

Connecting - August 08, 2015

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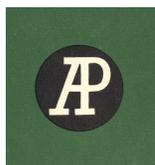
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Sat, Aug 8, 2015 at 9:52 AM

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Connecting

August 8, 2015

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Goodbye, Walt



Indiana members and colleagues gather with Walt Tabak in 2012 after he won the Distinguished Service Award from the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. Seated, from left: Linda Stevens, Walt Tabak, Ray Moscovitz. Standing, from left: Bill Wilson, Paul Stevens, Sarah Wilson, George Garties, Craig Klugman, Jack Ronald, Connie Ronald.

Colleagues,

It is with sadness that I relay news of the death of **Walt Tabak**, retired Indianapolis chief of communications.

Walt, who received notes and cards from many of you on the occasion of his 91st birthday Tuesday, was the first winner of the Distinguished Service Award presented by the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame to those who have made contributions to journalism through such ancillary areas as technology, business or freedom of information. It was presented to him in 2012 in Bloomington as his family, former AP colleagues and friends gathered in celebration.

His daughter **Barbara Burris** - iufroglady@aol.com - said he died peacefully at his home in Indianapolis on Friday evening. Funeral arrangements are pending.

It was a great privilege to have worked with Walt during my years as Indianapolis chief of bureau in 1982-84 and we have remained friends since. I know many of you on Connecting feel the same way. As Andy Lippman notes below, Walt and his beloved wife Dot, who died in 1996, were the welcoming party for many Indiana APME conventions over the

years and offered up their famous Bloody Mary Breakfast to members and staff on Sunday mornings. So raise a glass to them, celebrate two lives well lived and rejoice that they're together again.

Walt was devoted to his family and to The Associated Press and our members, and we will miss him.

Paul

Retired Indianapolis CoC Walt Tabak dies

(The following is the announcement in 2012 of Walt's selection for the Distinguished Service Award presented by the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. Walt died Friday night at the age of 91. Funeral arrangements are pending.)



Walt Tabak's 25 years of providing technology support to Associated Press members in Indiana overlapped monumental changes in the way words and pictures were delivered to the state's newsrooms.

Tabak helped AP members make changes as dramatic as moving words at 66 words a minute and delivered by teletype to 1,200 words a minute and delivered by satellite. When he began, photos were delivered on flimsy paper. By the time he retired in 1986, photos were called "LaserPhotos".

"If one measure of success is the ability to deal with change, few people could be considered more successful than Walt Tabak," concluded Jack Ronald, editor and publisher of The Commercial Review in Portland. "I can think of no one who had a greater impact on news technology in Indiana in the 20th Century." Tabak is the first winner of the Distinguished Service Award presented by the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame to those who have made contributions to journalism through such ancillary areas as technology, business or freedom of information.

As chief of communications for The Associated Press in Indiana, Tabak supervised a team of communications specialists and was responsible for ensuring that Associated Press news, photos and stock market information reached hundreds of newspapers, radio and TV stations throughout Indiana.

Tabak began his lifetime in communications at age 20 when he joined the U.S. Army during World War II. He was assigned to the 418th Signal Company attached to the Eighth Air Force Fighter Command in England. He crossed the English Channel and landed at Le

Harve, France. Tabak was trained as a radio/teletype operator, which made him a natural for communications work with The Associated Press. His entire life has been in communications and serving the news media.

Tabak joined the AP in 1952 and in his first assignment in New London, Conn., he sent all the copy when the world's first atomic submarine, the Nautilus, was launched. After assignments in Bridgeport, Conn., and New York City, he moved to Indianapolis as a technician in 1961 and was promoted to Indiana chief of communications two years later.

While chiefs of bureau were in charge of the news report and membership concerns, it was often Tabak, or his technicians, who went out in the worst weather to make sure that newspapers and broadcast stations stayed in business.

Former Indiana Chief of Bureau Joe McGowan - one of six AP chiefs of bureau with whom Tabak worked - recalls that in 1972 the Evansville Courier called the AP office in Indianapolis to say it had lost all AP service. It was late in the day. Tabak got his late wife Dot to join him and they drove to Evansville to personally to make the repairs. While he worked in the newspaper, Dot slept in the car. Late that night, with repairs complete, Walt joined Dot and she drove back to Indianapolis while Walt slept. He then went to work the next morning, ready to serve other members.



Walt and his family, 2012: Seated, from left - son Ron Tabak, great-granddaughter Olivia Tabak, Walt, and daughter Barb Burris. Back row - Ron's wife Gloria Tabak, Travis's wife Amy Tabak, grandson Travis Tabak and Barb's husband Dennis Burris.

Tabak recalls another time when his son Ron drove him in his four-wheel truck to Elkhart to help get the paper back in service during a blizzard.

When Tabak marked his 30th anniversary with AP in 1982, AP President Keith Fuller was among many who cited his accomplishments.

"I could recount here the numerous compliments and bouquets that have come your way over the years, both from members and staffers alike," Fuller said. "Suffice it to say that one would have to go a long way to find another chief of communications as well-liked and as thoroughly professional as you."

While chiefs of bureaus came and went, Tabak and his wife were the continuing welcoming face to members and non-members alike. He helped preside over conventions, made visits with the chiefs, and turned each trouble call into a chance to solidify the bonds between the cooperative and the member.

He didn't only fix things. He listened to member concerns and he was a teacher during this time of great change.

"Walt was a constant comfort for Indiana newspapers," said Bob Zaltsberg, editor of the Herald-Times of Bloomington. "During a time of transition in technology, he was the one person between AP and its members when it came to systems problems."

Tim Harmon, executive editor of the South Bend Tribune, noting the many changes in news delivery technology during Tabak's career, said, "Transitions such as those went very smoothly, and the few problems and complaints were handled very well. Walt's work was seamless and routinely invisible. Walt's quick responses to the occasional transmission or reception crisis are legendary.

"The high-quality service that Walt embraced and practiced for so many years served generations of newspaper staffs and readers who never met him or heard his name. In Indiana, Walt Tabak set the standard for technological excellence in journalism."

Tabak and his wife Dot were married for 38 years, until her death in 1996. They have a daughter, Barbara, and son, Ron; grandson Travis, and great-granddaughter Olivia. (NOTE: Walt had a second great granddaughter born after the award ceremony - Kaliway Tabak.)

Remembering Walt...

Andy Lippman - I didn't need to call New York to solve problems while I was bureau chief in Indiana. I only had to look through a glass window and see my problem solver sitting at his desk.

Walt Tabak was a teacher in word and in deed. He showed how to be firm, and, the next minute, have a twinkle in his eye.

He knew every member and every problem in the state, because he knew every member and

had solved most problems while he was chief of communications in Indiana.

He and his wife Dot were like protective shields. No one could harm the bureau chief at state meetings while they were around. Besides they had the Bloody Mary mix for Sunday breakfast.

Walt wasn't only my helper at work. He and Dot opened their home and their family to me, and made me part of it. I can close my eyes and still see Dot on holidays offering me stuffed mushroom caps. And if anyone wanted to see love set to music, they only had to watch Walt and Dot on the dance floor. That memory should bring a smile to anyone who saw them.

Walt often warned me, "You'll miss me when I'm gone."



Walt and Dot

And now that he's gone, I miss him more than ever.

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Craig Klugman, editor, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - When the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame created a special category so that those who support journalism could be honored, I was as pleased and happy as I have ever been when Walt was the very first selection - and the door was opened for other friends who are so essential to the news process.

Walt, of course, "trained" a number of bureau chiefs - six, to be exact. But he also influenced legions of Hoosier editors, showing them how the AP worked. He was open, friendly - and quietly professional. He knew his job, and he knew what editors and publishers needed. And he never let us, or the AP, down.

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Jack Ronald, publisher, The Commercial Review, Portland, Indiana - Walt was an American original. Crusty, cantankerous, but with a heart of gold. His love for Dot was boundless. He loved to tell the story about an Indiana APME meeting when then-mayor of Indy William Hudnut was a guest speaker at lunch. The mayor made the mistake of asking Dot, "How am I doing?" She gave him an earful! I doubt he ever asked that question again. We will miss him.

More colleague reaction to GOP debate



Doug Mills/New York Times

Walter Mears - First, it wasn't really a debate. That is impossible with 10 people talking. There were few interchanges between candidates and they didn't tell you much that hadn't been said before. I have covered multiple candidate primary debates, notably in 1976 when there were 12 Democratic candidates, although not all of them participated in the NH debate that year.

Then, as now, they basically repeated their campaign talking points. In fairness, they didn't have time to do much else. So it was predictably a series of sound bites all fitting the candidate scripts.

The consensus lead is that Trump wouldn't promise to support the ticket and not run as an independent. News in that setting, but not new information. He has, as Gov. Kasich said, touched a nerve, and he kept trying to inflame it. Backing off on possible independent run wouldn't fit his image/game plan.

I've heard some questioning of why that was put to the 10 as the first question in the debate. It is a standard question in primary debates, especially when the field gets narrower and more confrontational. It has special resonance this time because of Trump's position. When George Wallace was running in the primaries and got into debates, other candidates refused to say whether they would support the ticket if he was on it.

Final thought: there is always a clamor to find a winner in campaign debates. In this one, as in most others, there was none. So they go on.

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Robert Weller - Some thoughts on the GOP debates and Jon Stewart.

I have no idea what Trump is after therefore I cannot even imagine how well he did, if he reviews how things went according to his game plan.

Megyn Kelly's barbs were not objective, and fed into the Trump machine. His retort that he doesn't have time for political correctness scored with people sick of the media. It reminded me a day before of Matt Lauer basically asking some talking head if he thought Trump is a jerk. "yes," was the reply. It is not the first time Lauer has made hacks look stupid.

Anyone who hasn't had problems with creditors may have been impressed by Trump being targeted for four bankruptcies. One company lost \$1 billion, Trump was told. The reality-show wonder replied in effect that the company knew what they were doing and made much more money off him than they lost. People who have paid 21 percent interest for impulse purchases know the stores got their money back, even if some bills were not paid.

Far more discouraging than anything Trump said was so many on the panel tying themselves to the God boys. I just saw, once again, a commercial by Reagan's son saying keep religion out of politics. For many of those who have made their minds up this was enough to confirm that the GOP is the party of the Confederacy, KKK and Bible Belt. No thanks. And I have been a registered independent since returning from overseas in 1993. I never voted for a Clinton.

Lastly, I had to leave the debate for the more entertaining Stewart hour-long special. Stewart once told Playboy that journalists should behave and play by the rules. Then he proceeded to do just the opposite. He and Trump have a lot in common. It is called "style."

If I had to make one president it would certainly not be Trump, but Stewart admitted on his penultimate show (my favorite AP word) that nothing he had done really changed anything. Trump wouldn't either.

Rubio deserves note because he pointed out the economy has changed completely. Amazon has no stores (so far). Twitter and Facebook are clever tools and the journalism centurions trying to make them erase their graffiti are wasting their time.

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Chris Connell - Great Frank Bruni column in NYT giving props to Fox News panel for tough, smart questions. Megyn Kelly may have done for Trump what she did to Rove on election night in 2008.

Click [here](#) to read the column.

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Fox News wins the debate

By HADAS GOLD and DYLAN BYERS
POLITICO

Pundits and political aides may disagree over which candidate fared best in Thursday's Republican debate, but one thing is indisputable-the three Fox News moderators, Bret Baier, Megyn Kelly and Chris Wallace won the night.

For more than two hours, the trio that won widespread praise in 2012 for hard-hitting questions once again demonstrated that Fox News would offer no safe harbor for Republican candidates.

Fox News Chairman and CEO Roger Ailes was of course effusive in his praise.

"I'm extremely proud of all of the moderators-they asked tough, important questions and did their job as journalists," Ailes said when POLITICO asked him to assess the performance. "I think that was the best political debate team ever put on television. Their performance was outstanding."

Click [here](#) to read more.

Connecting mailbox

An artificial bat cave

Randall Dickerson - CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - *An attempt to save bats from a deadly fungal disease could be a blueprint for conservationists. Or it might not work at all. The Nature Conservancy has spent \$300,000 to build an artificial bat cave, underground and deep in the woods of northern Middle Tennessee, near Fort Campbell.*

That was the lead on my September 2012 story about an attempt to head off "white nose syndrome" by creating a bat habitat that could be cleaned annually.

I'm glad I drove my pickup truck that day. The road, such as it was, was a crushed rock lane laid down for construction equipment. The artificial cave looked like it was well thought out, but those concrete sections looked a bit too standardized for a brand new idea. When I asked one of the group's people, he smiled and said, yes, we were standing in a precast sewer. It was plenty big - square sections about 12 feet by 12 feet.

It was really a good idea because the cave could be easily replicated if it proved effective. I retired from the AP before the Conservancy had decided whether or not the artificial cave would work.

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Tom Raum at the Nationals



Chris Connell - Tom Raum (above), another titan of the Washington bureau over the past four decades, joined ex-LA Timesman Bob Rosenblatt and me for a great Nationals' win over the Diamondbacks on Thursday.

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Memories of INS

Bob Haring - Lot of memories from your bit about INS. I for a time was INS campus correspondent at Missouri. Paid almost nothing but got me into football press box and few other things and, in a way, opened other doors for my career. In those days, there was a phrase: AP sends 10 men, UP sends five, INS sends Bob Considine and beats all the rest. He was an amazing workman. On many big stories he would write main lead and two or three sidebars, all thoroughly reported and well written.

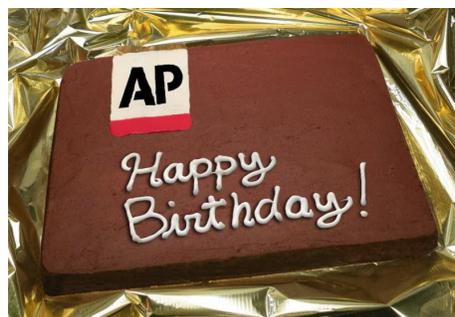
World in Review



World in Review is a collection of five photo galleries curated by Associated Press photo editors from each region of the world: Asia, Europe and Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean and the United States.

Click [here](#) to see more images like that above. Shared by Ralph Gage

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Steve Crowley ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

Report establishes new formula for evaluating quality of local news
(Poynter)

How do you measure the health of a local news market? Is it the quality and size of the local daily? The number of reporters in attendance at weekly city council meetings? The size of the audience each outlet has? Or some combination of all three?

A group of researchers from Rutgers set out to answer that question as part of a new report examining the vitality of local news ecosystems in New Jersey. Their solution? Figure out the number of news sources in a city relative to the amount of people living there and you'll begin to get a sense of how abundant and accessible the journalism is.

"We were trying to develop a methodology for assessing how healthy or how robust journalism is in local communities," said Philip Napoli, a professor of journalism and media studies in the School of Communication and Information at Rutgers University. "Trying to develop something that could, in theory, scale, so that we could one day analyze not just three communities, but 50, or 100, and really start to have a better comparative sense of how journalism is doing in different communities."

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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Can Politico rise again? (Columbia Journalism Review)

THE NEW ERA BEGAN as new eras typically do at Politico, with a memo. The email flashed into staffers' inboxes at 6:50 a.m. on September 18, its eventual circulation throughout Beltway media circles preordained. The tone of such company-wide notes is known to reach Churchillian heights-top brass' gung-ho descriptions of global journalistic domination stand out in an industry shaking off years of numbing retrenchment.

This particular memo announced that the editor of Politico Magazine, Susan Glasser, would take over as head of the news organization's Washington coverage. The nascent magazine had garnered acclaim under Glasser's leadership, and her promotion came with the expectation that deeply reported analysis would be more prominently featured on Politico's daily menu. It also came with a measure of foreboding, given her reputation for ironfisted management.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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The final 'Daily Show' garners 185,000 tweets; the GOP debate 1.7 million (Digiday)

Sixteen years and nearly 2,700 episodes later, Jon Stewart signed off from the 'Daily Show' one final time last night.

Comedy Central has been promoting his last week of show with the hashtag #JonVoyage

(get it?) and it looks like it resonated with his audience.

His final show competed against the tail end of the first Republican primary debate on Fox News, which racked up 24 million viewers and more tweets. Between 8:50pm on August 6 through midnight Eastern Time on August 6, there was 1.7 million tweets around either the concept of the GOP debate or using the hashtag #GOPDebate, so they were the clear winner according to Amobee Brand Intelligence.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Today in History - August 8, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, August 8, the 220th day of 2015. There are 145 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On August 8, 1945, President Harry S. Truman signed the U.S. instrument of ratification for the United Nations Charter. The Soviet Union declared war against Japan during World War II.

On this date:

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte set sail for St. Helena to spend the remainder of his days in exile.

In 1911, President William Howard Taft signed a measure raising the number of U.S. representatives from 391 to 433, effective with the next Congress, with a proviso to add two more when New Mexico and Arizona became states.

In 1937, during the Second Sino-Japanese War, Japan completed its occupation of Beijing.

In 1942, during World War II, six Nazi saboteurs who were captured after landing in the U.S. were executed in Washington, D.C.; two others who'd cooperated with authorities were spared.

In 1953, the United States and **South Korea** initialed a mutual security pact.

In 1963, Britain's "Great Train Robbery" took place as thieves made off with 2.6 million pounds in banknotes.

In 1968, the Republican national convention in Miami Beach nominated Richard Nixon for president on the first ballot.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew branded as "damned lies" reports he had taken

kickbacks from government contracts in Maryland, and vowed not to resign - which he ended up doing.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon announced his resignation, effective the next day, following damaging new revelations in the Watergate scandal.

In 1994, Israel and Jordan opened the first road link between the two once-warring countries.

In 2007, space shuttle Endeavour roared into orbit with teacher-astronaut Barbara Morgan on board.

In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor was sworn in as the U.S. Supreme Court's first Hispanic and third female justice.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush signed a bill to give billions in tax breaks to encourage homegrown energy production but acknowledged it wouldn't quickly reduce high gasoline prices or the nation's dependence on foreign oil. Iran resumed work at a uranium conversion facility after suspending nuclear work for nine months to avoid U.N. sanctions. Actress Barbara Bel Geddes, 82, died in Northeast Harbor, Maine. Publisher John H. Johnson, founder of Ebony and Jet magazines, died in Chicago at 87.

Five years ago: Flooding in Gansu province in China resulted in mudslides that killed more than 1,400 people. Academy Award-winning actress Patricia Neal died in Edgartown, Massachusetts, at 84.

One year ago: The U.S. unleashed its first airstrikes against the Islamic State group in northern Iraq amid a worsening humanitarian crisis. Israel and militants from Gaza resumed cross-border attacks, after a three-day truce expired. Israeli movie producer Menachem Golam, 85, died in Tel Aviv. British-born actor Charles Keating, 72, died in Weston, Connecticut.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Richard Anderson is 89. Actress Nita Talbot is 85. Singer Mel Tillis is 83. Actor **Dustin Hoffman** is 78. Actress Connie Stevens is 77. Country singer Phil Balsley (The Statler Brothers) is 76. Actor Larry Wilcox is 68. Actor **Keith Carradine** is 66. Country singer Jamie O'Hara is 65. Movie director Martin Brest is 64. Radio-TV personality Robin Quivers is 63. Percussionist Anton Fig is 62. Actor Donny Most is 62. Rock musician Dennis Drew (10,000 Maniacs) is 58. TV personality Deborah Norville is 57. Actor-singer Harry Crosby is 57. Rock musician The Edge (U2) is 54. Rock musician Rikki Rockett (Poison) is 54. Rapper Kool Moe Dee is 53. Rock musician Ralph Rieckermann is 53. Middle distance runner Suzy Favor Hamilton is 47. Rock singer Scott Stapp is 42. Country singer Mark Wills is 42. Actor Kohl Sudduth is 41. Rock musician Tom Linton (Jimmy Eat World) is 40. Singer JC Chasez ('N Sync) is 39. Actress Tawny Cypress is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Drew Lachey (lah-SHAY') (98 Degrees) is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marsha Ambrosius is 38. Actress Lindsay Sloane is 38. Actress Countess Vaughn is 37. Actor Michael Urie is 35. Tennis player Roger Federer is 34. Actress Meagan Good is 34. Britain's Princess Beatrice of York is 27. Actor Ken Baumann is 26. Pop singer Shawn Mendes is 17.

Thought for Today: "Man adjusts to what he should not; he is unable to adjust to what he should." - Jean Toomer, African-American author-poet (1894-1967).

Got a story to share?



Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
 - **"My boo boos - A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
 - **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
 - **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories
- with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
 - **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
 - **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
 - **Life after AP** for those of you who have moved on to another job or profession.
 - **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens
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