

# DEOMI NEWS LINKS, May 1, 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

[Sexual Assault Reports, Harassment Complaints Rise in U.S. Military](#) [Patricia Kime, *Military.com*, 30 April 2020]

*Reports of sexual assault and sexual harassment continue to rise in the U.S. military, with more than 60% of all investigated cases in 2019 being between service members. [The Defense Department's annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military](#) released Thursday, said there were 7,825 cases of sexual assault reported in fiscal 2019, up 3% from 6,326 reported in fiscal 2018.*

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

[Defense Department report reveals military occupations with highest suicide rates](#) [Seth Robson, *Stars and Stripes*, 28 April 2020]

*Army and Marine Corps infantry and gun crews, Air Force service and supply handlers and Navy electricians or mechanics are among the military jobs that had the highest numbers of suicides in 2018, according to an analysis released Monday. [The Department of Defense Suicide Event Report](#) presents data collected by the services about suicides and suicide attempts among service members during the 2018 calendar year.*

[SEE ALSO]

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## CULTURE

[A Marine grunt really wanted a sleeve tattoo, so he created a petition. It has nearly 45,000 signatures](#) [James Clark, *Task & Purpose*, 30 April 2020]

*When life hands you lemons, you make lemonade. But when the Marine Corps tells you for nearly four years that you can't have full-sleeve tattoos, you wait until you're a month away from getting out to launch a viral online petition try to change that policy. At least, that's what Cpl. Jasper Piala did. Back in January, Piala — a Marine infantryman with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina — created the aptly named Change.org petition: [Authorization Of Sleeve Tattoos in the Marine Corps](#).*

[Baby Boomers Were Blasé About the Coronavirus? Why Did We Believe That? How an online trope can become mainstream news. \[OPINION\]](#) [Alex Stone, *The New York Times*, 29 April 2020]

*By now you may have heard that baby boomers were slow to take seriously the spread of the coronavirus. It's a catchy story. It's also false. "There's this idea that generations exist as unique groups of people who are different from others because they experienced particular things at a particular point in time, but there's no evidence for that," David Costanza, a professor of organizational psychology at George Washington University, told me. "Generational stereotypes are no more accurate than saying 'women can't be good leaders because they are not aggressive.'"*

[Could service members take a "pause" from military careers? Pentagon exploring ways to make it possible](#) [Diana Stancy Correll, *Military Times*, 29 April 2020]

*According to Defense Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness Matthew Donovan, the concept should allow service members to resume their military service after taking a break, and provide them more options as they navigate new stages of life. “We need to allow that to occur without any penalty for doing that,” Donovan said during an Air Force Association Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies virtual event on Tuesday. “And I’m not saying that you would collect the same seniority and get promoted while you’re off on that, but you ought to be able to come in at the same place you left.”*

[U.S. Coast Guard Academy hosting virtual graduation for largest class in 144-year history](#) [J.D. Simkins, *Navy Times*, 28 April 2020]

*The academy’s entire corps of cadets were away on spring break when the Department of Defense issued the first of its multiple stay-at-home travel restrictions. Instead of calling for the return of cadets, the academy shifted its courses online. The virtual graduation will mark the commissioning of the largest graduating class in the academy’s entire 144-year history, Coast Guard officials said. Of the 258 graduating cadets, 102 are women — another academy record.*

[Alaska School District Votes to Ban 2 Iconic Military Books](#) [James Barber, *Military.com*, 27 April 2020]

*The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District school board, headquartered in Palmer, Alaska has banned teachers from assigning Tim O’Brien’s Vietnam War classic “The Things They Carried” and Joseph Heller’s World War II satire “Catch-22” for their high school English classes. The books are included on a somewhat random-seeming list of dangerous books that also includes F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “The Great Gatsby,” Maya Angelou’s “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” and Ralph Ellison’s “The Invisible Man.”*

[A Little Girl Didn’t Like Her “Bedtime Bonnet,” So Mom Wrote A Book To Help](#) [Samantha Balaban, *NPR*, 26 April 2020]

*When Nancy Redd’s daughter was three years old, she started wearing a bonnet to bed. It’s a “ubiquitous Black experience that I grew up with, my mom grew up with, all my friends grew up with,” Redd says — and yet it’s one that she felt ashamed of as a kid. “If the doorbell rang, I would immediately take it off — I didn’t want anybody to know it existed,” she recalls. “I didn’t want my daughter growing up with that same shame.” But Redd couldn’t find a book that celebrated Black nighttime hair routines, so she wrote it herself.*

## **DISCRIMINATION**

[Detroit Students Have a Constitutional Right to Literacy, Court Rules](#) [Dana Goldstein, *The New York Times*, 27 April 2020]

*For the first time in decades, a federal court has declared that American public school students have a constitutional right to an adequate education. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last week that the state of Michigan has been so negligent toward the educational needs of Detroit students that children have been “deprived of access to literacy” — the foundational skill that allows Americans to function as citizens — in violation of the 14th Amendment.*

[Analysis: How to Protect Civil Liberties in a Pandemic](#) [Conor Friedersdorf, *The Atlantic*, 24 April 2020]

*Last month, tens of millions of Americans suddenly accepted previously unthinkable restrictions on freedoms as basic as leaving home, gathering for worship, assembling in public, running businesses, and having elective surgery. They did so understanding the sacrifice to be urgent and temporary. The coronavirus was spreading. Dramatic action was required to avert countless deaths. Then life would return to normal. But as the weeks pass, the comforting conceit that this emergency is time-limited begins to muddy as much as it clarifies. What if there is no effective treatment until 2021? Or 2023? What if more and more members of the public dissent from social distancing with each passing week, until compliance is no longer mostly voluntary?*

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[Non-citizen U.S. troops sue Pentagon over slowed naturalization process](#) [Rebecca Kheel, *The Hill*, 24 April 2020]

*Six U.S. troops filed a class action lawsuit Friday alleging the Pentagon is blocking their ability to use an expedited process to become naturalized U.S. citizens. The lawsuit, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) on behalf of the troops, alleges a 2017 Pentagon policy has “unlawfully obstructed the ability of thousands of service members to obtain U.S. citizenship, placing them in a state of personal and professional limbo.”*

## **DIVERSITY**

[Mel Baggs, Blogger on Autism and Disability, Dies at 39](#) [Neil Genzlinger, *The New York Times*, 28 April 2020]

*Mel Baggs, whose forthright writings and films about being a nonverbal person with autism made an impact in the fields of neurodiversity and disability rights, died on April 11 in Burlington, Vt., at age 39. Mx. Baggs, a vigorous blogger, used the term “genderless” as a self-description. “I like that it just means lack of gender, and has no spoken or unspoken secondary meaning,” read a 2018 entry on the blog “Cussin’ and Discussin’: Mel being human in a world that says I’m not.” Many friends and admirers posting about Mx. Baggs’s death on social media used gender-neutral pronouns, while others used the traditional feminine ones. Gender issues, though, were not Mx. Baggs’s major concern. Of more urgency was conveying that people who think and communicate in nontraditional ways are fully human, and that humanness is a spectrum, not something that can be reduced to a normal/abnormal dichotomy.*

[Nursing ranks are filled with Filipino Americans. The pandemic is taking an outsized toll on them](#) [Usha Lee McFarling, *Stat News*, 28 April 2020]

*As the coronavirus pandemic takes a devastating toll on health care workers, death notices published in recent weeks starkly show that it is hitting Filipino Americans — who make up an outsized portion of the nation’s nursing workforce — especially hard. An estimated 4% or about 150,000, of nurses in the U.S. are Filipino, but in some regions they account for a much larger share of caregivers. In California, for example, nearly 20% of registered nurses are Filipinos. And because they are most likely to work in acute care, medical/surgical, and ICU nursing, many “FilAms” are on the front lines of care for Covid-19 patients*

## HUMAN RELATIONS

[Together Apart? How About Totally Losing It?](#) [Jacob Bernstein, *The New York Times*, 29 April 2020]

*Until a few weeks ago, New Yorkers living through the coronavirus crisis seemed largely to be embracing the maxim of “together apart.” But as sirens blare on, no end in sight (even with a flattening curve), many have entered a more frustrating phase of pandemic living. The short arguments in the supermarket are followed by longer ones at home, where not transferring viral droplets is less of a concern. “It’s the spouse you’re ready to kill, the stranger you’re ready to kill,” said Sherry Amatenstein, a clinical social worker and therapist in the Long Island City neighborhood of Queens. “Some of it comes from real fear. When you see someone in the supermarket without a mask, the fear is real. When you see spouses not taking proper precautions, it’s scary.”*

[Suleika Jaouad: How Can We Transform Loneliness Into Creative Solitude? \[VIDEO\]](#) [NPR/TED Staff (*Meditations On Loneliness*), 24 April 2020]

*As a cancer patient, Suleika Jaouad spent years in and out of hospital rooms, isolated from the outside world. She shares her insights on finding creative solitude during periods of forced isolation.*

[Three Hours Longer, the Pandemic Workday Has Obliterated Work-Life Balance](#) [Michelle F. Davis and Jeff Green, *Bloomberg*, 23 April 2020]

*An executive at JPMorgan Chase gets unapologetic messages from colleagues on nights and weekends, including a notably demanding one on Easter Sunday. A web designer whose bedroom doubles as an office has to set an alarm to remind himself to eat during his non-stop workday. At Intel Corp., a vice president with four kids logs 13-hour days while attempting to juggle her parenting duties and her job. Six weeks into a nationwide work-from-home experiment with no end in sight, whatever boundaries remained between work and life have almost entirely disappeared.*

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## MISCELLANEOUS

[The liberation of Dachau, 75 years ago](#) [Heike Mund, *Deutsche Welle*, 29 April 2020]

*When U.S. soldiers reached the gate of the Dachau concentration camp on April 29, 1945, they had no idea what horrors awaited them. War reporter Martha Gellhorn shared what she saw with the world. Since the beginning of the Spanish Civil War in 1936-38, Martha Gellhorn had been reporting for major American newspapers from wars all over the world. She also happened to be the wife of novelist Ernest Hemingway, whom she married in 1940. As an “embedded journalist” she accompanied the U.S. Army on the front lines. On April 26, 1945, she and the GI’s reached the Allgäu, and in early May, she was sent to the liberated Dachau concentration camp.*

[When Poets Decide Who Counts](#) [Shereen Marisol Meraji and Natalie Escobar, *NPR*, 29 April 2020]

*Throughout April, we’ve been telling stories that coincide with the census — the one time every decade everyone in the U.S. is asked to think about their racial identity—whether they like it or not. And in each of our episodes, we’ve led with a question: Who counts in 2020? For our final episode in the series, we asked this question to some of our favorite artist-philosophers of society: poets.*

*After all, April is National Poetry Month, and we wanted to bring you some beautiful (and challenging) words to sink into and savor. We talked to poets of color about who we are and who counts in 2020. Danez Smith, Franny Choi, Kaveh Akbar, Natalie Diaz, and Jesús Ivan Valles each read us a poem and told us what it means, for them, to count and be counted.*

[Exclusive: She's been falsely accused of starting the pandemic. Her life has been turned upside down](#) [Donie O'Sullivan, CNN, 27 April 2020]

*Maatje Benassi, a U.S. Army reservist and mother of two, has become the target of conspiracy theorists who falsely place her at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, saying she brought the disease to China. The claims have turned their lives upside down. The couple say their home address has been posted online and that, before they shut down their accounts, their social media inboxes were overrun with messages from believers of the conspiracy.*

[Children of Holocaust Survivors, WWII Veterans Commemorate 75th Anniversary of Dachau Concentration Camp Liberation](#) [Alison Gowans, *The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa*, 26 April 2020]

*Originally built in 1933, over 200,000 people from around Europe were imprisoned in Dachau and its subsidiary camps over its 12 years in operation, and 41,500 were murdered before the Army's 42nd Infantry Division, known as the Rainbow Division," arrived to set the prisoners free. "I think it's important that we pause for just a moment out of our busy daily lives, on April 29, to remember that 75 years ago American troops, among others, through bravery and determination, liberated the people that were so wrongfully imprisoned," Gilbert said. "They liberated these people, my parents, other people's parents, and we are grateful for what the American troops did."*

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## **MISCONDUCT**

[Did He Talk About Her? VA Secretary Changes His Story Amid Allegations He Sought Dirt on House Staffer.](#) [Isaac Arnsdorf, *Propublica*, 27 April 2020]

*Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie, under investigation for allegations that he sought to discredit a congressional aide who said she was sexually assaulted in a VA hospital, has denied seeking out damaging information about the woman. Specifically, Wilkie denied ever discussing the woman, Andrea Goldstein, with Rep. Dan Crenshaw, a Texas Republican whose service in the Navy overlapped with Goldstein's.*

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## **RACISM**

[Exclusive: Warren, Pressley and other lawmakers demand answers from White House on COVID-19 racial disparities](#) [Daniel Bush, *PBS*, 30 April 2020]

*A group of Senate and House Democrats on Wednesday asked the White House to take immediate steps to address racial disparities in COVID-19 cases in the United States, and questioned the accuracy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's demographic data on the coronavirus pandemic. In separate letters to Vice President Mike Pence and the CDC, and shared with the PBS NewsHour, the Democrats urged the Trump administration to prioritize African American, Hispanic,*



*and Native American communities and other marginalized groups who have been disproportionately impacted by the public health crisis.*

[Man pleads guilty to racist threats against Black activist](#) Michael Kunzelman, *Associated Press*, 30 April 2020]

*A White man pleaded guilty Thursday to making racist online threats against a Black activist in Virginia to deter him from running for office in a city where violence erupted during a White nationalist rally nearly three years ago. Daniel McMahon, 31, of Brandon, Florida, also pleaded guilty to threatening a second victim over Facebook, a new offense that authorities learned of after his arrest and wasn't included in his indictment last year. McMahon was charged last August with posting social media messages intended to intimidate activist Don Gathers and interfere with Gathers' plans to run for a seat on Charlottesville's city council. An indictment says McMahon expressed White supremacist views on his social media accounts.*

[NFL Draftee Claims He Thought Three Percenter Tattoo Was a "Military Support Symbol"](#) [James Barber, *Military.com*, 29 April 2020]

*The draft seemed likely to come off with zero controversy until, that is, the New England Patriots selected Marshall University kicker Justin Rohrwasser on Saturday in the fifth round. All was cool until photos of Rohrwasser in his Marshall uniform hit the internet. The kicker has a prominent U.S. flag and "Liberty or Death" tattoos on his forearms but it was the "Three Percenter" tattoo near his left elbow that set the fires online.*

[French police officers suspended for using racist slur in viral video](#) [BBC News, 28 April 2020]

*Two police officers in Paris have been suspended after being filmed using an extremely offensive racist slur. The officers used a derogatory term for North Africans to mock a man they were arresting, and repeated a racist trope about him being unable to swim. The footage went viral on social media and has sparked outrage across France.*

[Puerto Rico, Island Of Racial Harmony? \[AUDIO\]](#) [Adrian Florido, *NPR*, 24 April 2020]

*What is your race? It's a question the federal government asks us every 10 years at census time. But in the year 2000, that was a new question for the residents of Puerto Rico. For half a century before then, the U.S. territory's government had used its own, local census questionnaire – which did not ask about race. And so this new question took a lot of people on the island by surprise. The way they answered it shocked many Puerto Ricans, and revealed a lot about Puerto Rico's relationship with race, colonialism and the United States. In this episode of the Code Switch podcast, we'll dive in to try to understand why, on an island shaped by its African heritage and a long history of racial mixture, a vast majority of people tell the Census Bureau that they are White alone. We'll also hear what being largely invisible in the data has meant for Black Puerto Ricans, and why some of them are mobilizing around the 2020 Census to try to change that.*

## **RELIGION**

[Coronavirus Restrictions on Religious Services Come Under DOJ Scrutiny](#) [Andrea Noble, *Route Fifty*, 29 April 2020]

*The Justice Department lays out its plan to proactively monitor state and local ordinances and take action to correct those prosecutors believe are unconstitutional. This week, Barr assigned two*

federal prosecutors to oversee and coordinate efforts “to monitor state and local policies and, if necessary, take action to correct them.” In a [two-page memo](#) sent to all 93 U.S. Attorney’s Offices across the country, Barr highlighted the DOJ’s concern over restrictions that could violate religious, free speech, or economic rights protected under the Constitution.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[“Read the scriptures”: The U.S. military has been sharing proselytizing sermons on official social media accounts](#) [Isaac Scher, *Business Insider*, 29 April 2020]

*The coronavirus pandemic has led US military chaplains to share their faith through videos on social media. But some of the military’s official social media accounts have shared these sermons — a violation of the separation between church and state, legal experts say.*

[Romanian Church condemns posters depicting doctors and nurses as saints](#) [Luiza Ilie, *Reuters*, 29 April 2020]

*Romania’s Orthodox Church said on Wednesday a series of outdoor posters depicting nurses and doctors on the frontlines of the new coronavirus outbreak as saints were blasphemous and an insult to Christian iconography. The city hall of capital Bucharest said it would ask advertising firms to remove the posters, part of a wider European campaign that depicts nurses and doctors in a style that mixes comic book elements with religious art.*

[Religious Freedom In India Takes “Drastic Turn Downward,” U.S. Commission Says](#) [Tom Gjelten, *NPR*, 28 April 2020]

*Religious freedom in India under the Hindu nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken “a drastic turn downward,” according to the U.S. government commission that monitors conditions around the world. In its [annual report](#), the congressionally mandated U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) says the Indian government’s enactment last year of the Citizenship Amendment Act discriminated against Muslim migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.*

[Military chaplains pivot to serve soldiers in virus outbreak](#) [Sarah Blake Morgan, *Associated Press*, 27 April 2020]

*A chaplain’s ministry — no matter the religion — has always been about in-person connections. How does that continue when the flock is forced apart? Minietta and others are figuring it out on the fly, with the help of technology, all while tensions are high for soldiers. “Whether that’s anxiety, whether that’s fear, whether it’s the family dynamics that come up from being home — we have the opportunity to support,” he said. “This has given us the opportunity to be innovative and creative.”*

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## **SEXISM**

[How the Spanish Flu Almost Upended Women’s Suffrage](#) [Alisha Haridasani Gupta, *The New York Times*, 29 April 2020]

*One hundred years have passed since the 19th Amendment was ratified and added to the Constitution. The year 2020 was meant to be one of celebration and commemoration. Then the pandemic came. Centennial plans ground to a halt and events were scrapped as an extraordinary*

*era of social distancing was ushered in. Except, it had all happened before, during the Spanish flu, which arrived in 1918 and complicated plans for women's suffrage then, too. Suffragists found themselves making their case amid the panic of a pandemic. Illness was everywhere, gatherings were banned and canceled plans became the norm.*

[South Korea police officer “bullied” female subordinate about pregnancy](#) [Elizabeth Shim, *United Press International*, 29 April 2020]

*A South Korean police officer is facing disciplinary action after berating a female subordinate about her pregnancy. South Gyeongsang Province police agency said Wednesday the defendant, who is not being identified, had suggested being pregnant on the job was “criminal,” Yonhap and local news service Chosun Biz reported. “Anyone who becomes pregnant at our organization is a criminal above all criminals,” the male officer said to a female plaintiff who also remains unidentified in reports.*

[Should women be eligible for U.S. military draft?](#) [James Jeffrey, *BBC News*, 26 April 2020]

*One of the starkest ways American women have achieved equality with men in the workplace has occurred in the military. The decision five years ago by then Defense Secretary Ashton Carter to open all positions in the armed forces to women - including combat duty - was largely applauded as a necessary step that benefited the military and society. But this levelling of the military playing field has led to a more divisive consequence - at the end of March the government's National Commission on Military, National and Public Service declared it is now time that women become eligible for the military draft - the procedure by which individuals are chosen for conscription - just like their male counterparts between the ages of 18 and 25.*

[Notre Dame Basketball Coach Muffet McGraw Wants To See More Women Coaching](#) [Courtney Dorning, Aubri Juhasz, and James Doubeck, *NPR*, 24 April 2020]

*For 33 years, Muffet McGraw coached the women's basketball team at Notre Dame, winning two national championships and leading the Fighting Irish to 848 victories. She retired this week. Last year, she made waves by vowing not to hire male coaches for her staff. “We don't have enough female role models. We don't have enough visible women leaders. We don't have enough women in power,” she told reporters in April 2019.*

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT**

[On Denim Day, virtual screening of “Roll Red Roll” calls out rape culture](#) [Noah Sheidlower, *The Columbia Daily Spectator*, Columbia, N.Y., May 1, 2020]

*On April 29, Sexual Violence Response hosted a virtual screening of the film “Roll Red Roll,” directed by filmmaker Nancy Schwartzman, CC '97, as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The film, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2018, tells the story of an infamous rape case that led to protests, cover-ups, and the eventual imprisonment of two teenage boys. “The film asks really critical questions about the role of toxic masculinity, the failure of bystander intervention,” Ashley Delphia, the associate director of operations at SVR, said at the start of the event. The film was screened on [Denim Day](#), which is an international movement to raise awareness about sexual assault by wearing denim.*



[Women who dare dissent targeted for abuse by Yemen’s rebels](#) [Isabel Debre, *Associated Press*, 29 April 2020]

*Women who dare dissent, or even enter the public sphere, have become targets in an escalating crackdown by the Houthis. Activists and former detainees described to The Associated Press a network of secret detention facilities where they are tortured and sometimes raped. Taiz Street, a main avenue in Sanaa, is dotted with several of them, hidden inside private villas and the school where al-Huri was held.*

## **SUICIDE**

[Top E.R. Doctor Who Treated Virus Patients Dies by Suicide](#) [Ali Watkins, Michael Rothfeld, William K. Rashbaum and Brian M. Rosenthal, *The New York Times*, 27 April 2020]

*A top emergency room doctor at a Manhattan hospital that treated many coronavirus patients died by suicide on Sunday, her father and the police said. “She tried to do her job, and it killed her,” said the father of Dr. Lorna M. Breen, who worked at a Manhattan hospital hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak.*

## **VETERANS**

[Team Rubicon volunteers face new challenges in coronavirus response mission](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 30 April 2020]

*Air Force veteran Cindy Robison doesn’t get overwhelmed when she sees individuals with coronavirus coming into the health center where she is working as an emergency volunteer. But she does when entire families come in sick. Robison is part of a team of about a dozen Team Rubicon volunteers helping staff the Kayenta Health Center in the heart of Navajo Nation, one of the hardest hit areas in the United States by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.*

[Vietnam and modern memory \[COMMENTARY\]](#) [Edward F. Palm, *Military Times*, 30 April 2020]  
*Thursday, April 30, marked the 45th anniversary of the fall of Saigon — and the end of our Vietnam misadventure. The Vietnam War I remember, and later studied, was anything but a “noble crusade.” It was a profoundly existential experience. Survival was the only moral touchstone, and getting through to our rotation tour dates the only goal we cared about. All the Marines I knew “in country” were profoundly skeptical of the official rationales for why we were there and increasingly embittered by the reluctance of the South Vietnamese to fight their own war.*