

Green, Scott

From: Paul and Linda Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 9:24 AM
To: Paul
Subject: Special Edition of CONNECTING: Ed White to be inducted into Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame

Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to inform you that Edwin Q. White, who served as Saigon bureau chief for The Associated Press as the United States committed massive numbers of combat troops to Vietnam, has been selected for induction into the 2013 class of the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame.

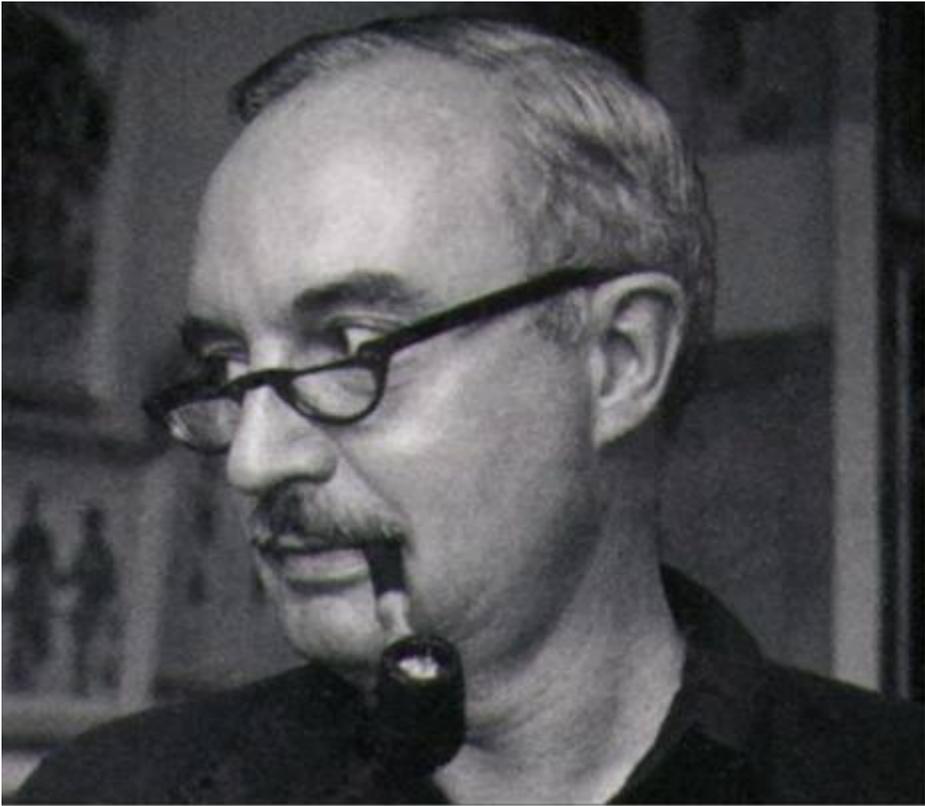
The 38-year AP veteran, who died last Nov. 1 at the age of 90, will be one of five to be inducted Sept. 6 during the annual convention of the Missouri Press Association in Kansas City. The Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame was started in 1991 and Joseph Pulitzer of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch was a member of the first class. White joins longtime Kansas City bureau chief Paul Stevens as the only AP journalists to be members of the Missouri Hall of Fame.

Here is the MPA news release:

[EDIT – See release at bottom of page](#)

For this special edition of Connecting, I am sending you a brief biography of Ed's career and am attaching comments from his daughter, Rachel White Watanabe, three of his former AP colleagues – Peter Arnett, Hal Buell and Richard Pyle, and AP corporate archive director Valerie Komor. If you would like to share a comment with the group and with Rachel, send it along to me.

I am also attaching two photos of Ed from his days in Saigon. The bureau photo shows five of AP Saigon's seven chiefs of bureau during the Vietnam War between 1962 and 1975. From left, , George Esper, 1973-75; Malcolm Browne, 1962-1965; George McArthur, 1968-69; Edwin Q White, 1965-67; Richard Pyle, 1970-73.



Edwi n Whi te



Esper Browne McArthur White Pyle

Born in Tipton, Mo., on Aug. 29, 1922, White was a reporter's reporter - skeptical, careful, a stickler for accuracy, with an acerbic wit and a no-frills writing style that stressed facts over drama.

His career in journalism began at his hometown newspaper, The Tipton Times, and continued after World War II service at the West Plains Daily Quill.

"I used to go hang around there (Tipton) on Thursdays when they put it on the old flatbed press, helped them pull it off, got kind of interested in it and then went on to the University of Missouri which at that time had one of the leading journalism schools in the country," White recalled in an AP Oral History interview conducted in 1997.

White graduated from the University of Missouri's journalism school and saw Army service in World War II. In the Philippines when the war ended in 1945, his unit was sent to Korea to help handle the repatriation of the defeated Japanese troops. Volunteering for postwar duty in Japan, White joined Pacific Stars and Stripes, a new Asian edition of the military newspaper, and was a correspondent in the Philippines, Japan and Korea.

After Army service, he returned to Missouri and was a reporter for the St. Louis Star-Times before he joined the Quill. White recalled that Frank Lee Martin Jr., publisher and owner, had been an AP correspondent in China: "He was with the old INS (International News Service) in China during the war. Switched from INS to the AP then and then I guess he achieved what was a dream of many correspondents - he came back and bought a small daily of his own."

After working for Martin from 1946 to 1948, White decided it was time to move on and asked Martin about working for a wire service. "He said, 'Well, why?' And I said, 'Well, maybe the exposure I'd had in Asia,' I was thinking overseas already. So his response was, 'Well if you're interested in a wire service, the AP is the only thing to consider of course.' His background that's what—so he knew the bureau chief in Kansas City and he got in touch with him and the bureau chief said they didn't have an opening right at the moment but if I'd go out to Wichita, Kansas, and work on the paper there for a while until they had an opening, that I'd get the first crack. So I did. I went out and worked on the Wichita Eagle for about six months. An opening came in Kansas City; I went there and I started doing everything you do when you start out in the AP."

Frank Lee Martin Jr. was inducted into the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame in 1992 and his son Frank L. Martin III, current publisher and owner, who wrote a letter of support for White's nomination, was inducted in 2009.

After five years with AP in Kansas City, White moved to New York and in 1960 to Tokyo, as news editor in the flagship bureau of AP's Asian operations.

White was part of a fabled crew of journalists who covered the war for the AP from Saigon.

"They were such a great bunch of people. I sometimes just stood around in awe of them," White said in August 2012, after the death of Malcolm Browne, a reporter and former Saigon AP bureau chief who became best known for his 1963 photograph of a Buddhist monk who committed suicide by fire.

The escalating conflict in Vietnam led international news agencies to expand their staffs, and White soon found himself commuting between Japan and Vietnam, spending weeks at a time in the war zone. As the United States shifted from an advisory to a full combat role in 1965, the Saigon bureau came under intense pressure to maintain the excellence of its news report. When White replaced Browne as chief of bureau in

1965, he inherited two superstars, director of photo operations Horst Faas and correspondent Peter Arnett (who won the Pulitzer for international reporting under White's watch), as well as a growing stable of local and international staff.

White, known among colleagues as "Quigley," his middle name, was on emergency duty in Saigon when South Vietnam fell to Hanoi's communist forces on April 30, 1975. He left on one of the last evacuation helicopters from the roof of the U.S. embassy. White said the biggest regret of his career was leaving Saigon, a moment he thought about almost every day.

"Going off of the roof of the embassy wasn't the greatest happening of my life," he said.

In 1979, White left Tokyo for Hawaii. A year later, however, he was dispatched to Seoul, where AP's all-Korean staff had come under severe government pressure. He retired in 1987 and returned to Hawaii with his wife, Kim, daughter Rachel White Watanabe, and Rachel's husband, Michael Watanabe, all of Honolulu.

Here are comments from his colleagues and friends, leading off with his daughter,

Rachel White Watanabe:

I always knew my father had a lot of history in him. He never talked too much about his past but I always knew that his career was a huge part of his life (and for the most part - something he was extremely proud of). To me, he was my dad, one of my best friends and the greatest dad I could have ever hoped to have. I was honored to have his full attention and love my entire life. It wasn't until he died that I fully understood what an impact he made on other people's lives as well. So many people reached out to me and shared their stories with me and these are stories I will never forget.

To get a better understanding of my relationship with my dad, I wanted to share one of our favorite stories with you. When I was a freshman in college, I was completely overwhelmed by the American college experience. I took too many classes at once and completely stressed. One day I begged my dad to help me out with a paper I had to write for my advanced English class. I remember telling him "come on you're the journalist - what good are you if can't help me with this?" He finally agreed to do this for me and he completely got into it - pounding on his manual typewriter for the rest of the day. It was supposed to be our little secret. A week later sitting in class, I got my paper back and there was a big red D on it. I was stunned to say the least. The gist of the professor's comments was "sentences too short and choppy." I went home and showed it to my dad and he shook his head and muttered something under his breath. I said "shall I tell her it was written by someone who made writing his career and had been paid to do it for 40+ years?" His response to me was "I think you should write your own papers from now on." After that, anytime his career was brought up he would say "yah but I got D in English class..." I bring up this story now because I can't help but to think that this honor and award certainly makes up for the D in English class.

Peter Arnett, AP Pulitzer Prize winner:

Ed White was an indispensable member of the AP Saigon staff during the height of the Vietnam War, his dogged, unflappable handling of his duties on the main news desk sometimes extending over days in times of crisis. I was always relieved to hear Ed's calm, reassuring voice as he patiently typed out stories I was phoning in from battlefields over unpredictable military communications, and sending them on their way.

Ed was older than most of us and had the experience, and the personality, to handle the war coverage pouring into the Saigon bureau from sometimes as many as six or seven field reporters. Only on a few occasions was

Ed able to escape the desk work and breathe the smoky air of the battlefields, and when he did he worked with distinction.

Ed joined several other AP staffers to cover the last days of the war in 1975. As the end neared he begged George Esper and me to be allowed to stay on with us during the final hours on April 30 when communist tanks were poised to enter Saigon. But our New York headquarters had set a limit on staffers and I escorted Ed to the waiting buses taking the last Americans to waiting helicopters. There were tears in his eyes as he said goodbye.

Hal Buell, former vice president for photos

I knew and worked with Ed – friends called him Quigley, his middle name – in the early 1960s when he was AP news editor in Tokyo and I was photo editor. We covered stories together on the wider Asia beat before Vietnam was THE Asia story, at datelines like Seoul, Jakarta, Hong Kong, and Bangkok.

Ed was the consummate AP journalist. In the most difficult situations he was calm, unflappable. With an occasional puff on his ever present pipe, he would roll out flawless, clean copy as fast as those rickety old typewriters could function. He was quick to smile and he frequently offered humorous comment on whatever task we faced.

He was classic AP, his love and dedication to AP principles buried deep in his belly. His no-agenda approach to every story was simple and to the point and was summed up in his basic rule of news reporting and writing – “Just tell ‘em what happened, and tell it right.”

I was assigned to Tokyo before Ed, but he was senior to me in years of AP experience and on more than one occasion his leveling influence kept me out of trouble.

We were close friends through all those years and our friendship continued alive through Vietnam and into retirement despite being oceans apart. Like others, I called him Quigley; he was one of the very few I allowed to call me Harold.

Richard Pyle, former Saigon bureau chief

As a long-time friend and former colleague of the late Edwin Q White, I can't imagine anyone more appropriately entitled to recognition by the Missouri Journalism Hall of Fame.

Ed White, or Quigley, as we called him in Vietnam, was a native son of Missouri who first learned his skills at his home town newspaper, honed them later at the university's distinguished school of journalism, and went on to a stellar career as a foreign correspondent for the Associated Press.

When not directing AP's big international staff as News Editor in the important Tokyo bureau for more than a decade, Ed spent as much time on detached duty in Vietnam. Whenever crisis situations in Saigon required emergency reinforcements, which was often, Ed was the first guy called, and then-bureau chief Malcolm Browne said, “no sight was more welcome than Ed White coming through the door.”

For that reason he was chosen to succeed Browne in 1965-67, when the US role expanded from “advisory” to full-scale combat forces' involvement, and his commitment to the story extended right to the fall of Saigon in April 1975.

“Role model” is an overworked term these days but younger staffers like myself learned quickly to rely on Ed’s judgment, and over time to admire his determined adherence to traditional standards and guidelines, and his stubborn refusal to cave in to misguided suggestions from NY editors or pressure from military officials.

In crunch-time, Ed was always the calmest person in the room, and his wisdom, professionalism and journalistic integrity were among the factors that made AP Saigon, without doubt, the greatest wartime news bureau in the annals of journalism.

Valerie Komor, AP corporate archives director

I never met Edwin Quigley White, but I felt as though I had. He came to me as an inheritance from Kelly Tunney, who knew him well. Once we began corresponding by email, I noticed that Ed seemed to adopt me into his AP family. I was a newcomer, having joined AP in 2003, and I lacked any journalism credentials. This mattered not to Ed, who simply made it his mission to pick me up and place me firmly into his circle. That circle was wide, because it included everyone who had known and loved Ed over his exceptionally long and globe-spanning career.

What I began to cherish about Ed was his quiet, soft-spoken, loyal regard and love for his friends. He never wanted the spotlight and if he saw it panning around, he ducked out of its path and trained it on others. In their oral history interviews for AP, Ed’s Tokyo colleagues Tetsuko Itagaki and Shigeyoshi Kimura spoke over and over of Ed’s kindness, how Ed had been there for them, said a kind thing, written a kind word, offered a spare room, stepped into the breach. He did this without much ado.

The archival records show this, too. In 1965, Wes Gallagher sought to add experienced staff to the precocious Saigon bureau that Malcolm Browne had established and was now leaving. With Bob Eunson’s counsel, he turned to Ed White, then 43, whom AP World described then as “a calm and deliberate man of long news experience in Asia.” In one of Ed’s last emails to me, in October of 2012, he mentioned he was pleased I was to be visiting Le Lieu Browne in New Hampshire, as Malcolm had died on August 27. “I’m delighted you are making plans to visit Le Lieu. When you do see her please give her my love, and tell her I think about Mal and her every day. We were really old school in our time, and I was so very close to them both. I figure that Mal was the first real AP Vietnam hand I actually worked with.”

Another great friend of Ed’s (really a brother) was John Roderick. Ed took it very hard when John died in 2008. He was happy, however, to hand me on to John’s adopted son, Yoshihiro Takishita. “Happy to note in the overnight mail that you and Yochan are in solid contact. In a message to me he described it as ‘great news,’ and said he is “thrilled” at the prospects of a meeting.”

From time to time, Ed would impart, with characteristic grace, timely advice: “Not to worry--enjoy.” “Abide the cliché: smell the roses.”

Fittingly, Ed died on November 1, 2012, All Saints Day. He would probably have noted it was during the Year of the Dragon. But from where I sit, Ed is one of the saints. Aloha.

2013 Hall of Fame new release

For Immediate Release: June 17, 2013

Contact:

Doug Crews, Missouri Press Association dcrews@socket.net 573-449-4167

Inductees Selected for Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame

Five persons with ties to community newspapers in Missouri, including a bureau chief with the Associated Press in Saigon during the Vietnam War, will be inducted in September into the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame. The induction program will be Sept. 6 during the 147th annual Convention of the Missouri Press Association (MPA) at the Marriott Downtown in Kansas City.

This year's inductees are the late Henry F. Childers of Troy, the late Robert E. "Bob" Cobb of King City, Jane Duncan Flink of Ashland, Wendell Lenhart of Trenton, and the late Edwin Q. White, a native of Tipton.

Inductees are chosen from among people nominated by friends, associates and family members. Induction is based on a long career of sound, ethical journalism and service to the Missouri newspaper industry and the community.

This will be the 23rd group to be inducted into the Newspaper Hall of Fame, which was established by MPA in 1991.

Inductees or members of their families receive Pinnacle Awards. Plaques with their likenesses are on permanent display in the MPA office in Columbia and in the student lounge in Lee Hills Hall at the Missouri School of Journalism.

Following are brief biographies of the inductees, in alphabetical order.

Henry F. Childers (1859-1934)

Childers devoted more than 50 years of his life to the Troy Free Press in Lincoln County. Except for a few brief periods of work on other newspapers, Childers served the Free Press from its origin in 1878 to his death in 1934. The newspaper became one of the state's finest weeklies under his ownership.

Childers was born in Washington County, Mo., in 1859, and learned to set type at age 15 for the Chamois Leader. While attending Westminster College in Fulton, he worked for the Fulton Enterprise.

He worked as shop foreman for the Troy Free Press upon its founding in July 1878 by Will and John Knott. Childers, on leave from the Free Press, established The Elsberry Advance in October 1880, and continued with the weekly newspaper until December 1881.

Childers became sole owner of the Troy Free Press in 1882. The content of the Free Press was typical of country newspapers. Emphasis was placed on local news, much of it written by country correspondents, and local advertising. With Childers' vigorous editorship, the Free Press grew in circulation and content.

Childers editorialized for local improvements, actively supporting bonds for railroad, road and bridge construction. Much credit for early improvements in Lincoln County transportation is given to him. He also wanted to establish a college.

He served as president of the Missouri Press Association in 1909. In 1931, the Missouri School of Journalism awarded Childers and his newspaper the Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism. His printing plant and newspaper press were among the finest in any town the size of Troy.

On his 50 years of service to country journalism, Childers wrote: "I have preferred to give the best I had to my neighbors and friends who have been so loyal to me when I needed friends While I am sure that I could have made more money elsewhere, there are so many things I have found that are more worthwhile than wealth."

**Robert E. "Bob" Cobb
(1940 – 1997)**

Doctors said Bob Cobb, born with a crippling condition, Spina Bifida, wouldn't live more than a year. Instead, he beat all odds and became a respected journalism teacher, editor and newspaper publisher in Northwest Missouri.

Raised in Stanberry, he loved sports and played baseball and basketball, despite his physical deformity and a rather pronounced limp. He was the manager of the football team in high school and later played golf, town-team basketball and pitched fast-pitch softball.

At Northwest Missouri State College in Maryville, he served as student body president in 1963, and received degrees in English, Journalism and Spanish.

Cobb taught high school journalism at Maryville, and he taught and coached in Barnard, Plattsburg and Odessa, serving as the yearbook and school newspaper adviser. Regarded as one of the top journalism instructors in the state, many of his former students became teachers and journalists.

In the mid-1970s, Cobb became editor of The Richmond News. After a few years, Cobb and his wife, Lana, moved to King City, eventually buying the King City Tri-County News, publishing the weekly for 21 years and winning numerous awards for news coverage. The Cobbs also owned the Stanberry Headlight and Albany Ledger for a time.

At King City High School, he taught Spanish, and established and coached in the school's golf and softball programs.

Cobb was president of the Northwest Missouri Press Association in 1981 and was awarded the Merrill Chilcote Award for Outstanding Service to Journalism in Northwest Missouri in 1999.

He was well known for his weekly opinion columns in the Tri-County News, "Off The Cobb" and "Chalk Talk," and he covered the Kansas City Royals, often visiting the team locker room and press box, becoming friends with Frank White, George Brett and other players.

While never letting his crippling physical condition stop him from doing anything he wanted to do, Cobb was an inspiration to everyone he met.

**Jane Duncan Flink
(1929 -)**

Jane Flink and her late husband, Richard, purchased the Boone County Journal in Ashland in 1986, publishing the weekly until they retired in 2001. She is known to be a gifted editor, who reads broadly and constantly, thinks deeply, and writes with both passion and balance.

Mrs. Flink wrote and edited news for the Centralia Fireside Guard and the Fulton Kingdom Daily News from 1974 until 1982. She was the agriculture editor for Missouri Ruralist magazine from 1982 to 1985, and served as director of the Winston Churchill Memorial and Library at Westminster College, Fulton, beginning in 1985 for five years, while continuing her newspaper duties.

Under the Flinks' guidance, the Boone County Journal in 1986 was one of the first Missouri weeklies to transition to desktop publishing. During their 15 years as owners, the Flinks' newspaper won numerous awards for editorial writing and editorial pages, photography, reporting on the Flood of 1993 and General Excellence.

Mrs. Flink left her mark on the newspaper world in many ways, including:

- Mentoring young writers;
- Being an early advocate for news and features on family and lifestyle issues, rather than "women's news;"
- Doubling the Boone County Journal's revenue and circulation, setting it on a firm foundation;
- Advocating for city parks, health education in the schools, and making future "smart growth" a serious issue for Ashland and its town council.

Mrs. Flink was active in journalism organizations. She received the "Communicator of the Year" award from Missouri Press Women nine consecutive years, and in 1988, was named the state society's Woman of the Year. At the National Federation of Press Women, among 50 nominees, she was runner-up for the national Press Woman of the Year.

She was president of Missouri Press Women in 1995, and a member of the Board of Directors of the NFPW. She served as president of the Boone County Historical Society in 1999-2000.

Wendell Lenhart (1954 -)

Wendell Lenhart is a second-generation president of the Missouri Press Association. Lenhart, publisher of the Trenton Republican-Times in north-central Missouri, served as MPA President in 2001.

His father, the late William O. Lenhart, served as MPA President in 1981. The elder Lenhart died in 1983, which led to his son moving from the general manager position to publisher of the daily newspaper, owned by his family since 1963.

Lenhart served as president of the Northwest Missouri Press Association in 1987-1988, and president of the Missouri Associated Dailies in 1989-1990. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Missouri Press Foundation.

A co-worker said Lenhart "truly exemplifies what leading a 'community newspaper' is all about, keeping Trenton and the surrounding area informed as to what is happening in the area and serving as a voice of the community through his editorials."

Lenhart has led a number of community organizations, serving as president of the Wright Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, president of the Trenton Downtown Improvement Association, president of the North Central Missouri College Foundation, and co-chair of the college's "Invest in the Vision" fundraising campaign that resulted in construction and development of a classroom complex. He is a former member of the Missouri Ethics Commission.

In 2001, Lenhart said people disenchanted with the national media make a distinction between their local newspaper and the national media. That distinction results from the involvement of a local newspaper and its publisher helping to find solutions to its community's problems.

Lenhart and the Trenton Republican-Times have plenty of experience with that.

Edwin Q. White (1922 – 2012)

Edwin Q. White was a journalist who cut his teeth in Missouri and on Missouri newspapers, but he made his biggest mark covering the Vietnam War, serving in the Saigon bureau of the Associated Press.

White was born in Tipton, Mo. As a child he was interested in the operation of The Tipton Times weekly newspaper, and he set his sights on a career in journalism. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and was on the staff of the Pacific Stars and Stripes after the war ended. He left military service and returned to work five years for newspapers in Kansas and Missouri, including as a reporter and city editor for the West Plains Daily Quill.

His interest in overseas reporting led him to the Associated Press. First, he worked for the AP five years in the Kansas City bureau, beginning in 1949. Next came stops with the AP in New York City and in Tokyo. He began covering the escalating conflict in Vietnam in the early 1960s, and was named the AP bureau chief in Saigon, 1965-1967.

White, known among his colleagues by his middle name, Quigley, was one of five former members of what author David Halberstam called "that great AP Saigon bureau." Richard Pyle, AP Saigon bureau chief, 1970-1973, said, "All were iconic figures, and among his peers, none was more admired than Ed for his calm demeanor, his sure-handed skills, and not least his acerbic wit, in the tense and sometimes chaotic circumstances that are part of war reporting.

"White worked primarily as a desk editor, often on overnight duty, but he also took his turns as a field reporter riding helicopters into dangerous places and covering the troops in combat," Pyle said. "It is safe to say that the journalistic seasoning he acquired early on Missouri newspapers and burnished over the years with AP served him well."

During most of the 15 years of the Vietnam War (1960-1975), White divided his time on assignments between Tokyo and Vietnam. In 1975, with regret, he was a passenger on one of the last evacuation helicopters that left from the roof of the U.S. embassy when Saigon fell to communist forces.

An AP story at the time of his death last year said White was known as a reporter's reporter – skeptical, careful, a stickler for accuracy, with a no-frills writing style that stressed facts over drama.

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