

Green, Scott

From: Paul and Linda Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2013 9:00 AM
To: Paul H. Stevens
Subject: CONNECTING: George McArthur interred at Arlington; The Washington march, now and then; AP tweets sponsor; Usage of downloaded apps; Onion serious on Syria?

Colleagues,

Here are some items of interest.

George McArthur interred at Arlington National Cemetery

Richard Pyle provides this report:

Given the rate at which World War II and Korean War veterans are answering the last bugle call these days - official estimates have said about 1,000 a day, and you have to wonder how long that can go on - America's national cemeteries are backed up with requests for burial space.

Thus it was that George McArthur, who served in the Navy in the Pacific in WW2, later was among the noted "boy correspondents" who covered the Korean conflict for AP, and still later the Vietnam War, was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on August 22, four months after he died on April 12, age 88, in Vienna, VA.

(George, who was among my predecessors as Saigon bureau chief and a close friend for 45 years, was one of six legendary members of the AP Saigon staff to pass on since February 2012, four of them ex-COBs. Those others: Malcolm Browne, Edwin Q White, George Esper).

The ceremony on a hot day took place at one of Arlington's "courts," where cremated remains are placed in mausoleum-style repositories in a wall. About 30 people attended, among them a couple of family members from California, Virginia neighbors, and U.S. diplomats. My wife Brenda and I represented former AP colleagues who were unable to attend, and Vietnam itself was represented by Germaine Swanson, who had miraculously escaped in the fall of Saigon in 1975 with her American husband, a Life magazine photographer, and large Vietnamese family.

Even without the horses, the caisson and other elaborate funeral trappings for which Arlington is noted, the Honors Ceremony was one of dignity, military precision and tradition befitting a WW2 veteran. A rifle squad of seven white-uniformed sailors fired a 21-gun salute, a bugler played "Taps," and eight more sailors performed the ritual folding of the Stars and Stripes, which was then presented to George's wife, Eva Kim McArthur, "on behalf of the President of the United States, the United States Navy, and a grateful nation."

A Navy chaplain in dress whites read a prayer, and told briefly of George's career in 1944-45 as a Quartermaster 2nd Class (QM2) aboard the Navy hospital ship USS Bountiful. "His job was navigation, and as a quartermaster, he steered the ship," the chaplain said. (I found in that some symbolic application to his later role as an AP bureau chief in Cairo, Manila and Saigon).

As McArthur himself had recalled, as a non-combatant, Bountiful was deployed on the fringes of the war. Even during history's most epic naval battle at Leyte Gulf in late 1945, the all-white ship stood off at a distance from the battle fleet, with spotlights illuminating the huge red crosses on its sides.

In late 1969, after 20-plus years, George left AP in Saigon to join the Los Angeles Times there. In 1975, he and Eva, who served as confidential secretary to several American ambassadors, departed Saigon on one of the last helicopters off the US embassy roof.

More than once in later years, he told me that his ``biggest regret was leaving the AP."

-30-

Here is the flag folded by the Naval honor guard and presented to Eva Kim McArthur:



50th anniversary of March on Washington

Here are two AP stories from yesterday's activities in Washington marking the 50th anniversary of the civil rights march on Washington and Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/more-300-sites-ring-bells-mlk-speech>

AND

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/obama-inspires-many-50th-year-king-remembrance>

And here is the original AP story on the 1963 march:

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_289563/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=MjsrxKER

This morning's Mike Allen Politico Playbook notes that The Washington Post wasn't the only paper to omit the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and "I have a dream" from its front page on the morning after the march. Said Playbook: The Los Angeles Times and The Miami Herald did the same. The L.A. Times' lead story was, "Kennedy Signs Bill Blocking Rail Strike," with the march getting the off-lead position, and coverage on parts of 11 pages inside. The L.A. Times' main news story ("200,000 TAKE PART IN CAPITAL MARCH") was from AP, which didn't mention King in the first 11 paragraphs. An A1, staff-written sidebar was headlined, "Kennedy Sees Leaders, Lauds Historic March." The Miami Herald led the paper ("200,000 March and Sing") with an AP story that didn't mention King in the first 19 paragraphs. It did say: "Marlon Brando of the films was there, ... carrying with him a cattle prod of a type he said had been used in some places to make civil rights demonstrators move on."

AP's **Evan Vucci** shot this photo of President Obama talking with the granddaughter of Martin Luther King, which was on Page One of today's Kansas City Star and undoubtedly many other newspapers. The New York Times' **Doug Mills** shot an almost identical image within seconds of Vucci's picture and it was displayed across the top of Page One.



Welcome to the newest member of Connecting - **Kimberly Mills**.

Paul

-0-

AstraZeneca sponsors tweets from AP

<http://www.poynter.org/latest-news/mediawire/222350/astrazeneca-sponsors-aps-tweets-today/>

-0-

Usage of downloaded news apps reveals some striking differences (Shared by Ralph Gage)

<http://www.rjionline.org/research/rji-dpa-mobile-media-project/2013-q1-research-report-4>

-0-

The Onion Denies Taking A Serious Line On Syria

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/rosiegray/the-onion-denies-taking-a-serious-line-on-syria>