

DEOMI NEWS LINKS 17 FEBRUARY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

[Biden administration releases first-ever report on diversity in federal government](#) [Sara Luterman and Kate Sosin, *The 19th*, 15 February 2023]

*The Biden administration has a new warning for private employers: “We are going to start being a competitor of yours,” said Dr. Janice Underwood, director of the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) at the federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM), in an interview with *The 19th*. The federal government will fight to attract top talent to its workforce. To that goal, OPM, which serves as the human resources arm of the federal government, has [released its first-ever report on diversity across the federal workforce](#). The 31-page document breaks down hiring and retention across agencies and gives a snapshot of the administration’s efforts to remove barriers for applicants from underrepresented communities.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#) [\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Is there a better way to identify Latinos on official surveys? Some say yes.](#) [Edwin Flores and Suzanne Gamboa, *NBC News*, 10 February 2023]

Erika Prosper, who is Mexican American, remembers being unsure of how to fill out census forms for her family. “I had never felt like I belonged to what was assumed to be the White population,” said Prosper, 48. “I had the responsibility of filling out the paperwork for my family as a young person. I remember consciously putting ‘other’ because we had been treated like an ‘other.’” When the last census survey came around in 2020, she checked multiracial to reflect a mix of what she said is her Latine (a word some Latinos use to be inclusive) and Indigenous roots. “I don’t think I’m alone,” she said.

[Nuclear-trained sailors, considered the Navy’s “best and brightest,” face mental health challenges](#) [Melissa Chan, *NBC News*, 11 February 2023]

Nuclear operators are considered the Navy’s “best and brightest,” with only the top-scoring applicants gaining acceptance into the prestigious training program. But a dozen current and former nuclear-trained sailors, as well as loved ones of such operators who have died by suicide, said the unique challenges and pressures of the job have led some to suffer from severe mental health issues beginning at the school and extending well beyond graduation.

CULTURE

[40 years ago, an author interviewed the kids of queer parents. His new book explores what they have to say now.](#) [Kate Sosin, *The 19th*, 10 February 2023]

History books rarely reflect the experiences of kids in the American gay rights movement. When they do, stories tend to focus on LGBTQ+ children as they navigate coming out. But 40 years ago, fledgling documentarian Joe Gantz started to wonder about families left out of those conversations. In 1983, he published “Whose Child Cries,” an intimate book that explored the love between queer parents and their kids in a world still largely hostile to them. But as soon as it hit bookshelves, the publisher went

bankrupt. Gantz spent four years fighting to get the rights to his book back, by which time its moment had passed.

[The all-volunteer force turns 50—and faces its worst crisis yet](#) [Max Boot, *The Washington Post*, 13 February 2023] [OPINION]

Military analysts point to numerous factors to account for the recruiting shortfall, the biggest being that the unemployment rate is at its lowest level since 1969. There is also widespread obesity and drug use among young people. Only 23 percent of Americans are eligible to serve, and even fewer are interested in serving. More than two decades after Sept. 11, 2001, and nearly two years after the U.S. defeat in Afghanistan, war weariness has set in. Perceived politicization is another issue: While many right-wingers view the armed forces as too “woke,” many progressive Gen Zers view them as too conservative. The Ronald Reagan Institute found that the number of people expressing a great deal of trust and confidence in the military declined from 70 percent in 2017 to 48 percent in 2022.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Black Tennessee state representative responds to backlash over wearing African dashiki to swearing-in ceremony](#) [Justin Gamble, *CNN*, 16 February 2023]

First term Tennessee state representative Justin Pearson says he was trying to honor his ancestors for helping him rise to elected office when he wore his dashiki on the floor of the House chamber during his swearing-in ceremony Feb. 9. The freshman lawmaker says he was surprised to hear another member, Rep. David Hawk, criticize him for his attire. Pearson says his colleague scolded him for not adhering to tradition where male lawmakers wear suits and ties on the House floor. In his floor speech, according to the House speaker’s office, Hawk referred to the late Rep. Lois DeBerry, who as speaker pro tempore established a precedent of men wearing a coat and tie in the chamber.

[California will try to enshrine right to same-sex marriage](#) [Sophie Austin, *The Associated Press*, 14 February 2023]

California, a U.S. trendsetter for progressive policies and a state where the current governor once made news issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples in San Francisco before it was legal, will attempt to enshrine marriage equality in the state constitution. The effort comes 15 years after a voter-approved initiative, called Proposition 8, banned the state from recognizing same-sex marriages. In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for same-sex marriage in California. The constitutional amendment is still on the books, however, and that worries advocates who think the high court may revisit the 2015 case that legalized gay marriage nationwide.

[New book tells life story of Black Civil War hero in “The Sergeant”](#) [Andrew Bracken, *KPBS TV*, 6 February 2023]

The life of Nicholas Said reads like the screenplay for a blockbuster film. Said (pronounced Sa-eed) was born the son of Barca Gana, a legendary general in the Kingdom of Borno which is in an area that is now part of Nigeria. After his father’s death he was sent to boarding school where he learned Arabic, Turkish and Persian languages. While on a hunting excursion with schoolmates, Said was kidnapped and taken to Libya to perform forced labor. Said eventually earned his freedom and made his way to Europe and later the United States. He was the first African-born soldier to enlist in the Union Army and rose to the rank of sergeant during the Civil War. Later he became one of the first Black voting registrars in the U.S.

[New Hampshire students protest urinal ban in gender debate](#) [Patrick Whittle, *The Associated Press*, 11 February 2023]

Dozens of students walked out of their New Hampshire school after the district banned urinals in a compromise to a proposal that would have blocked children from using facilities based on their gender identity. The school board decided a few days before the Friday walkout to prohibit students at Milford Middle School and Milford High School from using urinals or shared spaces in locker rooms. The ban in a town of about 15,000 people roughly 35 miles (56 kilometers) from Concord, New Hampshire's capital, was the culmination of a long debate about district rules about bathroom use and gender identity. District procedures say students can access the bathroom that "corresponds to their gender identity consistently asserted at school."

[Night Ride: Oscar-nominated film tackles transphobic harassment](#) [Helen Bushby, *BBC News*, 12 February 2023]

Night Ride may only be a short film, but it has a twisty plot, opening with its heroine, Ebba, accidentally stealing a tram and driving it through Norway's dark, snowy streets. She'd only clambered on to keep warm, but decides she's rather enjoying herself, and carries on collecting passengers as she heads home. One of them is a transgender woman, Ariel, who attracts the attention of two men sitting nearby. Things escalate pretty quickly and the men become aggressive. Their fellow passengers look on uncomfortably, doing nothing rather than risking getting involved. Norwegian director Eirik Tveiten says he wrote the 16-minute film to make people consider what they'd do in that situation. "The syndrome called bystander apathy can easily set in," he says, where if one person doesn't take a stand, those around them wait for someone else to act first, often "leaving it too late".

[Oldest schoolhouse for Black children in U.S. moved to museum](#) [Ben Finley, *The Associated Press*, 11 February 2023]

A building believed to be the oldest surviving schoolhouse for Black children in the U.S. was hoisted onto a flatbed truck and moved a half-mile Friday to Colonial Williamsburg, a Virginia museum that continues to expand its emphasis on African American history. For historians and descendants alike, the Bray School contradicts the belief that all enslaved Americans were uneducated. But the school's faith-based curriculum—created by an English charity—also justified slavery and encouraged students to accept their fate as God's plan.

[Stop Holding Recruits to One-Size-Fits-All Standards](#) [Lt. Cmdr. Stewart Latwing and Lt. Col. Ernest Cage, *Defense One*, 8 February 2023] [COMMENTARY]

As the services build today's force, they should also ask the tough question of whether some of positions need to be uniformed personnel. Personnel specialists, financial managers, scientists, research engineers, hospital administrators, and social workers are critical to the success of the military. However, these roles can be equally well done by military civilians. The recruiting shortfall across the military services may simply exist because there are too many billets that do not require a uniformed military member.

DISCRIMINATION

[Denver councilman said he was left "humiliated" after he was forced to crawl onto a debate stage with no wheelchair access](#) [Sophia Ankel, *Business Insider*, 16 February 2023]

A Denver City councilman said he was left “humiliated” after he was forced to crawl onto a debate stage with no wheelchair access, according to The Denver Post. Chris Hinds, who is running for re-election, was attending the city’s District 10 council seat debate at the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theatre in Denver, on Monday when he was told there was access for wheelchair users. The councilman has been using a wheelchair since August 2008 after a car crash left him paralyzed from the chest down, according to his official biography.

[Lawsuit seeks White woman’s arrest in Emmett Till kidnapping](#) [Emily Wagster Pettus, *The Associated Press*, 10 February 2023]

A relative of Emmett Till is suing to try to make a Mississippi sheriff serve a 1955 arrest warrant on a White woman in the kidnapping that led to the Black teenager’s brutal lynching. The torture and killing of Till in the Mississippi Delta became a catalyst for the civil rights movement after his mother insisted on an open-casket funeral in Chicago and Jet magazine published photos of his mutilated body. Last June, a team doing research at the courthouse in Leflore County, Mississippi, found an unserved 1955 arrest warrant for Carolyn Bryant, listed on that document as “Mrs. Roy Bryant.”

DIVERSITY

[Austin Encourages Black Engineers to Mentor Youths](#) [David Vergun, *DOD News*, 12 February 2023]

“We’re determined to continue innovating to make America more secure. And that means drawing on the strengths of all people,” said Secretary Austin. The secretary noted that over the past 37 years, recipients of the Black Engineer of the Year Awards have been electrical engineers, pilots, astronauts and physicists. Austin said Defense Department scientists and engineers, along with partners in academia and industry, have always pioneered critical innovations to defend America. They’ve operated satellites that enable global navigation, developed vaccines that save lives, laid the foundations of the internet—and the list goes on.

[\[SEE ALSO\]](#)

[Beale AFB Airmen launch ACC minority outreach initiative](#) [Staff Sgt. Shaei Rodriguez, *Air Force News Service*, 10 February 2023]

On Feb. 3, eight Beale AFB Airmen from various career fields visited Anna McKenney Intermediate School in Marysville, as Project Quesada’s first event. “Project Quesada is an Air Combat Command initiative where the Air Force is reaching out to minority serving institutions and including them in our new diversity and inclusion program, while also reaching out toward younger groups of junior high, high school, and college age students that may not necessarily have thought that something like becoming a pilot was even an option,” said Lt. Col. Eric Antonietti, 9th Operations Support Squadron director of staff.

EXTREMISM

[Buffalo mass shooting gunman apologizes, sentenced to life without parole](#) [Robert Kirkham and Tyler Clifford, *Reuters*, 15 February 2023]

An avowed White supremacist on Wednesday, apologized to the families of the 10 Black people he fatally shot last year at a western New York grocery store before being sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole during a chaotic and emotional hearing. At one point, a man in the courtroom lunged at Payton Gendron, who had pleaded guilty to 15 state charges including murder and

terrorism motivated by hate stemming from the May 14 mass shooting in Buffalo, a city of about 277,000 people.

[LAPD arrests suspect in shootings of 2 Jewish people, which police are investigating as potential hate crimes](#) [Taylor Romine, Josh Campbell and Elizabeth Wolfe, CNN, 17 February 2023]

Police in Los Angeles have arrested a man suspected of shooting two Jewish people this week and are investigating the attacks as possible hate crimes, authorities said Thursday. An “exhaustive” search for the suspect was launched after the victims were shot separately in the city’s western Pico-Robertson neighborhood on Wednesday and Thursday, about three blocks apart, the Los Angeles Police Department [said in a release](#).

HUMAN RELATIONS

[People who share ideology have similar “neural fingerprints”](#) [Corrie Pikul, *Futurity*, 13 February 2023]

*Take the word “freedom,” for example, or a picture of the American flag, or even the 2020 US presidential election. A person who identifies politically as liberal vs. one who identifies as conservative will likely have opposing interpretations when processing this information—and the new research helps to explain why. While previous theories posited that political polarization results from selective consumption (and over-consumption) of news and social media, a team led by researchers at Brown University hypothesized that polarization may start even earlier. The [new study](#) appears in *Science Advances*.*

[\[REPRINT\]](#)

[What science still can’t explain about love](#) [Brian Resnick, *Vox.com*, 9 February 2023] [PODCAST WITH TRANSCRIPT]

“The big mystery is—do you really know who you want?” says Dan Conroy-Beam, a University of California Santa Barbara psychologist who studies relationship formation. The question seems simple, but it’s not trivial. A lot of time, energy, and heartache goes into finding solid relationships. “In a lot of senses, who you choose as a partner is the most important decision you’ll ever make,” Conroy-Beam says. “That’s going to affect your happiness, your health, and your overall well-being.” Scientists don’t have all the answers, and they often disagree on which answers are even possible. But I found that their hypotheses—along with some advice from matchmakers and relationship coaches—can help us think through how love starts and how to maintain it once it’s found.

INTERNATIONAL

[Antisemitic text was projected onto the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam](#) [Kaitlyn Radde, *NPR*, 11 February 2023]

*Antisemitic text implying that Anne Frank’s diary was a forgery was projected onto the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam this week, the museum announced in a [statement](#). The projection on the house where the Frank family hid during World War II read, “Ann Frank [sic], inventor of the ballpoint pen.” It alludes to a debunked far-right conspiracy theory that the diary was a forgery because part of it was written in ballpoint pen, which were not yet in use while Anne lived. The theory was meticulously and scientifically disproven by the Dutch government, *The New York Times* reported in 1989.*

[Canada women's coach says players "drained" amid pay equity dispute](#) [Frank Pingue, Reuters, 15 February 2023]

Canada head coach Bev Priestman said on Wednesday the dispute between the women's team and national governing body over pay equity issues and budget cuts has left her squad emotionally drained when their focus should be on World Cup preparations. The reigning Olympic champions boycotted training last Saturday while demanding immediate changes but reversed course later that day as Canada Soccer called their strike unlawful and also threatened legal action.

[Czech soccer player Jakub Jankto comes out as gay](#) [The Associated Press, 13 February 2023]

Czech Republic midfielder Jakub Jankto posted a video on social media on Monday saying he is gay, making him one of the most high-profile male soccer players to come out. Jankto posted a video on Twitter saying: "I'm homosexual. And I no longer want to hide myself." The 27-year-old Jankto is playing for Sparta Prague this season on loan from Spanish club Getafe.

["Party with purpose": Sydney WorldPride kicks off with 500,000 expected to attend 300 events](#) [Kat Wong, Australia Associated Press, 17 February 2023]

With WorldPride officially underway, Sydney's LGBTQI community is ready to revel in and reflect on how far it's come. The harbour city has marked the start of WorldPride with a Progress Pride flag raising ceremony before launching into a 17-day program of art, performances, talks, parties, sport and comedy to celebrate equality. The festivities will amount to Sydney's biggest "occasion" since the 2000 Olympics and are expected to draw 500,000 visitors to 300 free and ticketed events. While a time for joy and celebration, WorldPride CEO Kate Wickett says those attending should remember it's a "party with purpose". "I really encourage everyone going to an event to think about why they're there. Why are you at a party or performance art piece or the theatre? It's because we don't have equality," she told AAP.

[Rio's first all-female samba school prepares defiant parade](#) [Eleonore Hughes, The Associated Press, 15 February 2023]

As Carnival approaches in Rio de Janeiro, members of a samba school perfect a minutely tuned performance with dancers twirling in blue, red and white skirts and 40 drummers pounding the rhythm with gusto. There isn't a single man in sight. This samba school, in Rio's Madureira neighborhood, is the city's first to be run by and for women. The community-tied music and dance clubs have always included women, most commonly as seamstresses and dancers. They've played the schools' smaller instruments and Carnival queens lead processions in elaborate, sequined outfits. But rarely do women call the shots on finances, themes or even costumes.

[Spain gives final approval to law making it easier to legally change gender](#) [BBC News, 16 February 2023]

Spain's parliament has given final approval to a law allowing people over 16 to change their legally recognised gender without medical evaluation. It passed with 191 votes in favour and 60 against, the final step in an extensive debate. The process to change gender on documents could in theory now take around three to four months. Previously, people needed a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria and to have been on hormonal treatment for two years to change their gender on their ID card.

[WhatsOnStage Awards: Jodie Comer and Lucie Jones among winners](#) [Steven McIntosh, BBC News, 12 February 2023]

WhatsOnStage Awards, which saw all four of the major acting prizes go to women. The WhatsOnStage Awards, where the winners are voted by the public, have run annually since 2008, but this is the first year where the leading and supporting categories were named “best performer” instead of best actor or actress. More awards ceremonies have been going gender neutral in recent years to allow non-binary performers to compete. But at other ceremonies, this has often resulted in an imbalance in favour of men.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Air Force Under Secretary Jones, an LGBTQ Trailblazer, Is Stepping Down](#) [Thomas Novelty, *Military.com*, 14 February 2023]

The Air Force’s second-highest ranking civilian, Under Secretary Gina Ortiz Jones, is stepping down from her role after a year and a half in the position. Jones, a member of the LGBTQ community, served under the military’s old “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, which allowed non-heterosexual service members to stay in the ranks if they remained closeted. The 42-year-old former Air Force intelligence officer’s duties will be taken over by Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller Kristyn Jones until a new under secretary is appointed, according to the press release.

[Bullying doesn’t look like it used to. Experts share how to fix it](#) [Madeline Holcombe, *CNN*, 15 February 2023]

*Physical bullying—like confrontations involving hitting or shoving—actually showed very little association with a risk for mental distress, according to a new study. “For adults doing this research, you kind of assume that bullying consists of being stuffed in a locker and beaten up on the playground,” said lead study author John Rovers, professor and John R. Ellis Distinguished Chair in Pharmacy Practice at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. “We found out that that really has remarkably little effect.” Researchers took data from the 2018 Iowa Youth Survey of sixth, eighth and 11th graders to see whether there was an association between bullying and mental health and suicidal ideation, according to the [study published Wednesday](#) in the journal *PLOS ONE*.*

[Highlighting outstanding people on Black History Month: Lt. Col. Charity Adams Earley](#) [Linda Lambiotte, *U.S. Army News Service*, 13 February 2023]

The Army story cannot be told without reflecting on the courage, strength and legacy of Black Americans who helped shape the world we live in today. Black Americans have served and sacrificed in every conflict in our nation’s history, with more than 245 years of honorable service. Lt. Col. Charity Adams Earley served as the highest-ranking Black woman officer during World War II. She has since paved the way for other Black women in the military.

[New Mexico State fires coach in wake of hazing allegations](#) [Eddie Pells, *The Associated Press*, 15 February 2023]

New Mexico State fired basketball coach Greg Heiar on Tuesday in the wake of hazing allegations within the team that shut down the program for the rest of the season. Chancellor Dan Arvizu announced the firing of the first-year coach and said, “hazing has no place on our campus, and those found responsible will be held accountable for their actions.” Arvizu shut down the program for the season on Sunday, after reviewing a campus police report in which an Aggies player said three teammates ganged up on him and attacked him. The report, which redacted the names of the players, included allegations of false imprisonment, harassment and criminal sexual contact.

[Teen girls and LGBTQ+ youth plagued by violence and trauma, survey says](#) [Rhithu Chatterjee, *NPR*, 13 February 2023]

Adolescent girls across the country are facing record levels of violence, sadness and despair, according to new survey data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And teens who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, questioning and other non-heterosexual identities also experience high levels of violence and distress, the survey found. Every two years, the CDC surveys 9th through 12th graders across the country about a range of health behaviors and experiences for a report titled, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. On Monday, it [released the results from the most recent survey](#) conducted in 2021, along with the trends over the past decade.

[Undesignated “Dogs of the Navy” Who Scrape Rust and Paint Ships Are Getting Help Finding New Jobs](#) [Konstantin Toropin, *Military.com*, 16 February 2023]

Among the many traditions, quirks and peculiarities that come with naval service, the Navy’s practice of naming undesignated sailors stands out for its direct and potentially negative impact. It has been linked to poor treatment of former Navy SEAL candidates, who fail to complete the difficult training and then drift with no clear job in the service. Brandon Caserta, a former candidate, took his own life after dropping out of the training and being ridiculed as a “BUD/S dud.” The service is reforming its practices and adding more guidelines to help get undesignated sailors paired with jobs. Data provided by the Navy shows that programs set up in the wake of Caserta’s death have been making an impact—undesignated former SEAL candidates dropped by more than half from 2020 to 2021 and appear to have declined even more steeply last year.

RACISM

[DOD schools’ diversity chief responds to “racism” claims](#) [Karen Jowers, *Military Times*, 10 February 2023]

*The Pentagon official who oversees diversity, equity and inclusion for the Defense Department’s schools is at the center of an inquiry from lawmakers who said she made “racially disparaging” comments. Now, Kelisa Wing, who has led diversity efforts for the Department of Defense Education Activity since December 2021, is pushing back against those claims in an exclusive interview with *Military Times*. She emphasized that she is speaking only as a private citizen and educator, and not on behalf of DoDEA.*

[High school students responsible for racist video no longer enrolled at school](#) [Celina Tebor, *CNN*, 14 February 2023]

*The students responsible for a racist video—which surfaced on social media earlier this month showing one girl spray painting another girl’s face black while making racist comments—are no longer enrolled at the high school, according to a [statement](#) from the school. A Black parent whose daughter attends the Catholic school in Philadelphia told *CNN* the video was sent directly to his daughter and niece, along with other Black students.*

[“It doesn’t have to be this way”: California introduces bill addressing harassment on public transit](#) [Mariel Padilla, *The 19th*, 14 February 2023]

The bus was about half an hour away when a man approached her and started screaming in her face, words like “konichiwa” and “Tokyo.” “Every time he would circle and get closer to me, I would start to back away,” said Candice Cho, who is 40. Experiences like that of Cho and other Asian-

American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) women inspired Senator Dave Min of California, a Democrat, to introduce on Monday legislation titled the “Public Transit for All: Improving Safety and Increasing Ridership” along with Stop AAPI Hate, a coalition that tracks acts of hate and violence against AAPI people.

[Scottsdale gallery owner apologizes after racist comments to Native American dancers](#) [Peter Valencia and Michael Raimondi, CBS News 5, 9 February 2023]

A Scottsdale gallery has issued an apology after racially charged statements were caught on camera and have since gone viral on social media. The incident happened around 11:30 a.m. Tuesday in Old Town Scottsdale after a Native American group was performing on ESPN. A social media post of the tirade went viral late Tuesday. Police have since formally identified the man in the video as Gilbert Ortega, who is seen in eyewitness video yelling at the performers and causing a disturbance. Some statements included expletive language and appeared to mock traditional movements and chants.

RELIGION

[Florida college cancels singing group’s concert due to “lifestyle that contradicts scripture”](#) [A.J. Willingham, CNN, 15 February 2023]

Debates are churning after a Florida college abruptly canceled an appearance by a prominent singing group due to at least one member’s sexuality. The King’s Singers are a highly regarded British a cappella ensemble with more than 50 years of history. The all-male group performs a range of songs, including pop music, classical arrangements and sacred music. The group says a February 11 concert at Pensacola Christian College was canceled with “two hours’ notice” because of “‘concerns’ about the ‘lifestyle’ of members of our group. Pensacola Christian College, a private independent Baptist institution, [released a statement](#) with their reasoning.

[International Religious Freedom Advocacy Unites Washington](#) [Kelsey Zorzi, Real Clear Defense, 13 February 2023]

Delegates from all over the globe descended on Washington, D.C. for this year’s annual [International Religious Freedom Summit](#) on January 31 and February 1. Leaders, lawyers, influencers, and communicators at the forefront of the call for universal religious freedom came together to engage and find ways to advance freedoms globally. The IRF Summit, a civil society offshoot of the U.S. Government’s Ministerial on International Religious Freedom, stands for the proposition that everyone around the world should be allowed the freedom to have faith, choose their faith, or have no faith at all.

[Sikh advocates criticize new facial hair ban for California Dept. of Corrections staffers](#) [Sakshi Venkatraman, NBC News, 10 February 2023]

California Department of Corrections staff members are now required to shave their facial hair, regardless of any religious or medical reasons they may have for keeping it. It’s a policy change that civil rights advocates say disproportionately impacts racial and religious minorities like Sikh and Black Americans. Sikh American leaders say this will be an especially challenging mandate for their community members, many of whom grow out their hair and beards as tenets of their faith.

SEXISM

[USWNT, Canada call for gender equality, trans rights in SheBelieves Cup game](#) [Jeff Kassouf, *ESPN News*, 16 February 2023]

United States and Canada women's players stood in solidarity for gender equality and transgender rights on Thursday ahead of their opening SheBelieves Cup match at Orlando's Exploria Stadium. The display for equality comes in response to the Canadian players' ongoing fight with their federation for equal treatment with the men. Canada players say they are playing the SheBelieves Cup in protest after initially trying to strike last week before the Canadian Soccer Association threatened them with legal action.

SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT

[Ease the path to mental health care after military sexual trauma](#) [Julia Rollison, *Military Times*, 14 February 2023] [COMMENTARY]

Despite a decade of scrutiny on the issue, sexual assault and harassment in the military is still a pervasive problem. [Recent estimates](#) show that 6% of women in the military were sexually assaulted in the last year. Another 24% experienced sexual harassment. While efforts to eradicate this problem continue, there is also this: The effects of the trauma from these assaults can be lasting, certainly stretching beyond the period of active duty. So it's not just the military services, but also veterans' services, that need to connect these women to appropriate care for mental health.

SUICIDE

[A bullied N.J. student died by suicide. Now, the superintendent has resigned](#) [Joe Hernandez, *NPR*, 13 February 2023]

A New Jersey superintendent has resigned after telling a news outlet personal information about a 14-year-old high school student who died by suicide earlier this month. Adriana Kuch died on Feb. 3, just days after she was beaten up in school by fellow students while others recorded the attack on video, her family says. The freshman's death sparked a wave of protests in the Central Regional School District along the Jersey Shore. It also spurred questions about the district's response, and whether the administration had done enough to prevent bullying.

VETERANS

[Biden to award Medal of Honor to Vietnam-era Army officer](#) [Darlene Superville, *The Associated Press*, 14 February 2023]

One of the first Black officers to lead a Special Forces team in combat will receive the nation's highest award for bravery in battle nearly 60 years after his commanding officer first recommended him for the prestigious Medal of Honor. President Joe Biden called retired U.S. Army Col. Paris Davis on Monday "to inform him that he will receive the Medal of Honor for his remarkable heroism during the Vietnam War."

[Tuskegee Airman Discusses His Distinguished Service as part of NUWC Division Newport's Black History Month Celebration](#) [*U.S. Navy News Service*, 13 February 2023]

One of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen, Brig. Gen. Enoch “Woody” Woodhouse, visited the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport on Feb. 6 to share his military and life experiences with the workforce, as part of the command’s Black History Month celebration. Woodhouse began his presentation by recalling a date that would change his life forever—Dec. 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was attacked. “My mother said to my brother and I, ‘America is at war. I want you boys to serve your country,’” Woodhouse said.

[VA awards \\$20 million in prizes for vet suicide prevention projects](#) [Leo Shane III, *Military Times*, 16 February 2023]

The Mission Daybreak initiative was launched last May as a way to develop new suicide prevention strategies through a public competition. The department awarded \$20 million in prizes to 40 firms in recent months, including payouts of \$1 million or more to five exceptional projects recognized this week.