

Click [here](#) for more details on the change.

Harry Koundakjian services - and memories

Funeral services for **Harry Koundakjian** will be held at 1 p.m. (Eastern) Saturday at the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, 152 East 34th Street, New York, NY 10016. A memorial will be planned for a later date.

The pioneering AP photojournalist in Lebanon who covered that nation's brutal civil wars and other major news events in the Arab world for more than four decades died on Monday in a New York hospital at the age of 83.

Here are some memories shared with Connecting:

[George Krinsky:](#)

News of Harry's passing was a jolt. We all knew it had to come some day but we didn't want to be here for it.

I worked with Harry in Beirut and around the Mideast for three years (1977-79) and have kept in touch with him ever since. More accurately, he kept in touch with me and all his friends from the "old days," because he believed in holding on to friendships. In that sense, he kept us honest. A get-together with Harry was always worth it.

As Richard Pyle and Hall Buell wrote in their excellent remembrances, Harry was a pioneer, and his career was indeed "uncommonly rich." Above all, he was a character. From that character flowed stories that could fill a book. The moniker "Harry The Horse" came straight from Damon Runyon, and Harry was proud of it.

I can still see him hunched over the "tric trac" (backgammon) board with the office gang after a long day dealing with the chaos of the Lebanese civil war. A bottle and wads of cash were always nearby. Harry was not a hand wringer. Life was to be lived.

If I had to come up with a single word for The Horse, it would be "irrepressible." It was his spirit, his enthusiasm that made him a legend. A lot of people will remember Harry, and not a few of them are indebted to him.

Dear Aida, of course, tried valiantly to keep Harry from overdoing it, and it is a tribute to her that he lived this long.

Our hearts go out to here, Lola, Vicken and Phillip.

[Richard Pyle:](#)

Excerpts from a talk he delivered in 2009 at a meeting honoring Harry at the Armenian Civic Center, Woodside, Queens, NYC:

Everybody in Beirut knew the guy with cameras they called "Harry the Horse." Covering the Beirut civil war meant daily trips into the streets, where the private armies, Muslim and Christian, were shooting at each other. And to hotels where diplomats, and groups like the Arab League and the Red Cross were trying to negotiate a cease-fire, mainly to rescue wounded Palestinians from the camps. To give you an idea of how tricky that was, one of the key figures, and a "news source" that we dealt with almost every day, was Hassan Salameh, alias Abu Hassan, the so-called architect of the 1972 Olympics massacre in Munich.

In journalism, reporters and photographers often work as a team. Harry and I formed a kind of partnership. On some days we went out in his car, in what were really open-ended searches for trouble. Harry was like a tour guide on steroids. We had a few scrapes, and I sometimes wondered if his idea of covering the war in Beirut was trying to get us into a jam just so he could say later that he got us out of it. Well, he did do that, because we are both here today.

Once back at our hotel, we wrote stories and developed film and then took it all down the hill to yet another hotel which had its own private phone line to the outside world, operated on privately generated electricity, for a couple of hours a day. For the customary baksheesh, we got our stories and pictures out to London. Harry and I can look back on this today as the highest form of journalism - reporting the news under very difficult and dangerous conditions.

Harry also took great pictures, as we know from the exhibit. I have been lucky as a "word guy" to have worked with many of the world's top news photographers in the last 40 years. Horst Faas, Larry Burrows, Henri Huet, Eddie Adams - who earned their reputations in Vietnam. And Harry Koundakjian, who made his bones in the Middle East. As journalists for the Associated Press we are in the front row when history happens, and Harry has the pictures to prove it...

...Every year the AP has a company dinner for employees and retirees with 25 or more years of service. It's always a very nice event with a lot of "hey, how are yas" and a minimum of speeches. At one of these dinners, maybe eight or nine years ago, Harry was there and said he wanted to make a brief talk. But he was not on the official program so the folks in charge said no - there was no time for that. This did not stop Harry. I watched in amazement as he got up on the stage, took out a

small American flag and held it up (like this), and with tears streaming down his face, he announced that he had just become an American citizen, and he wanted the world to know it. It was one of the most beautiful moments that I have ever witnessed in my life.

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Richard noted that his wife **Brenda** pointed out that Harry the Horse died in the Year of the Horse. Here's a photo of Brenda and Harry, taken a few years ago at his photo exhibit.

(Editor's note: People born in Horse years (2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966, 1954, 1942, 1930, 1918, 1906) are bright, cheerful, popular, and fun loving. They find people and crowds exciting, and love parties. Horse's childish innocence, sunny disposition, and natural charm attract many friends. Horse is a highly intuitive animal, so people born in Horse year follow their hunches. Their keen judgment and natural intuition often help them make the right decisions throughout their life. Usually they don't need to struggle in order to succeed and obtain the fine things life has to offer. Click [here](#) for more.



[Claudia DiMartino](#)

I have so many memories of the larger-than-life Harry the Horse -- shouting on the phone in unrecognizable languages, dancing with a glass on his head, and giving gifts. He was a rock, a man you could count on, a loving member of his Armenian community, the man who presides at the feast. All these things made him someone I wanted to be near and be called his friend. Hal (Buell) is working on material for Richard (Pyle) to put in the obit, but I needed to pay tribute to the man myself as well. I can only imagine how difficult a time this is for you. May God give you the strength to get by. (From her note to Harry's wife.)

[Neal Ulevich](#)

Below is a Widelux snap of Harry Koundakjian. I am saddened to hear of his passing. This photo shows the AP photo operation at Tehran Asia Games in September 1974. Left to right: Jackson Ishizaki, Tokyo Photos; 'Junior' Koundakjian, assisting his father, Parviz Raien, Tehran correspondent; Harry Koundakjian, and Makoto Saito, Tokyo Photos.



News of the AP

Former AP reporter Robert Heard dies at age 84

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - Robert Heard, who reported on Texas state government, politics and sports for The Associated Press, including the 1966 University of Texas tower shootings and a groundbreaking series on race and integration of Longhorns football, has died. He was 84.

(Connecting colleague **Mike Holmes** recalls Robert, who was with the San Antonio Express-News when Mike moved to AP Austin bureau as correspondent. Mike writes: "The late Jack Keever, who also worked on the Longhorn segregation story, used to tell a funny story about Robert. Back in the days of Saturday PMers (that dates us), a sportswriter somewhere got lucky and did a Saturday PM feature on a backup QB who was the star of an afternoon game. NY Sports used that to apparently decide that all Saturday PM stories needed to be more Forward-looking. Robert's first lead after that directive was something like, Jack said: 'The Texas Longhorns are expected to receive if they win the toss Saturday in a Southwestern Conference game against Rice.'")

Photographer recalls 25 years ago when man defied tank in Tiananmen

BEIJING - He captured the photograph that immortalized the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989: a lone man in a white shirt standing before a row of tanks, seemingly fearless after the Chinese military has unleashed a bloody assault on pro-democracy protesters.



Nearly 25 years later, former AP photographer Jeff Widener is left with bittersweet memories of that day and place. Sweet, because his "Tank Man" photo brought him

international fame and serendipitously connected him, two decades later, to the love of his life. Bitter, because so many people died in a military assault that China's government, to this day, refuses to acknowledge.

(Shared by Paul Colford)

(Shared



[AP Reporter Relentlessly Presses State Dept. Official to Name One Accomplishment From Hillary-Led Initiative](#)

When pressed by Associated Press reporter Matt Lee at a Tuesday press conference, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki was unable to name a single "tangible achievement" from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's 2010 Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review. (Shared by Bob Daugherty)

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[At the marathon, AP's Bill Kole made lousy time and great tweets](#)

When he runs, Bill Kole usually pulls back from what's happening around him and focuses on his pace. On Monday, he did the opposite for the Boston Marathon. "I needed to think about what was going on with the many souls around me," he said in a phone interview with Poynter.



Connecting mailbox

Has former AP broadcast executive [Steve Crowley](#) found a new gig in retirement?



Not really. But it looks like he could handle the guitar if his son Jonathan's rock band, [Vinyette](#), came calling. Steve attended a concert earlier this month by the Brooklyn-based band at Scriptown in downtown Omaha. Vinyette just got off a tour in Portland, San Francisco, L.A. (House of Blues), San Diego, Boulder, Omaha and Chicago, and

will start a European tour at the end of May doing 25 gigs in 30 days in places like Germany, the UK, Czech Republic, Italy and The Netherlands. Jonathan is the drummer.



Welcome to Connecting

[Guy Palmiotto](#) - AP New York photo retoucher

[Peter Hermann](#) - AP New York metro photo editor

Stories of interest

McClellan: A carpenter has the making of a folk hero (Scott Charton)

Scott Bujnak became a folk hero last Wednesday. He told the boss he didn't want to work for the company any more. Bujnak is 56. He had worked for the company for 18 years. He was the head carpenter. Talented and popular. He and his two-man crew did all the remodeling projects. Plus, maintenance.

Jim Romensko wrote: On April 7, I reported that Lee Enterprises CEO Mary Junck received a \$700,000 bonus for simply refinancing the newspaper chain's debt. The news disgusted longtime St. Louis Post-Dispatch carpenter Scott Bujnak. "That was the straw that broke the camel's back," he says. Bujnak, 56, went into publisher Ray Farris's office last Wednesday and quit after 18 years at the Lee-owned daily. Columnist Bill McClellan writes in the attached: He told his boss he was through and explained why. What's the point of saving nickels and dimes when the big boss gets a \$700,000 bonus?

Romenesko said he called McClellan to see if he had difficulty getting a column critical of the Big Boss into the paper. "I didn't have any problems," he says. "The only thing I did out of the ordinary is turn it in at one [instead of the usual 5 p.m.] in case there were any questions." There was one, he says. "I got one call about mixing the paint, and that's all." (He makes reference to Bujnak's recycling paint to save money.) McClellan guesses this column "probably went up the ladder" higher than usual for approval, but he's not certain. (In an email and voicemail, I've asked metro editor Marcia Koenig about that.) McClellan says today's piece only helps the Post-Dispatch. "It makes us look good when we criticize ourselves." I've asked Lee spokesman Dan Hayes if he's seen the column. Since he's never returned my calls, I suspect we won't find out.

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Rieder: The resurgent 'Washington Post'

What a difference a billionaire makes. It wasn't that long ago that *The Washington Post* was reeling, shedding staff and trimming ambitions as ad revenue plummeted. Then last summer the Graham family, which owned it and loved it, decided the iconic news organization would have better prospects in the hands (and with the deep pockets) of Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos.

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Gannett's broadcast revenue soars, circulation revenue slips

Revenue from broadcasting in Gannett's first quarter just about doubled over the same period a year earlier, the company announced in an earnings report Wednesday. Gannett attributed the 99.5 percent rise in broadcast revenue to its acquisition of Belo, as well as Winter Olympics, political advertising and retransmission revenue.

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Getting Away With Murder (Mark Mittelstadt)

Syria has joined the list of countries where journalists' murders are most likely to go unpunished, while Iraq, Somalia, and the Philippines once again were the worst offenders, the Committee to Protect Journalists has found in its newly updated Impunity Index. Convictions in four countries represented a glimmer of good news

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How 'communicating imperfection' can increase readers' trust in journalists

After studying corrections from three newspapers in different parts of the world, Zohar Kampf and Efrat Daskal concluded that journalists don't "understand the great ethical potential in corrections."

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Article Writers Needed - 1 cent per word, ongoing work (Doug Pizac)

Please do not apply if you are not ok with the rate of 1 cent per word (maximum). This includes Elance fees. Please bid the Elance minimum for this job as an understanding of this rate.

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Beat of the Week(Valerie Komor)

Youkyung Lee was nervous when she arrived in Mokpo, South Korea, to interview survivors of the sinking of the ferry Sewol. The Seoul-based technology writer knew that the environment would be hostile -- distraught families had turned their anger and frustrations on the media.

Lee went to the hospital where a dozen survivors were being treated. It

was late in the evening; checking room numbers, she went looking for eyewitnesses to interview.

In one room, Lee found a woman sitting on a bed, her eyes welled up with tears. Politely, unassumingly, she explained that she was a reporter for The Associated Press. Did she have family on the ferry? Yes, her husband was on board. Might she speak with him? Yes, if her husband was willing.

The woman left the hospital. Lee followed, and was introduced to the husband, Oh Yong-seok. The family was going to dinner; Lee asked to interview him while their food was being prepared.

It was only then that Lee learned that Oh was a member of the ferry's crew -- and that he was on the bridge and with the captain as the catastrophe unfolded. The family invited Lee to join them for the meal, and they ate as Oh recounted the frenzied last moments of the Sewol.

<http://www.upnorthlive.com/news/story.aspx?id=1032505>

The story that resulted was the first eyewitness account of what happened on the bridge. It was cited repeatedly by others in the days that followed, and newspapers from around the world asked the AP for Oh's contact information.

Lee was not the only AP staffer who successfully negotiated the difficult conditions. Seoul-based reporter **Hyung-jin Kim** was one of the first reporters to visit a school in Ansan, where hundreds of students who were on a school trip on the ferry are missing or feared dead.

Amid much hostility -- as he worked, shoving matches broke out between other reporters and family members -- Kim managed a series of emotional, powerful and exclusive interviews with family members of the missing and dead students, their friends and neighbors.

He spoke to a grandmother who anguished about how her handsome, strapping grandson couldn't get off alive; with a vendor who remembered joking with missing students when they came to eat chicken, but now described the neighborhood as like a funeral home; with a single mother who remembered her son telling her he wanted to become a doctor because she'd had heart surgery.

Hyung-jin got details from inside the school, reporting on empty classrooms with desks cluttered with textbooks, gym clothes and water bottles and painfully poignant messages written on blackboards, expressing hope for the survival of classmates.

Meanwhile, Kim interviewed others, including the survivor of a group of 60-year-old grade-school classmates who had taken a ferry trip as a sort of reunion. And in a series of early morning encounters, she talked again with Oh, the surviving crew member who trusted her with his story.

"I knew he was tired of talking to reporters about the evacuation and how he survived so I asked him other questions ... then he opened up about how he felt sad that all the crew members are being treated like criminals even as some of them remained until the ship sank to help rescue," she says.

The result was another in an unbroken series of AP stories that offered insight into a horrific tragedy and its aftermath. For their unstinting efforts to tell the stories of those who died and those who did not -- and their ability to surmount the most ticklish of circumstances -- Youkyung Lee and Hyung-jin Kim are this week's winners of the \$500 prize.

Paul Stevens
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

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