and a medal for risking his own life to save the life of a critically injured truck driver. But there was always something bothering him. After years of soul searching, consulting his pastor and talking with friends and family, he decided to tell the truth to himself and the world. The decorated pilot, who risked his life for others, came out as transgender and started the process to become his true self. [Maj. Jason] Vero advises service members who are considering transitioning and wanting to continue to serve to read and understand what the DOD and Air Force policies state in

detail. He suggests starting with [DAFPM-2021-36-01 Assessments and In-Service Transition for Persons Identifying as Transgender](#).

## EXTREMISM

[Florida man sentenced in death threat to Minnesota Rep. Omar](#) [The Associated Press, 7 July 2022]  
*A federal judge sentenced a former Trump supporter to three years of probation and a \$7,000 fine for sending an email threatening to kill Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and three other congresswomen. David George Hannon, 67, also must undergo mental and substance abuse treatment and have no contact with Omar or Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, according to a report in the Tampa Bay Times. Hannon emailed Omar's campaign with a subject line that read: "Your [sic] Dead You Radical Muslim," writing that Omar should get more security or she and the other women would be "six feet under." Hannon admitted that he disparaged Omar's Islamic faith, but the judge declined to apply a hate crime adjustment to Hannon's sentence, which could have increased the sentencing guidelines.*

[Georgia slabs called satanic by some torn down after bombing](#) [Jeff Amy, The Associated Press, 6 July 2022]

*A rural Georgia monument that some conservative Christians criticized as satanic and others dubbed "America's Stonehenge" was demolished Wednesday after a predawn bombing turned one of its four granite panels into rubble. The Georgia Guidestones monument near Elberton was damaged by an explosive device, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation said, and later knocked down "for safety reasons," leaving a pile of rubble in a picture that investigators published. The 16-foot-high (5-meter-high) panels bore a 10-part message in eight different languages with guidance for living in an "age of reason." One part called for keeping world population at 500 million or below, while another calls to "guide reproduction wisely—improving fitness and diversity." It also served as a sundial and astronomical calendar. But it was the panels' mention of eugenics, population control and global government that made them a target of far-right conspiracists.*

[Hate crimes officers investigate explosion outside NY mosque](#) [The Associated Press, 6 July 2022]

*Hate crimes officers are investigating after an incendiary device exploded outside a mosque on Long Island, damaging a metallic crescent moon that is a symbol of Islam. A device similar to a Molotov cocktail exploded around midnight Sunday at the Masjid Fatima Al-Zahra mosque in Ronkonkoma, Suffolk County Police Commissioner Rodney Harrison told Newsday. "A hate crime towards the Islamic Muslim community is a hate crime toward all Suffolk County residents," Harrison said at the mosque on Tuesday. No one was injured, but the imam said the damage to a symbol that is analogous to a Christian cross left him feeling hurt. "We are so peaceful here," [Imam Ahmed] Ibrahim told Newsday. "We have good relations with everybody, good relations with the neighbors, good relations with other religions."*

[Masked White Supremacist Group Marches Through Boston, Stirs Outrage](#) [Scott McDonald, Newsweek, 2 July 2022]

*Top leaders in Boston have condemned the actions of about 100 members of the White nationalist group Patriot Front who marched the city streets on Saturday. Many in the group wore face coverings while carrying shields and toting various flags during the march. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu called the group's action "cowardly" in a tweet Saturday evening. Many of the several dozen protesters carried current American flags while some others carried the flag representing the original 13 colonies, which*

is 13 stars in a circle, according to the *Boston Herald*. Others carried flags that represented the National Fascist Party of Benito Mussolini.

[Mom agonizes about how to reach her son, a man with a Buddha tattoo who turned to hate](#) [Sara Sidner, CNN, 3 July 2022]

*The first sign of trouble was brief. Just a couple of comments during the hustle and bustle of regular life. Karen Amsden was chatting to her son in the driveway while picking up her grandchildren when she mentioned something about a quote by Anne Frank, one of the most famous victims of the Nazis who wrote a haunting diary before she was captured and murdered in the Holocaust. “He just said something about, ‘That’s not even real. The Holocaust isn’t real,’” Amsden recalled. She thought her son was joking. Now she says it’s clear he was not. Amsden is many things: A grandmother to two boys; a longtime social worker, and now in her late 40s, she is also dabbling in acting at the theater in her small Utah town. And she says she is also the mother of an extremist.*

[Ohio Guard soldier charged with terroristic threats, making and selling “ghost guns”](#) [Rachel Nostrant, *Military Times*, 30 June 2022]

*One of two Ohio Army National Guardsmen charged this spring with making terroristic threats has now been charged with making and selling so-called “ghost guns,” untraceable homemade weapons crafted with the help of a 3D printer, according to federal court records unsealed Monday. James Meade II, 26, and Thomas Develin, 24, were charged March 31 after posting anti-Semitic, White nationalist, racist, and misogynistic content on a Discord chat used largely by Ohio National Guard members, court records stated. The content on the Discord logs, specifically posted by Develin, was “consistent with that of racially motivated violent extremist and incel violent extremist content,” said the newly unsealed affidavit from agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.*

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[GovExec Daily: The Connection Between Mindfulness and Leadership](#) [Adam Butler and Ross Gianfortune, *Government Executive*, 5 July 2022] [PODCAST]

*Leadership, particularly in the public sector, requires a slate of skills. Decision making, communication and many other strengths are key to managing people and mission. Underlying so many of these skills is mindfulness, even if it doesn’t immediately come to mind. Andrew Feldman is the founder and principal consultant at the Center for Results-Focused Leadership, which helps public agencies use evidence, data and strategy to improve their results. He also hosts the Gov Innovator podcast. Rabbi Marc Margolius is the senior program director at the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. He hosts the institute’s daily mindfulness meditation sessions and teaches an online program called “Awareness in Action” designed to cultivate character through mindfulness. They have [a piece on our site right now](#) headlined “Government Leadership and the Power of Mindfulness.” They joined the podcast to discuss how mindfulness can help leaders in their jobs and lives.*

## INTERNATIONAL

[Antigua’s ban on same-sex acts ruled unconstitutional](#) [Gemma Handy, *BBC News*, 6 July 2022]

*A law criminalising same-sex acts between consenting adults in Antigua and Barbuda has been declared unconstitutional. The country’s high court ruled on Tuesday that the law contravened constitutionally guaranteed rights to liberty, freedom of expression and protection of personal privacy. Campaigners say*

*it is a major victory in a country where homophobia is rife. The case was brought by a gay man in sync with two rights groups. The two groups, Women Against Rape and the Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE), have welcomed the ruling against the Sexual Offences Act 1995. The 1995 Act has its roots in British colonial-era legislation that forbids “buggery” and “indecent” and hopes are now high that the ruling will pave the way for similar moves in neighbouring islands.*

[New head of anti-discrimination agency elected in Germany](#) [The Associated Press, 7 July 2022]

*Germany’s parliament on Thursday elected as the government’s new anti-discrimination commissioner a journalist whose nomination last month had sparked controversy over her comments on Germans who don’t have immigrant roots. Ferda Ataman, 42, was elected as head of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency with a tight majority. Ataman, whose parents emigrated from Turkey, was especially attacked for an op-ed she wrote for Spiegel Online magazine in 2020, in which she defended calling Germans without immigrant roots “potatoes.” The term is sometimes used in a derogatory way for ethnic Germans. The Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency advises people who have been discriminated against based on their racial, ethnic, gender or religious background. This includes such cases as discrimination because of a foreign-sounding surname when looking for an apartment or applying for a job.*

[No diplomatic immunity in modern slavery cases, Supreme Court rules](#) [Caroline Hawley, BBC News, 6 July 2022]

*The UK Supreme Court has ruled that diplomats cannot hide behind immunity to exploit workers, in a victory for campaigners against modern slavery. Diplomats are normally protected from both criminal charges and civil cases in the countries where they are posted. But the court found a Saudi diplomat accused of exploiting a Filipina domestic worker in London did not have immunity in relation to the allegation. The decision paves the way for the woman to seek compensation. The case was brought by Josephine Wong, 30, who alleges she was forced to work for Khalid Basfar and his family in conditions of modern slavery.*

[Pride: Amazon restricts LGBT goods in United Arab Emirates](#) [Peter Hoskins, BBC News, 30 June 2022]

*Online retail giant Amazon has restricted search results related to LGBT people and issues on its website in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The firm took the step after reportedly coming under pressure from authorities in the Gulf state. Same-sex sexual relations are illegal in the UAE. Expressing support for LGBT rights could also be deemed an offence. The news comes as Pride month, which is dedicated to celebrating LGBT people around the world, comes to a close. “As a company, we remain committed to diversity, equity and inclusion, and we believe that the rights of LGBTQ+ people must be protected,” an Amazon spokesperson told the BBC. “With Amazon stores around the world, we must also comply with the local laws and regulations of the countries in which we operate,” they added.*

[Vera Pauw: Republic of Ireland boss reveals rape and assault in Dutch football](#) [BBC News, 1 July 2022]

*Republic of Ireland manager Vera Pauw says she was raped and sexually assaulted by three different men involved in Dutch football. The 59-year-old, who played for the Netherlands and managed them for six years, has been the Irish boss since 2019. In a statement released on Twitter, she said: “For 35 years I have kept a secret from the world, from my family, from my team-mates, my players, my colleagues and, I can now accept, from myself.” She says she was raped by a “prominent football official” when she was a young player—and later sexually assaulted by two other men. All three were employed in*

*Dutch football at the time of the incidents, her statement said. In response, the Dutch FA said it had launched an independent investigation in the past, with Pauw's co-operation, and admitted it had made mistakes.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Being Left Out of Meetings or Yelled at Isn't Always Enough to Claim Whistleblower Protections](#) [Eric Katz, *Government Executive*, 1 July 2022]

*Federal employees can be left out of meetings, berated and subjected to general unprofessional conduct by management after shining a light on wrongdoing and still not be entitled to whistleblower protections, a panel tasked with enforcing those laws has ruled. The newly fully constituted Merit Systems Protection Board issued a key, precedent-setting decision in Skarada v. Veterans Affairs Department with broad implications for civil service protections. In a boon to whistleblowers, the board reiterated that it will take a broad definition of whistleblower reprisal to protect federal workers who shed a light on wrongdoing. Potential retaliatory actions by management must be examined both collectively and individually, said the board, which just this month received its third and final Senate-confirmed member to its central panel. Though the actions in this case did not reach the threshold for retaliation, the board said that in other instances a series of smaller actions could potentially add up to retaliation.*

[Navy veteran McCain, groundbreaking Air Force general among Medal of Freedom recipients](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 1 July 2022]

*Navy veteran Sen. John McCain, groundbreaking Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught and Gold Star father Khizr Khan will be among 17 individuals honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom later this month, White House officials [announced](#) Friday. McCain is one of three posthumous honorees on the list. He was a Navy pilot and prisoner of war during the Vietnam War before becoming representing Arizona in the U.S. House and Senate for 35 years. He died in 2018. Vaught is one of the most decorated women in the history of the U.S. military. When she retired in 1985, she was one of only seven women generals in the Armed Forces. The list of medal recipients also includes Olympian Simone Biles, who was raised by her grandfather, an Air Force veteran. Other well-known recipients include actor Denzel Washington, Apple founder Steve Jobs, former Arizona Rep. Gabby Giffords and soccer star Megan Rapinoe.*

[Supreme Court hands defeat to Native American Tribes in Oklahoma](#) [Nina Totenberg, *NPR*, 29 June 2022]

*Three years ago, Native Americans in Oklahoma rejoiced when the Supreme Court ruled that the eastern half of Oklahoma is on tribal land, and that the state could not bring criminal prosecutions for crimes on Indian land without the consent of the Indian tribes. But on Wednesday, the court narrowed that decision, prompting an angry dissent from Justice Neil Gorsuch, the author of the 2019 decision, and an ardent proponent of Indian rights. On the surface, this might look like a cut-and-dried case. In the aftermath of the court's 2019 decision, the state was no longer empowered to prosecute those accused of committing crimes on Indian territory. Only the tribal courts, or the federal government, could do that, and the tribal courts were generally not authorized to prosecute non-Indians. According to the federal government, effect of that decision was a 400% increase in federal prosecutions from 2020 to 2021, with many people either not held accountable or receiving lighter sentences in plea deals.*

## RACISM

### [Michigan police apologize, will conduct review after images of Black men used for target practice](#)

[Jared Gans, *The Hill*, 4 July 2022]

*A police chief in Michigan has apologized after photos revealed his department was using targets with images of Black men for shooting practice. Jeff King, the chief of the Farmington Hills Police Department, said at a city council meeting late last month that the department is conducting a legal review of the matter. King said he takes responsibility for how the training was conducted and apologized to the community, the department and the city council. He said one of the biggest focuses for training is exposure to people based on certain situations and not what they look like. "We have a diverse community," he said. "Our community, as well as our department is diverse, inclusive, and that doesn't stop at our training." He said he will share the findings of the review "as soon as possible." The incident comes amid heightened focus on relations between law enforcement and communities of color. The city of Akron, Ohio, was in a state of emergency on Monday after police released video of officers shooting 25-year-old Jayland Walker, who was Black, scores of times following a traffic stop.*

## RELIGION

### [Exclusive: Pope to give women a say in appointment of bishops](#) [Philip Pulella, *Reuters*, 6 July 2022]

*Pope Francis said he wants to give women more top-level positions in the Holy See and disclosed that for the first time he would name women to a previously all-male Vatican committee that helps him select the world's bishops. The role of women in the Vatican hierarchy was one of the many Church and international topics the 85-year-old pontiff discussed in an exclusive interview with Reuters in his Vatican residence on July 2. A new constitution for the Holy See's central administration that came into effect last month allows any baptised Catholic, including lay men and women, to head most Vatican departments. He mentioned that last year, for the first time, he named a woman to the number two position in the governorship of Vatican City, making Sister Raffaella Petrini the highest-ranking woman in the world's smallest state.*

### [Saudi Arabia expects a million pilgrims to make the hajj](#) [Deutsche Welle, 6 July 2022]

*Pilgrims began converging on the holy city of Mecca for the largest hajj since the COVID-19 pandemic. Coronavirus led organizers to severely curtail access to the site that is considered one of the five pillars of Islam. Saudi authorities have permitted 850,000 visitors from abroad into the kingdom for the annual pilgrimage which starts on Wednesday, a major step towards normalcy following strict pandemic restrictions. The decision to do so comes after two years during which access to the site was limited to Saudi residents. The one million number of pilgrims from Saudi Arabia and abroad is still considerably fewer than the 2.5 million figure of those who traveled to the holy city in 2019. The hajj is considered one of the world's largest events in terms of the number of participants.*

### [Zoroastrians confront depletion of their ancient faith](#) [David Crary, *The Associated Press*, 1 July 2022]

*Among the world's present-day religions, Zoroastrianism, founded more than 3,000 years ago, is one of the most ancient and historically influential. Yet even though its adherents maintain vibrant communities on four continents, they acknowledge their numbers are dauntingly small—perhaps 125,000 worldwide. Starting Friday, about 1,200 attendees from 16 countries will be assessing their faith's prospects during the four-day [World Zoroastrian Congress](#) in New York City, the first one held in the United States since 2000. The agenda reflects a keen awareness of the challenges facing their religion. Prospects for growth*

are limited, given that Zoroastrians don't seek to convert outsiders and—in many cases—don't consider the children of mixed marriages to be members of the faith. Yet there's also some cause for optimism.

## SEXISM

[One sign of women's progress: A rise in the percentage of copyrights they receive](#) [Tom Temin, *Federal News Network*, 5 July 2022] [PODCAST WITH TRANSCRIPT]

*If copyrights are a measure of women's long-term rise in economic participation, trends show progress but still a ways to go. A recent study by the U.S. Copyright Office shows that over a 40-year period, women's share of registrations rose from 28%, to 38% in 2020. Joining the Federal Drive with Tom Temin with analysis, University of Minnesota business school professor Joel Waldfogel, and Copyright Office chief economist Brent Lutes.*

## SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Wisconsin court: Sex trafficking can be defense for homicide](#) [Todd Richmond, *The Associated Press*, 6 July 2022]

*A woman accused of killing a man can argue at trial that she was justified because he was sexually trafficking her, Wisconsin's Supreme Court ruled Wednesday in a decision that could help define the limits of legal immunity for trafficking victims nationwide. The justices ruled 4-3 that a 2008 state law that absolves trafficking victims of criminal liability for any offenses committed as a direct result of being trafficked extends to first-degree intentional homicide. However, they said Chrystul Kizer must first provide evidence for a trial judge that her decision to kill Randall Volar was connected to being trafficked before she can invoke immunity. Kizer, 22, contends she met Volar on a sex-trafficking website. She says he sexually assaulted her and sold her to others for sex.*

## VETERANS

[50 Years Later, Four Vietnam Vets Awarded Medals of Honor in White House Ceremony](#) [Rebecca Kheel, *Military.com*, 5 July 2022]

*Spc. 5 Dwight Birdwell didn't want to die, but he was ready to as he fought his way through an enemy ambush at an air base near Saigon. For Maj. John Duffy, calling in airstrikes from a location close to enemy positions even as he was wounded was just part of the job. And when the children of Staff Sgt. Edward Kaneshiro heard their father had single-handedly cleared an enemy trench so his men could safely withdraw, they were inspired to "be a better person, to be courageous and to have integrity." On Tuesday, Birdwell, Duffy and Kaneshiro, as well as Spc. 5 Dennis Fujii, were awarded the Medal of Honor by President Joe Biden for "acts of gallantry and intrepidity" during the Vietnam War, earning the nation's highest military honor after a 50-year wait. For Kaneshiro, the honor is posthumous; he was killed on the battlefield months after his heroic actions.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[As a soldier, he escaped Nazi captors. At 97, he finally got his medals.](#) [Cathy Free, *The Washington Post*, 6 July 2022]

*As a soldier in World War II, William "Willie" Kellerman was captured three weeks after he took part in the Utah Beach invasion in Normandy. He managed to escape his German captors, hid out with members of the French Resistance and, in a grand stroke of survival, pulled through after being shot in*

his hand and leg. Like other soldiers who were taken as prisoners and wounded in battle, he thought he might be awarded a medal or two when he came home, he said. For nearly eight decades, that didn't happen. "It bothered me a little, yes, but what can you do? I went on with my life," said Kellerman, 97, who grew up in a Jewish family in the Bronx. Kellerman's superior officer probably never filled out the required paperwork for his medals, said his daughter, Jean Kellerman-Powers, noting that a 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis destroyed her father's military records. On June 28, Gen. James McConville, the Army chief of staff, traveled to New York to pin a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star and a Prisoner of War Medal on Kellerman's jacket at a ceremony in Brooklyn.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Decades after WWII, Chinese-American vet gets Congressional Gold Medal for his Army service](#) [Omar Rodríguez Ortiz, *Miami Herald*, 7 July 2022]

More than 75 years after his service in World War II, a 98-year-old Chinese-American veteran in Deerfield Beach received a Congressional Gold Medal to honor his service to the United States. U.S. Army veteran Richard Goon was a cryptographer in units that served in the China-Burma-India corridor, where he deciphered enemy radio codes and translated instructions to the Chinese army. The congressional medal was presented virtually on Tuesday to Goon at the Grand Villa of Deerfield Beach assisted living community by retired Major General William S. Chen, the first Chinese American to wear two-star rank in the U.S. Army. Goon was accompanied by family, friends and supporters.

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[WWII Medal of Honor recipient to lie in honor at U.S. Capitol](#) [The Associated Press, 3 July 2022]

Hershel W. "Woody" Williams, the last remaining Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, will lie in honor at the U.S. Capitol, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said Sunday. A date and other details will be announced later, Pelosi and Schumer said in a joint statement. "Woody Williams embodied the best of America: living a life of duty, honor and courage," Pelosi said. Schumer said: "Woody Williams was an American hero who embodied the best of our country and the greatest generation." Williams, who died on Wednesday at 98, was a legend in his native West Virginia for his heroics under fire over several crucial hours at the battle for Iwo Jima. As a young Marine corporal, Williams went ahead of his unit in February 1945 and eliminated a series of Japanese machine gun positions. Later that year, the 22-year-old Williams received the Medal of Honor from President Harry Truman.

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