

Connecting - October 26, 2015

1 message

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Mon, Oct 26, 2015 at 8:16 AM

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Connecting

October 26, 2015

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An altar built for Anja



At an exhibition of the late AP photographer Anja Niedringhaus' photos at the University of Arizona, students of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and Native American Journalists Organization built an altar to Anja. The altar that commemorates the Day of the Dead celebrates the dead, champions their spirit and offers sustenance to aid them on their journey beyond. It will stay up at the University of Arizona Tucson Union Gallery where her photos are on exhibit until Nov. 6.

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

Memories from Connecting colleagues dominate today's edition -

From **Kathy Gannon** - Memories of a fallen friend and colleague...including the touching photo she shared above...

From **Ted Anthony** - Memories of his father and the legacy he left behind...

From the AP wire and CBS Sunday Morning - Memories of an iconic image from the Vietnam War...

And from Ye Olde Connecting Editor - Memories of a first date 50 years ago...

Enjoy. Remember. Appreciate. And send along your own memories.

Paul

Arizona's Zenger Award presented to Kathy Gannon, Anja Niedringhaus



Associated Press foreign correspondent **Kathy Gannon** and the late AP photographer **Anja Niedringhaus** were honored Friday night in Tucson with the 2015 John Peter and Anna Catherine Zenger Freedom of the Press Award.

While covering the 2014 Afghan elections, Gannon and Niedringhaus were shot by an Afghan police commander. Gannon was badly wounded and spent months recovering.

Niedringhaus died at the scene.

An exhibit of the photography of Niedringhaus was on display at the university.

"It was an honor to receive the Zenger Award for press freedom from the University of Arizona, school of Journalism in Tucson on behalf of myself and Anja," said Gannon, a Connecting colleague. "I miss her every day but am so grateful for the time we had together and that her amazing talent continues to be recognized. The exhibition of her photos that accompanied the ceremony also helps keep her memory alive and honors her beautiful eye and the images she created."

Gannon has spent more than 18 years reporting from the front lines in Afghanistan and served as Associated Press regional chief. She won the International Women's Media Foundation Courage in Journalism Award in 2002 and received an Edward R. Murrow fellowship from the Council of Foreign Relations in 2003. Gannon is the author of "I is for Infidel: From Holy War to Holy Terror in Afghanistan," published in 2005.

Lasers may ease pain for 'napalm girl' in iconic AP photograph by Nick Ut



In this June 8, 1972, photo, 9-year-old Kim Phuc, center, runs with her brothers and cousins, followed by South Vietnamese forces, down Route 1 near Trang Bang after a South Vietnamese plane accidentally dropped its

flaming napalm on its own troops and civilians. The terrified girl had ripped off her burning clothes while fleeing. In late September 2015, Phuc, 52, began a series of laser treatments at the Miami Dermatology and Laser Institute to smooth and soften the pale, thick scar tissue that she has endured for more than 40 years. (AP Photo/Nick Ut, File)

By JENNIFER KAY
The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) - In the photograph that made Kim Phuc a living symbol of the Vietnam War, her burns aren't visible - only her agony as she runs wailing toward the camera, her arms flung away from her body, naked because she has ripped off her burning clothes.

More than 40 years later she can hide the scars beneath long sleeves, but a single tear down her otherwise radiant face betrays the pain she has endured since that errant napalm strike in 1972.

Now she has a new chance to heal - a prospect she once thought possible only in a life after death.

"So many years I thought that I have no more scars, no more pain when I'm in heaven. But now - heaven on earth for me!" Phuc says upon her arrival in Miami to see a dermatologist who specializes in laser treatments for burn patients.

Late last month, Phuc, 52, began a series of laser treatments that her doctor, Jill Waibel of the Miami Dermatology and Laser Institute, says will smooth and soften the pale, thick scar tissue that ripples from her left hand up her arm, up her neck to her hairline and down almost all of her back.

Even more important to Phuc, Waibel says the treatments also will relieve the deep aches and pains that plague her to this day.

With Phuc are her husband, Bui Huy Toan, and another man who has been part of her life since she was 9 years old: Los Angeles-based Associated Press photojournalist Nick Ut.



"He's the beginning and the end," Phuc says of the man she calls "Uncle Ut." "He took my picture and now he'll be here with me with this new journey, new chapter."

It was Ut, now 65, who captured Phuc's agony on June 8, 1972, after the South Vietnamese military accidentally dropped napalm on civilians in Phuc's village, Trang Bang, outside Saigon.

Ut remembers the girl screaming in Vietnamese, "Too hot! Too hot!" He put her in

the AP van where she crouched on the floor, her burnt skin raw and peeling off her body as she sobbed, "I think I'm dying, too hot, too hot, I'm dying."

He took her to a hospital. Only then did he return to the Saigon bureau to file his photographs, including the one of Phuc on fire that would win the Pulitzer Prize.

Phuc suffered serious burns over a third of her body; at that time, most people who sustained such injuries over 10 percent of their bodies died, Waibel says.

Napalm sticks like a jelly, so there was no way for victims like Phuc to outrun the heat, as they could in a regular fire. "The fire was stuck on her for a very long time," Waibel says, and destroyed her skin down through the layer of collagen, leaving her with scars almost four times as thick as normal skin.

While she spent years doing painful exercises to preserve her range of motion, her left arm still doesn't extend as far as her right arm, and her desire to learn how to play the piano has been thwarted by stiffness in her left hand. Tasks as simple as carrying her purse on her left side are too difficult.

"As a child, I loved to climb on the tree, like a monkey," picking the best guavas, tossing them down to her friends, Phuc says. "After I got burned, I never climbed on the tree anymore and I never played the game like before with my friends. It's really difficult. I was really, really disabled."

Triggered by scarred nerve endings that misfire at random, her pain is especially acute when the seasons change in Canada, where Phuc defected with her husband in the early 1990s. The couple live outside Toronto, and they have two sons, ages 21 and 18.

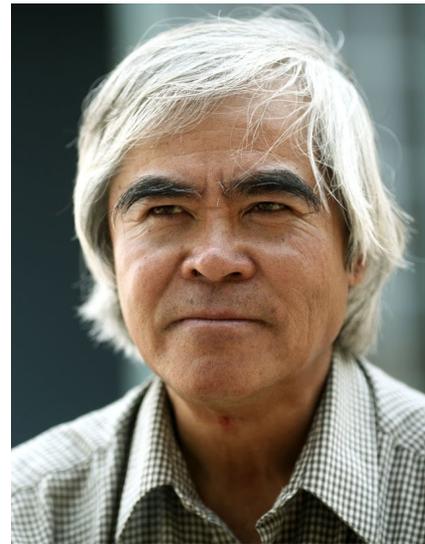
Phuc says her Christian faith brought her physical and emotional peace "in the midst of hatred, bitterness, pain, loss, hopelessness," when the pain seemed insurmountable.

"No operation, no medication, no doctor can help to heal my heart. The only one is a miracle, (that) God love me," she says. "I just wish one day I am free from pain."

Ut thinks of Phuc as a daughter, and he worried when, during their regular phone calls, she described her pain. When he travels now in Vietnam, he sees how the war lingers in hospitals there, in children born with defects attributed to Agent Orange and in others like Phuc, who were caught in napalm strikes. If their pain continues, he wonders, how much hope is there for Phuc?

Ut says he's worried about the treatments. "Forty-three years later, how is laser doing this? I hope the doctor can help her. ... When she was 18 or 20, but now she's over 50! That's a long time."

Waibel has been using lasers to treat burn scars, including napalm scars, for about



Nick Ut

a decade. Each treatment typically costs \$1,500 to \$2,000, but Waibel offered to donate her services when Phuc contacted her for a consultation. Waibel's father-in-law had heard Phuc speak at a church several years ago, and he approached her after hearing her describe her pain.

At the first treatment in Waibel's office, a scented candle lends a comforting air to the procedure room, and Phuc's husband holds her hand in prayer.

Phuc tells Waibel her pain is "10 out of 10" - the worst of the worst.

The type of lasers being used on Phuc's scars originally were developed to smooth out wrinkles around the eyes, Waibel says. The lasers heat skin to the boiling point to vaporize scar tissue. Once sedatives have been administered and numbing cream spread thickly over Phuc's skin, Waibel dons safety glasses and aims the laser. Again and again, a red square appears on Phuc's skin, the laser fires with a beep and a nurse aims a vacuum-like hose at the area to catch the vapor.

The procedure creates microscopic holes in the skin, which allows topical, collagen-building medicines to be absorbed deep through the layers of tissue.

Waibel expects Phuc to need up to seven treatments over the next eight or nine months.

Wrapped in blankets, drowsy from painkillers, her scarred skin a little red from the procedure, Phuc made a little fist pump. Compared to the other surgeries and skin grafts when she was younger, the lasers were easier to take.

"This was so light, just so easy," she says.

A couple weeks later, home in Canada, Phuc says her scars have reddened and feel tight and itchy as they heal - but she's eager to continue the treatments.

"Maybe it takes a year," she says. "But I am really excited - and thankful."

Associated Press reporter Joshua Replogle contributed to this report from Ajax, Ontario.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story. Shared by Linda Deutsch.

AND...

The girl in the picture

CBS Sunday Morning:

Anyone who who lived through the Vietnam War period remembers the girl in the picture. The picture captures a terrible moment, while also raising a poignant question -- a question Jane Pauley sets out to answer in our Cover Story:

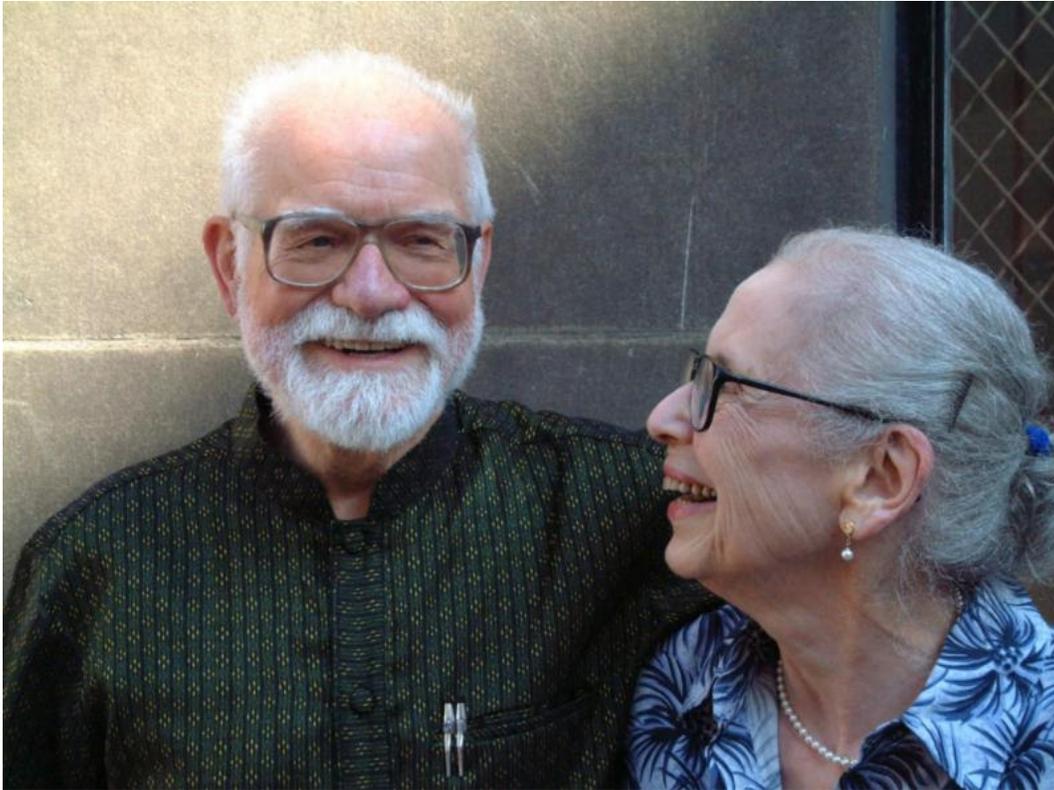
A little girl screaming in pain, trying to outrun the napalm burning her body.

It's an image seared into our consciousness still -- the horrors of war visited upon an innocent child.

Did you ever wonder, what happened to that little girl?

[Click here](#) to view the story. Shared by Paul Colford.

To Think. To Laugh. To Understand.



Edward Mason Anthony Jr., Sept. 1, 1922 - July 12, 2015

By TED ANTHONY

Said by me at the memorial service of my father, Edward Mason Anthony Jr., on Friday afternoon, Oct. 23, 2015, at Heinz Chapel, Pittsburgh, Pa.:

In the days before he died, after six years of fighting Alzheimer's Disease, my father had forgotten much of his life. He was in and out of lucidity, recognizing only those closest to him. He remembered being a professor only vaguely.

But his mind, which rarely rested, was still steaming ahead.

He warned me about unspecified Russians in the vicinity. He asked me, solemnly, to reschedule an English-department meeting he had to chair in Bangkok. (Apparently even at the very end, an academic still worries about making all of his meetings.)

Unsurprisingly, some of his final thoughts were quite poetic. At one point, he said, quietly, "I had a piece of paper in my hand. It was a poem about the universe. It must have fallen on the floor."

But one thing hit me the hardest. Three days before he died, he looked at me, his eyes clear for a moment, and he said this: "I accomplished nothing."

By this point in these proceedings, we know that was not the case. And I'd like to finish our afternoon together by leaving you with some of the things I think he accomplished on quieter, smaller canvases.

[Click here](#) to read more. Ted Anthony is the AP's Asia-Pacific news director, based in Bangkok.

Connecting mailbox

A proud grandfather notes his grandson's good work



Jason Cone

Seymour Topping - Paul, I call your attention to the Op-Ed article in Saturday's New York Times by Jason Cone, Executive Director of Doctors Without Borders, on his international appeal stemming from the bombing of his aid group's hospital in Afghanistan. I address your attention because of the high importance of his appeal and also for myself as Jason's grandfather, who has seen tragedies of this kind in several wars.

Jason has experienced some of what he calls his organization's "darkest days. Prior to assuming the current post of Executive Director, he oversaw emergency functions relating to the Haiti earthquake, the West African Ebola outbreak, to global childhood nutrition and HIV Aids. He is very well known to hospital workers in the field and despite the anguishing nature of his work, he wears a

ready smile. He is a powerfully built man, high school football player, thirty-years of age and stands six-foot one.

[Click here](#) for a link to Jason's article in the Times

Hard Copy

George Zucker - Reporting is hard when your beat is a small Air Force radar site deep in the Alaskan wilderness where real news is top secret. So to fill the eight pages of my King Salmon News Scope, a weekly paper I founded after being shipped to the boondocks in 1955, my hunt for news to use featured stories and drawings lampooning our lonely male-only vigil at the top of the world.

My arrival at Naknek Air Base was odd. I was an "information specialist" and expected to write for the base newspaper. But there was no base newspaper. In fact, no "information specialist" had ever been assigned to Naknek. They needed a librarian. So I took over the base library and talked the First Sergeant into letting me use the orderly room mimeograph to start a weekly newspaper.

With so much of the news off-limits, my early efforts were more to amuse than inform. One of my crudely drawn cartoons had an airman griping about a toilet fixed to his desk, telling an onlooker: "Now the base efficiency officer has gone too far!" I also took gentle jabs at military foibles through reports by a fictional correspondent, Mort Frobisher, whose slangy whine came off a lot like Holden Caulfield in J.D. Salinger's 1951 novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*.

Still, the King Salmon News Scope occasionally lurched into something akin to good writing, as in this account of a plane making an emergency landing one night in a snow storm: *Suddenly, amid the swirling snow, a floodlight pierced the blackness at the foot of the landing strip. A finger-like light beam probed the runway as if testing its softness. Firemen tensed as the crippled plane settled, landing with one engine dead.*

Fortunately, my captive audience of 160 men became avid News Scope readers, so the brass saw it as good for troop morale. This provided some cover for my digs at the military. But the base commander got on my case about my being out of uniform. Every day I wore a heavy blue shirt-jacket over frayed fatigues and work boots, with no outward sign of my lowly rank. "You're a good writer," the commander admitted, "but you're a lousy soldier!" I always responded, "Yes, sir. Thank you, sir!"

I had a rare opportunity to break big news in my remote outpost when Staff Sgt. George Huntley told me he would air-hop home to Boston on emergency leave. The story of his strange travel plans began when Huntley, a radar operator, learned his father died in Rockland, Me. The military's airport hitch-hiking is the ultimate in free, no-frills travel. Huntley got stranded in Washington, D.C., where his odyssey would give me the biggest story of my fledgling journalism career. Huntley, 22, was told by the MATS guy there were no flights to Boston. It looked like Huntley would miss his dad's funeral.

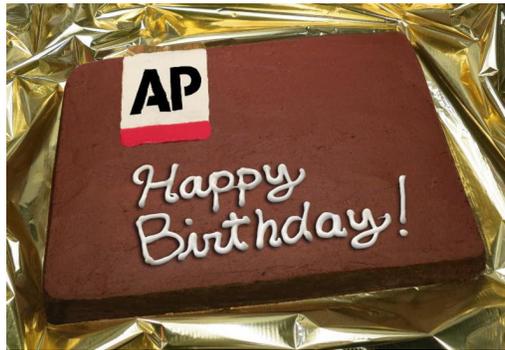
"Perhaps I can help," said an Air Force captain who was waiting behind Huntley at the MATS desk. The captain was flying the noted heart specialist, Dr. Paul Dudley White, to Boston in a plane assigned to the Secretary of the Air Force. "You're welcome to join us, sergeant." Dr. White was headed home to Boston after

treating President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 63, for a heart attack. Minutes later, Huntley was aboard a plush C-47. He and Dr. White were the only passengers. The aging heart specialist was happy to learn Huntley was stationed in Alaska, and told of his medical research there. A copy of Time magazine with a cover story on "Ike's Doc" was on a table. Dr. White signed it for Huntley, who showed it to me to corroborate his story. The big news?

After the President's heart attack, it was widely speculated that Ike would not seek reelection. Dr. White told Huntley the President would definitely run for a second term. I could see my exclusive story picked up by AP and ringing bells around the country. But Huntley said, "You can't print that. It was told to me in confidence."

Well, Ike did run for a second term. But until now, no one knew I had it first.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

John Brewer (24th) ([Email](#))

Marty Thompson (25th) ([Email](#))

Charles Bennett ([Email](#))

Steve Buttry ([Email](#))

Welcome to Connecting



Gregg K. Jones ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

Charlie Hebdo's Recovery From Attacks Opens New Wounds for Staff (New York Times)



PARIS - Days after two gunmen burst into the offices of the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo on Jan. 7, slaughtering nearly a dozen of his colleagues and friends, Laurent Sourisseau propped himself up in his hospital bed and began to draw.

A bullet shattered Mr. Sourisseau's right shoulder blade during the attack, immobilizing his drawing arm. But as police guards stood watch outside, the cartoonist, who goes by the pen name Riss, scratched out a series of shaky caricatures with his left hand.

The drawings - two of which were published in a "survivors' issue" that appeared a week after the attacks - may have looked tentative in their execution, but their tone was characteristically irreverent.

"Twenty-five years of work to become a cartoonist at Charlie Hebdo," Mr. Sourisseau's caption read. "To be a terrorist takes 25 seconds." It then labeled terrorists as lazy "branleurs," an off-color word for jerk.

[Click here](#) to read more. (Shared by Sibby Christensen)

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Sunday Dialogue: The Media Gap (New York Times)



Readers discuss a letter from a former CNN correspondent lamenting that as infotainment replaces in-depth news, the public is less well informed.

To the Editor:

At a time when Americans could benefit from deeper political news coverage in the United States, the media are sliding toward thinner

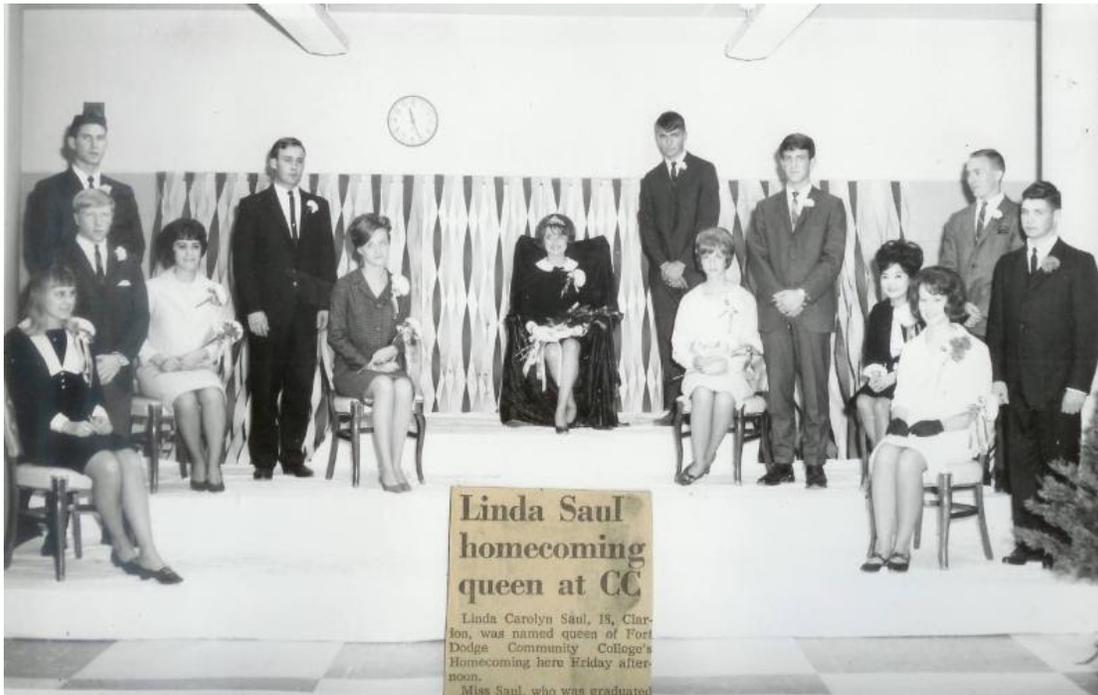
coverage and ever-shorter "news nuggets" of information. Journalists like me used to bemoan TV's 20-second sound bites; today, we're lucky to have even skimpier news morsels in social media to complain about.

Despite the proliferation of so-called "news" channels on TV, audiences for them are declining and people are turning more frequently to skeletal updates they consume quickly on the small screens of their phones and tablets. During many hours of the day, even the news channels are devoting prime-time hours to opinion shows and infotainment about travel, food and sports.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

The Final Word





Paul Stevens - My wife Linda and I are just back from a date weekend in Fort Dodge, Iowa, where we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our very first date - Homecoming 1965 at Fort Dodge Community College.

We were 18-year-old sophomores back then when I asked her to be my date. She said Yes! And a few weeks later, she was elected Homecoming Queen. And she still said Yes! FDCC is now Iowa Central and has triple the enrollment, it doesn't elect queens or hold parades of floats down Central Avenue, or have a post-game dance. All passé these days, we guess. But we did get to the homecoming game Saturday and rekindled many great memories.

Through our life's journey that followed, and for whatever chapters lie ahead, I'll always be grateful that she said Yes!

Today in History - October 26, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 26, the 299th day of 2015. There are 66 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 26, 1965, The Beatles received MBE medals as Members of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire from Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham

Palace.

On this date:

In 1774, the First Continental Congress adjourned in Philadelphia.

In 1825, the Erie Canal opened in upstate New York, connecting Lake Erie and the Hudson River.

In 1861, the legendary Pony Express officially ceased operations, giving way to the transcontinental telegraph. (The last run of the Pony Express was completed the following month.)

In 1881, the "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral" took place in Tombstone, Arizona.

In 1921, the Chicago Theatre, billed as "the Wonder Theatre of the World," first opened.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of Leyte Gulf ended in a major Allied victory over Japanese forces, whose naval capabilities were badly crippled.

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman signed a measure raising the minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents an hour.

In 1958, Pan American Airways flew its first Boeing 707 jetliner from New York to Paris in 8 hours and 41 minutes.

In 1972, national security adviser Henry Kissinger declared, "Peace is at hand" in Vietnam. Aviation innovator Igor Sikorsky died in Easton, Connecticut, at age 83.

In 1975, Anwar Sadat became the first Egyptian president to pay an official visit to the United States.

In 1984, "Baby Fae," a newborn with a severe heart defect, was given the heart of a baboon in an experimental transplant in Loma Linda, California. (Baby Fae lived 21 days with the animal heart.) "The Terminator," a science-fiction movie starring Arnold Schwarzenegger as a killer cyborg from the future, was released by Orion Pictures.

In 1994, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel and Prime Minister Abdel Salam Majali of Jordan signed a peace treaty during a ceremony at the Israeli-Jordanian border attended by President Bill Clinton.

Ten years ago: Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (mahk-MOOD' ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zhadh) declared that Israel was a "disgraceful blot" that should be "wiped off the map." A 20-year-old Palestinian blew himself up in an open-air market in Hadera, killing five Israelis. The Chicago White Sox defeated the [Houston Astros](#), 1-0, in Game 4 to win their first World Series since 1917.

Five years ago: Saddam Hussein's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, was sentenced to death for persecuting members of Shiite religious parties under the former regime. (The sentence was never carried out; Aziz died of a heart attack in June 2015.) Iran began loading fuel into the core of its first nuclear power plant. A day after an earthquake sparked a deadly tsunami, Indonesia saw another natural disaster as Mount Merapi (meh-RAH'-pee) began erupting explosively, resulting in hundreds of deaths in the weeks that followed.

One year ago: Left-leaning Dilma Roussef was narrowly re-elected in Brazil's tightest presidential election since its return to democracy three decades earlier. Serena Williams won the WTA Tour Finals for the third straight year and fifth time overall, beating Simona Halep 6-3, 6-0 in Singapore. The San Francisco Giants shut out the [Kansas City Royals](#) 5-0 to take a 3-2 edge in the World Series.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Shelley Morrison is 79. Author Pat Conroy is 70. Actress Jaclyn Smith is 70. TV host Pat Sajak is 69. Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is 68. Singer Maggie Roche (The Roches) is 64. Musician Bootsy Collins is 64. Actor James Pickens Jr. is 63. Rock musician Keith Strickland (The B-52's) is 62. Actor D.W. Moffett is 61. Actress-singer Rita Wilson is 59. The president of Bolivia, Evo Morales, is 56. Actor Patrick Breen (TV: "Madam Secretary") is 55. Actor Dylan McDermott is 54. Actor Cary Elwes is 53. Singer Natalie Merchant is 52. Country singer [Keith Urban](#) is 48. Actor Tom Cavanagh is 47. Actress Rosemarie DeWitt is 44. Actor Anthony Rapp is 44. Writer-producer Seth MacFarlane (TV: "Family Guy") is 42. TV correspondent and co-host Paula Faris (TV: "The View") is 40. Actress Lennon Parham is 40. Actor Hal Ozsan is 39. Actor Jon Heder is 38. Singer Mark Barry (BBMak) is 37. Actor Jonathan Chase is 36. Olympic silver medal figure skater Sasha Cohen is 31. Rapper Schoolboy Q is 29.

Thought for Today: "Without a song, each day would be a century." - Mahalia Jackson, gospel singer and civil rights activist (born this date in 1911, died in 1972).

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:

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **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
Editor
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

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