

## Upcoming Events

### February 2020

**Black History Month**

**Rosa Parks Day**

February 4

**National Wear Red Day**

February 7

**Valentine's Day**

February 14

**Washington's Birthday/Presidents' Day  
(Federal Holiday Observed)**

February 17

## ORM

### Steps Toward Conflict Resolution

You can contact the Office of Resolution Management (ORM) toll-free at 1-888-566-3982 (TTY/TDD at 1-888-626-9008), from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in all time zones, and speak with a specialist regarding [Equal Employment Opportunity Complaint Processing](#), [Alternative Dispute Resolution](#), and the [Harassment Prevention Program](#).

To file a discrimination or harassment complaint, you must contact [ORM](#) within 45 calendar days of the date of the alleged discriminatory incident.



## Commemorate

### Black History Month

This February, VA joins the Nation in commemorating Black History Month and celebrating the contributions of African Americans to our Nation. The year 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II. The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) poster featured above recognizes the Soldiers from A Company, 452nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery, an all-African American U.S. Army combat unit that served during World War II. [Continued on page 4.](#)

# SOAR

## Upcoming Career Fairs

The Student Outreach and Recruitment (SOAR) Program is participating in three career fairs this spring with the possibility of additional events to be added in the future. The University of Maryland (UMD) Global Campus fair is a virtual career fair to be held March 12, 2020, with UMD Global Campus students attending from all over the world. In addition, the University of Maryland Global Campus student population has a Veteran student population around 60 percent. UMD College Park is a flagship institution in Maryland with a variety of majors and degrees in many different fields. To advertise positions at these career fairs or for more information, email the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#).

1. Spring 2020 Success Hour Diversity Networking Event (UMD College Park): February 20, 2020  
Attendees: UMD Students of Color in collaboration with Student Success Leadership Council
2. UMD Bioengineering and Chemical Engineering Career Fair (UMD College Park): March 5, 2020  
Attendees: UMD Engineering Students
3. Virtual Career Fair (UMD Global Campus): March 12, 2020  
UMD Global Campus Students with 60% Veteran population

## Policy Alert

### VA Handbook 5975.6

[VA Handbook 5975.6](#) (Compliance Procedures Implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973—Nondiscrimination Based on Disability in Federally Conducted Programs or Activities) was published on the [VA Publications website](#) on January 23, 2020. This Handbook provides guidance on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) implementation of policy and procedures pertaining to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, which prohibits discrimination based on disability in any program or activity conducted by Federal agencies. This requirement is to ensure accessibility to VA facilities, programs, activities, services, and benefits to the public, to include Veterans, their families, and beneficiaries.

## “Six Triple Eight: No Mail, Low Morale”

### Special Screening at VA Central Office

VA is committed to recognizing the important contributions of women who served in our armed forces—whose sacrifices and talents are often unsung. Join the Center for Women Veterans and the Center for Minority Veterans for a special screening of “Six Triple Eight: No Mail, Low Morale” on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, in the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Veterans Conference Center (Room 230), 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“Six Triple Eight: No Mail, Low Morale” tells the relatively unknown story of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, also known as the “Six Triple Eight.” This 855-member Women’s Army Corps unit was the only all African-American female unit deployed overseas during World War II.

For more information, contact Ms. Missina Schallus at (202) 461-6195, or Ms. Denise Wright at (202) 461-6178.

## Watch Live on C-SPAN: Interview with Director Kevin Gover

Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 9:10 a.m. (ET)

C-SPAN will be live from the National Museum of the American Indian with director Kevin Gover on Thursday, February 20. On [Washington Journal](#), they will take viewer calls and tweets on the museum’s history, current exhibits, and issues of importance to Native Americans today. Watch live on C-SPAN from 9 to 10 a.m. ET, and catch the replay on C-SPAN3’s American History TV at 8 p.m. ET.

# SPECIAL SCREENING

& LUNCHEON

## THE SIX TRIPLE EIGHT

GUEST SPEAKER, SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

G. V. SONNY MONTGOMERY ROOM 230

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

A Lincoln Penny Films Production

*the*  
*Six Triple Eight*  
*No Mail, Low Morale*



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER James William Theres  
PRODUCERS Edna W. Cummings Elizabeth Helm-Frazier  
Malchcolm Reese Jr. ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS Garry Stewart  
Thai Uriah Aaron Wiggins EDITOR Adam Kilburn  
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY James William Theres  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Malchcolm Reese Jr.  
FILM PRODUCTION Lincoln Penny Films MjrVisuals

For more information please contact

Missina Schallus at 202-461-6195 or Denise Wright at 202-461-6178

## Training

### FEW Webinars

Federal Employed Women (FEW) offers Webinar Wednesdays 30-minute “Soar to New Heights” Webinars. This February, FEW will be offering workshops on the following topics:

**The Diversity Toolkit: Your Role in Workplace Diversity:** February 11, 2020, 7-8pm (EST)

*Description: Please join this webinar as we start the new year with a renewed commitment to embracing diversity and sharing the benefits of diversity and inclusion with members, partners, and friends of FEW.*

**Imposter Syndrome:** March 4, 2020, noon-12:30pm (EST)

*Description: Seventy percent of women suffer from Imposter Syndrome, but few people talk about it. Join us for a discussion on how to overcome self-doubt and soar to greatness in business and your career.*

For more information about FEW’s Webinar Wednesdays, including dial-in information, visit [FEW Webinars](#).

## Commemorate

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Black History Month was established by Public Law 99-244 and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) established the 2020 Black History Month theme: “African Americans and the Vote.” This theme commemorates the year 2020 as both the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (passed after the Civil War in 1870) granting the right to vote to black men and the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment (passed in 1920), the culmination of the women’s suffrage movement, granting the right to vote to black women.

“This theme has a rich and long history, which begins at the turn of the nineteenth century...with the states’ passage of laws that democratized the vote for white men while disfranchising free black men...[E]ven before the Civil War, black men petitioned their legislatures and the US Congress, seeking to be recognized as voters. Tensions between abolitionists and women’s suffragists first surfaced in the aftermath of the Civil War, while black disfranchisement laws in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries undermined the guarantees in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments for the great majority of southern blacks until the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The important contribution of black suffragists occurred not only within the larger women’s movement, but within the larger black voting rights movement. Through voting-rights campaigns and legal suits from the turn of the twentieth century to the mid-1960s, African Americans made their voices heard as to the importance of the vote.” ([ASALH](#))

The Black History Month theme, “African Americans and the Vote,” also addresses representation of “[B]lack elected and appointed officials at the local and national levels, campaigns for equal rights legislation, as well as the role of blacks in traditional and alternative political parties.” ([ASALH](#))

Please join VA Central Office (VACO) in observing Black History Month and the theme, “African Americans and the Vote,” on Thursday, February 13, 2020, in the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Veterans Conference Center, room 230, from noon to 1:00 p.m. Mr. Steven Dillard, Executive Director, Center for Minority Veterans, will serve as the senior host for the event. Retired Capt. Donnie Cochran, Enhance Performance Consulting, Inc., will serve as the guest speaker for the event. This event is sponsored by the Blacks in Government VA HQ Chapter. For more information about this event, contact Ms. Monisha Barnes, President, BIG VA Headquarters Chapter. For more information on Black History Month, visit the Office of Diversity and Inclusion web page on [Black History Month](#).



Office of Human Resources & Administration/Operations, Security, and Preparedness  
Office of Diversity and Inclusion | Office of Resolution Management  
Alternative Dispute Resolution | Resolution Support Center | Harassment Prevention Program  
Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection | VHA Diversity & Inclusion Community of Practice  
VA on Facebook | VA on YouTube | VA Jobs | VA Pulse Reasonable Accommodation Community of Practice

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs | Office of Diversity & Inclusion  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW (06) | Washington, DC 20420 | 202-461-4131 | 202-501-2145 (Fax)