

## DEOMI News Highlights

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DEOMI News Highlights is a weekly compilation of published items and commentary with focus on equal opportunity, equal employment opportunity, diversity, culture and human relations issues. The DEOMI News Highlights is a management tool intended to serve the informational needs of equity professionals and senior DoD officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.

### **2-Star, USNA professor clash on diversity [Sam Fellman, *Navy Times Online*, November 18, 2010]**

- A Naval Academy professor, Bruce Fleming and Rear Adm. Julius Caesar clashed on the issues of diversity and admissions standards during a Naval Academy Alumni Association event hosted by the Greater Washington Chapter
- Fleming, who has taught at the academy for 24 years, said affirmative action and the pursuit of a competitive Division I football team led to the “corruption of the morale at the Naval Academy”
- Fleming who served on the admissions board in 2002 and 2003 charged that the school has a two-track admissions process – “you have students who have been let in, basically, only for their athletic ability or their skin color”
- Caesar who is Black, took issue with Fleming’s sole focus on admissions metric

[2-star, USNA professor clash on diversity](#)

### **General Says More Troops Need African Language Skills [Lolita C. Baldor, *Associated Press*, *Fayetteville (NC) Observer*, November 19, 2010]**

- Army Gen. Carter Ham, nominee to head U.S. Africa Command, told a Senate committee that the threat of terror from Somalia and other areas of East Africa is one of the command’s greatest challenges
- He said the Pentagon needs more troops trained in the cultures and languages of Africa
- U.S. officials have acknowledged that Yemen-based al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula pose the immediate threat for smaller, less sophisticated attacks within the U.S.

[General says more troops need African language skills](#)

### **A general speaks out about his battle with PTSD [John Ramsey, *Fayetteville (NC) Observer*, November 14, 2010]**

- Maj. Gen. David Blackledge, commander of the Army’s Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command is speaking publicly about his invisible wounds to let other warriors know their reactions are normal
- A 2008 Rand Corp. study estimated that as many as 300,000 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan suffered from PTSD or depression
- An Army report released this summer said soldiers who need mental health care the most are least likely to seek treatment – out of concern for their career or the appearance of being weak
- Blackledge said he hopes his story can help soldiers get past the stigma and realize it’s OK to ask for help

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# **Discrimination**

## Ex-trooper pleads guilty to misdemeanor in 1965 civil rights shooting

By Alvin Benn

Montgomery Advertiser, November 16, 2010

MARION -- A former state trooper who pleaded guilty Monday to a misdemeanor in a fatal civil rights shooting 45 years ago still insists he fired in self-defense and has a scar to prove it.

James Bonard Fowler, 77, originally indicted on a murder charge, was sentenced to six months in jail for second-degree manslaughter in connection with the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson on Feb. 18, 1965.

The shooting occurred after a peaceful protest near the Perry County Jail turned into a riot.

Jackson was shot inside a crowded café and those with him said an Alabama state trooper fired the shots that claimed his life eight days later in a Selma hospital.

Fowler, who was indicted three years ago, maintained Monday that he was defending himself. He pointed to a scar and what appeared to be an indentation on the left side of his head near his eye.

"See this scar right here," he told reporters as he prepared to leave the Perry County Courthouse. "It's from a Coke bottle."

Fowler appeared contrite as he answered questions from reporters and said it was never his intention to "harm anybody."

"I didn't think I was coming over here to cause any damage or to hurt anyone," he said. "Every day I think about it, but you can't take it back. I'm sorry for what happened."

Montgomery attorney George Beck said he did not think that Fowler would have received a fair trial had it been held before a jury in Perry County.

"Emotions have been running very high here over this case and that's one reason why we wanted a change of venue," said Beck, who was Fowler's chief attorney in the case. "For that reason, it was decided to enter a plea to a misdemeanor charge instead of going to trial."

Jackson became a martyr of the civil rights movement and his death helped lead to the famous Selma-to-Montgomery march and to the passage of the historic Voting Rights Act by Congress six months later.

Some civil rights leaders at first suggested that Jackson's body be taken in a casket to the state Capitol and dumped on the front steps. The five-day march that attracted international attention resulted.

<http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20101116/NEWS02/11160318/Ex-trooper-pleads-guilty-to-misdeameanor-in-1965-civil-rights-shooting>

Fowler, who is to report Dec. 1 to the Geneva County Jail not far from where he lives, apologized in court to members of Jackson's family. They stood in a large group a few feet from him in front of Circuit Judge Tommy Jones.

"He took my father away from me and I wish he had looked me in the eyes when he apologized," Cordelia Billingsley said. "As far as I'm concerned, he apologized to the judge, not to me and my family."

Jones also ordered Fowler to complete six months of unsupervised probation when he is released from jail next year.

A jury was to have been picked Monday morning for the trial that had been set for Nov. 29. That became a moot point after closed-door meetings involving all parties ended.

District Attorney Michael Jackson noted Fowler's age and said the six-month sentence could be viewed as a "death sentence."

"It's obvious for a guy who's almost 80 and in poor health that any time in jail is almost a death sentence," Jackson said. "I'd rather that he never got out of jail, but I was concerned that he might die before justice was served."

Perry County Commissioner Albert Turner criticized the prosecutor, who is not related to Jimmie Lee Jackson, for the way he handled the case.

"This whole thing just shows the ineptness of the district attorney," Turner said. "If he didn't have enough evidence, he should never have tried to bring it to trial. What happened today is a slap in the face for this community."

The prosecutor fired back, accusing Turner of trying to benefit financially from Jackson's death.

"(Turner) is disappointed that he won't be able to make money off the Jackson family anymore as he has done through the years," the district attorney said.

Turner, who has helped sponsor a Jimmie Lee Jackson memorial event every year, is the son of the late Albert Turner, who was one of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s top aides during the voting rights movement in Alabama.

As he left the courthouse, Fowler wore a baseball cap with "1st Cavalry Division" in gold letters atop "Vietnam Veteran" and a row of medals below that.

During four years of combat in Vietnam, Fowler was awarded two Silver Stars for bravery.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/watchdog+Harper+government+odds+employment+equity/3827757/story.html>

## **PS watchdog, Harper government at odds on employment equity**

### **Law allows managers to limit jobs to any of the four equity groups**

**By Kathryn May**

**The Ottawa Citizen, November 15, 2010**

Canada's staffing watchdog has quietly admonished the Harper government for ignoring employment equity laws and discouraging departments from barring who can apply for federal jobs by race, gender or disability.

Maria Barrados, president of the Public Service Commission, waded Friday into the government's politically-charged review of employment equity hiring practices with a cautiously-worded letter to departments. It reminded them the law allows managers to limit jobs to any of the four equity groups -- women, visible minorities, disabled and aboriginals. They must, however, have the skills to qualify for the jobs.

The letter follows a statement she posted on the commission's website after Treasury Board President Stockwell Day recently told Parliament departments will be encouraged to "reach out" to the equity groups, but not exclusively recruit them. He said jobs must be open for all qualified Canadians to apply.

Reading between the lines, many say Barrados is making clear that despite what Day said, departments can restrict hiring if that's what it takes to get a diverse public service.

Barrados' job is to oversee Public Service Employment Act and the handling of all staffing to ensure it's open, fair, transparent and people are hired on merit.

Canada's employment equity laws require the public service to reflect the diversity of society. This means the government must hire the four designated groups in proportion to their share of the labour force. One way to do that is to exclude who applies for jobs to those groups -- a practice allowed in the Public Service Employment Act.

"It specifically provides for limiting the area of selection to employment equity groups where there are identified gaps," said Barrados in her posted statement.

"It is the (commission's) view ... that delegated departments and agencies have this statutory option, in addition to other tools, to address areas of under-representation."

In an interview, Barrados said she wrote the statement simply to clarify the situation. She said the public service has made huge progress in reaching its diversity targets, but needs tools like restricting applicants to continue that momentum.

Conservative Senator Donald Oliver, an outspoken champion of employment equity, argues the government couldn't meet its targets without the practice and to further limit it would erode progress and even undermine the law.

"We would be starting all over again. It doesn't make sense to gut that law ... and we can't do it without these special tools and measures," he said.

The Employment Equity Act was passed in 1986 to help target the hiring of the four designated groups and has been steeped in controversy since.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/watchdog+Harper+government+odds+employment+equity/3827757/story.html>

The latest furore erupted when a Kemptville woman complained she couldn't apply for an administrative assistant's job at Citizenship and Immigration because she was white. The job competition was limited to aboriginal and visible minority applicants.

Both Day and Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney responded jobs should be decided on merit, not ethnicity, and ordered a review into employment equity hiring practices.

The review sparked howls of protest from the Opposition and equity groups who accused the government of playing politics with the issue to placate the party's conservative base. The controversy erupted at the same time as Chief Statistician Munir Sheikh resigned over the scrapping of the mandatory long-form census.

The Treasury Board review was not made public. A communiqué was sent to all departments saying that limiting jobs to applicants from equity groups should be used as a "last resort."

It's already sparingly used. Of the thousands of job competitions every year, only one to two per cent restrict applicants to one or more of the designated groups.

In an e-mail, Treasury Board officials said departments have other "positive measures" they can use to boost their diversity. They can recruit pools of qualified workers and then select equity group candidates from there as needed.

The board said departments could post jobs with a "preference" for an equity group. Or the job's requirements could include "assets" like being aboriginal or visible minority.

But some argue these measures are "disingenuous" and could undermine the fairness and transparency of hiring practices. They argue departments should be up-front if they need aboriginals or other visible minorities rather than doing it on the sly by saying they will be given preference or be.

With these measures, the woman's whose refused application caused the flap would have been accepted only to be screened out later.

"Is that fair? If they want to hire from an equity group, why not say so up front rather than use subterfuge. Why make someone go through the effort of applying for something they won't get. Either the government supports support employment equity or it doesn't," said one long-time bureaucrat.

Diversity in the public service has been made a high priority by a succession of Clerks of the Privy Council, Canada's top bureaucrat, in recent years.

The government has so far exceeded its targets for women that Barrados has said it's time to rethink whether they still need preferential treatment in the public service.

It has met its targets for employment of aboriginals and disabled but departments are still trailing in the hiring of visible minorities who have about 9.8 per cent of the jobs but account for about 12.4 per cent of the labour force. They are being recruited, however, at much higher levels, which will eventually wipe out that gap. Last year they accounted for 22 per cent of the new hires.

# Diversity

<http://readme.readmedia.com/New-York-State-CIO-OFT-Meets-Supplier-Diversity-Goal-for-MWBE-Participation/1773920>

## **CIO/OFT Achieves 20% MWBE Participation goal for 2010 Ahead of Schedule**

**by New York State Office for Technology  
readMedia Online, 17 November 2010**

ALBANY, NY (11/17/2010)(readMedia)-- The New York State Chief Information Officer/Office for Technology (CIO/OFT) announced the agency exceeded its goal, ahead of schedule, to increase the number of woman and minority-owned businesses participating in state technology procurements to 20% by the end of 2010.

As one of the largest buyers of IT products and services in New York State government, CIO/OFT has been working with the corporate technology sector and state agencies to increase the participation level of MWBEs in technology procurements. In 2007, CIO/OFT set an aggressive goal to reach a 20% MWBE participation level by the end of 2010, starting from less than 1%. For the quarter ending September 30, 2010, CIO/OFT's MWBE participation rate is 20.58%.

"I am extremely pleased we met and exceeded our challenging goal. Promoting supplier diversity in state technology contracts has been a top priority of the Governors Administration and CIO/OFT," said Dr. Melodie Mayberry-Stewart, NYS Chief Information Officer and Director of the Office for Technology. "For the past 4 years, CIO/OFT has worked diligently to open doors for more MWBE firms to compete for state business. I thank our global IT MWBE Champions and our state agency CIO Champions who helped us make solid progress to significantly increase MWBE participation on state IT contracts. Reaching our 20% goal in a short time is the result of valuable public/private partnerships."

During the Forum, Michael Jones-Bey, Executive Director of DMWBD highlighted results of the Disparity Study released in May 2010 by the NYS Empire State Development (ESD). The study "The State of Minority and Woman Owned Business Enterprise: Evidence from New York," highlights disparity of minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBEs) in state contracts. Also, the study found evidence of business discrimination against MWBEs in the private sector of the New York State market area. The findings, based on mail surveys and in-depth personal interviews, support the state's initiatives aimed at creating more business opportunities for the MWBE community and is a valid pursuit.

Michael Jones-Bey said, "This is a great achievement for the New York State MWBE program. I am most proud of my partnership with Dr. Melodie Mayberry Stewart. Through our collaboration we have proven that the state can deploy technology in a way that improves the quality of government services at competitive prices and do it while creating opportunities for qualified MWBEs. To see the utilization of MWBEs on technology procurements go from 1 percent to over 20 percent shows that you can achieve success even with limited resources when you have a strong leader at the executive level and you get buy-in from the private sector.

"I applaud the corporations that made the voluntary pledge to increase the business that they do with MWBEs on New York State contracts through the creation of joint ventures, reseller agreements, distributorships, and subcontracts. It is my hope that with the MWBE legislation that was signed into law this summer, agencies will use the new legal authority they have to build on the success we have seen in the tech sector applied to other industries as well."

Dr. Melodie Mayberry-Stewart announced the results during the Tech Sector MWBE Forum held yesterday in the Blue Room at the State Capitol. The Forum was co-hosted with the Division of

<http://readme.readmedia.com/New-York-State-CIO-OFT-Meets-Supplier-Diversity-Goal-for-MWBE-Participation/1773920>

Minority and Women Business Development (DMWBD) of Empire State Development. During her welcoming remarks Dr. Mayberry-Stewart shared accomplishments of CIO/OFT's IT Supplier Diversity Program. These include:

- Co-hosting with DMWBD, technology sector MWBE Jumpstart events and match-making sessions to create opportunities for MWBE technology solution providers to connect with technology companies throughout New York State.
- Requiring prime contractors meet MWBE subcontracting goals or exhibit "best efforts" for all IT procurements. CIO/OFT encouraged state agencies to adopt the "best-efforts" language for all future solicitation whenever possible.
- Instilling an understanding and appreciation of supplier diversity importance. CIO/OFT required all managers to complete mandatory supplier diversity training and integrated the training into the agency's new employee orientation program.
- Launching the MWBE Infielder, a monthly newsletter, in November 2009, to reflect the many successes and best practices achieved through the MWBE program, shared resources, future opportunities and upcoming events to more than 1,000 MWBEs and IT Companies.
- Collaborating with the DMWBD to develop and launch - [www.nylovesmwbe.ny.gov](http://www.nylovesmwbe.ny.gov) - a website devoted to helping companies become certified as MWBEs. Currently, New York State has one of the largest databases of certified firms in the nation with nearly 7,000 certified minority and women-owned businesses. The certification is designed to help MWBE firms gain an introduction to large companies interested in doing business with women or minority owned vendors. The technology has been enabled DMWBD to reduce the certification process from 24 months in 2007 to 3 months in 2010.

To ensure MWBEs have an equal opportunity to participate in New York's procurement activities, CIO/OFT worked closely with New York State's top IT vendors to establish corporate MWBE participation goals. Dr. Mayberry-Stewart recognized 11 global IT Corporate MWBE Lead Champions who have met or exceeded their IT supplier diversity goals. The companies who voluntarily expanded use of MWBEs met or exceeded 20% goal by 2010 include: Dell, Deloitte, EMC2, Hewlett Packard, IBM, Microsoft, nrastructure technologies, Oracle, Tandberg, Unisys, and Xerox.

Dr. Mayberry-Stewart also recognized CIOs as Lead Champions from two state agencies, the Department of Health, and the Office of Temporary Disability Assistance. "We must continue to afford an equal opportunity for minority and women owned businesses to participate in New York's purchasing and procurement. Successful events such as the Jumpstart events and MWBE forums, like the one hosted today by CIO/OFT and DMWBD, are valuable resources and have enabled DOH to add more than 240 MWBE firms to our bidder's listing," said Brian Scott, CIO for the NYS Department of Health.

## **Ex-justice want even more diversity on high court Stevens visiting Houston for Progressive Forum event**

**By MIKE TOLSON**

**HOUSTON CHRONICLE, November 15, 2010, 10:27PM**

Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens served on the nation's highest court longer than all but two members, retiring in June at the age of 90. Appointed by President Gerald Ford in 1975, Stevens came to be regarded as the leader of the more liberal faction of the court, though he periodically departed from liberal members on matters such as affirmative action and prohibitions against burning the American flag. He was replaced by Elena Kagan.

Stevens is in Houston to appear at a public event sponsored by the Progressive Forum tonight at the Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. The event, billed as a conversation with Stevens and Progressive Forum President Randall Morton, is sold out.

*Stevens spoke with Chronicle reporter Mike Tolson.*

**Q: You were replaced by Elena Kagan. Some Republican senators objected to her lack of judicial experience. Should that matter?**

A: The qualifications do not require it. It's a help, of course, if you have been a judge, particularly if you have been a federal judge. It gives you a head start, in a sense. But there are many fine members of the court who never had judicial experience before — Bill Rehnquist, Byron White, Lewis Powell. Experience as a trial lawyer is every bit as important and valuable as experience as a judge.

**Q: Kagan also was criticized because in her role as head of the Harvard Law School she enforced the school's policy of barring military recruiters from campus because of the military's opposition to homosexuals serving. Was that fair criticism?**

A: No, of course not. She was doing her job. Whatever her point of view as a general matter might be, that would not necessarily indicate how she vote on a particular legal issue that might come up. There's a world of difference between having general feelings on a subject matter on one hand and knowing what the legal rights are on the other. I think there was an awful lot of time spent on what should have been a non-issue.

**Q: Is the process of approving a nominee too drawn out and politicized?**

A: There's more debate among the senators than is necessary to reach a judgment on the potential justice's qualifications. There's an expectation sometimes that the nominee will express an opinion of how he or she will vote on future cases, which definitely is the wrong thing to do because you are never 100 percent sure until you hear arguments on the cases. I changed my mind more often than you might think between the time I first looked at the case and the time it had been argued and I had a chance to think it through. And so it's quite wrong for members of the Senate to expect an incoming justice to tell them how they will vote or what their views are on matters they haven't had a chance really to think through.

The most important thing from my judgment is the candidate's general qualifications as a lawyer and impartial person and one who is free to look at both sides of the argument rather than to tell the senators in advance that they think they know how they will decide cases that haven't been argued yet. There's a lot of learning that you do once you get on the bench.

**Q: Sometimes those who disagree with Supreme Court decisions claim that justices who voted for them are acting in too "activist" a manner. Do you see so-called judicial activism as a problem?**

A: Certain decisions can be criticized as activist decisions. I think the decision in the Citizens United case (that allowed unlimited corporate spending on political campaigns) last year fits that quality. But I think the judges in the majority thought they were doing their job. I wouldn't accuse any of them of having a political agenda. The major misunderstanding is that people think the court has its own agenda, that it can go ahead on its own and rule on things, when in fact it merely decides cases litigants bring to the court and does its best to decide those cases.

**Q: In years past, the court consisted solely of older white men. There has been an effort to change that in recent decades. It would seem that having people of diverse backgrounds might strengthen the court.**

A: That's true, of course. Diversity is always a positive value in a multi-member, decision-making body. But unfortunately it's only nine seats, and you can't represent every area of the country or every point of view you would like to. Personally, I would like to see more Midwesterners or Westerners and not as many from the Ivy League schools. But that does not mean any one of them is not fully qualified. It's a problem that there are only so many seats available, and each time (presidential administrations) have made excellent suggestions right along, but they have not tended to diversify the court.

**Q: Are diverging political views important to informing good court decisions?**

A: I suppose, but I was using the term to mean diversity as between different parts of the country and different backgrounds. For example, we don't have any former legislators on the court. Different backgrounds are helpful because you do get different insights in your group discussions.

**Q: Why would having served as a legislator be of value to a court justice?**

A: If you understand the legislative process, which you do more thoroughly if you've been a participant in it, you can sometimes form better judgments on what the Legislature was trying to achieve with a particular statute. That is one issue I disagreed very seriously with my good friend (Antonin) Scalia, who thinks you should not look at legislative history. But I think most justices have found it very helpful when you have close cases.

**Q: There is longstanding disagreement on whether the Constitution is a "living document" subject to differing interpretation over time or something akin to holy writ that should be applied in its most literal sense whenever possible. Where do you come down on that?**

A: You come down in different places on different issues. In some respects, it is exactly the same as it was. The age to serve as a senator or president is cut and dried. But there are provisions in the Constitution that have been interpreted more broadly than the people who lived at the time the provision was adopted ever intended or expected.

Two examples come to mind over and over again. The cruel and unusual punishment clause, if it was interpreted as it was thought of at time of adoption, it would permit the death penalty for 7-year-old children. It was an evolving concept and I think the drafters of it expected to be interpreted more broadly.

And the religion clause is another good example. When the establishment clause was adopted in the First Amendment, the framers understood it to be protecting one Protestant religion from being dominated by others. There was no concern to avoid prejudice against Judaism or Muslims or atheists. . . But the principle had a much broader meaning, and it has been interpreted over the years to cover protection of the beliefs of non-believers and minority religions that nobody was even conscious of.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7296456.html>

You must look at the original drafting and history and so forth to try and understand what's going on, but you still have to figure out what is the entire scope of the principle. For instance under the commerce clause, they had very narrow expectations of what the commercial community might develop into, but that surely didn't mean they (would not have been) willing to legislate against the Internet and things like that.

**Q: Many have mentioned the collapse of civility and collegiality in Congress that has accompanied the rise in partisanship. Has that seeped into the Supreme Court?**

A: No, definitely not. They are all good friends. They work well together. They respect one another. They never have problems expressing their own views and criticizing their colleagues for their different views. But there's none of the bitterness or partisanship that you find in other branches of government. They are all decent people, highly intelligent people. They are all patriotic. They are trying to do their best to do the job they have to do. Sometimes they come up (with decisions) that are incorrect, but I don't question their motives in the slightest.

**Q: Is it a good job?**

A: It's a full-time job, no doubt about that, but it's also a very stimulating job. The cases are always interesting. Over and over again, I remember seeing a case on the horizon that I thought was going to be a real dog and have no interest to me whatsoever, but when you get into it you find that there are interesting angles to almost every case that gets all the way up here.

**Q: Several times a month during its terms, the court comes together in conference to discuss the cases currently under review. Did those discussions ever change your mind about how to vote?**

A: Not very often, but once in a while it happened that I have been persuaded to change my opinion. Usually you are pretty firm in your view by the time you get to conference. But it is really not 100 percent firm until the opinion is announced. People sometimes change their mind during the writing process. I know I have written draft opinions and while I was writing it I decided this didn't make any sense.

[mike.tolson@chron.com](mailto:mike.tolson@chron.com)

## 2 -star , USNA professor clash on diversity

By Sam Fellman - Staff writer

Navy times Online, 18 November 2010 5:33:53 EST

A Naval Academy alumni event grew contentious Tuesday when a two-star admiral clashed with an academy professor on issues of diversity and admissions standards.

Bruce Fleming, an English professor who has taught at the academy for 24 years, said affirmative action and the pursuit of a competitive Division I football team led to the “corruption of the morale of the Naval Academy,” in remarks as guest speaker to the Greater Washington Chapter of the Naval Academy Alumni Association.

“We’ll do anything to get non-white” students, Fleming said, referring to the academy’s diversity goals. Fleming, who served on the admissions board in 2002 and 2003, charged that the school has a two-track admissions process, which admits minority applicants with lower grades and test scores and sometimes sidetracks the congressional nomination process altogether, a process he labeled “racism.”

Fleming continued: “You have students who have been let in, basically, only for their athletic ability or for their skin color.”

His comments irked at least one graduate in attendance.

“I stand before you today, the person you talk about in writing,” Rear Adm. Julius Caesar told Fleming before a few dozen alumni during the question-and-answer period that followed Fleming’s remarks. “I’m so glad that you didn’t sit on my admissions board.”

In a civil tone, Caesar, who is black, took issue with Fleming’s sole focus on admissions metrics — what Fleming called “predictors” — and criticized him for not examining whether the academy was producing better officers.

“Some of those kids, who didn’t have predictors, did make it,” Caesar said. By his own account, he had been one of them.

Caesar, a ’77 grad, grew up in what he called the “inner city” of Cleveland and lacked stellar test scores and grades. He attended the year-long Naval Academy Preparatory School and played football for Navy. Caesar is a vice director at Joint Forces Command.

“When you talk, I want you to look around at some of those folks who have made it,” he told Fleming. “There are people out there — and there are a lot of them — that have gone on to command ships, that went on and [have] done things in business and everything as well, and I’ll just caution you to think about those.”

He added, “All the things you said, they said 30 or 40 years ago” about minorities applying to the Naval Academy.

**<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2010/11/navy-academy-diversity-111710w/>**

Fleming dismissed this as so much “hooyah.” He countered that it’s more expensive to educate students who come in with lower grades and test scores and that it’s hard to justify setting aside

spots for these applicants because they have a lesser likelihood on going on to be good performers. This, he said, would amount to rejecting those with a higher likelihood of success.

Acknowledging he was “standing in the lion’s den,” Fleming told the audience, “You don’t have to have gone to the Naval Academy to be a good officer. That is BS. The ROTC guys and gals and the up-through-the-ranks people are, according to what I see, just as good an officer.”

A Naval Academy spokesman responded that the academy does not have separate admissions procedures for minority applicants. “Every candidate competes equally in a single highly selective and competitive admissions process,” Cmdr. Joe Carpenter wrote in a statement, adding that 85 percent of the minority students in the class of 2014 received their appointments from sources other than the secretary of the Navy.

<http://online.wsj.com/community/groups/executive-recruitment-gender-diversity-863/topics/gender-equity-do-we-really>

## **Gender Equity: Do We Really Need An Act Of Congress?**

**Journal community: Explore Group Discussions Topics**  
**Wall Street Journal, 17 November 2010**

The Paycheck Fairness Act, which requires that employers collect and provide to the government certain payroll data, classified by the sex, race, and national origin of employees. The data would be used for assessment of “fairness” of employee wages based on race and gender.

Some see this as a boon for trial lawyers, and that the Paycheck Fairness Act, if passed, would place costly, job-killing new burdens on employers, including the following:

gender equity, executive recruiting, gender diversity• Requirements for employers to prove that pay differentials are not based on sex and are “consistent with business necessity.”

- Unlimited compensatory and punitive damages for violations of the Equal Employment Act to be levied against private-sector employers.
- Characterization of all employees as belonging to “the same establishment” if they are working in the same county or in similar political subdivisions of a state.
- Automatic inclusion of employees as members of a class-action lawsuit, unless they somehow become aware of the suit and specifically opt out of it.
- Creation of more conditions for lawsuits.
- Creation of a constitutionally-questionable grant program based solely on one’s being female -- wrong approach to executive recruiting as well.

Let's not embark upon a journey that leads us to gender warfare. For more details, the blog article is at <http://www.theexecutivesearchgroup.com/executiverecruiting/blog/>

## **General Says More Troops Need African Language Skills**

**By Lolita C. Baldor, Associated Press  
Fayetteville (NC) Observer November 19, 2010**

WASHINGTON--The Pentagon needs more troops trained in the cultures and languages of Africa in order to better confront the increasing terror threat from the continent, a top general said Thursday.

Army Gen. Carter Ham, who has been nominated to head U.S. Africa Command, told a Senate committee that the threat of terror from Somalia and other areas of East Africa is one of the command's greatest challenges.

And he said that while a number of special operations forces are trained in African languages and cultures, the military is not moving fast enough to provide similar training to other troops.

Al-Qaida-linked terrorist groups in Yemen and Africa have increasingly targeted Western interests, with al-Shabab in Somalia luring Somali-Americans home for terror training in hopes of sending them back to the U.S. to wage attacks.

U.S. officials have acknowledged that Yemen-based al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula poses the most immediate threat for smaller, less sophisticated terror attacks within the U.S. AQAP leaders in Yemen have been linked to the failed Christmas Day airliner attack and the recent foiled plot to mail bombs hidden inside computer printer cartridges from Yemen to the U.S.

Militants regularly travel back and forth between Yemen and Somalia.

There is a lot of concern, said Republican Sen. George LeMieux of Florida, about the increase in communications between al-Shabab and AQAP, and "the fact that they may be recruiting folks through Yemen and training them in Somalia."

Much of the U.S. military has been tied up in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past decade, but as those wars wind down and troops become available Ham said more should be trained in African languages and cultures.

"The extremist threat that's emerging from East Africa is probably the greatest concern that Africa Command will face in the near future," Ham told the Senate Armed Services Committee Thursday, during a hearing on his nomination.

Senators called the challenges facing Africa Command staggering and said it was imperative the command get what it needs to counter terror threats, including personnel, funding, equipment, as well as intelligence and surveillance assistance.

Ham said that he also wants to work with the Pentagon's Southern Command to try and stem the illicit drug trafficking that routes narcotics from South America through West Africa and into Europe. He suggested the military could help stem the flow of drugs through maritime operations along Africa's coast.

The U.S. military currently has a base at Camp Lemonier in Djibouti.

# **Human Relations**

## **A general speaks out about his battle with PTSD**

**By John Ramsey, Staff writer**

**Fayetteville (NC) Observer November 14, 2010**

While everyone else danced at a New Year's celebration to start 2008, Maj. Gen. David Blackledge couldn't stop picturing a suicide bomber blowing up the ballroom.

After nearly losing his life twice during consecutive deployments, Blackledge rarely felt safe.

He couldn't shake the nightmares. He couldn't control his temper. He couldn't focus.

"I started to think, well, this is just the way it's going to be," Blackledge said.

But later that year, after his routine physical, he described his symptoms to a doctor.

Classic post traumatic stress disorder, the doctor said. He sent Blackledge to behavioral health, where he saw a psychiatrist and a psychologist.

They confirmed the diagnosis and told the general they could help.

Now Blackledge - commander of the Army's Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command - is speaking publicly about his invisible wounds to let other warriors know their reactions to combat are normal.

PTSD is one of the signature injuries of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. A 2008 Rand Corp. study estimated that as many as 300,000 veterans of those wars suffered from PTSD or depression.

Yet it remains difficult to persuade soldiers to get the help they need.

### **Reluctance**

An Army report released this summer said soldiers who need mental health care the most are the least likely to seek treatment. They worry it will hurt their career, or they will appear weak.

Blackledge was unsure how speaking to a psychiatrist would affect his career. He said his first psychiatrist promised to be careful when taking notes so the sessions wouldn't come back to haunt the general.

Now, five years later, he's defying the culture of military silence and openly talking about his own troubles.

"We have our warrior ethos. Sometimes that can get in the way of helping us recognize that we need some help," Blackledge said.

"War is an abnormal event and it's a traumatic event. These kinds of issues are normal reactions. If you're struggling with that and it just doesn't seem to be getting better, there's help available."

Leaders have taken steps to reduce the stigma of seeking mental health care, including adding counselors to primary care clinics and embedding them into units with the troops.

But personal experiences shared by someone with Blackledge's stature will be a necessary part of changing the military culture, said Kathy Beasley, a retired Navy nurse who now works with the Military Officers Association of America.

<http://www.fayobserver.com/articles/2010/11/14/1047537?sac=Mil>

"We've put a lot of energy into those campaigns. But I think leaders who have actually experienced it, and are able to come out and talk about it, to me is the most powerful tool that we have," Beasley said.

"It's going to take people like him at those levels to assure others, particularly junior soldiers, to be comfortable to come forward and express the fact that they might need help."

### **Iraq invasion**

Blackledge was part of the invading force that went to Iraq in 2003. Ten days before his 14-month tour was set to end, he traveled in a three-truck convoy on a mission to meet tribal leaders.

The convoy came under attack, and Blackledge said his interpreter was shot in the head. The truck rolled over several times, breaking Blackledge's back.

He and another soldier crawled out of the truck and into a firefight, using a ditch for cover.

As Blackledge returned fire, he said, he saw the last truck in the convoy explode. It had been shot in the gas tank.

Blackledge escaped and spent 11 months recovering from the broken back and other injuries.

Almost immediately, Blackledge said, he had trouble thinking about anything besides the ambush.

He spoke with a psychiatrist several times at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The psychiatrist told him to think of the event as a movie, and to turn the movie off in his head.

But the bigger focus, Blackledge said, was on healing his body.

Three days after a medical board cleared him for duty, Blackledge learned he was going back to Iraq.

"In my case, it didn't give me the mental recovery time to really get past the post traumatic stress I'd experienced," he said.

During the next deployment to Iraq, Blackledge said, he was in Jordan to meet with a team of soldiers there.

He and the team had just eaten dinner at their hotel in Amman. As they were walking through the lobby, Blackledge said, a suicide bomber set off his blast close enough to knock the general off his feet. The bomb killed dozens and wounded hundreds. Blackledge had a whiplash-type injury that took months to heal.

Blackledge said he had thought he was safe outside Baghdad, but the explosion taught him otherwise. It added another layer of stress.

"It just made you kind of feel like you weren't safe anywhere," he said.

Not even at a party years later, in the United States, on New Year's.

"It wasn't really until I came back from that tour that I realized this stuff really isn't going away," Blackledge said.

He'd become outraged in traffic, or in arguments with his wife. The anger, he said, would be

<http://www.fayobserver.com/articles/2010/11/14/1047537?sac=Mil>

disproportionate to the problem.

Blackledge, an avid reader, couldn't finish a book. His attention span wouldn't allow it.

And the nightmares persisted.

Since Blackledge mentioned his problems to a doctor in 2008, he has undergone therapy with psychiatrists and psychologists.

Blackledge said he still deals with some of the symptoms of PTSD, but he knows now how to handle them.

Soldiers and their families should treat the emotional damage of war as seriously as a broken leg or a bullet wound, he said.

Blackledge said he hopes his story can help soldiers get past the stigma and realize it's OK to ask for help.

"No one's going to think less of you," he said.

# Why U.S. apologized to the Cherokees

By A.J. Langguth,

Special to CNN, November 15, 2010

*Editor's note: A.J. Langguth is the author of "Driven West: Andrew Jackson and the Trail of Tears to the Civil War."*



(CNN) -- With the midterm elections over, it's time for Americans to leave behind the recent attempts to demonize an entire people. We needn't look to Nazi Germany or apartheid South Africa for examples of the labeling and abusing of others. The suspicions promoted about Hispanics as criminals and Muslims as terrorists were only the latest reminders of discrimination throughout our own history.

We may be ashamed later, but our apologies usually come too late.

The targets keep changing. Abigail Adams, admirable in many ways, was violently hostile to the French, "Was there ever," she demanded, "a more basely designing and insidious people?" Had it been up to her, the United States might have gone to war with France in 1798, barely 15 years after French support had made America's independence possible.

In 1850, voters in New Hampshire refused to delete the provision in their state constitution that barred Roman Catholics from holding public office. By World War I, Henry Ford was publishing, "The International Jew: The World's Foremost Problem."

But it was in the 1830s that a particularly malignant offense was committed, and it was against the original owners of this continent.

In the War of 1812, Andrew Jackson had vanquished those Creek Indians who sided with the British. Jackson was not generous in victory. Not only did he strip the tribe of much of its territory, he didn't spare those Creeks who had fought at his side for the United States.

Elected president in 1828, Jackson decreed that the Creeks' neighbors, the Cherokees, must also surrender their ancestral lands in Georgia and move west across the Mississippi River.

From George Washington's time, the United States had signed treaties promising the Cherokees friendship and federal protection. To violate those agreements required painting the Cherokees as savages unfit to live near civilized men. Jackson was not swayed by evidence that the Cherokees were something quite different. They had developed a written language, published their own newspaper and adopted a constitution based on that of the United States.

In fact, Europeans often found them more impressive than their white neighbors, and religious leaders, especially Quakers, and Northern abolitionists, rose to the Cherokees' defense. Even those allies, however, tended to patronize the Indians as simple children. From Concord, Massachusetts, Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote an angry open letter denouncing the forced removal, but he, too, described the Cherokees as "savage."

Georgia's politicians, coveting the rich Cherokee cotton land, were more brutal: They claimed that the tribe consisted of "barbarians," and if the government in Washington did not force the Indians out of Georgia, they would take up arms and do the job themselves.

Appealing for help to the U.S. Supreme Court, the Cherokees won a significant legal victory, but Jackson's adamant response was summed up in a few words: Chief Justice John Marshall has made his decision. Let him enforce it now if he can.

Long before Henry Thoreau advocated passive resistance, the Cherokees had pledged that they would never go to war against the United States for their land. They would trust to the fairness of the American people. If they were disappointed, they believed that one day the country would come to understand the wrong that was being done to them.

In 1838, Gen. Winfield Scott arrived in Georgia and began rounding up those Cherokees who would not leave willingly. Some 16,000 members of the tribe were herded into makeshift prisons. Scott's men seized women and children first to guarantee that the men would come out of hiding to protect them.

The Cherokees were then forced into wagons, often at bayonet point. As they left their ancestral land, some saw Georgians digging up family graves, looking for silver jewelry. For five months, they were jolted along the route from Georgia to Oklahoma that became known as the Trail of Tears.

Northern missionaries who shared the ordeal testified to families wrested from their homes so suddenly that they had nothing to protect them against the freezing winter rains. Pneumonia and exhaustion carried off the old and the very young. Although estimates vary about how many did not survive, wagon trains stopped every day for rough burials along the roadside.

The years passed, and America's attention turned elsewhere. Then in 2004, Republican Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas introduced a resolution calling for a formal apology to the Cherokees and to all of the continent's Indian tribes for past wrongs by the United States. Sixteen years earlier, the Congress had apologized for imprisoning Japanese-Americans during World War II, but Brownback's resolution languished until last year when it was added as an amendment to the 2010 defense appropriations bill. President Obama signed it on December 19, 2009.

The apology, however belated, would have pleased Davy Crockett. He had once fought together with Jackson against the British and their Creeks allies. But for opposing the Cherokee removal, Crockett had lost his seat in Congress. Although he regretted his defeat, he said that at least his vote would "not make me ashamed on the last day of judgment."

I find his example worth remembering, along with a hope that no future generation need apologize for what we are saying or doing today.

The opinions expressed in this commentary are solely those of A.J. Langguth.

# Miscellaneous

## **Air Force warns troops about Facebook location feature and others that could aid the enemy**

**By Lolita C. Baldor, Associated Press**  
**SunSentinel.com, 17 November 2010**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force is warning its troops to be careful when using [Facebook](#) and other popular networking sites because some new features could show the enemy exactly where U.S. forces are located in war zones.

In a warning issued on its internal website earlier this month, the Air Force said that "careless use of these services by airmen can have devastating operations security and privacy implications." The message was also sent to senior commanders, who were asked to get the word out to their forces.

The sites are a concern for U.S. military services, which have 95,000 troops in Afghanistan and roughly 50,000 in Iraq. [The Army](#), which provides the bulk of the battlefield forces, said it intends to circulate a similar warning about location services to key personnel next week.

The applications, which are offered by a variety of services including Facebook, Foursquare, Gowalla and Loopt, can identify a person's location, even pinpoint it on a map.

A key concern is that enemy forces could use such features to track troops in the war zone who have a Blackberry or other smart phone and use those networking services.

Location services have grown in popularity as more people get smart phones that have GPS and other means of determining the user's location.

In most cases, however, users have to go into the program manually and check in — or list a location — in order for that location to show up.

According to Facebook's practices, for example, users must either download the Facebook application and then check in to a location, or go to the mobile Facebook page to check in. The default setting for Facebook then allows a user's friends to see the location, but that setting can be manually changed to allow friends of friends or "everyone" see the location.

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/os-teacher-sues-ucf-racism-text-20101116,0,6835228.story>

## **Former professor sues UCF, says she was fired for complaining about textbook**

**According to her complaint, Dr. Nancy Rudner Lugo was a tenure-track professor in UCF's College of Nursing when the university decided not to renew her contract in 2008.**

**By Jeff Weiner  
Orlando Sentinel, 16 November 2010**

A former **University of Central Florida** professor has filed a lawsuit against the school after she said she was let go because she refused to use a textbook that "contains antiquated and offensive racial, ethnic and other stereotypes."

The federal lawsuit, filed Nov. 10, claims Dr. Nancy Rudner Lugo was a tenure-track professor in UCF's College of **Nursing** when the university decided not to renew her contract in 2008.

Court documents show Rudner Lugo believes her termination came after she complained about and later refused to use "Guide to Culturally Competent Health Care" in her Community Health Nursing class.

In her suit, Rudner Lugo accuses the university of ignoring or deflecting her concerns about the book after she said students complained "of how their ethnic groups were depicted" in the text.

In a statement, UCF spokesman Grant Heston said he could not comment on the specifics of pending litigation.

"The UCF College of Nursing's curriculum aims to provide students with the best resources and guidance available so they are well prepared to care for patients of all ages, cultures and backgrounds," Heston said.

The lawsuit lists several specific examples of allegedly stereotypical depictions of particular races or ethnicities:

- In the third chapter, titled "People of African American Heritage," authors Larry D. Purnell and Betty J. Paulanka explain that, "Because significant numbers of African Americans are poor and live in inner-cities, they tend to concentrate their efforts on day-to-day-survival."

- The text says that in the black community "being overweight is seen as positive," asserting that, "It is important to have meat on one's bones to be able to afford weight loss during times of sickness."

- The chapter states that African-Americans tend to be loud, "high-keyed, animated, confrontational and interpersonal." The text includes "voodoo doctors" among a list of "folk" healthcare practitioners common to African-American culture.

- The lawsuit lists similar commentary on numerous other groups. Traditional Italian-American families, the text states, "recognize the father's authority as absolute; nothing is purchased, and decisions are not made without his approval."

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/os-teacher-sues-ucf-racism-text-20101116,0,6835228.story>

- The text claims that Japanese wives "care for husbands to a great extent. Japanese men are presumed not to be capable of managing day-to-day matters."
- It explains that, in the company of Jewish people, jokes "that refer to **the Holocaust** or concentration camps" or "implying that Jews are cheap or pampered" are inappropriate.

Co-author Purnell, a faculty member in the University of Delaware's nursing department, developed the "Purnell Model" of cultural competence, which has been cited in the American Academy of Colleges of Nursing's "Tool Kit of Resources for Cultural Competent Education for Baccalaureate Nurses."

Heston said UCF nursing classes currently use a newer edition of the text, and said several other Florida universities were using the older edition when it was used in UCF classrooms.

<http://ebird.osd.mil/ebfiles/e20101116788843.html> or  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703326204575616572168606014.html?KEYWORDS=The+Newest+Medal+Of+Honor>

## **The Newest Medal Of Honor**

**The man who has earned it is the first from this war to live to see it.**

**By William McGurn**

**Wall Street Journal, November 16, 2010**

At one o'clock today in the East Room of the White House, an Iowa-born soldier will receive the nation's highest decoration for valor in combat. In our nine-year war in Afghanistan and Iraq, this is only the eighth Medal of Honor. Even more rare, the man who has earned it is the first from this war to live to see the president place it around his neck.

The soldier is Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta. On Oct. 25, 2007, then-Specialist Giunta and his team were on a mountain ridge in Afghanistan's violent Korengal Valley when they were ambushed by the Taliban. He took a bullet stopped by a protective vest as he helped pull one soldier to safety.

Then he went forward to help the sergeant, Joshua Brennan, who had been walking point. Two Taliban were carrying Sgt. Brennan away. Spec. Giunta shot the Taliban and brought Sgt. Brennan back.

Here we are reminded that in war there are few storybook endings: Sgt. Brennan would soon die of his wounds.

As a speechwriter for George W. Bush, it was my privilege to write speeches for some of these Medal of Honor ceremonies. Words, however, cannot capture what it's like to watch the surviving moms, dads, brothers, wives and sisters standing up there with a president, hearts bursting with pride over their loved one's achievement, aching with a loss that will never be filled. Because he has lived, Sgt. Giunta's ceremony will be a happier occasion.

Not that he's ready to be called a hero. "I'm not at peace with that at all," he said on "60 Minutes" Sunday night. "And coming and talking about it and people wanting to shake my hand because of it, it hurts me because it's not what I want. And to be with so many people doing so much stuff and then to be singled out . . ."

Sgt. Giunta's words, of course, remind us that he does not need this ceremony. The ceremony is for the rest of us. It reminds us of the sacrifices made so we can sleep easy at night—and of the kind of fighting man our society has produced.

What kind of man is that? When we think of military heroism, we may think of Rambos decorated for great damage inflicted on the enemy. In fact, the opposite is true. Every Medal of Honor from these wars has been for an effort to save life. Even more telling, each specifically recognizes bravery that cannot be commanded.

Of the eight who have earned it, three—Army Pfc. Ross McGinniss, Navy Petty Officer Michael Monsoor, Marine Cpl. Jason Dunham—threw themselves on grenades to protect their comrades. Navy Lt. Michael Murphy knowingly exposed himself to enemy fire so he could call in help for his team.

<http://ebird.osd.mil/ebfiles/e20101116788843.html> or  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703326204575616572168606014.html?KEYWORDS=The+Newest+Medal+Of+Honor>

Army Staff Sgt. Jared Monti died trying to rescue a fellow soldier. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Miller was killed while diverting gunfire from Taliban forces so his team could carry their commander to safety. Army Sgt. First Class Paul Ray Smith—the first from these wars to earn the Medal—took on an overwhelming Iraqi force from a machine gun atop a disabled armored personnel carrier, allowing the safe withdrawal of many wounded American soldiers.

On that ridge in Afghanistan, Salvatore Giunta could not save his sergeant. But he did deprive the enemy of its victory—and death of some of its sting. In that same "60 Minutes" segment, a fellow soldier (who earned a Silver Star in the same firefight) put it this way. "The last thing Brennan ever saw was us," says Sgt. Erick Gallardo. "You know, he saw us fighting for him. . . . We fought for him and he's home with his family now because of that." It's a soldier's gift. Because of Sgt. Giunta, the family of Josh Brennan know that when their loved one breathed his last, he did so knowing he was among friends willing to put their own lives at risk for him.

There was a day when our highest military distinction would be understood for both the rarity and the honor that it is. It no longer seems to work that way. Maybe it's the price of an all-volunteer professional force. When more of us served, we knew what a Medal of Honor meant—and we knew about Silver Stars, Distinguished Service Crosses, and Bronze Stars too.

Whatever the reason, it's unrealistic to expect any nation, even a wartime America, to spend every hour commemorating those who defend us. Which is precisely why we have the Medal of Honor, and the public ceremonies attached to it. For a brief, national moment, a warrior is held up to the American people as an example to his fellows—and the embodiment of our highest ideals.

Today at the White House, Barack Obama and Salvatore Giunta will give us such a moment. Let's hope we're not too busy to notice.

<http://www.politicsdaily.com/2010/11/18/presidential-medal-of-freedom-for-holocaust-survivor-gerda-weiss/>

# Presidential Medal of Freedom for Holocaust Survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein

By Sarah Wildman, Foreign Policy Correspondent  
Washington Times Online, 19 November 2010

There are, occasionally, victims of atrocity, genocide, and hate who not only survive but go on to bring their experiences to the rest of the world; to not only "never forget" but to triumph over persecution – and in so doing reclaim their own humanity -- by putting voice and face to a horror that can feel anonymous in its enormity.

Gerda Weissmann Klein – who on Thursday learned she will receive the highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom early in 2011 – is one. A Holocaust survivor, Mrs. Klein has authored a number of books, and has lectured exhaustively on the subject of tolerance and intolerance, of hope and of devastation.

Now 86, Mrs. Klein was a very old 21 at the end of the Second World War, emaciated and scarred from three years in forced labor and concentration camps, from ghetto life, from losing her parents and brother to the murderous sweep of Hitler's reign of terror. She was liberated by a Jewish-American soldier, himself born in Germany, the son of parents who were trapped in Europe after he escaped and were murdered in Auschwitz. Gerda married that man, and that story – of meeting him and his gentle recognition of her humanity, in something so basic as holding the door open for her and of calling her a "lady," reminded her that there was good in the world.

"All of a sudden I saw a strange car coming down the hill, no longer green, not bearing the swastika, but a white star. It was sort of a mud-splattered vehicle but I've never seen a star brighter in my life. And two men sort of jumped out, came running toward us and one came toward where I stood . . . he spoke to me in German . . . And I felt that I had to tell him we are Jewish and I didn't know if he would know what the star means or anything, but you know, and I uh looked at him, I was a little afraid to tell him that but I said to him, "We are Jewish, you know." He didn't answer me for quite a while. And then his own voice sort of betrayed his own emotion and he said, "So am I." I would say it was the greatest hour of my life. And then he asked an incredible question. He said, "May I see the other ladies?" You know, what . . . what we have been addressed for six years and then to hear this man. He looked to me like a young god. I have to tell you I weighed 68 pounds. My hair was white. And you can imagine, I hadn't had a bath in years. And this creature asked for "the other ladies." And I told him that most of the girls were inside, you know. They were too ill to walk, and he said, "Won't you come with me?" And, and I said, "Sure." But I didn't know what he meant. He held the door open for me and let me precede him and in that gesture restored me to humanity."

Her autobiography, published first as ["All but My Life,"](#) was turned into a movie of the same name, which won an Academy Award. At the [Oscars, Mrs. Klein spoke](#) and her words, so eloquent and spare, so concise, so well captured the sentiment of what we understand in our position of liberty. Indeed, it is that spirit of magnanimous universalism that has made Gerda Weissmann Klein such a very effective teacher of tolerance and dignity, of the very essence of that which makes us human. The [clip never fail to bring me to tears](#). Click play to watch clip.

"I have been in a place for six incredible years where winning meant a crust of bread and to live another day," she told the audience. "Since the blessed day of my liberation I have asked the question, 'Why am I here? I am no better.' In my mind's eyes I see those years and days and those

<http://www.politicsdaily.com/2010/11/18/presidential-medal-of-freedom-for-holocaust-survivor-gerda-weiss/>

who never lived to see the magic of a boring evening at home. On their behalf I wish to thank you for honoring their memory, and you cannot do it in any better way than when you return to your homes tonight to realize that each of you who know the joy of freedom, are winners. Thank you on their behalf with all my heart."

The official White House announcement lauded Mrs. Klein for her work with "Citizenship Counts, an organization that teaches students to cherish the value of their American citizenship" and noted that "Klein has spoken to audiences of all ages and faith around the world about the value of freedom and has dedicated her life to promoting tolerance and understanding among all people."

But to some degree this medal is also coming as a recognition that Mrs. Klein, like all Holocaust survivors, is getting older. We are losing these messengers, day after day. Kurt Klein, Gerda's liberator, her husband, her "love affair" as she's called him, died in 2002. She has carried on these last few years on her own, refusing to stop telling her story, endlessly pointing out to us that we should cherish our "boring nights at home," our freedom, our liberty.

# Misconduct

<http://www.stripes.com/news/former-airman-convicted-of-murder-in-2005-gangster-disciples-initiation-death-1.125512>

## Former airman convicted of murder in 2005 Gangster Disciples initiation death

By **JEFF SCHOGOL**

Stars and Stripes, Published: November 15, 2010



A 2006 handout offering a \$25,000 reward for information in the murder case of Sgt. Juwan Johnson.

WASHINGTON — A former airman has been convicted of second degree murder and witness tampering in connection with the death of an Army sergeant during a gang initiation ceremony in Germany.

Rico Williams faces up to life in prison, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington said. A sentencing date has yet to be scheduled.

Prosecutors argued that Williams, the alleged leader of a Gangster Disciples chapter in Germany, led 10 gang members in a brutal "jumping in" ceremony for Sgt. Juwan Johnson near Ramstein Air Base in 2005. Williams was accused of throwing the first punch in the six-minute beating that Johnson had to endure to join the gang.

Johnson fell at least three times during the ordeal, and Williams was accused of kicking him on the ground. The next day, Johnson was found dead in his barracks. His death was later attributed to multiple blunt-force trauma.

Six other servicemembers have already been tried in military court in connection with the incident. Five received jail time ranging from two to 12 years. The sixth servicemember was found not guilty on all charges.

Airman Nicholas Sims, who was sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter, testified during his own trial in May 2008 about just how ferocious the beating was.

"I don't see how anybody could have made it out of that," he said.

# Religion

# Baiting a faith in Oklahoma

MICHAEL GERSON

Washington Post, Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Just to be on the safe side, voters in Oklahoma this month overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment that prevents the Talibanization of the Sooner State. Henceforth, there will be no public stonings in Ponca City, no forced burqa wearing in Bartlesville, no sharia law in Lawton.

Even supporters of the referendum - which forbade state courts from considering sharia in their deliberations - admitted that the threat from Oklahoma's 30,000 Muslims couldn't be called "imminent."

"It's not a problem and we want to keep it that way," explains state Sen. Anthony Sykes. Sharia law, according to state Rep. Rex Duncan, is a "cancer that must be removed with a preemptive strike."

This is a novel use of American law - not to actually address a public problem but to taunt a religious minority. The Oklahoma amendment purports to "Save Our State" from disputed practices and beliefs within Islam. But the precedent reaches more broadly. Perhaps San Francisco could declare itself a "crusade-free zone," just in case some of those intolerant Catholics are reading Urban II. If they resist being singled out, they must be pro-crusade. Or maybe Congress should pass a constitutional amendment forbidding suttee - the historical practice of widow burning - just to put Hindus on notice. It's not a problem, but, hey, we want to keep it that way.

What Oklahoma has done is faith-baiting - taking the least attractive elements or excesses of a religious tradition and symbolically legislating against them. A federal judge has predictably blocked implementation of the amendment, which raises a variety of practical questions about the enforcement of wills and the recognition of marriages performed in other countries.

But the problem with the anti-sharia movement runs deeper. In its purest form, it is strangely consistent with Islamist beliefs and Islamist purposes. Anti-sharia activists argue that sharia law controls every area of a Muslim's life - that the only valid interpretation of sharia is the oppressive Taliban or Saudi model - and thus that Islam itself is incompatible with American democracy. Radical Islamists would nod in agreement to each of these claims. The accusation of the anti-sharia activists and the fondest hope of Osama bin Laden are identical: that every serious Muslim is a recruit for sedition.

Both are wrong. The proper interpretation of sharia law is a subject of vigorous debate within Islam. There are some who would freeze societies in the cultural practices of seventh-century Arabia. But there are others who identify a core of Islamic teaching that is separable from the cultural assumptions of the Koran and the teachings of Muhammad. Predominantly Muslim nations take a variety of approaches to the application of Islamic law, from theocracy to official secularism. In the Islamic world, there is no consensus on the nature of sharia, and no pope to enforce one.

American Muslims, sometimes immigrants from oppressive societies, generally view their faith as a voluntary ethical and social practice. They seek only a reasonable public accommodation for

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/15/AR2010111506766.html>

their faith - the ability to wear headscarves or pray at work - similar to the rights granted other religions.

So is sharia law compatible with democracy? In the totalitarian version of the Taliban, it cannot be reconciled with pluralism. But if sharia is interpreted as a set of transcendent principles of fairness and justice, applied in a variety of times, places and governmental systems, it more closely resembles the Christian and Jewish idea of social justice.

How does the American system deal with religious debates of such tremendous public consequence? If the sides remain peaceful, the government stays out of the argument. If some turn to violence - either from the Christian identity movement or radical Islamism - the government investigates, disrupts and imprisons the guilty. But it does little good to assume that the most radical position in the debate on sharia is the most authentic, then single it out for criticism. What strategy could be more favorable to radicalism, which thrives by feeding a conflict of civilizations?

This controversy is complicated by its global context - a war on terrorism in which our enemies are motivated, in part, by their conception of Islam. Even if this is a small percentage of the global Muslim community, it represents a large threat to America. This war is very real - but we will lose it without Muslim allies. And we will lose those allies if America treats Islam as the enemy.