



## DM's NewsLink

News alerts published by the VA Office of Diversity Management & EEO  
Volume 4, Issue 5 November 4, 2004

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The VA Office of DM&EEO (national) works proactively to enhance the employment of women, veterans, minorities, and people with disabilities at VA. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.va.gov/dmeeo](http://www.va.gov/dmeeo).

### PROGRAM LINKS

- Affirmative Employment
- Complaints Prevention
- EEO Awards
- Executive Orders
- Internships
- Secretary's Task Force
- Special Emphasis
- Workforce Analysis

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### This Week's Free Web Tool:

#### Census Information on National American Indian Heritage Month (November)

GO TO: <http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/multimedia/aian2004.html>

### TOOLBOX LINKS

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## THE NEWS LINKS

**VA Sponsors Summit on Minority Businesses.** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) sponsored the second annual "Bridging the Gap" summit to promote small business ownership among veterans, minorities, women, and Native Americans. <http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/PressArtInternet.cfm?id=887>

**Environmental Health Risks Threaten Hispanics.** Hispanics are exposed to more environmental health threats on average than the rest of the population, according to a report released by an environmental group. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6308303/>

**Georgia Court Throws Out Hate Crimes Law.** The Georgia Supreme Court unanimously struck down the state's hate crimes law, saying the measure was so broadly worded that it could even be used to prosecute a rabid sports fan for picking on somebody wearing a rival team's cap. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6331341/>

**Pioneering Black Naval Officer Dead at 82.** Retired Vice Admiral Samuel Lee Gravely Jr., the first black naval officer to become an admiral and to command a warship and a fleet, died at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, after a stroke. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6321558/>

**OPM Director James Issues Memo Calling on Federal Executive Boards to Further Focus on Increasing Hispanic Recruitment Efforts as Part of Overall Outreach Initiatives.** While the Federal Government has generally succeeded in becoming an employer of choice among diverse applicant pools, U.S. Office of Personnel Director Kay Coles James says "there are still challenges to be met regarding Hispanic Employment and will continue to do more to encourage partnerships with Hispanic and other organizations." <http://www.opm.gov/viewDocument.aspx?q=645>

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**OPM Deputy Director Blair Tells Veterans Service Organizations that the Re-employment Rights of Returning Servicemen and Servicewomen Are Secure.** U.S. Office of Personnel Management Deputy Director Dan G. Blair met with Veterans Service Organization representatives and reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to providing employment opportunities and benefits to veterans seeking Federal jobs and employees returning from active military duty. <http://www.opm.gov/viewDocument.aspx?q=657>

**OPM Director Kay Coles James Sends Federal Recruiters to Veterans' Medical Center in Tampa, Florida.** U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Director Kay Coles James is continuing OPM's efforts to reach out to the Nation's veterans for Federal employment. <http://www.opm.gov/viewDocument.aspx?q=658>

**OPM Sends Recruiters to "Screaming Eagles" Nest at Fort Campbell Kentucky to Promote Federal Job Opportunities for Veterans.** Sixty-two years after its Commander foresaw "a rendezvous with destiny" for the recruits of 1942's inaugural class of the 101st Airborne Division, U.S. Office of Personnel Management Director Kay Coles James offered her own prediction for the 101st, famously known as "The Screaming Eagles." <http://www.opm.gov/viewDocument.aspx?q=660>

**Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao Kicks Off 6th Annual Disability Mentoring Day.** U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao officially kicked off the 6th Annual Disability Mentoring Day by delivering the keynote address at the Department's ceremony today. <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20042028.htm>

**National Women's Leadership Summit Showcases Benefits of Partnerships, Mentoring.** The U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau, in partnership with WE Inc., hosted the National Women's Leadership Summit where about 350 women leaders and mentors from around the Nation met to discuss the benefits of partnerships and mentoring in building pathways to success for America's working women. <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/wb/WB20042186.htm>

**Secretary Elaine L. Chao Reminds Employers of Responsibility To Rehire Returning Military Reservists and National Guard Troops.** Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao today issued a Public Service Announcement (PSA) reminding the Nation's employers of their legal responsibility to Reserve and National Guard service members leaving active duty and applying for their previous positions. <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/vets/VETS20042110.htm>

**Nine Honorees Receive Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao's New Freedom Initiative Award Recognizing Achievements on Behalf of People With Disabilities.** Five businesses, three non-profits, and one National Football League player have been selected by U.S. Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao as recipients of her Annual New Freedom Initiative Awards. <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20042039.htm>

**President's National Hire Veterans Committee Expands Nationwide Communications Campaign.** The President's National Hire Veterans Committee expanded its national campaign to raise employer awareness of the value of hiring men and women who have served in the Armed Forces. <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/vets/VETS20041716.htm>

**New Bill Would Protect Jobs Held by Severely Disabled Federal Workers.** New legislation that would protect severely disabled workers from losing their jobs in public-private competitions is sparking anger from proponents of competitive sourcing who say the bill's supporters are using disabled employees to prevent the government from outsourcing jobs. <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1004/102104k1.htm>

**Special Counsel Says First Veterans' Case Will Set Employment Precedent.** The first case brought to the Merit Systems Protection Board involving a Federal agency accused of violating the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act will set an important precedent for Federal agencies and managers, according to Office of Special Counsel chief Scott Bloch. <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1004/102504d1.htm>

**One Conversation at a Time.** Today — often below the radar of politicians and the media — groups in Montgomery and across the country are quietly helping people learn how to talk to each other. [http://www.tolerance.org/news/article\\_tol.jsp?id=1092](http://www.tolerance.org/news/article_tol.jsp?id=1092)

**GIVING YOUR COMMUNITY A VOICE: How to Start a Dialogue Group of Your Own.** From Maine to Kansas to California, communities are responding to discrimination, violence, and local discord by teaching themselves how to talk to one another. [http://www.tolerance.org/news/article\\_tol.jsp?id=1091](http://www.tolerance.org/news/article_tol.jsp?id=1091)

**Hispanics: "New Margin of Victory."** Wooing the Hispanic vote, especially in swing states like New Mexico, has become essential for the parties this time around because the Nation's Latino population of 35 million is the fastest growing demographic and now makes up the country's third largest ethnic/racial voting block with seven to eight million voters. <http://www.hirediversity.com/news/newsbyid.asp?id=18882>

**MBRT Announces Partnership With National Congress of American Indians.** Minority Business Roundtable (MBRT), a national membership organization for chief executive officers (CEOs) of African American-, Hispanic American-, Asian American-, Native American-, and other minority-owned top-tier businesses, announced a strategic partnership with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the oldest and largest tribal government organization in the United States. <http://www.hirediversity.com/news/newsbyid.asp?id=12990>

**Printing Giant Ends Decade-old Discrimination Case With Offer of \$15 Million.** After a decade-long court fight, printing giant R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co. has agreed to pay \$15 million to settle a race discrimination lawsuit filed by black workers at a now-closed plant. [http://www.usatoday.com/money/companies/2004-10-22-donnely-settlement\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/companies/2004-10-22-donnely-settlement_x.htm)

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Note: This communication is best viewed in 5.0 and later browsers.