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Medal of Honor recipient Kenneth David, Maj. Gen. David Gardner and CSM Charles D. Walker, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at the unveiling ceremony at Fort Campbell's McAuliffe Hall on Aug. 26.  
PHOTOS BY TONY CENTONZE/ FOR THE LEAF-CHRONICLE

## Tennessee is only state to drink more as others cut back

**Beth Warren**

Nashville Tennessean  
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Whiskey, wine and other libations are increasingly flowing across Tennessee, making it the only state in the U.S. with a notable increase in alcohol use, according to a recent study.

More than 48% of Tennessee adults acknowledged drinking alcohol in 2023 — nearly a 7% increase from 2013, according to an August report by the food and beverage software company Trace One.

About 52% of Americans said they had consumed alcohol in the past month, down more than 4% from the national peak in 2014, according to Trace One's report, which analyzed the most recent data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

An estimated 54% of Americans say they drink alcohol — nearly a 90-year low — as more adults view even moderate drinking as a health risk, according to the results of a Gallup poll released earlier in August. At the same time, the poll results show that adults' beliefs that even moderate drinking is bad for their health has continued to rise, reaching a new high of 53%.

Even those who still drink are drinking less and with less frequency, Gallup data shows.

Google Trends data shows that searches for non-alcoholic beer, zero-proof drinks and mocktail recipes have surged in the past few years, indicating a growing consumer shift, according to Trace One.

### The mocktail movement

Tennessee is known for its whiskey and craft moonshine drinks, but there's also a growing number of party options that don't include alcohol.

Bars and restaurants are offering more non-alcoholic beers, wines and mocktails and Killjoy, a trendy shop in East Nashville, sells booze-free adult

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# 'Among our best'

## Vietnam veteran inducted into Ft. Campbell Medal of Honor Rotunda

**Kenya Anderson**

Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle  
USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Vietnam veteran Kenneth David was inducted into the Medal of Honor Rotunda at Fort Campbell with nearly 100 supporters in attendance, including city and state leaders, Fort Campbell soldiers, community and family members.

The walls of McAuliffe Hall's Medal of Honor Rotunda were filled with 21 photos and honor citations of former soldiers, who also received the nation's highest award for valor.

Pvt. 1st Class David joined those depicted on the wall as Number 22 after being formally inducted, while surrounded on Aug. 26 by the Fort Campbell community.

"It's not every day that we get to recognize someone whose valor and selfless service were deserving of our military's highest honor," Maj. Gen. David Gardner said.

David was recognized for his actions in Vietnam on May 7, 1970, when he and his company came under an intense attack, leading to the platoon leader and numerous others being wounded.

David, a radio-telephone operator, handed his radio to his platoon leader and repeatedly drew attention to himself. Though he was wounded, David continued to fight, moving to hand grenades after running out of ammunition, refusing to retreat.

"Ken, please let me say that your recognition, and the recognition of all the men in your platoon, took far too long,



Medal of Honor recipient Kenneth David, right, Maj. Gen. David Gardner and CSM Charles D. Walker, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), inside Fort Campbell's Medal of Honor Rotunda.

but we are proud to recognize you here today among our best Screaming Eagles," Gardner said.

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## CDC chief calls notice of firing 'legally deficient'

### Official's lawyers say only Trump can terminate her

**Joey Garrison and Ben Adler**

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The White House said it fired Susan Monarez, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, amid a policy disagreement with Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., yet she is refusing to step down from her post.

Official notification of her termination from the White House came late on Aug. 27 after her attorneys denied she had been ousted, even after HHS announced earlier in the day that Monarez was no longer the CDC director.

But attorneys for Monarez said as a presidentially appointed and Senate-

confirmed official, only President Donald Trump can fire their client. They said notice from a White House staffer in the personnel office did not satisfy that requirement.

"For this reason, we reject the notification Dr. Monarez has received as legally deficient and she remains as CDC Director. We have notified the White House Counsel of our position," Monarez's attorneys, Mark Zaid and Abbe Lowell, said in a statement.

Monarez's attempted ouster, less than one month after the Senate confirmed her to the role, was followed by resignations from three other top CDC officials in protest of Kennedy's leadership, including his directions on vaccines.

Zaid and Lowell, in an earlier state-

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Susan Monarez's attempted ouster, less than one month after the Senate confirmed her to lead the CDC, was followed by resignations from three other top agency officials.

KEVIN MOHATT/REUTERS FILE

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