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**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** Connecting - February 9, 2015

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# Connecting

February 9, 2015

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*A display of the many presidential, military and related pins collected by Ron Edmonds in nearly 30 years as the Associated Press Senior Photographer at the White House. (See story below.)*

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning - and here's to a great week ahead for us all.

I thank my colleague (and fellow Fort Dodge, Iowa, native) **Mark Mittelstadt** for his wonderful work as the Connecting editor during the past eight days, while Linda and I explored the Gulf Coast of Florida, from Sanibel Island to Marco Island, in search of the perfect Key Lime Pie.



We found a winner, on Sanibel, in the form of [Gramma Dot's Seaside Saloon](#).

But Mark isn't finished with his duties just yet - as evidenced by our lead-off story on the fascinating collection of memorabilia by one of AP's most famous photojournalists, **Ron Edmonds**.

**BRIAN WILLIAMS** - Many of you have weighed in with your thoughts on Brian Williams. As you know by now, he said in a memo to NBC news staff Saturday that he is temporarily stepping away from the "NBC Nightly News" amid questions about his memories of war coverage in Iraq, calling it "painfully apparent" that he has become a distracting news story. The anchorman said that as managing editor of "NBC Nightly News" he is taking himself off the broadcast for several days. NBC News refused to comment Saturday on when or whether Williams would return and who would decide his future. Williams, however, said he would be back. Today's Connecting contains more reaction.

I am glad to be back with you, and look forward to your submissions to our newsletter.

Paul

## From presidents to politics, the cool stuff a White House photographer collected

By Mark Mittelstadt

Retired Senior White House Photographer **Ron Edmonds** ([Email](#)) shared with Connecting photographs of the many souvenirs, "tidbits" and other items picked up in 28 years of working for The Associated Press in Washington. "From anniversary gifts from the AP to convention pins, presidential beer, soda and even presidential barbeque sauce," he said. "It's fun to look back on what I have collected. It brings back fun memories and some not so fun memories."

Edmonds photographed every president from **Richard Nixon** to **Barack Obama**. His assignments included summits of world leaders, presidential inaugurations, space shuttle launches, Super Bowls, Summer and Winter Olympics, political races and most of the Republican and Democratic National Conventions since 1980. His work appeared in publications around the world including TIME, Newsweek, Paris Match, Stern, Sports Illustrated, Life, and People.

Along the way, he received pins, photographs, other items signed by U.S. presidents, tchotchkes, even special beer to remember a day or an event. Boxes of candy and even cigarettes, each reflecting the president at the time, came home from Air Force One.

"The M&M's from Air Force One (below) are George W. and the box in the middle is Air



*Beers for Ronald Reagan and Bush-Quayle re-election, signed can of Billy beer.*

Force One cigarettes, which Nancy Reagan made them stop putting on the plane," Edmonds said. "I can't remember, but I think that's when the M&M's boxes came on board."

He said it's hard to say which is his favorite "as each is a reminder of events along my journey. Some of the notes from subjects after assignments are fun, including a signed picture from **Ronald Reagan** up in a tree in a bathing suit I made of him looking like Tarzan. He signed it 'Why didn't you wait till I swung on my vine.'



*Reagan cutting tree branches. (Ron Edmonds/AP Photo)*



*Ron playing horseshoes with George H.W. Bush, with a letter from the president.*

"Playing horseshoes with President Bush (41) was a surprise. Phone rang on a Sunday morning and it was the president's aide. He ask what I was doing and said the president wanted to play horseshoes and wondered if I could come over and play. It was like going to my grandparents' house, we played horseshoes, barbequed and had a great time."

Edmonds received the 1981 Pulitzer Price in spot news photography for his coverage of the assassination attempt on Reagan. In 2013, he received the White House News Photographers Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

He was an early pioneer of the use of digital cameras in news photography, including using an experimental electronic camera to transmit to newspapers around the world the first photos of President **George H.W. Bush's** inauguration, 40 seconds after he put his hand down after being sworn in.

"The bronze plaque from the trip of Reagan for the 40th anniversary of D-Day has a funny story," Ron said. "They put them on the wrong helicopter as we headed to Normandy. As we were on our way, the crew passed them out to all of the White House staff and the press on board. A couple of weeks later I ran into a White House staffer and ask why our chopper was the only one to get the souvenirs. He said they were for the VIPs on the trip and were put on the wrong chopper. They were going to ask for them back, but since **Hugh Sidey**, TIME magazine, and **Eleanor Clift**, Newsweek, and other big name journalists (received them), they were afraid it would turn into a story and just bit the bullet."



He retired in 2009. Since then, "it has been fun going back through my old stuff," he said. "A lot of memories of a fun career."



*Boxes of Air Force One M&Ms, cigarettes, a commemorative egg from 2004 White House Easter Egg Roll*



*Pins and glass mug from 2004 Bush-Kerry debate.*



*Pins plus plaque with signed photo of President George H.W. Bush, photographers in front of the pyramids.*



*Reagan tie tack, given for providing an image when the official White House photographer wasn't around; medal of thanks from Vice Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Peter Pace for providing an image of a soldier. If you had such a medal, "you very rarely had to buy drinks in a military bar when challenged."*



*Pins from AP, Canon and the 1984 political conventions*



*Sigma Delta Chi and other awards.*



*President Barack Obama congratulates AP White House Photographer Ron Edmonds, with his wife Grace and daughter Ashley, upon his retirement from AP. (White House photo by Lawrence Jackson, July 30, 2009)*

View a slideshow of Ron's travels and images:



30-year Replay, Ron Edmonds

## Kansas memories of Harper Lee - when she was Truman Capote's go-fer

The publishing world was stunned last week when Nelle Harper Lee, 88, announced that she would publish her second novel, *Go Set a Watchman*, in mid-July 2015. *Go Set a Watchman* is a sequel to her Pulitzer Prize winning *To Kill a Mockingbird*, though it was completed before the latter.

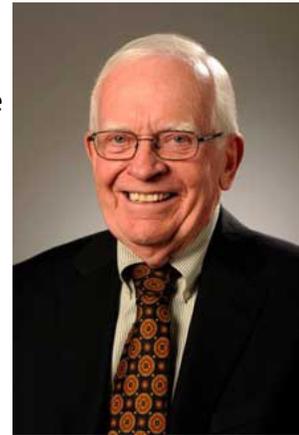


Turn back the clock some 55 years ago - when Lee was an assistant to Truman Capote when they traveled from New York to Garden City, Kansas, for the trial of Perry Smith and Richard Hickok, the two men accused of killing four member of the Clutter family of Holcomb, Kansas. Smith and Hickok were convicted and sentenced to death. Capote published in 1966 his iconic book *In Cold Blood*. Capote is said to have brought along Lee, his childhood friend, to help gain the confidence of the locals in Kansas. She is pictured above in Garden City.

Two of our Connecting colleagues - former AP newsman **Elon Torrence** and photographer **Rich Clarkson**, then with two Topeka newspapers - covered the trial, and Connecting asked both for their memories. Today, Elon is retired after a distinguished AP career in Topeka and at 98 lives with his wife Polly. Rich owns a photography and publishing business in Denver, Rich Clarkson and Associates. Here are their stories:

***Rich Clarkson...***

**Rich Clarkson** ([Email](#)) - Between the arrest and return of Smith and Hickock to Garden City for their trial, a small cadre of reporters (and one photographer, me) were doing interviews with townspeople, the prosecutor and officers involved as walk-up stories to the trial to come. Some of these people were tiring of doing interviews over and over with different writers and were asking if we could share these interviews - mini press conferences as it were.



At day's end when everyone would write and file, we would gather at the one place in Garden City where you could get a drink (Kansas was dry in those years) which was the American Legion Club. Bill Brown, editor of the Telegram, somehow made us all members. We would gather each evening for drinks and dinner (which was pretty much telling how one wanted the T-bone steak done) and Capote and his assistant would join us.

Truman would do interviews each day, sometimes sharing them with Ron Kull of the Daily Capital and/or Gay Kalbfleisch of the State Journal. One night, Kull quizzed the very quiet assistant with the question, "You're doing all the work for Truman. Shouldn't you be doing the book? ( he intends to write after his New Yorker stories?)" She quietly assured us it was alright. When Kull quizzed her more, she replied that he had written a book. Ron asked, "Did you get it published." She said yes. "Did it sell well?" She said simply, "yes, this past fall." Ron asked, "What was its title?"

"To Kill A Mockingbird" replied Harper Lee. Until then, we had no idea that's who she was.

### ***Elon Torrence...***



**Elon Torrence** ([Email](#)) - interviewed by his daughter in law Carol, telling her that the residents of Garden City were all abuzz about Capote being there and that little attention was paid to Nelle. Capote was wined and dined so to speak as Nelle worked in the shadows. Elon wore a wry smile as he said "little did they know then that she would publish a Pulitzer Prize winning novel under the pen name Harper Lee."

In an AP Oral History done a few years ago, Elon, recalled:

I really took that case kind of personally because of all the people I had known in Garden City. After I got Topeka, I saw Herb Clutter more than anyone else. He was a lobbyist for the Kansas Wheat Growers Association and attended every legislative session. We would visit. I say I took it kind of personal when I found that he had been murdered.

Well, at the time of the trial, they sent me out, and I knew most of the participants, except for the two men charged with the crime. I knew the judge and the attorneys, the prosecuting attorney and the court-appointed attorneys for the defendants and several of the jurors. In the courtroom, you had a railing that separated the attorneys and the judge

from the rest of the courtroom. Then the first row behind this barrier was reserved for the press, and then the public behind them.

I was over at the left-hand side of the press row, and over to the right-hand side was this writer who was famous for his Breakfast at Tiffany's book. He had this Girl Friday helping him, you see. Took notes and ran errands; was really kind of a Girl Friday. She went by the name of Nelle Harper. All the newsmen called her Little Nelle. In retrospect, it was kind of funny, in a way, that people in Garden City were inviting Capote out to their homes or to the country club. No one really paid any attention to Little Nelle. Then months later, after everybody was long since gone from Garden City, she became a household word when she published her only book, To Kill a Mockingbird. She went by Nelle Harper out there, but she wrote the book under the name of Harper Lee.

## **Brian Williams - should he stay or should he go?**



**Jim Lagier ([Email](#))** - Having posted an encomium of Brian Williams in the past, I am saddened by his plunge into ignominy. It was his fault, of course, but his news program was so good: Calm, no screaming, uplifting, enlightened. There was no need for him to fabricate his experience.

I remember a horrendous moment in my life working the AP desk in Los Angeles on the Sharon Tate slaying. I worked all day on this momentous story. Late in the evening, our reporter at the police department called to say the caretaker had been arrested and charged with the murders. I filed the bulletin, in time for eastern newspapers. Shortly later, the reporter called to say the information was incorrect. I filed a bulletin kill, but the story was in print on the East Coast. The next time I went to work, I was asked to call New York. I had to answer dozens of questions from Ed Dennehy or Joe Kane (I forget) on what

happened. I thought the AP was going to fire me. Such a lesson. One should always learn. Sometimes, forgiveness is in order if contrition is manifest. It was for me.

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**Mark Hamrick** ([Email](#)) - If a journalist or a journalism brand don't have trust, they have nothing. As long as Williams remains in place, his audience may fear NBC stands for "not been checked."

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**Kent Prince** ([Email](#)) - Since I was New Orleans news editor during Katrina, I suppose I'm obligated to comment on Brian Williams' reporting. I wasn't in the water; I was on the desk in Baton Rouge, taking dictation and trying to filter out the garbage despite broken telephones.

There were such fantastic stories in that chaos that nobody knew what was true. Check out the bulletin kill on the story that later became the infamous Danziger Bridge police convictions. (Full disclosure: it wasn't my error.) The cops didn't know what was real either. The police chief himself told me that a gang of thugs swarmed a squad of his men at the Convention Center, grabbing for their guns and forcing them to retreat for their lives. He believed it. Members of the squad probably did too. Best we can figure in hindsight is that refugees who had no food or water saw policemen and rushed to them to get help. Rapes and murders in the Superdome? Bodies in the street? Maybe Williams conflated the bodies at the Convention Center, or under the overpass. There were 1,500. Who knows. I'm glad I didn't have to stand there on camera and yammer and yammer and yammer without a script about rumors that even the authorities thought were true. At the time we thought he was damned good.

I can't comment on the way war stories grow as we tell them over and over, but I'll add one thought: The cannibalism is disheartening. In today's environment William Faulkner would be barred from his typewriter for pretending to be a war hero. The clamor to get Brian Williams' head - gotcha!!! - is emblematic of our news world. Corporate axmen are whacking away at editors, photographers and even reporters in favor of bloggers and talking heads, at the expense of coverage. And we attack ourselves.

I've seen some great discussions of all this. CNN's Reliable Sources covered all the angles and included clear-headed comments from Russel Honore. Let me recommend this piece in the Sometimes-Picayune by Keith Spera. It's good perspective. Click [here](#) to read.

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### ***Accept Brian Williams's Apology***

**Joe Klein, Time:** The judgments about whether the NBC anchor should be fired, from pundits who never saw the inside of a chinook helicopter, are self-righteous and gagging.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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### ***Why Brian Williams should resign***

**Verne Gay, Newsday:** It's all over but the press release. Brian Williams as anchor of the "NBC Nightly News" is done. There is no way to contain the damage. No way to continue. No way out.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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### ***Anchors Aweigh***

**Maureen Dowd, New York Times:** WASHINGTON - THIS was a bomb that had been ticking for a while.

NBC executives were warned a year ago that Brian Williams was constantly inflating his biography. They were flummoxed over why the leading network anchor felt that he needed Hemingwayesque, bullets-whizzing-by flourishes to puff himself up, sometimes to the point where it was a joke in the news division.

But the caustic media big shots who once roamed the land were gone, and "there was no one around to pull his chain when he got too over-the-top," as one NBC News reporter put it.

It seemed pathological because Williams already had the premier job, so why engage in résumé inflation? And you don't get those jobs because of your derring-do.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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### ***Brian Williams, Retreading Memories From a Perch Too Public***

**David Carr, New York Times:** For some time now, there have been two versions of Brian Williams. One is an Emmy-winning, sober, talented anchor on the "NBC Nightly News" and the other is a funny, urbane celebrity who hosts "Saturday Night Live," slow-jams the news with Jimmy Fallon and crushes it in every speech and public appearance he makes.

Each of those personas benefited the other, and his fame and appeal grew accordingly, past the anchor chair he occupied every weeknight and into a realm of celebrity that reaches all demographics and platforms. Even young people who wouldn't be caught dead watching

the evening news know who Mr. Williams is.

Which is good until it isn't.

Click [here](#) to read more.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Did FDR not die of natural causes?*

**Gene Herrick** ([Email](#)) - I would hate to go to my grave with an historic news tip that I cannot confirm. It was told to me, personally by an uncle-in-law (uncle to my then wife), about 1949. His name was George Loy. George was a long time Secret Service Agent, a lot of it as agent-in-charge in Chicago. He was in on the capture of Chicago mobster Al Capone.

One day, while he was visiting relatives in Carmel, Indiana, he personally told me that he was going to tell me a true story. George Loy, then an active Secret Service Agent, said to me, "President Franklin Roosevelt did NOT die of natural causes." He went on, "I can NOT tell you any more than that."

I could only assume this was a very top secret, and probably buried in the depths of government achieves, not recorded at all.

I carried this info for some time and finally one day years later, wrote to the AP General Manager, who, as I remember, was Lou Boccardi. He wrote back and said that it was interesting, but as they say in "Journalism 101, if your mother tells you she loves you, check it out."

There was no comment about AP checking it out, and I never heard further about the matter. Naturally, I have no resources. However, I am passing on to you. Do with it what you will.

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### *Memories of the TRS-80*

**Neal Ulevich** ([Email](#)) - The TRS-80 Model 100 was remarkable, and it still is remarkable. Mine sits well wrapped in the garage, along with an Osborne 1 and a few other early computers. Tandy bought the machine from Kyocera. The BASIC language interpreter made useful programming relatively easy even for neophytes. Battery life was exceptional. There was a Y2K bug, but no one at the time contemplated its continued use in the new millennium.

Mine was a freebie from the Day in the Life Book Projects. Most reporters I worked with or knew were happy converts to technology because of the TRS-80 Model 100. One wasn't,

insisting the creative process required he use a typewriter, not a computer. No one remembers his name.

Later, I persuaded Dick Atkins to throw a little money at Apple II clones to replace the clanking Chinese telex machines in the reopened Beijing bureau. My only meaningful foray into arcane assembler language yielded the software which moved the copy along in a format the telecommunications lines of the day required - 5-level ALL CAPS on a current loop circuit. It was a hobby - I was bureau photographer and photo editor - but a useful one. At the time no one could conceive of a computer and software capable of handling images.

The computer bug hit me while working in Bangkok about 1976; it is a chronic disease, incurable. I began building computers then - the early kits were fascinating - and still do.

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### ***Delighted to discover Goldstein Islands***

**Jane White** ([Email](#)) - I was surprised and delighted to discover that the Goldstein Islands story I've been telling my University of Arizona journalism students for the past 18 years is not apocryphal! The version I heard many years ago was slightly different, but except for a little torque around the question of complicity, it turns out it's essentially factual. (And isn't it always good to find you've been telling students essentially the truth?)

What a kick to hear it from the gentle, kind-hearted Norm himself.

Salut, Norm!

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### ***More memories of AP service awards***

**Charles Green** ([Email](#)) - I don't recall ever receiving a service award during my 24 1/2 years with AP. But I do have one memento from my days as Mexico City bureau chief that I cherish. It has sat in a place of honor in our dining room for 45 years.

The sterling silver cigarette box is engraved with these simple words:

To: Chuck  
AP Staff  
World Cup 1970

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**Bobbie Seril** ([Email](#)) - Seeing last week's cache of AP memorabilia reminded me of something I was given by the Boston bureau. Though I doubt it was sanctioned by anyone from the home office, I treasured it nevertheless.

Though I never received an official AP milestone gift - I was only there for eight years - I did get something very unofficial. When I left Boston in late 1977 to work for Burl Osborne in New York, the somewhat cheeky - albeit loyal and loving - bureau gave me this T-shirt. Along with it came a beautiful lithograph of the Boston skyline.



Fast forward a few years to find Burl in Dallas, who sent me this T-shirt when he started their bulldog edition. Not a great likeness.



Though both shirts haven't seen the light of day in decades, I continue to resist all urges to consign them to the rag pile. And the lovely picture still graces my living room wall.

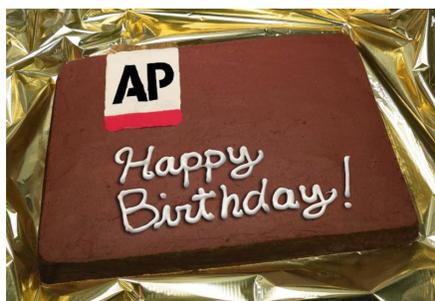
## Why do writers inaccurately call the software that writes AP news stories "robots"?

For a few months now, the Associated Press has been publishing corporate earnings reports written entirely by computer programs. Except no one's calling them "computer programs."

"AP's 'robot journalists' are writing their own stories now," the Verge wrote last week. "Robot-writing increased AP's earnings stories by tenfold," reported Poynter, an organization typically known for its thoughtful approach to journalistic word choice. No less a wordsmith than New York Times media columnist David Carr marveled on Tuesday at seeing an AP report on his own employer's earnings that was "written by a robot."

Click [here](#) to read more.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Art Loomis ([Email](#)) - shown here celebrating his 78<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday.



and

**Melanie Coffee Hesselberg** ([Email](#))

## Welcome to Connecting



**David Breslauer** ([Email](#)) - David Breslauer joined The AP in Dallas in 1981 as a staff photographer. In 1986 Breslauer transferred to Austin, the State Capitol Bureau. In 1991 he joined Hal Buell's Lead Desk Training team as a "Senior Technology Specialist," helping to usher in the age of digital photographer at newspapers. In 1996 he was not recalled back to the AP from a leave of absence and began doing photo technology consulting. During that time, he served as the Photo Chief for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. Currently Breslauer is the Application Support Manager at MerlinOne, a leading provider of digital asset management solutions to both the news industry and beyond. He lives in Park City, Utah, and does not get to ski or make pictures as much as he would like.

**Stephen Hart** ([Email](#)) - Joined the AP in 1988 as a photo editor in the Washington bureau... coming over from UPI there. Moved to New York a couple of years later where I was the Photo supervisor and often worked Hal Buell and others with "new" digital technologies - i.e. the digital camera and Photostream. I was moved on to AP Multimedia when that department was spun up. And for a while was in Corp Comm as the company's first "Web Master." I left the AP in 2001 and joined Adobe Systems.. I left Adobe for a few years when I ran publishing technologies for Hearst Magazines. I came back to Adobe when the iPad was released to help publishers on that new platform.

**Jennifer Kay** ([Email](#))

**Deborah Peterson** ([Email](#)) - editorial writer, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and former AP newswoman in Denver and Springfield, Illinois.

Kernan Turner ([Email](#))

Dean Wariner ([Email](#))

## Stories of interest

### [Downing selected 2015 White House News Photographers' Lifetime Achievement Award winner](#)

(WASHINGTON, D.C. - FEB. 6, 2015) - The White House News Photographers Association® announced today that it will present Larry Downing, senior photographer with Reuters, the WHNPA Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2015 'Eyes of History®' annual awards gala Saturday, May 16, 2015, at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Washington, DC. Larry was informed of the honor with a surprise announcement of the award in the press briefing room at the White House surrounded by his friends and colleagues.



Larry Downing began covering the White House for U.P.I. in 1978 when Jimmy Carter was president. Since that time Larry has been assigned by Newsweek Magazine and since 1997 by Reuters to provide coverage of the presidency, Washington and the world. He has won numerous awards throughout his career for his still photography and in recent years for his multimedia efforts. Larry has been the author and producer of several widely read and acclaimed multimedia blogs for Reuters documenting the casualties and wounded warriors of America's recent wars, the lives of NFL cheerleaders, a behind the scenes look at an all female rock and roll tribute band and tattoo culture in the United States. He has also authored blog posts about the presidency and covering the White House.

Larry has been nominated for Reuters global Journalist of the Year awards several times. He has won it twice, once as the part of the team covering the U.S. presidential election campaign in 2008 and once solo in 2009 as Multimedia Storyteller of the Year globally for his multimedia blog about the survivors of fallen U.S. warriors entitled "Those Left Behind: The Legacy of Arlington's Section 60." Along with colleague Jason Reed, he also won a prestigious 2012 Edward R. Murrow award in the News Documentary category for multimedia coverage of wounded combat veterans entitled, "Souvenirs of War: Purple Hearts, Prosthetics and Phantom Pains." Larry has won numerous still and multimedia photo awards from the WHNPA, China International Press Photo Contest, Best of Photojournalism, Pictures of the Year International and multiple National Headliner Awards.

Ron Sachs, WHNPA president, commented about the award, "there is no photojournalist covering the presidency today who has had the close-up access that Larry has for as long as Larry has. The quality of his body of work over 37 years is incredible. He has earned

numerous awards for his efforts. Larry is an institution at the White House. I am proud to have been a friend and colleague to Larry over these many years."

The White House News Photographers Association® is a 94-year-old non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the efforts of Washington's professional photojournalists. The WHNPA aims to provide professional and educational outreach to its members and the community through scholarships, programming, an annual competition and a celebration of the industry at the annual "Eyes of History®" gala.



Downing says of the above:

"Each image I capture remains important to me, but only a few stand tall enough to take me out of the equation and assume their own lives as historic images. My favourite photograph accomplishes that by using the rich, early-morning light to create a striking image that beautifies the horrific, damaged area of the Pentagon just five days after 9/11." The damaged area of the Pentagon building, which a commercial jetliner slammed into on September 11, 2001, is illuminated at sunrise with the U.S. Capitol Building in the background.

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### [The Shame of US Journalism Is the Destruction of Iraq, Not Fake Helicopter Stories](#)

(Shared by John Hopkins)

The news that NBC's Brian Williams was not, in fact, on a helicopter in 2003 that came under fire from an Iraqi Rocket-Propelled Grenade (RPG) should come as a surprise to no one. Williams had repeated the lie on several occasions over the course of a decade until a veteran, who was on the actual helicopter that was attacked, had enough of Williams' war porn and called the TV host out on Facebook. In a quite pathetic effort to cover his tracks, the anchor - who makes in excess of \$10 million per year - claimed that his fairy tale was, in

fact, "a bungled attempt by me to thank one special veteran and by extension our brave military men and women" who had served in Iraq. Twelve years, it seems, is enough time for Williams to confuse being on a helicopter that came under fire from an RPG with being on a helicopter that did not.

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[What's Working: All the News That's Fit to Print](#) (Shared by Bill Beecham)

**By Arianna Huffington**

There's an old saying in the news business, one that's guided editorial thinking for decades: "If it bleeds, it leads." That is, stories of violence, tragedy, dysfunction and corruption get top billing -- at the top of the hour, at the top of the computer or phone screen or above the newspaper fold -- driven by the assumption that these are the stories the public will be most drawn to watch or read.

This ethos is wrong, both factually and ethically. And it's lousy journalism. As journalists, our job is to give our audience an accurate picture -- and that means the full picture -- of what's going on in the world. Just showing tragedy, violence, mayhem -- focusing on what's broken and what's not working -- misses too much of what is happening all around us. What about how people are responding to these challenges, how they're coming together, even in the midst of violence, poverty and loss? And what about all the other stories of innovation, creativity, ingenuity, compassion and grace? If we in the media only show the dark side, we're failing at our jobs.

And, what's more, it turns out that we are also failing to give our readers and viewers what they want.

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[Lynsey Addario: Portraits of war](#) (Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)



Lynsey Addario has a perspective on the world very few people will ever understand. As an award-winning photojournalist, she has traveled to some of the most dangerous places on earth. Her photographs have documented the horrors of war and the suffering left in its wake.

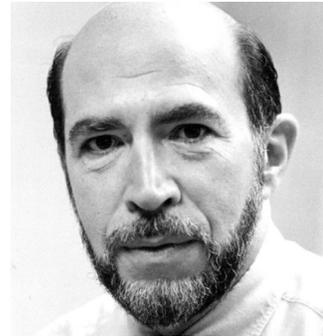
In an interview with Yahoo Global News Anchor Katie Couric, Addario tells many of the stories that fill her new memoir: "It's What I Do: A Photographer's Life of Love and War."

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### [Obituary: Arnold Ismach, Minnesota Daily adviser, Oregon journalism dean,](#)

At the University of Minnesota, Arnold Ismach championed the right of student journalists to make mistakes. Many of his students went on to work for media outlets all over the United States.

"I just adored the guy and I think he was a really popular figure at the Minnesota Daily," said Jack Ohman, a cartoonist at the Sacramento Bee, who worked for the U's school newspaper, where Ismach was the adviser for seven years.



Ismach worked at the U from 1973 until 1985, when he became dean of the School of Journalism at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Ore.

Ismach died Jan. 14 in Oregon at age 84. He had retired as dean in 1994 and from teaching in 2000.

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### [Japan stops Syria-bound journalist](#) (Shared by Sibby Christensen)

Japan seizes the passport of a journalist to prevent him from travelling to Syria, after two Japanese hostages were killed by militants there last month.

Japan's authorities have seized the passport of a journalist planning to travel to Syria, local media say.

It was necessary to confiscate Yuichi Sugimoto's passport in order to protect his life, the authorities said.

The 59-year-old photographer, who had planned to enter Syria on 27 February, described the move as a threat to the freedom of press.

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### [Egypt sets retrial date for jailed Al Jazeera staff](#)

Egyptian authorities have set a date for the retrial of jailed Al Jazeera journalists Baher Mohamed and Mohamed Fahmy.



The two journalists will appear in court on February 12 after spending 407 days in prison.

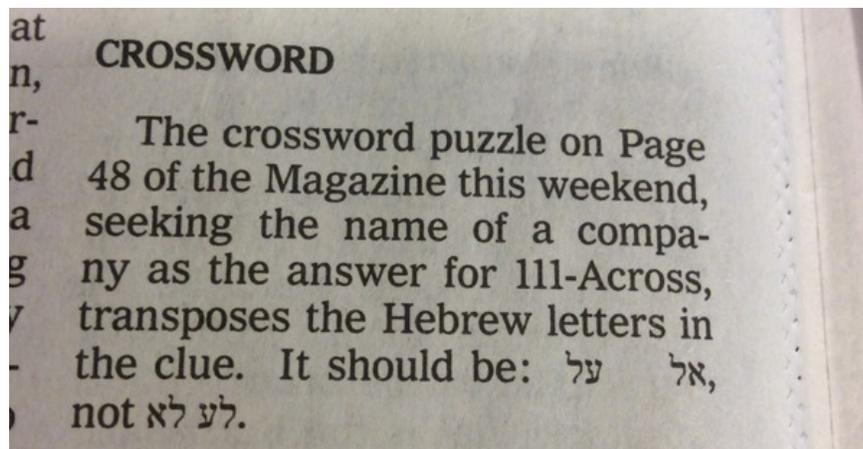
An Al Jazeera spokesman said the retrial "should be a day of justice prevailing."

"Baher and Mohamed have been unjustly jailed for over a year, even though the entire world knows they are innocent. With a date now set for the retrial the Egyptian authorities know exactly what to do - throw the entire case out and give Baher and Mohamed their freedom which has been denied to them for more than 400 days".

Baher Mohamed, a producer, and Al Jazeera's Cairo bureau chief Mohamed Fahmy, were jailed after being falsely accused of colluding with the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

## The Last Word

[Thanks, but I still can't solve the puzzle](#) (Shared by Bob Daugherty)



## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 9, the 40th day of 2015. There are 325 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 9, 1870, the U.S. Weather Bureau was established.

**On this date:**

In 1773, the ninth president of the United States, William Henry Harrison, was born in Charles City County, Virginia.

In 1825, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams president after no candidate received a majority of electoral votes.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis was elected provisional president of the Confederate States of America at a congress held in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1942, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff held its first formal meeting to coordinate military strategy during World War II. Daylight-saving "War Time" went into effect in the United States, with clocks turned one hour forward.

In 1943, the World War II battle of Guadalcanal in the southwest Pacific ended with an Allied victory over Japanese forces.

In 1950, in a speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis., charged the State Department was riddled with Communists.

In 1960, Adolph Coors Co. chairman Adolph Coors III, 44, was shot to death in suburban Denver during a botched kidnapping attempt. (The man who killed him, Joseph Corbett, Jr., served 19 years in prison.)

In 1964, The Beatles made their first live American television appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," broadcast from New York by CBS.

In 1971, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake in California's San Fernando Valley claimed 65 lives. The crew of Apollo 14 returned to Earth after man's third landing on the moon.

In 1984, Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov, 69, died 15 months after succeeding Leonid Brezhnev; he was followed by Konstantin U. Chernenko (chehr-NYEN'-koh).

In 1995, former Sen. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., died in Washington at age 89.

In 2002, Britain's Princess Margaret, sister of Queen Elizabeth II, died in London at age 71.

Ten years ago: Hewlett-Packard Co. chief executive Carly Fiorina was forced out by board members, ending her nearly six-year reign. A new postage stamp honoring President Ronald Reagan was issued in ceremonies across the country.

Five years ago: Appealing for bipartisanship, President Barack Obama sat down with Democrats and Republicans to spur cooperation on job creation, deficit reduction and

health care overhaul. First lady Michelle Obama launched her "Let's Move!" campaign against childhood obesity. Iran began enriching uranium to a higher level over the vociferous objections of the U.S. and its allies. Fred Morrison, credited with inventing the Frisbee, died in Monroe, Utah, at age 90.

One year ago: Despite a wave of online protests, Copenhagen Zoo in Denmark killed a healthy male giraffe named "Marius" because of rules imposed by a European zoo association to deter inbreeding. Host country Russia won its first gold medal of the Sochi Olympics, winning the team figure skating event; Matthias Mayer of Austria won the men's downhill. Missouri All-American Michael Sam came out to the nation as an openly gay player in published interviews with ESPN, The New York Times and Outsports. Danish movie director Gabriel Axel ("Babette's Feast") died in Copenhagen at age 95.

Today's Birthdays: Television journalist Roger Mudd is 87. Actress Janet Suzman is 76. Nobel Prize-winning author J.M. Coetzee is 75. Actress-politician Sheila James Kuehl (kyool) ("The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis") is 74. Singer-songwriter Carole King is 73. Actor Joe Pesci is 72. Singer Barbara Lewis is 72. Author Alice Walker is 71. Actress Mia Farrow is 70. Former Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., is 69. Singer Joe Ely is 68. Actress Judith Light is 66. Rhythm-and-blues musician Dennis "DT" Thomas (Kool & the Gang) is 64. Actor Charles Shaughnessy is 60. Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe is 58. Jazz musician Steve Wilson is 54. Country singer Travis Tritt is 52. Actress Julie Warner is 50. Country singer Danni Leigh is 45. Actress Sharon Case (TV: "The Young and the Restless") is 44. Actor Jason George is 43. Actor-producer Charlie Day is 39. Rock singer Chad Wolf (Carolina Liar) is 39. Actor A.J. Buckley is 38. Rock musician Richard On (O.A.R.) is 36. Actress Ziyi Zhang is 36. Olympic silver and bronze medal figure skater Irina Slutskaya is 36. Actor David Gallagher is 30. Actor Michael B. Jordan is 28. Actress Rose Leslie is 28. Actress Marina Malota is 27. Actress Camille Winbush is 25. Actor Jimmy Bennett is 19.

***Thought for Today: "The man who has eaten enough will never believe a hungry one." - Albanian proverb.***

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