

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 15 JULY 2022

### HIGHLIGHTS

[988 suicide prevention hotline to launch nationwide](#) [Daniella Silva, *NBC News*, 14 July 2022]

*Beginning Saturday, people experiencing a mental health crisis will be able to call or text a three-digit number, 988, to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and connect with mental health professionals trained to respond to such emergencies. The hotline will provide 24/7 free and confidential emotional support around the country to those in mental health distress, the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline website explains](#). The new number will connect the caller to a certified crisis center in the area where the call is placed. The hotline is made up of a network of 200 local crisis centers around the country. The three-digit number is expected to be easier to remember in times of crisis than the 10-digit 800 number currently handled by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. It is also meant to streamline mental health responses so people can get the urgent help they need much faster than by calling 911, which generally connects callers to law enforcement agencies rather than mental health professionals.*

[Army Establishes Two New Initiatives to Combat Harmful Behaviors](#) [U.S. Army Public Affairs, 14 July 2022]

*The Army has implemented two new initiatives to further remove the barriers on combating harmful behaviors and sustain positive command climates. The [Safe-to-Report policy](#) safeguards sexual assault victims from disciplinary action for minor collateral misconduct that might be in time, place, or circumstance associated with the sexual assault incident. The [Office of Special Trial Counsel](#) is an independent prosecution office that will be dedicated to the investigation, referral and trial-level litigation and prosecution of covered offenses such as murder, rape and child abuse. The Army's military justice reforms are well underway and the Army will continue to identify ways to implement improvements to investigation and prosecution of covered offenses.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Navy Updates Sexual Assault Reporting Rules](#) [MC1 Mark D. Faram, *Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs*, 12 July 2022]

*The Navy released updates to the service's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response policy and adult sexual assault investigation procedures in [NAVADMIN 151/22 on July 12](#). The update expands the ability of victims to file restricted sexual assault reports and updates procedures for expedited transfers for Sailors filing unrestricted reports. Effective immediately, sexual assault victims retain the right to file restricted reports even if they've already disclosed the assault to their commander or personnel in their chain of command. The restricted report option is only available if the victim has not reported the assault to law enforcement, including military criminal investigative organizations (MCIO) such as the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Commands must explain these reporting requirements to each victim and ensure they understand these duties don't impact their ability to file restricted or unrestricted reports.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

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## CULTURE

[#IAmVanessaGuillen documentary explores the culture of toxicity at Fort Hood](#) [Rachel Treisman and A. Martinez, NPR, 12 July 2022]

*The 2020 murder of Spc. Vanessa Guillén and the national outcry that followed helped shed a light on the widespread problem of sexual misconduct in the military. Women at Fort Hood have a higher risk of being sexually assaulted than the average woman in the Army, according to a [RAND Corporation analysis](#). But the problem runs deeper than that particular base: Roughly 1 in 4 women in the military have experienced sexual harassment, and 1 in 16 have experienced sexual assault. And many saw themselves in Guillén. One of those women is Karina López, a survivor of sexual assault who was also stationed at Fort Hood. Moved by Guillén's death, López started speaking up on social media using the hashtag #IAmVanessaGuillén and prompted scores of others to do the same. She's now one of the subjects of a new Univision Noticias documentary by the same name, focusing on the culture of sexual misconduct at Fort Hood specifically. Versions of the film in both English and Spanish [will launch online here](#) on Thursday morning.*

[Ada Limón is named the 24th poet laureate of the U.S.](#) [Sandra Lilley, NBC News, 12 July 2022]

*Award-winning poet Ada Limón is making history: The Library of Congress announced Tuesday that it has named her the 24th poet laureate of the U.S. As Limón takes up the storied position this fall and travels around the country, she intends to share two things she believes about poetry: It gives us a way to “reclaim our humanity,” and it can help repair our relationship with the planet. Limón, who lives in Kentucky, fell in love with poetry in her teens. She remembers asking whether she could keep a school test because it had a poem in it. At 15, when she started working at a bookstore in her hometown, Sonoma, California, she would gravitate to the poetry shelves and read in her free time.*

[Art of war: How a few good illustrators capture the heroism of today's Marines](#) [Max Hauptman, Task & Purpose, 14 July 2022]

*There are a lot of jobs in the Marine Corps. And one, improbably enough, is capturing the work that Marines do through illustrations. “The purpose of the [Marine Corps Combat Art Program] is to document Marine Corps operations via illustration for historical documentation,” said Capt. Charles J. Baumann, a logistics officer who joined the program in 2015. “I hope to contribute to the collections of work archived in the [National Museum of the Marine Corps] and provide a slightly different perspective to viewing the recorded history of the Marine Corps. I hope that in 10, 20, 50 years my artwork can be used to help tell the story of the Corps while I was in service.” The field is a small one in the Marine Corps. Baumann is the only active-duty Marine along with a handful of civilians who participate in the program. Another Marine, Staff Sgt. Elize McElvey, left active-duty in 2020. In an era of ubiquitous cellphone cameras, it may be hard to imagine that there's still a program to draw what Marines are doing, but combat artistry has quite a long history.*

[Clotilda descendants mark anniversary of last slave ship](#) [The Associated Press, 11 July 2022]

*The descendants of the 110 people aboard the Clotilda, the last known slave ship to bring enslaved African people to the United States, held a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the vessel's arrival. Dressed in white and walking slowly to the beat of an African drum, the descendants made their way to the banks of the Mobile River near Alabama's coast. A wreath of white, yellow and red flowers was carried into the river by a kayaker and released into the waters. The event marked the anniversary of the ship arriving 162 years ago with 110 enslaved people brought to the country against their will, Darron*

*Patterson, president of the Clotilda Descendants Association, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.*

[Coast Guard Commandant Needs the “Right Tools” to Improve Recruitment, Retention](#) [John Grady, *USNI News*, 14 July 2022]

*In her first appearance as Coast Guard commandant before the House Homeland Security Transportation and Maritime Security panel, Adm. Linda Fagan said, “the biggest issue at hand centers around people” and having the “right tools” available to recruit, retain and “serve successfully” in the Coast Guard. She added that the other services are also facing serious recruiting challenges as the pool of eligible by age shrinks and those who meet service standards are less inclined to enlist. “Right tools” for the Coast Guard also include modernized shore facilities, cutters and aircraft, said Fagan. Fagan added, “the red flag for me is [being told], ‘We’ve always done it this way.’” She told the panel, “cultural change is difficult,” and invited their support for policy changes.*

[GLAAD gives social media giants poor grades over lack of protections for LGBTQ users](#) [Jaclyn Diaz, *NPR*, 13 July 2022]

*LGBTQ social media users say social media is neither a welcoming nor a safe place for them, a [new GLAAD report shows](#). In a survey, 84% of LGBTQ adults said not enough protections are on social media to prevent discrimination, harassment or disinformation, according to the report. Additionally, 40% of LGBTQ adults, as well as 49% of transgender and nonbinary people, do not feel welcomed and safe on social media. GLAAD’s findings, released Wednesday, are a part of the organization’s second annual Social Media Safety Index—a report on LGBTQ user safety across those five major social media platforms. GLAAD is the world’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer media advocacy organization. A recent report by the Anti-Defamation League revealed that 66% of LGBTQ+ survey respondents reported experiencing hate-based online harassment—a far-higher level than non-LGBTQ+ individuals at 38%. That report also showed that 54% of LGBTQ+ respondents reported experiencing “severe harassment,” which covers physical threats, stalking, sexual harassment and doxing.*

[In “Ms. Marvel,” Muslim fans see a reflection of their lives](#) [Deepa Bharath and Mariam Fam, *The Associated Press*, 12 July 2022]

*Jumana Zakir knows who she is going to be for Halloween this year. Hint: Her new favorite superhero is a lot like her—female, teen, Muslim, American and “totally awesome.” “Kamala Khan is me,” said the exuberant 13-year-old from Anaheim, California. “She is just like me.” Khan is the Marvel Cinematic Universe’s first Muslim superhero to headline her own television show. “Ms. Marvel,” which launched on Disney+ June 8, has struck a chord with South Asian Muslims in the West because of its relatability and how it portrays Muslim families. Advocates for inclusion and representation hope the show will open the door to more nuanced on-screen portrayals of Muslims and their rich diversity.*

[Jill Biden apologizes after citing “bodegas” and “breakfast tacos” to praise Hispanic diversity](#) [Kate Bennett and Kyle Blaine, *CNN*, 12 July 2022]

*First lady Jill Biden’s office issued an apology Tuesday morning after Biden faced criticism for citing “bodegas” and “breakfast tacos” to praise Latino diversity. Biden made the comments on Monday during a conference in San Antonio for the Latino civil rights and advocacy organization UnidosUS, where she commented on diversity of the community and the work of Raul Yzaguirre, the former president and CEO of the organization who just last week was awarded the Presidential Medal of*

*Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. In a statement Monday, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists called on the first lady and her speech writing team "to take the time in the future to better to better understand the complexities of our people and communities," adding, "We are not tacos," and "do not reduce us to stereotypes."*

[Mary McLeod Bethune statue to be unveiled at U.S. Capitol Statuary Hall](#) [Joe Mario Pedersen, *Orlando Sentinel* (Orlando, Fla.), 13 July 2022]

*A watch party is being hosted online Wednesday morning as the U.S. Capitol Statuary Hall unveils a new marble statue of a Central Florida icon Mary McLeod Bethune—the founder of Bethune-Cookman University and champion of civil and women's rights. McLeod Bethune's statue is one of two statues that will depict the Black educator, civil rights activist and suffragette. The other statue is made of bronze and will be unveiled in August at Bethune Plaza in Riverfront Esplanade Park in Daytona Beach. The Statuary Hall statue will stand at 11-feet tall and is made of marble from the same Tuscan quarry that Michelangelo used from the Italian Alps. The block the sculpture was carved from weighs 11,500 tons. At the foot of her statue is McLeod Bethune's famous quote: "Invest in the human soul. Who knows, it may be a diamond in the rough." McLeod Bethune will be the first African American woman to represent a state in Statuary Hall.*

[Philadelphia designates the city's first Black historic district after yearlong push](#) [Zachary Schermele, *NBC News*, 14 July 2022]

*One of Philadelphia's oldest Black neighborhoods was granted a special designation to honor its history—and potentially stall gentrification. The vote by the Philadelphia Historical Commission last week came after a yearlong, somewhat controversial push from residents and activists to protect the historically wealthy and Black neighborhood on Christian Street in South Philadelphia from what critics have called "indiscriminate demolition," or the tearing down of homes to create larger, more lucrative rentals or condos. In a lengthy application, historians said the neighborhood dubbed "Black Doctors Row" is historically significant because it was considered the "'main street' for Philadelphia's Black elite," which included prominent Black leaders and professionals, between 1910 and 1945.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[Amazon issued 13,000 disciplinary notices at single U.S. warehouse](#) [Jeffrey Dastin, *Reuters*, 12 July 2022]

*Internal Amazon documents, previously unreported, reveal how routinely the company measured workers' performance in minute detail and admonished those who fell even slightly short of expectations—sometimes before their shift ended. In a single year ending April 2020, the company issued more than 13,000 so-called "disciplines" in Bryson's warehouse alone, one lawyer for Amazon said in court papers. The facility had about 5,300 employees around that time. Amazon, the largest online retailer in the United States, disclosed these records in response to a complaint by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) over Bryson's dismissal in April 2020. Many of these documents also were contained in a separate and ongoing federal court lawsuit in which the NLRB sought to stop what it called Amazon's "flagrant unfair labor practices"—actions the company denied in court papers.*

[As Troops Face Mounting Demands to Serve in Crises, Civilian Employers Are Firing Them](#) [Michael De Yoanna, *The War Horse*, 7 July 2022]

*When Navy reservist and hospital corpsman Linda Jones didn't get the promotion she hoped for at her civilian health care job, she turned to her manager to ask what she could have done better. She was surprised when he told her she was a great candidate. Then the conversation turned. "He lowered his voice and said, 'It's not you at all,'" Jones says. "I think you'd be a great fit, like the best fit out of all the interviews that we had." There was one problem: "You're military." Her case is just one of hundreds around the country in recent years alleging an employer broke the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994—or USERRA. The law bars employers from discriminating against service members, veterans, and even people who state an intention to join the military. Between 2004 and the 2020 fiscal year, Justice Department attorneys filed 109 lawsuits and resolved 200 USERRA complaints through consent decrees or private settlements.*

[Biden administration charges Florida trailer park with anti-trans discrimination](#) [Tat Bellamy-Walker, NBC News, 8 July 2022]

*The Biden administration has lodged a federal charge of discrimination against a Florida trailer park and its owner for allegedly demanding a transgender woman present as male to avoid being evicted from her mobile home. The [charge](#), announced Tuesday by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, [alleges](#) the owner of the 21 Palms RV Resort in Davenport, Florida, sent a discriminatory and threatening note to the woman after she came out as transgender in violation of the Fair Housing Act. According to the charges, the resident, who has not been named publicly, lived at 21 Palms with her child and fiancé for several years before coming out as transgender and "wearing feminine-presenting clothing in public" on Jan. 4, 2021. Just nine days later, the park's owner and manager, Nathan Dykgraaf, allegedly sent the woman a handwritten notice regarding her appearance.*

[Suit: Cleaning service fired woman because she was pregnant](#) [The Associated Press, 11 July 2022]

*A Rhode Island woman hired to work for a house cleaning service was fired just days later after management found out that she was pregnant, the woman said in a [discrimination lawsuit](#) filed Monday. The lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island on behalf of Bristol resident Julia Schultz alleges that the owners of Merry Maids of Rhode Island violated state civil rights law. Schultz applied for the house cleaner position in late April 2021 when she was about 16 weeks pregnant, according to the lawsuit. She attended an orientation program for new hires in early May 2021, during which the company's co-owner asked if she was pregnant, according to the suit. When she confirmed she was, the co-owner said she could not offer her the job because of its "physical demands" and said she "should be at home taking care" of the baby. She then suggested Schultz reapply after the baby's birth.*

[Troops, veterans becoming less likely to recommend military service, survey finds](#) [Rose L. Thayer, Stars and Stripes, 14 July 2022]

*Service members and veterans are less likely to recommend joining the military to family and friends than they were two years ago, according to survey results released Thursday from the Military Family Advisory Network. The findings are part of the network's 2021 [Military Family Support Programming Survey](#), which is conducted every other year to gain insight into an array of support needs for military and veteran families. The survey was fielded online between October and December, with 8,638 people participating, according to the report on its findings. This year, researchers introduced a family health scale into the survey, which is a measure of a family unit's well-being. It uses 10 questions that measure family relationships, health care, finances and housing to create a well-being score. About 59% of families reported moderate or poor health, according to the survey report.*

[Without Obergefell, Most States Would Have Same-Sex Marriage Bans](#) [Elaine S. Povich, *Stateline Daily*, 7 July 2022]

*The U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in 2015, but in most states, laws or constitutional amendments would revive the prohibition if the high court decides, as it did with abortion, that such unions are not a constitutionally protected right. Thirty-five states ban same-sex marriage in their constitutions, state law, or both, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures and Stateline research. All were invalidated in 2015 by the Obergefell v. Hodges ruling. But should the now-more-conservative U.S. Supreme Court overturn the right to same-sex marriages, those state laws and constitutional amendments would kick in. “These constitutional amendments are still on the books and would likely be put in place,” said Jason Pierceson, a political science professor at the University of Illinois, Springfield and author of “Same-Sex Marriage in the United States: The Road to the Supreme Court and Beyond.” And it’s likely that the abortion decision opens the door to challenges, Pierceson said. And it’s likely that the abortion decision opens the door to challenges, Pierceson said.*

## DIVERSITY

[The Navy’s First Vietnamese Admiral Saw His Family Killed by an Infamous Viet Cong Guerrilla](#) [Blake Stilwell, *Military.com*, 11 July 2022]

*When South Vietnam fell to North Vietnamese forces in 1975, an estimated 125,000 Vietnamese refugees fled to the United States to avoid retribution at the hands of the North Vietnamese. Among those refugees was U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Huan Nguyen, the first Vietnamese-American ever to hold flag rank. Nguyen’s road to becoming a distinguished Navy officer was a long and tragic one, and begins with one of the war’s most iconic photographs. Eddie Adams’ photo of Viet Cong guerrilla Bay Lop being executed by South Vietnamese Gen. Nguyen Ngoc Loan made newspapers around the world in 1968. It became one of the most enduring images of the Vietnam War. He was captured after murdering South Vietnamese Lt. Col. Nguyen Tuan, along with the officer’s wife, mother and six of his children. One of his children survived, however, after being shot through the arm and thigh. Nine-year-old Huan Nguyen stayed next to his mother for two hours after the murders.*

[University of Michigan hires first Asian American president after surprise firing](#) [Olafimihan Oshin, *The Hill*, 13 July 2022]

*The University of Michigan appointed Santa Ono as its new university president Wednesday, making him the first Asian American to hold the university position. In a [news release](#), the Ann Arbor, Mich.-based school said its board of regents voted unanimously to approve Ono’s appointment in a special meeting held the same day. Ono’s hiring comes months after the board of regents removed former University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel from his position following allegations of an inappropriate relationship between Schlissel and a colleague during his tenure. The school’s investigation of the matter found that Schlissel, who had inked a five-year contract with the school in 2018, used his work email to communicate with the employee in an “inappropriate” manner that wasn’t suitable for the reputation of the university.*

[The U.S. student population is more diverse, but schools are still highly segregated](#) [Sequoia Carillo and Pooja Salhotra, *NPR*, 14 July 2022]

*The U.S. student body is more diverse than ever before. Nevertheless, public schools remain highly segregated along racial, ethnic and socioeconomic lines. That’s according to a [report released](#)*

[Thursday](#) by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). More than a third of students (about 18.5 million of them) attended a predominantly same-race/ethnicity school during the 2020-21 school year, the report finds. And 14% of students attended schools where almost all of the student body was of a single race/ethnicity. The report is a [follow up to a 2016 GAO investigation](#) on racial disparity in K-12 schools. That initial report painted a slightly worse picture, but findings from the new report are still concerning, says Jackie Nowicki, the director of K-12 education at the GAO and lead author of the report.

## **EXTREMISM**

[Boston LGBTQ senior housing project vandalized with hate speech](#) [Matt Lavietes, NBC News, 12 July 2022]

A Boston affordable housing project for LGBTQ seniors was vandalized with homophobic and threatening graffiti on Sunday. The Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization that is leading the housing project's construction, LGBTQ Senior Housing Inc., shared photos of the hateful messages—including “we will burn this,” and “the f----- will die by fire”—on Facebook over the weekend. The Pryde, which began construction last month, will convert a former middle school in Boston's Hyde Park neighborhood into 74 units of mixed-income housing for seniors. It was billed as New England's first LGBTQ senior affordable housing project and is expected to welcome its first residents late next year. LGBTQ adults age 45 or older report being less likely to have a designated caretaker, according to a [recent survey by AARP](#). Almost half of LGBTQ respondents said they were either extremely or very concerned about having enough family and social support as they age, and 52% reported feeling socially isolated.

[House approves measure to monitor White supremacy in military, law enforcement](#) [Mychael Schnell, The Hill, 13 July 2022]

The House approved an amendment for the yearly defense spending bill on Wednesday that compels government officials to prepare a report on instances of White supremacy and neo-Nazi activity in uniformed services and federal law enforcement. The measure would require that FBI director, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the secretary of Defense publish a report analyzing White supremacist and neo-Nazi activity within their ranks, and presenting ways to thwart it. It specifically calls for figures on the number of people who were discharged from uniformed services or law enforcement because of situations involving White supremacy and neo-Nazi activity. Additionally, the amendment mandates that the report includes information on how the agency leaders responded to “planned or effectuated incidents” connected to White supremacist and neo-Nazi ideology.

[Maryland man arrested after allegedly assaulting men he believed were gay in a Washington, DC, park](#) [Josh Campbell and Aya Elamroussi, CNN, 15 July 2022]

A Maryland man was arrested Thursday for allegedly assaulting men he believed were gay over a three-year period in a Washington, DC, park, officials said. Michael Thomas Pruden, 48, is accused of spraying the men with a “chemical irritant” at DC's Meridian Hill Park, also known as Malcolm X Park, according to the indictment. The indictment alleges he gave them police-style directives and sprayed them with the irritant. In four of the alleged assaults, the indictment alleges it was because of the victims' “actual or perceived sexual orientation.” A federal grand jury in Washington, DC, indicted him last month on five counts of assault on federal land and two counts of impersonating a federal

officer, according to the indictment. The indictment seeks a hate crimes sentencing enhancement because Pruden allegedly targeted four of the victims because of their perceived sexual orientation.

[Oath Keeper brought explosives to D.C. ahead of Jan. 6 attack, prosecutor says](#) [David Morgan, Reuters, 11 July 2022]

*In a court filing, federal prosecutors alleged that Jeremy Brown, an Oath Keepers member from Florida, drove explosives to a Virginia hotel in his recreational vehicle on Jan. 6. A second member of the group, Thomas Caldwell, was later found in possession of a “death list” that included the name of a Georgia election official, according to the document. The [28-page court document](#), filed on Friday in U.S. District Court in Washington, details evidence that the Justice Department is likely to present later this year at the seditious conspiracy trial of Oath Keepers members, including Caldwell and the group’s leader Stewart Rhodes. It lists Brown as an unindicted co-conspirator.*

[Suspect in the Buffalo mass shooting has been indicted on federal hate crime charges](#) [Jonathan Franklin, NPR, 14 July 2022]

*The White gunman accused of targeting and killing 10 Black people and injuring three other individuals at a Buffalo, N.Y., supermarket was indicted by a federal grand jury on Thursday on hate crimes and firearm charges, according to the U.S. Justice Department. Payton Gendron, now 19, is facing 27 counts—including 10 hate crimes resulting in death and three counts of hate crimes involving an attempt to kill, along with 13 counts of using, carrying or discharging a firearm—following the deadly racist attack at the Tops supermarket in a predominantly Black neighborhood. If convicted on all 27 counts, Gendron could face either the death penalty or a maximum sentence of life in prison without parole.*

[“Trump girl”: WVa Guard member admits role in Capitol riot](#) [John Raby, *The Associated Press*, 6 July 2022]

*A West Virginia National Guard member who wore a hoodie that read “Yes, I’m a Trump girl” inside the U.S. Capitol Rotunda during the Jan. 6 riot pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor Wednesday. Jamie Lynn Ferguson entered the plea to parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building during a conference call with a U.S. magistrate judge in Washington, D.C. The charge carries a maximum penalty of six months in prison and a \$5,000 fine. A report submitted to the FBI by the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations said Ferguson was on leave from the National Guard from Jan. 5 to Jan. 7. Ferguson said she attended the rally with her parents, who left afterward. Ferguson said she proceeded to the Capitol because she believed she would be able to see Trump again. Ferguson was arrested in May in Lynchburg, Virginia. She is a technical sergeant and a drill status guardsman assigned to the West Virginia Air National Guard.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[How colours affect the way you think](#) [BBC Future, 13 July 2022]

*Our world is awash with a rainbow of colours, but certain shades can have a surprising impact on our ability to concentrate, our mood and even the flavours we experience. A few years ago, a [strange trend](#) started to sweep through prisons in Europe and North America. They began painting some of their cells pink. It became so common that in 2014, one in every five prisons and police stations in Switzerland had at least one detention cell that was painted a garish, flamingo pink. The decor wasn’t intended as an*

*aesthetic choice or to make millennial offenders feel more comfortable, but rather to leverage a well-known scientific study from the 1970s. That's when researcher Alexander Schauss persuaded a naval correctional facility to paint a few of its detention cells pink, theorising from his own experiments that the colour might [positively influence occupants' behaviour](#), soothing and calming their agita. The results he achieved suggested he was right—a memorandum written by the Bureau of Naval Personnel stated confines needed only 15 minutes of exposure to the pink cell for their aggressive behaviour and potential for violence to abate.*

## **INTERNATIONAL**

[Filmmaker faces death threats over controversial Hindu goddess poster](#) [Oscar Holland, CNN, 8 July 2022]

*A Toronto-based filmmaker says she has received a deluge of death threats and abuse from Hindu nationalists in India after she depicted the goddess Kali smoking a cigarette. The image, which featured on a poster for her independent film “Kaali”, has sparked nationwide debate in India, with politicians, diplomats and local police reportedly among those accusing director Leena Manimekalai of offending religious sentiments. The film, which uses an alternative English spelling of the goddesses' name, was among 18 works intended to explore multiculturalism at the Toronto Metropolitan University's “Under the Tent” showcase at the Aga Khan Museum. Described as a “performance documentary,” it imagines the Hindu goddess “descending onto a queer female filmmaker” and viewing Canada—and its diverse people—through her eyes, Manimekalai explained.*

[Russian lawmakers propose extending “gay propaganda” law to all adults](#) [Reuters, 11 July 2022]

*Russian lawmakers have proposed extending a ban on the promotion of “non-traditional” sexual relationships to minors to include adults as well, a senior legislator said on Monday. Russia's existing “gay propaganda” law, passed in 2013, has been used to stop gay pride marches and detain gay rights activists. Authorities say they are defending morality in the face of what they argue are un-Russian liberal values promoted by the West, but human rights activists say the law has been broadly applied to intimidate Russia's LGBT community. Under the proposed changes, any event or act regarded as an attempt to promote homosexuality could incur a fine. Homosexuality was a criminal offence in Russia until 1993 and classed as a mental illness until 1999.*

[Scrutiny falls on Unification Church after Shinzo Abe's assassination](#) [Erik Ortiz, NBC News, 12 July 2022]

*A messianic religious movement known for conducting mass weddings and courting prominent American conservatives has found itself at the center of the speculation surrounding the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, also known as the Unification Church, condemned Abe's killing at a news conference Monday and sought to distance itself from media reports that the suspected gunman's mother made a hefty donation to the religious group before she went bankrupt. A suspect, identified as Tetsuya Yamagami, 41, confessed to the attack and told investigators he held a grudge against a group he said was connected with Abe, but the violence itself was not politically motivated, Japanese media reported, citing police sources.*

[Yulia Tsvetkova: Russian LGBT activist acquitted of “porn” charges](#) [Tiffany Wertheimer, BBC News, 15 July 2022]

*Yulia Tsvetkova, 29, was accused of distributing pornography and “LGBT propaganda” in 2019, and was facing a maximum of six years in prison. She is known for posting body-positive drawings of the female anatomy on her blog called the Vagina Monologues. Most cases that go to court in Russia end in conviction. Human rights organisation Amnesty International rejoiced at the acquittal of the “absurd” charges. “In a country where state-sponsored homophobia and misogyny are the norm, Tsvetkova’s trial was a landmark case,” it said. “The Russian authorities must immediately stop targeting feminists and LGBTI activists”. Ms Tsvetkova was charged under Russia’s controversial “gay propaganda” law, which bans the promotion of homosexuality among people under 18.*

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

[Air Force mourns the loss of 6th Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force](#) [SECAF Public Affairs, 13 July 2022]

*The 6th Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, James M. McCoy, passed away July 13, 2022, at the age of 91. In his 30-year career, McCoy was the first senior enlisted advisor of Strategic Air Command, served as chairman of two worldwide senior enlisted adviser conferences for the Air Force Association and was selected as one of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year in 1974. As the 6th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, McCoy set out to improve the enlisted retention rate that had dropped to as low as 25 percent in the late 1970s. He also created the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program and expanded professional military education options. He also worked to introduce maternity uniforms for female Airmen, when prior, they would have to wear civilian clothes after a certain point in pregnancy.*

[Emmett Till accuser, in memoir, denies wanting teen killed](#) [Jay Reeves and Allen G. Breed, *The Associated Press*, 15 July 2022]

*The White woman who accused Black teenager Emmett Till of making improper advances before he was lynched in Mississippi in 1955 says she neither identified him to the killers nor wanted him murdered. In an unpublished memoir obtained by *The Associated Press*, Carolyn Bryant Donham says she was unaware of what would happen to the 14-year-old Till, who lived in Chicago and was visiting relatives in Mississippi when he was abducted, killed and tossed in a river. Now 87, Donham was only 21 at the time. Her then-husband Roy Bryant and his half-brother J.W. Milam were acquitted of murder charges but later confessed in a magazine interview. The contents of the 99-page manuscript, titled “I am More Than A Wolf Whistle,” were first reported by the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting. Historian and author Timothy Tyson of Durham, who said he obtained a copy from Donham while interviewing her in 2008, provided a copy to the AP on Thursday.*

[House Chair Looks to Protect Census from Politicization](#) [Frank Konkel, *Nextgov*, 12 July 2022]

*Introduced by Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, the [Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act](#) takes several steps to mitigate outside or administrative actions regarding the once-a-decade census, which determines political representation and federal funding apportionments totaling \$1.5 trillion nationwide. In a statement announcing the legislation, Maloney referenced former President Donald Trump’s attempt to require respondents to answer a question regarding U.S. citizenship as part of the census, which the Supreme Court eventually ruled against. “The Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act is a commonsense bill to safeguard the integrity and independence of the Census Bureau.” Maloney said*

[Hybrid work may be permanent fixture for government employees, Cisco finds](#) [Molly Weisner, *Federal Times*, 13 July 2022]

*As federal agencies seek to define the post-pandemic work environment, hybrid schedules are predicted to continue within all levels of the government, according to a report from Cisco Systems Inc. More than 90% of technology decision-makers in federal, state and local governments are satisfied with their remote work arrangement, with a current average of four remote days per week. Almost 60% work entirely remotely, the report found in surveying 300 executives, administrators and IT professionals in government from February to March. As required by the White House's Office of Personnel Management and listed in its 2021 telework guidance, every federal executive agency must establish a policy under which eligible employees may telework. Agency attempts to curb telework for government employees have been fought by unions, most recently by one representing employees in the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Bureau of Fiscal Services. Even the U.S. Army is testing how well remote work fits into its office environment.*

["Lot of Heartache" Raising Money, But Ground Finally Broken for Desert Storm Memorial](#) [Richard Sisk, *Military.com*, 14 July 2022]

*The long-running effort to establish a National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial in Washington, D.C., just off the National Mall passed a major milestone Thursday with a groundbreaking ceremony. But it was possible only because of a funding boost from Kuwait when private donations fell short. "It's been a lot of heartache, a lot of disappointment," Scott Stump, CEO of the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association, told Military.com before the ceremony. The group has faced headwinds in raising funds and working through the complicated approval process. The tentative design for the memorial would be semicircular to recall the "left hook" by U.S. ground forces through the Saudi desert to cut off Iraqi troops in Desert Storm.*

[Officials considering updates to how security clearance process treats mental health](#) [Dustin Doubleday, *Federal News Network*, 8 July 2022]

*Defense and intelligence officials are considering updates to psychological and emotional health questions on security clearance forms as part of a long-running effort to assure employees that seeking out mental healthcare won't affect their clearance status. Roughly one-third of Americans are anxious about their mental health, the American Psychiatric Association reported at the end of 2021. Part of the stigma also stems from old wording on the Standard Form-86, the questionnaire individuals must fill out when seeking national security positions. Question 21 on the SF-86 pertains to "psychological and emotional health," and prior to 2017, it asked whether the applicant had sought mental health care within the last seven years. The form has since been updated to provide a significantly longer preamble to question 21 that emphasize the importance of seeking mental healthcare.*

[White House wants agencies to increase, improve collection of LGBTQ data](#) [Amelia Brust, *Federal News Network*, 14 July 2022]

*The federal government collects myriad forms of demographic data, but it could do more around sexual orientation and gender identities. In line with his administration's broader diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility goals President Joe Biden is directing agencies to see where they can expand collection of LGBTQ data. Biden's June 15 [executive order on "Advancing Equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Individuals,"](#) instructs the Interagency Working Group on Equitable Data at the Office of Management and Budget to establish a subcommittee on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics data to coordinate with agencies. The group is*

*supposed to release an evidence agenda by October, which should highlight disparities faced by LGBTQ individuals that could benefit from federal statistics and data collection. This EO was signed a day after the House passed the [LGBTQI+ Data Inclusion Act](#), which says agencies that “publish reports relying on survey demographic data must include information on sexual orientation and gender identity.”*

## **MISCONDUCT**

[Army appeals court overturns mandate of unanimous guilty verdict in officer’s sex-assault trial](#) [John Vandiver, *Stars and Stripes*, 11 July 2022]

*A Germany-based military judge’s ruling that a unanimous guilty verdict was required to convict an Army officer facing sexual assault charges was rejected by the service’s top appeals court. Lt. Col. Andrew Dial initially faced a court-martial in January, but proceedings were delayed after military judge Col. Charles Pritchard said that allowing a split verdict would violate Dial’s constitutional rights. Prosecutors challenged that decision before the Army Court of Criminal Appeals, arguing that Pritchard’s ruling was based on faulty reasoning. In a June decision, the appeals court concurred, saying it was not persuaded by the argument that because military and civilian court procedures are generally similar, military defendants are “similarly situated” to civilian counterparts. It also issued a relatively rare writ of prohibition to prevent a lower court, in this case the one in Kaiserslautern, from exceeding its authority. Pritchard’s decision “was in error and our inquiry is at an end,” the appellate court ruled.*

[Some officers still promoting thanks to loopholes in background checks, study says](#) [Meghann Myers, *Military Times*, 12 July 2022]

*The process for collecting adverse personnel information, like investigations or discipline that would affect whether an officer is considered for a promotion, still has some loopholes and ambiguity, the [Rand Corp study](#) found, despite some improvements since the last process update in 2014. One of the main issues, researchers found, is that commanders can respond in a range of ways to the same incident, and how they choose to counsel or discipline an officer will determine whether that action ends up in a promotion packet down the line. For example, the Defense Department instruction that governs which information gets reported allows the services to omit anything that resulted in “non-punitive rehabilitative counseling,” which is generally just a discussion of the issue and how to correct it, without any formal action. But there’s wide leeway for commanders to use it, for anything from tardiness to sexual harassment.*

[Vermont Guard investigates misconduct allegations](#) [The Associated Press, 12 July 2022]

*Leaders of the Vermont Army National Guard are investigating allegations of misconduct in recent months following a report made public last year on the Guard’s culture and policies. Vermont Adj. Gen. Greg Knight said in a statement Monday that he could not elaborate on the investigations but that it’s critical for members to know that “all members are, and will continue to be held accountable regardless of rank or position.” In November 2019, Knight requested an assessment by the National Guard Bureau Office of Complex Investigations. The [113-page report](#) released last year found the Vermont National Guard’s sexual assault policies lacked specifics to ensure compliance, a prevention program had inadequate resources, and many personnel perceived favoritism and a “good old boy” network.*

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## **RELIGION**

[Episcopalians to study their role in Native boarding schools](#) [Peter Smith, *The Associated Press*, 11 July 2022]

*A fact-finding commission of the Episcopal Church will research the history of the denomination's role in operating boarding schools for Native American children—part of a system the church now acknowledges was rooted in White supremacy and caused generations of trauma. The denomination's General Convention, meeting in Baltimore, approved the commission's formation by acclamation in votes Friday and Saturday in its two legislative houses. The votes followed a series of emotionally potent comments from Indigenous and other church members at the convention. Bishop Carol Gallagher, regional canon for the Central Region of the Diocese of Massachusetts, spoke in favor of the measure and was encouraged by the vote. Gallagher, who is Cherokee, told the convention that her grandfather had attended a boarding school and her family witnessed how the schools had badly damaged Native children's ties to their families and tribes.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## SEXISM

[It will take 132 years to close the gender gap: report](#) [Shirin Ali, *The Hill*, 14 July 2022]

*There have been struggles to close gaps in gender equality in the last year, as the world experienced a pandemic, skyrocketing inflation, climate change and more. A [new global report](#) has found that in 2022 the gender gap closed by 68 percent—and at that pace will take 132 years to reach full parity. The World Economic Forum has published its Global Gender Gap Report 2022, examining four key categories: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival and Political Empowerment. The results revealed that though more women around the world have moved into paid work and leadership positions, here have been plenty more setbacks. The report said that no country out of the 146 analyzed has yet achieved full gender parity, but 10 economies have closed at least 80 percent of their gender gaps—with Iceland leading at 90.8 percent and other Scandinavian countries such as Finland at 86 percent, Norway at 84.5 percent and Sweden at 82.2 percent close behind.*

## SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Uber Sued by More Than 500 Female Passengers Over Sexual Assault Complaints](#) [Prarthana Prakash, *Bloomberg News*, 14 July 2022]

*Uber Technologies Inc. is being sued by more than 500 women across the U.S. who claim to have been assaulted by drivers on the platform. The complaint, filed by Slater Slater Schulman LLP in San Francisco, alleges that women were “kidnapped, sexually assaulted, sexually battered, raped, falsely imprisoned, stalked, harassed or otherwise attacked” in their rides. It claims Uber has known about the sexual misconduct by some of the drivers, including rape, since 2014. Uber has long struggled to handle complaints of misconduct on the ride-sharing app. Just two weeks ago, the [company released its second safety report](#) that showed it received 3,824 reports of the five most severe categories of sexual assault in 2019 and 2020, ranging from “non-consensual kissing of a nonsexual body part” to “nonconsensual sexual penetration,” or rape.*

## SUICIDE

[How machine learning can identify gun buyers at risk of suicide](#) [Gianna Melillo, *The Hill*, 14 July 2022]

*Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States, with data showing one person takes their own life every 11 minutes. Suicides also account for the majority of gun deaths in the country, and firearms are used in most completed suicides as about 90 percent of suicide attempts with a gun are fatal. Previous studies have also found an increased risk of suicide in the time period immediately following a handgun purchase, suggesting acquisition is a key risk factor. Now, [new research](#) out of the University of California, Davis, suggests machine learning can forecast gun purchasers' likelihood of firearm suicide through the use of handgun purchasing data. Identifying those at risk allows for prevention interventions and can ultimately help reduce suicide rates.*

[Pilot Program to Offer Troops Personal Gun Safes in Bid to Curb Suicides Gets Approval from House](#) [Rebecca Kheel, *Military.com*, 14 July 2022]

*Under a measure proposed by Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., the Pentagon would run a six-year pilot program to furnish "secure gun storage or safety devices for the purpose of securing personally owned firearms when not in use" to service members who volunteer to participate. The pilot program would be available at five installations, to be chosen by the Pentagon within two years of the bill passing. When the pilot program is completed, the department would have to give Congress a report on whether it helped reduce suicides. In 2020, firearms, most of which were personally owned, accounted for 64% of the 384 active-duty suicide deaths that year, according to the Defense Department's most recent annual report on suicide released in October. Firearms were involved in an even greater percentage of Reserve and National Guard suicides, at 75% and nearly 80% respectively. Firearms have also been the leading method of suicide for military family members, accounting for 55% of deaths in 2019, the most recent year data is available.*

[Some states are struggling to prepare for calls to the 988 mental health crisis line](#) [Carter Barrett, *NPR* 11 July 2022]

*Staff at Memorial Behavioral Health in Springfield, Ill., are on call around the clock to talk with people struggling with suicidal thoughts, drug addiction or other mental health crises. They provide a listening ear and help connect people to resources or crisis support, if needed. Until recently, the hospital's call center was operated by on-call nurses and other clinical staff. But at times when everyone was tied up with patients, calls would go unanswered, bumping the caller to the nearest available call center, often in another state or a national backup center. The center has since received federal funding to beef up their call center. It's part of the rollout of a new national mental health crisis number, 988, that proponents hope will make it easier for more people to connect with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline when it is launched on July 16.*

## **VETERANS**

[Biden awards Presidential Medal of Freedom to Air Force legend](#) [Staff Sgt. Nick Z. Erwin, *SECAF Public Affairs*, 8 July 2022]

*President Joe Biden awarded retired Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught the Presidential Medal of Freedom at the White House July 7. Extending the nation's highest civilian honor to Vaught, Biden recognized her shattering of conventions that broke down gender barriers and helped to shape new opportunities for U.S. military service members. "Wilma's one of the most decorated women ever to serve in the United States military," Biden said during Thursday's ceremony. "She enlisted in the 1950s because she*

wanted to become a leader. She did that, and more, becoming the first woman in almost every leadership role she held in nearly 30 years in uniform. Following her commission as a second lieutenant in January 1957, Vaught continued to break barriers throughout her Air Force career, paving the way for other service members to strive and reach their full potential. At the time of her retirement, she was one of only seven female generals in the entire U.S. military.

[Iwo Jima hero Hershel “Woody” Williams honored with ultimate tribute in the U.S. Capitol](#) [Svetlana Shkolnikova, *Stars and Stripes*, 14 July 2022]

Lawmakers, military officials and members of the public gathered at the U.S. Capitol on Thursday to pay respect to Hershel “Woody” Williams, who was the last remaining World War II recipient of the Medal of Honor. Seven decades after Williams’ wartime valor, uniformed pallbearers carried his casket in a solemn procession up the steps of the Capitol as onlookers bowed their heads. The casket, draped in an American flag, came to rest in the center of the Capitol Rotunda, atop a black catafalque constructed in 1865 for Abraham Lincoln. Williams, a Marine who received the nation’s highest military decoration for his heroics in the battle for Iwo Jima, died on June 29 in Huntington, W.Va., at 98 years old. He was the last survivor of the 472 servicemen who were awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary bravery in World War II. He is only the seventh person to lie in honor in the Capitol, a tribute reserved for the most distinguished Americans.

[Veterans forced out for being gay are still waiting for VA benefits](#) [Casey Parks, *The Washington Post*, 14 July 2022]

Nearly a year after the Department of Veterans Affairs promised to restore benefits to some former members of the military who were forced out for being gay, a nonprofit legal group that represents veterans says VA has refused to explain what its new guidance entails—or whether it was implemented. The National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) filed a complaint in federal court late last month, alleging that VA has not responded to requests to release what the department called “newly-issued guidance.” Without a written version of the guidance, Burbank said, many veterans appear to remain ineligible for benefits. A VA regulation, for example, still states that if a servicemember was separated from the military due to “homosexual acts involving aggravating circumstances or affecting the performance of duty,” they are barred from most VA benefits, with no corresponding provision for heterosexual acts.

[A World War I veteran buried without military honors in 1987, but 35 years later she received recognition of her service](#) [Jessica Nolte, *Daily Press (Newport News, Va.)*, 11 July 2022]

Marie Garrow Moss was born in Newport News and later moved to New York where she became one of 223 women recruited to the U.S. Army Signal Corps to operate the military’s telephone switchboards during World War I. The women, nicknamed the “Hello Girls,” swore the Army oath and—many years later—became recognized as the first female members of the U.S. Army. After the war ended in 1918, the women were sent home without veteran’s benefits. It wasn’t until 60 years later that legislation recognized them as veterans. Moss died on July 7, 1987—about nine years after the legal recognition—at 93 years old. But she was buried at Greenlawn Memorial Park in Newport News without any military honors. Newport News Historic Services partnered with The Virginia War Museum Foundation and American Legion Braxton Perkins Post 25 and held a ceremony Saturday to present Moss’ relatives with the honors she didn’t receive at her funeral.

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