

## DEOMI NEWS LINKS 21 APRIL 2023

### HIGHLIGHTS

[Just 10 years ago, women were banned from combat. Now, they're on the front lines, climbing the ranks.](#) [Tom Vanden Brook, *USA TODAY*, 16 April 2023]

*Ten years after the Pentagon repealed the ban on women serving in ground combat positions, female soldiers have risen in the ranks of these frontline units. Yet the intractable problem of sexual assault and harassment in the ranks—reports surged in the Pentagon's most recent survey—threatens progress. One woman combat officer recalled during reporting of this story of being told by a male senior officer she'd have received better reviews if she had slept with her superiors. For most soldiers, 63% of whom joined the Army after women became eligible to serve in ground combat jobs, having a woman in charge of their unit is unremarkable.*

[Remembering the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the people who fought back](#) [Dana Bash and Anna Brand, *CNN*, 19 April 2023]

*As part of the Nazis' plans to annihilate the Jewish people, they created ghettos, forcing thousands of Jews into small, cramped parts of major cities and limited access to food and supplies. The Warsaw Ghetto, bound by a 10-foot wall and barbed wire, was the largest—sealing 400,000 Jews inside its 1.3 square mile area by 1942, according to the United States Holocaust Museum. After the Nazis began liquidating the Warsaw Ghetto in 1942, sending tens of thousands of Jews to be murdered in concentration camps, a group of Jewish resistance fighters began a plan to retaliate, gathering arms from anti-Hitler forces in the Polish military underground. On the eve of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943, there were between 50,000-60,000 Jews in the ghetto. About 700 young Jews began their fight against SS officers the day after the Jewish holiday of Passover, 80 years ago today, and it lasted almost a month. It ended on May 16 when the Nazis leveled the ghetto, ultimately bringing the Jews who did not die in the battle to concentration camps where they would be killed.*

[Statement from President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden on the Occasion of Eid al-Fitr](#) [Joseph R. Biden, Jr., *The White House Press Office*, 20 April 2023]

*Jill and I extend our best wishes to Muslim communities across the country and around the world as you celebrate Eid al-Fitr and conclude the holy month of Ramadan. With the sighting of the crescent moon, Eid al-Fitr is a festive celebration where Muslims feast after the holy month of fasting, decorate their homes, give gifts to loved ones, wear new clothes, and visit family and friends. I am moved by the generosity that is shown from families that can provide food and give charity to those in need through Zakat-al-Fitr.*

[SEE ALSO]

[Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr holiday with feasts, prayers](#) [Abby Sewell, *The Associated Press*, 21 April 2023]

[Eid al-Fitr 2023: Muslims share greetings as Ramadan ends](#) [Thomas Kingsley and Eleanor Noyce, *The Independent*, 21 April 2023]

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## CULTURE

[Admiral defends non-binary officer against attacks from GOP lawmakers](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Navy Times*, 18 April 2023]

*Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday defended a non-binary Navy officer Tuesday against criticism from Republicans who have used a video of the officer describing their first deployment to question the sea service's warfighting priorities. In a video that the Navy Judge Advocate General Corps posted to its Instagram account earlier this month, Lt. j.g. Audrey Knutson described participating in an LGBTQ spoken-word night while deployed aboard the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford and sharing a personally written poem with the ship. Knutson, who identified as non-binary in the video, called the experience the "culmination of the whole deployment."*

[Could "Zero Trust" Prevent Intelligence Leaks?](#) [Lauren C. Williams, *Defense One*, 18 April 2023]

*As the Pentagon reels from the posting of secret documents to a Discord group chat, Army officials say their ongoing move to zero trust networks will help prevent more insider leaks. Like the rest of the Defense Department, the Army has until 2027 to convert their networks to zero trust architectures, which continually check to make sure no one's accessing data they shouldn't. This year, Army leaders say, they are "accelerating" efforts to build a cohesive, unified network "that is built upon zero trust principles" and which allows more standard and centralized management of connected computers, phones, and tablets.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Discord: What is it and how are service members and veterans using it?](#) [Sarah Sicard, *Military Times*, 14 April 2023]

*Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Jack Teixeira is suspected of sharing classified information to a Discord community called "Thug Shaker Central," a forum that brings together those who share a "mutual love of guns, military gear and God," a channel member told *The Washington Post*. But for many service members and veterans, Discord is often used to build communities some no longer feel as attached to. The platform currently features several military-specific channels—Vanguard, NotInRegs, Wounded Warrior Project, and Frost Call, to name a few—that offer spaces "for groups of friends and communities to stay in touch and spend time together," according to the website's "What is Discord" page. "There are also larger, more open communities, generally centered around specific topics such as popular games like Minecraft and Fortnite."*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Florida education board extends ban on gender identity lessons](#) [Joseph Ax, *Reuters*, 19 April 2023]

*Florida education officials voted on Wednesday to prohibit virtually any classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation in all public school grades, expanding on a law signed by Republican Governor Ron DeSantis that barred such lessons for younger students. The new regulation bars teachers from providing such lessons to students in grades four through 12, unless the instruction is required by state standards or is part of a health class that parents can opt their children out of. Violating the rule could result in the suspension or revocation of an educator's teaching license.*

[Gay pride parade canceled after anti-drag show law passes](#) [*The Associated Press*, 20 April 2023]

*Officials in a Florida city have canceled a gay pride parade and restricted other pride events to people 21 years and older in anticipation of Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signing a bill meant to keep children out of drag shows. The Pride Alliance of the Treasure Coast posted Wednesday on Facebook that the decision to change this Saturday's Pridefest events was made after multiple conversations with Port St. Lucie officials. "We hope that everyone understands that this is definitely not what we wanted at all and are working with the city to assure our safety as well as produce a positive event," the post said.*

["He Was the Worst Leader I've Ever Had": Suspended Brigade Commander Accused of Toxic Leadership](#) [Steve Beynon, *Military.com*, 18 April 2023]

*The commander of the Army's 5th Security Force Assistance Brigade was suspended amid allegations of counterproductive and abusive treatment of his subordinates, according to multiple sources with direct knowledge of the investigation. Chung was suspended April 10 after being in command of the 5th SFAB headquartered at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, since July 2021 and was likely in position to be promoted to brigadier general soon. Military.com spoke with 10 soldiers who worked directly with Chung at 5th SFAB and at his previous command. Most of them painted a picture of an abrasive leadership style from Chung that squashed unit cohesion and demoralized subordinate officers. No soldiers interviewed accused Chung of any criminal issues or sexual misconduct.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[To solve its recruiting crisis, the Army must again welcome immigrants](#) [Matt Sardo, *Stars and Stripes*, 18 April 2023] [OPINION]

*The Army only added 40% of the soldiers it needed in 2022 and the secretary of the Army made new enlistments her number one priority for 2023. Her sense of urgency is embodied in the resurrection of the "Be All You Can Be" campaign, which feels like a Hail Mary after years of lucrative marketing contracts. The brand simply does not appeal to young Americans. Army leaders attribute their shortfalls to American obesity and declining aptitude and to the most challenging labor market since the Army became all-volunteer in 1973. This personnel crisis is poorly timed as expected troop cuts in Europe were reversed and the U.S. attempts to deter a Chinese invasion of Taiwan. If the recruiting shortfall continues, the Army will eventually do what it has always done to fill its ranks. It will rely on immigrants.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Transgender lawmaker silenced by Montana House speaker until she apologizes](#) [Amy Beth Hanson, *The Associated Press*, 21 April 2023]

*Montana's House speaker on Thursday refused to allow a transgender lawmaker to speak about bills on the House floor until she apologizes for saying lawmakers would have "blood on their hands" if they supported a bill to ban gender-affirming medical care for transgender youth, the lawmaker said. Rep. Zoey Zephyr, who was deliberately misgendered by a conservative group of lawmakers demanding her censure after Tuesday's comments, said she will not apologize, creating a standoff between the first-term state lawmaker and Republican legislative leaders. Speaker Matt Regier refused to acknowledge Zephyr on Thursday when she wanted to comment on a bill seeking to put a binary definition of male and female into state code.*

[Twitter removes policy against deadnaming transgender people](#) [Barbara Ortutay, *The Associated Press*, 18 April 2023]

*Twitter has quietly removed a policy against the “targeted misgendering or deadnaming of transgender individuals,” raising concerns that the Elon Musk-owned platform is becoming less safe for marginalized groups. Twitter enacted the policy against deadnaming, or using a transgender person’s name before they transitioned, as well as purposefully using the wrong gender for someone as a form of harassment, in 2018. On Monday, Twitter also said it will only put warning labels on some tweets that are “potentially” in violation of its rules against hateful conduct. Previously, the tweets were removed.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[U.S. Supreme Court turns away suit by Texas inmate held 27 years in solitary confinement](#) [John Kruzel, *Reuters*, 17 April 2023]

*The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to hear an appeal from a Texas inmate convicted of robbery who argues that the 27 years he was forced by prison officials to spend in solitary confinement violated the constitutional bar against “cruel and unusual.” The justices turned away Dennis Hope’s appeal of a lower court’s ruling that he had failed to show that his prolonged solitary confinement violated the U.S. Constitution Eighth Amendment prohibition on excessive punishment. Hope, who is still in prison but as of last year no longer in solitary confinement, filed a civil rights lawsuit against prison officials in 2018.*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Are Brazilians Hispanic? Many say “yes,” report says](#) [Mike Schneider, *The Associated Press*, 19 April 2023]

*A coding error in an annual survey by the U.S. Census Bureau has offered unprecedented insight into how large numbers of Brazilians in the U.S. identify as Hispanic or Latino. An [analysis by Pew Research Center](#) shows that the coding mistake revealed at least 416,000 Brazilians, or more than two-thirds of Brazilians in the U.S., identifying as Hispanic in the 2020 American Community Survey. By comparison, only 14,000 Brazilians identified that way in 2019, and only 16,000 Brazilians did so in 2021—years when the coding error wasn’t made. Since 2000, the Census Bureau hasn’t classified Brazilians and other people from non-Spanish speaking countries in Latin America and the Caribbean as Hispanic because of federal government definitions that were last revised in 1997 but are [being reconsidered for an update](#) next year.*

[At Coast Guard Academy, Eclipse Provides Window into Past and Present Experiences](#) [Erica Moser, *The Day* (New London, Conn.), 16 April 2023]

*“I hear your story; this is mine,” Coast Guard Academy cadets from different years said as they got up to the podium in Leamy Hall one by one Friday morning, during a session new this year but part of a 48-year-old event. They were among six cadets who spoke in an event called My CGA Story—a concept borrowed from the U.S. Naval Academy’s diversity conference—as part of the Coast Guard Academy’s annual summit on identity and inclusion, called Eclipse. The theme this year is Rise Together: Embracing Differences to Lead the Teams of Tomorrow. Chief Diversity Officer Aram deKoven said these stories are designed to provide windows and mirrors: “windows into the experience of other folks” and mirrors “where you can see your own lived experience reflected back to you,” to feel belonging and connection.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[A Black Californian's moon shot uplifts a people who've long found hope in the cosmos](#) [Tyrone Beason, *The Los Angeles Times*, 13 April 2023]

*The heavens give off a bittersweet glow for Black Americans. So when astronaut Victor Glover Jr. made history by being chosen as the pilot for NASA's Artemis II moon mission, the Pomona native sprinkled fresh stardust on the hopes and dreams that his fellow Black Americans have long projected into the infinite void. It's been more than half a century since Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on Earth's only natural satellite. Some Black Americans said they thought they'd never see the day when one of their own would be poised to do the same.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Larissa FastHorse Becomes the First Native American Woman to Bring a Show to Broadway](#) [*The New Yorker*, 15 April 2023]

*On Thursday, the playwright Larissa FastHorse will become the first Native American woman to have a play produced on Broadway. In "The Thanksgiving Play," a satire that has already been staged across the country, four performers struggle to devise a school pageant that is historically accurate and respectful of Native peoples but won't leave the audience feeling terrible—a tall order, presented comedically, that the characters may not be able to pull off.*

["A necessary and overdue education": British Vogue dedicates five covers to disabled trailblazers](#)

[Nicole Mowbray, *CNN Style*, 20 April 2023]

*British Vogue has revealed five portraits featuring disabled activists, models and creatives for a series of May 2023 covers, a move the magazine hopes will further important conversations around disability in the media and society. The "Reframing Fashion: Dynamic, Daring & Disabled" issue stars activist Sinéad Burke, actor Selma Blair, sign language performer Justina Miles and the models Aaron Rose Philip and Ellie Goldstein. The issue was produced alongside cover star Sinéad Burke's accessibility consultancy, Tilting the Lens, and features 19 disabled talents from across the worlds of fashion, sport, the arts, and activism—from racing driver Nicolas Hamilton, who has cerebral palsy, to creatives at Trifle Studio, a London-based collective of artists with learning disabilities.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## **EXTREMISM**

[Anheuser-Busch facilities face threats after Bud Light backlash](#) [Danielle Wiener-Bronner, *CNN*, 20 April 2023]

*Several Anheuser-Busch facilities received threats last week, a company spokesperson confirmed, following weeks of backlash against Bud Light because it sponsored two Instagram posts from a transgender woman. A pair of Instagram posts by influencer Dylan Mulvaney sparked a mix of online backlash and support and became a target in conservative media. The company's response, a vague pro-unity statement from the CEO that did not mention Mulvaney or the Instagram posts, has been criticized as weak, angering some trans advocates and failing to mollify some anti-trans critics. But threats of physical violence have taken the incident to a dangerous new level, one that may alarm companies navigating their own marketing campaigns.*



[California man Jeremy Hanson sentenced for making anti-LGBTQ threats against Springfield-based Merriam-Webster, Inc.](#) [CBS News, 14 April 2023]

*A California man was sentenced in federal court for making anti-LGBTQ threats against dictionary company Merriam-Webster, Inc., which is based in Springfield (Mass.). Jeremy David Hanson, 34, was sentenced to one year and one day in prison and three years of supervised release. He pleaded guilty to one count of interstate communication of threatening communications to commit violence against Merriam-Webster employees back in September. He also pleaded guilty to the same charge for threatening the president of the University of North Texas. Hanson also admitted to sending threats to the Walt Disney Company, California Governor Gavin Newsom, New York City Mayor Eric Adams, a New York rabbi, and professors at Loyola Marymount University.*

[Civil War reenactor goes off script, admits plan to bomb battlefield](#) [Jonathan Lehrfeld, *Military Times*, 20 April 2023]

*A Virginia man recently confessed to bringing a pipe bomb to a Civil War reenactment, creating a less-than-historic retelling of how an important battle unfolded. Gerald Leonard Drake, 63, a former Civil War reenactor, was federally charged for mailing threatening letters and planting an explosive device at the Cedar Creek Battlefield in Middletown, Virginia, during a 2017 reenactment event. He pleaded guilty April 17 for possession of the unregistered explosive device and for stalking, [according to a release](#) from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Virginia.*

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[It Takes a Body to Understand the World](#) [Arthur Glenberg and Cameron Robert Jones, *The Conversation*, 6 April 2023]

*When we asked GPT-3, an extremely powerful and popular artificial intelligence language system, whether you'd be more likely to use a paper map or a stone to fan life into coals for a barbecue, it preferred the stone. And if you need to cover your hair for work in a fast-food restaurant, which would work better, a paper sandwich wrapper or a hamburger bun? GPT-3 went for the bun. Why does GPT-3 make those choices when most people choose the alternative? Because GPT-3 does not understand language the way humans do. One of us is a psychology researcher who over 20 years ago presented a series of scenarios like those above to [test the understanding of a computer model of language from that time](#). The model did not accurately choose between using rocks and maps to fan coals, whereas humans did so easily.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

## INTERNATIONAL

[Canada federal workers launch largest strike in decades](#) [BBC News, 19 April 2023]

*More than 155,000 federal workers in Canada have gone on strike, marking the biggest action of its kind in the country in more than three decades. The strike comes after the union for federal workers failed to reach an agreement with the government on issues related to wages and work-from-home. It is expected to affect multiple government services, from tax filings to passport renewals. The strike also means likely slowdowns at airports and border crossings.*

[Chinese actress Jiang Mengjie praised for revealing upskirting blackmail](#) [BBC News, 19 April 2023]

*Chinese actress Jiang Mengjie has been praised for sharing she was the victim of upskirting and was blackmailed over footage that circulated of her. Upskirting—involving a device such as a camera phone to take explicit images underneath a victim’s clothing without permission—often goes undetected. Jiang further revealed that she had begun receiving private messages blackmailing her over the footage “saying that they would send the video to major film and TV companies and brands, and ruin the rest of my life”.*

[Egyptians complain over Netflix depiction of Cleopatra as Black](#) [BBC News, 19 April 2023]

*A Netflix docudrama series that depicts Queen Cleopatra VII as a Black African has sparked controversy in Egypt. A lawyer has filed a complaint that accuses African Queens: Queen Cleopatra of violating media laws and aiming to “erase the Egyptian identity”. A top archaeologist insisted Cleopatra was “light-skinned, not Black”. But the producer said “her heritage is highly debated” and the actress playing her told critics: “If you don’t like the casting, don’t watch the show.”*

[Germany appoints commission to re-appraise 1972 Munich Olympics attack](#) [Reuters, 21 April 2023]

*Germany has appointed an eight-person commission to re-appraise the attack on Israeli athletes and team members at the 1972 Munich Olympics to answer unresolved questions, said German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser in a statement on Friday. The project is part of a larger government approach to seek reconciliation with the families affected, including a compensation offer of 28 million euros (\$30.67 million). Palestinians from the Black September militant group took members of the Israeli Olympic team hostage on Sept. 5, 1972. Eleven Israelis, a German policeman and five of the Palestinian gunmen died after a stand-off at the Olympic village and the nearby Fuerstentfeldbruck airfield.*

[India history debate after chapter on Mughals dropped](#) [BBC News, 20 April 2023]

*The deletion of a chapter on Mughal rulers from Indian school textbooks has reignited a debate on how history should be taught to schoolchildren. The discussion was sparked by the publication of a new set of textbooks by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), an autonomous organisation under the federal education ministry. The NCERT oversees syllabus changes and textbook content for children taking exams under the government-run Central Board of Secondary Education. Other changes include the removal of some references to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and the 2002 riots in Gujarat state.*

[Indigenous Peoples Day is celebrated in Brazil](#) [Reuters, 19 April 2023] [PHOTO ESSAY]

[Mexico court: National Guard shift to army unconstitutional](#) [The Associated Press, 18 April 2023]

*Mexico’s Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that last year’s transfer of the newly created National Guard from civilian to military control was unconstitutional, dealing a blow to President Andrés Manuel López Obrador who created the security force in 2019. Last year, Mexico’s Congress passed legislation shifting control of the National Guard to the military. López Obrador had argued then, as he repeated Tuesday, that it was the only way to avoid the corruption that engulfed the federal police. Legal challenges were mounted immediately, noting that since the civilian nature of the National Guard was enshrined in the constitution, it could only be changed through another constitutional reform.*

[Parliament, not courts, best place to debate same-sex marriage, India minister says](#) [Reuters, 21 April 2023]

*India's parliament, not a court of law, is the best place to debate the issue of same-sex marriage, an influential government minister said on Friday, as the country's top court heard appeals asking for such unions to be recognised. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has already opposed these appeals, some from gay couples, on the grounds that such marriages are not "comparable with the Indian family unit concept of a husband, a wife and children."*

[Polish 88-year-old takes tilt at world's oldest windsurfer crown](#) [Reuters, 20 April 2023]

*At 88, Polish retiree Piotr Dudek is hoping to officially become the world's oldest windsurfer—still relishing the battle with the wind and waves as he takes to the water and teaches children to enjoy the sport. Dudek has been windsurfing for 40 years and is known by the nickname "Junior", coined for him by his friends when he was around 80. Dudek said he needed to windsurf at least twice this spring to break the world record, currently held by an 86-year-old. He is hoping to be officially certified once the witnessed notification is sent off to Guinness World Records.*

[Trans woman blocked from Australian basketball league](#) [The Associated Press, 18 April 2023]

*A transgender female player has been blocked from joining the second-tier of Australia's women's national basketball league after a panel ruled her ineligible to compete at the sport's elite level. Lexi Rodgers last month revealed in a podcast that she was applying to play in for the Kilsyth Cobras, a Melbourne-based club in Australia's NBL1 South competition, saying she wanted to put a face to the "trans player" being mentioned in local debate in mainstream and social media. The sport's national governing body said it assessed the eligibility of prospective transgender players on a case-by-case basis at the professional and semiprofessional levels.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

[Scientists identify mind-body nexus in human brain](#) [Will Dunham, Reuters, 19 April 2023]

*The relationship between the human mind and body has been a subject that has challenged great thinkers for millennia, including the philosophers Aristotle and Descartes. The answer, however, appears to reside in the very structure of the brain. Researchers said on Wednesday they have discovered that parts of the brain region called the motor cortex that govern body movement are connected with a network involved in thinking, planning, mental arousal, pain, and control of internal organs, as well as functions such as blood pressure and heart rate. The researchers called this system the [somato-cognitive action network](#), or SCAN, and documented its connections to brain regions known to help set goals and plan actions.*

[What research shows about special education services for military kids](#) [Military Times, 20 April 2023]

[PODCAST]

*A new [Partners in Promise survey of military families](#) shows children who rely on special education services may not be getting adequate support in schools. Two moms of military kids who need those services share more on the data and their own experiences.*

[Why are teen girls in crisis? It's not just social media](#) [Lindsey Tanner and Angie Wang, The Associated Press, 17 April 2023]

*Anxiety over academics. Post-lockdown malaise. Social media angst. Study after study says American youth are in crisis, facing unprecedented mental health challenges that are burdening teen girls in particular. Among the most glaring data: A [recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report](#)*



*showed almost 60% of U.S. girls reported persistent sadness and hopelessness. Rates are up in boys, too, but about half as many are affected. Adults offer theories about what is going on, but what do teens themselves say? Is social media the root of their woes? Are their male peers somehow immune, or part of the problem?*

[Why Mark Twain had an incredibly brief stint as a Confederate soldier](#) [Claire Barrett, *Military Times*, 18 April 2023]

*“You have heard from a great many people who did something in the war; is it not fair and right that you listen a little moment to one who started out to do something in it but didn’t?”* wrote Mark Twain in his semi-fictionalized wartime account, titled [“The Private History of a Campaign That Failed.”](#) Twain, whose real name was Samuel Clemens, had grown up amid slavery in the South. His father had owned slaves. So had his neighbors. In 1860 Twain had voted for John Bell in the presidential election, who, although a Tennessee slaveholder, had opposed secession. Twain’s vote was seemingly a vote for the status quo he had grown up around. But as the war approached Missouri, Twain decided to take a stand—albeit a brief one.

## MISCONDUCT

[The HHS Secretary Violated the Hatch Act, Office of Special Counsel Determines](#) [Courtney Bubl , *Government Executive*, 18 April 2023]

*The Health and Human Services secretary violated the Hatch Act ahead of the midterm elections last year, the independent agency that oversees civil service law announced on Tuesday. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra expressed support for the reelection of Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., in his official capacity during a speech at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Annual Awards Gala in September 2022, the Office of Special Counsel said in a report sent to the president for appropriate action. The Hatch Act limits the on-the-job partisan political activities of federal employees.*

## RACISM

[Oklahoma gov calls on officials to resign after “hanging” and racist remarks on tape](#) [Sean Murphy, *The Associated Press*, 18 April 2023]

*Oklahoma’s governor is seeking the resignation of four county officials after a newspaper’s audio recording apparently captured some of them complaining about two of the paper’s journalists and knowing hit men and where two holes are dug. A portion of the recording was released by the paper, and it also appears to capture one of the four making racist comments about Black people. Gov. Kevin Stitt said Sunday he was seeking the resignations of McCurtain County Sheriff Kevin Clardy and three other county officials: sheriff’s Capt. Alicia Manning, District 2 Commissioner Mark Jennings and Jail Administrator Larry Hendrix.*

[\[UPDATE\]](#)

## RELIGION

[Conservative Christians aren’t the only ones asking for accommodation in mailman case](#) [Yonat Shimron, *Religion News Service*, 18 April 2023]

*The Supreme Court justices heard a case on Tuesday (April 18) that may sound like another slam-dunk for Christian religious liberty that will bolster its reputation as a friend to the religious right. In *Groff v.**

*DeJoy, a Christian mail carrier, Gerald Groff, said the U.S. Postal Service's requirement that he work on Sunday violated his deeply held belief that Sunday was his day of rest. But Groff v. DeJoy presents a different case. Organizations representing several religious minorities—Jews, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Seventh-day Adventists—have filed briefs in support of Groff, asking the court to overturn a 50-year-old ruling that gutted a civil rights statute's protections for religious accommodation. If the court now rules to expand those religious workers' rights, conservative Christians won't be the only, or even main, beneficiaries.*

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[On hallowed ground: Tuning in to Japan's temple-shrine dichotomy](#) [*Stars and Stripes*, 17 April 2023]  
*People may be surprised to hear that Japan has more temples (77,000) and shrines (81,000) than convenience stores (48,908). But according to the Agency for Cultural Affairs, it's true. When it comes to the differences between these two types of sanctuaries, however, the equation is not so simple. Many of my foreign friends ask me, "What's the difference?" Honestly, even for Japanese, it's a little obscure. We don't really put too much value on which of these places we go to pray. We put more value on going someplace to pray. Sometimes, a temple and shrine can even look similar. They may even be on the same grounds. So, what is the difference, anyway? The simplest answer is that a shrine is a Shinto place of worship and a temple is for Buddhism.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[Fort Bliss sergeant forced himself into woman's home, attempted to sexually assault her, police say](#) [Rose L. Thayer, *Stars and Stripes*, 17 April 2023]

*A 28-year-old Fort Bliss sergeant was arrested last week after an El Paso woman identified him as the man who forced his way into her apartment and attempted to sexually assault her, according to local police. The El Paso Police Department charged Sgt. Christopher Aaron Rey with burglary of a habitation and arrested him April 12. He is due in court Wednesday, according to El Paso County online court records.*

[U.S. Forces Korea commander warns sexual assailants: "You are now the hunted"](#) [David Choi, *Stars and Stripes*, 18 April 2023]

*The commander of U.S. troops in South Korea put would-be sexual assailants on notice during a speech earlier this month, in which he also said the U.S. military "must change the culture" surrounding sexual assault. Army Gen. Paul LaCamera, commander of U.S. Forces Korea, spoke during an April 10 ceremony at Camp Humphreys marking Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month in the Department of Defense. "Sexual assault is fratricide," he told an audience of service members, victim advocates and USO volunteers inside Paik Auditorium at USFK headquarters. "I can say it louder; I cannot say it any clearer."*

## **VETERANS**

[Filipino veterans honored with congressional gold medals in Vallejo](#) [Thomas Gase, *Vallejo Times Herald* (Vallejo, Calif.), 16 April 2023]

*Filipino World War II veterans were given the ultimate honor for their service on Saturday: The congressional gold medal. During the Battle of Corregidor, American forces ultimately surrendered to the Japanese. These soldiers were taken as prisoners of war and were forced to endure the infamous*

*Bataan Death March. Between 60,000-80,000 Filipinos and Americans marched approximately 65 miles through the jungles to confinement camps throughout the Philippines. They were deprived of food, water and medical attention, and many were killed on the spot if they stopped to rest. During the march, approximately 10,000 men died. Of these men, 1,000 were American and 9,000 were Filipino. After the war, President Truman signed laws, such as the Rescission Act of 1946 that stripped away promises of benefits and citizenship for Filipino veterans.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Honor Flight event Saturday to honor female veterans](#) [Mary Shinn, *The Gazette (Colorado Springs, Colo.)*, 19 April 2023]

*For the first time, [Honor Flight](#) of Southern Colorado is sending an all-female group of veterans to Washington, D.C., to recognize their service. “The honor flight is to remember those who when they came home were forgotten,” said Cindy Anderson, a participating Army veteran. The Colorado Springs chapter of the nonprofit has found in the past, women were hesitant to sign up for the free trips because they didn’t serve in combat roles and that helped spark the idea for an event set aside to recognize their efforts, said Barbara Harris, a board member with the group. The travelers include women who were among the first to serve in certain roles, such as drill sergeant and missileer, and helped break down previous segregation. The military didn’t fully lift the ban on women in combat roles until 2013.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[Vet Affairs Deputy nominee would be highest ranked woman in VA history](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 19 April 2023]

*President Joe Biden on Wednesday named Veterans Affairs Chief of Staff Tanya Bradsher as his pick to serve as the department’s second ranking official. If confirmed, Bradsher will become the first female nominee sworn into the post and the highest ranking woman veteran in the history of VA leadership. Two other women have served as VA’s deputy secretary, but only in an acting role. Bradsher is a former Army lieutenant colonel whose 20 years in the service includes work in the Pentagon’s public affairs office and a deployment to Iraq.*

[Veterans can wait weeks to get VA help for drug, alcohol abuse](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 18 April 2023]

*Substance abuse problems among veterans are on the rise, but it can take weeks or months to access care through the Department of Veterans Affairs because of a confusing morass of bureaucratic hoops, according to advocates who testified before Congress on Tuesday. The difficulties in getting veterans timely care shows that, despite promises of fixes, department leaders are still struggling to streamline a multi-state system serving more than 550,000 veterans dealing with alcohol and drug abuse—about 8.5% of the total number of patients served by VA health care services.*