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## Connecting - December 08, 2015

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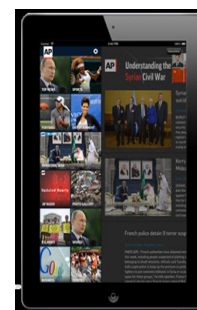
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# Connecting

December 08, 2015

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*Sam Blackman's retirement party in October 1969, with his wife Jeannette and daughter, Ann. At far left is then-New York CoB Doug Lovelace and next to him, AP Washington bureau chief Marv Arrowsmith. Half-hidden by Jeannette Blackman is Jack Cappon, who succeeded Sam as general news editor.*

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

**Samuel G. Blackman** was a legendary editor in The Associated Press - and 20 years after his death and 46 years after his retirement, the name "Sam Blackman" is fondly remembered in commentary shared by Connecting colleagues in this newsletter.

His career spanned four decades before he retired in 1969 - his last 11 AP years as general news editor, then the top editorial position in the AP.

His daughter **Ann** worked for the AP, where she met her husband **Michael Putzel**, and their son **Christof** is a journalist as well. A three-generation journalism family.

I asked Ann to share with us her memories of her father - whose obituary for the AP wire was written by another AP legend, Jules Loh - and we lead today's issue with

her remarkable account.

If you know of other multigenerational AP families we might chronicle, please drop me a note.

Paul

# SGB

By  
**Ann Blackman** ([Email](#))

In the neighborhood, my parents were known as Sam and Mrs. Blackman. While my mother presented herself as somewhat formal and never left the house without white gloves, she had a deep, hearty laugh and an earthy sense of humor.

My father was less proper, more friendly and - frugal, reflecting his humble upbringing in the railroad town of Port Jervis, New York. He bought toothpaste and coffee on sale, even if they were brands we disliked. He got angry when lights were left on in empty rooms. He bought inexpensive rye when my mother preferred good bourbon. And in his basement workshop, he kept a jar of bent nails. The man hated to throw anything away.

I loved to visit AP headquarters where Dad's 4<sup>th</sup> floor office, which he shared with photo editor Al Resch, looked out over Rockefeller Plaza. The best part was when his secretary, Mary, took me to lunch at the Horn & Hardart Automat. Pie cost 10 cents.

One afternoon when I was about 12, Daddy



***Ann and her dad at AP headquarters,  
around 1956***

called the house and asked for my mother. She wasn't home, and he said to tell her that he had been named general news editor. "Is that good?" I asked.

"I'm not sure," he replied.

My mother was and insisted that he buy some tailor-made suits in keeping with his promotion. He did, reluctantly. But as soon as he got home at night, he would change into old clothes. He wore hand-me-down pajamas from a next-door neighbor, Stan Brown, who was a good foot shorter. Mr. Brown's wife once looked out her window and said, "Sam is mowing the lawn in a tuxedo." It was an old one.

Our dinner conversations rarely varied: the day's news, hotheads in the Washington bureau and Saul Pett's expense account. For years, I thought his name was Saulpett, one word. Saul would later become a mentor and close friend.

Growing up, I always had a curfew, and when a boy brought me home from a date, Daddy would stand at the top of the hall stairs and flush the toilet, a signal it was time for the guy to leave. If that didn't work, he came downstairs in his bathrobe to wind the mantle clock.

At home, as well as at work, he cared about facts. We were not allowed to use the word "assume." Or "never." Ever. And he was a stickler for spelling. When my sister Carolyn left for college and wrote letters home that contained misspellings, he made me stand at the dinner table to spell the words correctly. It didn't take. My going away gift from various news organizations was always a dictionary.

I joined the AP on November 3, 1969, three days after my father retired at the mandatory age of 65. Wes Gallagher hired me from the *Boston Globe* to join his new Mod Squad of young reporters. It was the best job I ever had. But I wish Daddy had counseled me to start on the desk as an editor, as almost everyone else did. It was a mistake, on many levels, and would have saved time and headaches for



such editors as Washington's Ray Stephens, who once wrote me a note that began: "This story reminds me of a shipwreck at sea." It was about Republicans, which I misspelled.

Mom and Dad cared intensely about the news business. They were thrilled when I married an AP man, Michael Putzel. And they would have been intensely proud that their grandson, Christof Blackman Putzel, is a third-generation news reporter. (Daddy would never use the word "correspondent." Too pretentious.)



***Christof Putzel covering a story about arming the Mexican cartels while a correspondent for Vanguard, Current TV's investigative documentary series. He is now a correspondent for Al Jazeera America's news magazine America Tonight. His work has also been featured on ABC's Nightline, Good Morning America, CNN, PBS, CBC, and the Sundance Channel.***

He would be thrilled that his grandchildren took his great-grandchildren to DC's Newseum to see the "G-men and Journalists" exhibit that displayed a picture of him entering prison for the execution of Bruno Richard Hauptmann, the kidnapper of the Lindbergh baby. Daddy broke the story of the kidnapping as a newsman in Trenton and covered it through the execution.

The AP rewarded my parents for

38 years of service with two first-class, around-the-world plane tickets. They didn't know what to do with them. Why would anyone waste money flying first class? They turned in the tickets for cash.



***Ann and Michael Putzel***

After Dad died in 1995 at the age of 90, I found a number of small deposits in a variety of New York banks, undoubtedly booty from the days when banks offered an alarm clock or a transistor radio for opening a new account.

Just this week, I came upon the carefully typed master's thesis he wrote in 1930 for Rutgers University. It began: "Eighteen years ago, as a newsboy, the writer caught his first glimpse of the making of a newspaper. A lone typewriter, which was the chief attraction in the front office of a small daily in Port Jervis, N.Y., stirred the newsboy's curiosity."

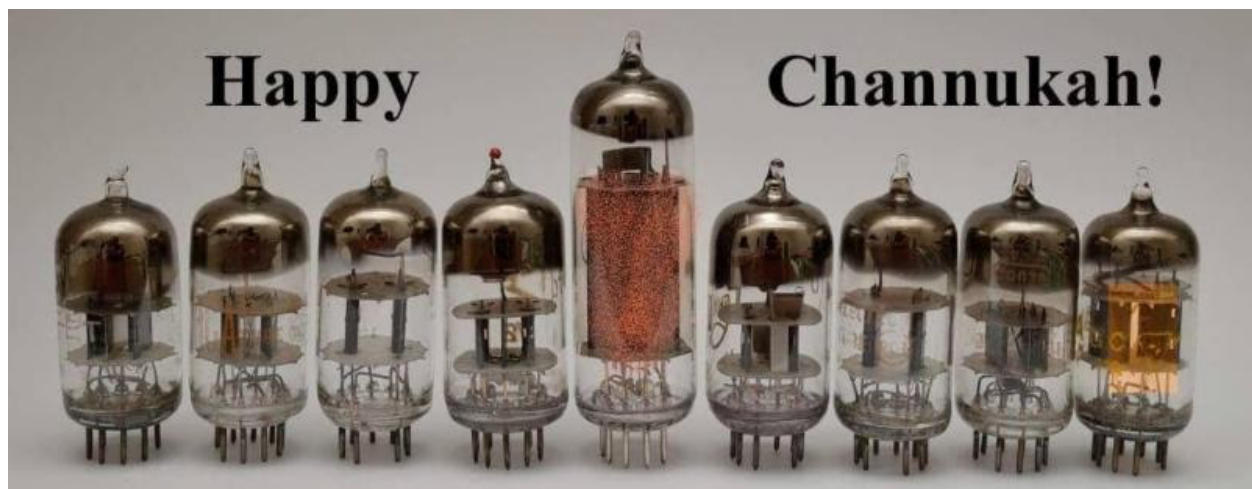
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*Ann Blackman worked at The AP for 15 years and Time magazine for 16. She is the author of four biographies, including one of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.*

[Click here](#) for a link to Jules Loh's wire obituary for Sam Blackman.

## Connecting mailbox

### ***A Hanukkah wish***



**Ed Tobias** - A holiday wish for the technical folks among us.

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***If that's not local news from somewhere else...***

**Mort Rosenblum** - Re Bill Vogrin's good piece on local news (Monday's Connecting): Once on a trip home to Tucson from Africa, I was asked to join an AP panel with Arizona publishers. The state editor, clearly sucking up to members, asked with a thinly disguised sneer why some copper miner in San Manuel should give a damn about - and here he paused to think of some funny-sounding name - Zambia. Well, I replied, if Zambians were able to crank up copper production as it looks like they would, the San Manuel mine could go out of business. Now if that's not local news from somewhere else...

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***Recalling Pearl Harbor Day***

**Ray Newton** - I recall Pearl Harbor Day (Dec. 7, 1941). I was barely six, and was in the living room of our small home playing with a train set. My parents had the old large cabinet radio and were listening intently. They were both crying. At that

moment, I had no idea of the magnitude of the declaration of war, but I remember vividly how distraught my parents were. Some memories never lose their intensity, do they?

## **AND...**

**Gordon Sakamoto** - I did a first-person account of the Dec. 7 attack for The AP. Must have been around 1996. The General Desk was bugging us for an anniversary piece and we were kicking around story ideas when I suggested to News Editor Mike Tighe I do an account story. It took about 15 minutes to write, but, in my haste, I failed to mention several key points. There was no television, very few "live" radio broadcasts and this was decades before the Internet era. Hawaii (the Territory of Hawaii, as it was referred to) was an out-of-the-way outpost in the middle of the Pacific. Almost an after-thought. For example, I was a huge fan of singer Dinah Shore, who had an hour-long variety show on Sunday nights sponsored by the Ford Motor Co. One Sunday, I tuned in and got only soft, soothing instrumental music. It then dawned on me that the broadcast was in honor of Henry Ford, who had passed away a month earlier. What happened in those days was that the broadcasts were recorded -- probably in California -- and shipped to Hawaii on a slow-boat, making it a month-long journey.

My story can be found on Google: Gordon Sakamoto Pearl Harbor. The story got printed all over the world. I received tearsheets from Asia and Europe. A friend in San Diego said he almost drove his car off the freeway when a newscaster read the entire story on the air.

I don't know why, but, during the war, we learned to identify airplanes. I guess officials thought we could notify them if we saw enemy aircraft, I can still remember countless P-40 Tomahawks (P for pursuit), P-39 Air Cobra when a scoop behind the cockpit, P-38 Lightning with its twin fuselage, B-24 Liberator (B for bomber), B-25 Mitchell, B-26 Marauder, B-17 Flying Fortress. And later, the B-29 Super Fortress. We also learned about enemy planes, too. Japan's Zero, Mitsubishi, Kate. Germany's Stuka, Messerschmitts (sp), Heinkel.

I hope I don't get in trouble for saying this, but I think I aided Japan's war effort. I attended Japanese language school for two years, and the headmaster was forever telling the students to bring in chewing gum wrappers which had tin-foil attached. We were to dutifully peel off the foil, ball them up and take it to the headmaster. I'm pretty sure the foil was shipped to Japan.



# AP Images: Top 100 news images of 2015



Each year, Associated Press Images choose a selection of photos that best documents the year's top news stories as chronicled by photojournalists around the world. This year's set of 100 compelling and newsworthy images was selected by AP Director of Photography Santiago Lyon and Deputy Director of Photography Denis Paquin.

[Click here](#) to view the photos.

## AP photographer Griffith awarded for Sydney hostage crisis



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - Rob Griffith, a Sydney-based Associated Press photographer, has won the 2015 News Photography award from the Walkley Foundation for his coverage of the hostage crisis at a Sydney cafe in December 2014.

The annual Walkley Awards recognize excellence in Australian journalism across all media.

The winning image was of a hostage running to freedom into the arms of an officer.

The photo, seen around the world, was just one of almost 50 that Griffith filed in the 19 hours he stayed at the scene.

Griffith knew the photo was "the one" - the crying Lindt Cafe employee clinging to the officer. Apart from the expression on her face, there was something in the way she latched onto the officer that communicated the terror of the situation more than any words could, Griffith said.

Griffith was on a train commuting to work that morning when he saw a news alert on his iPad about the standoff, which started when a shotgun-wielding man, Man Monis, took 18 people hostage and issued a series of demands, including that he be delivered a flag of the Islamic State group. The standoff ended when police stormed the cafe. Monis was killed, along with two hostages.

Armed with a full camera kit - including a 200-400mm zoom lens - Griffith headed directly for the cafe and became one of the first journalists on the scene.

He set up from a position some 130 yards (meters) from the establishment - more than the length of a football field away.

For seven hours Griffith stayed put, filing images over his iPad and keeping his eyes peeled for any action. The crowd grew so thick that moving was out of the question, even for bathroom breaks. After taking the defining image, Griffith stayed on the story and continued to file images until the siege ended hours later.



Griffith, 49, became a staff photographer with the AP Sydney bureau in 2001.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story.

## Grocery chains leave food deserts barren, AP analysis finds

**By MIKE SCHNEIDER**  
**The Associated Press**

EATONVILLE, Fla. (AP) -- As part of Michelle Obama's healthy eating initiative, a group of major food retailers promised in 2011 to open or expand 1,500 grocery or convenience stores in and around neighborhoods with no supermarkets by 2016. By their own count, they're far short.

Moreover, an analysis of federal food stamp data by The Associated Press reveals that the nation's largest chains - not just the handful involved in the first lady's group - have since built new supermarkets in only a fraction of the neighborhoods where they're needed most.



The Partnership for a Healthier America, which also promotes good nutrition and exercise in its anti-obesity mission, considers improving access to fresh food a key part of the solution. But the AP's research demonstrates that major grocers overwhelmingly avoid America's food deserts instead of trying to turn a profit in high-poverty areas.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

## **Set to launch digital news site Circa, Sinclair taps John Solomon as COO**

**By: Jonathan Kuperberg**  
**Broadcasting and Cable**

Sinclair Broadcast Group announced Monday the launch of independent digital news site



"Circa" and the appointment of John Solomon as chief creative officer.

Solomon, an award-winning journalist who at 22 became The Associated Press' youngest news editor, had been VP of content and business development for The Washington Times, making the newspaper profitable for the first time in 33 years.



"As the largest producer of local news content in the country, our mission is to build on the legitimate news enterprise we have created, evolve how we connect with consumers and address changing news consumption habits," said David Smith, Sinclair president and CEO.

"John, an award-winning journalist with an extensive history in news reporting, editorial and management positions, is the most qualified to lead this initiative, and we are thrilled to have his vote of confidence in our strategy by overseeing the venture."

Circa, an independent organization supported by Sinclair and other potential investors, is slated to relaunch in the spring. Geared to the new generation, the site will take the intellectual property and technology of Circa News, the online site whose assets Sinclair acquired in August.

"We decided to purchase the Circa brand and reader-friendly, patented technology, rather than take years to build ourselves," said Rob Weisbord, Sinclair VP and chief operating officer. "The Circa app will be re-designed, re-imagined and re-launched as one of the most innovative news gathering, reporting and audience-building digital platforms."

Circa, located in Washington, D.C. and Seattle with news bureaus in New York and Los Angeles, will have an operating expense budget, net of revenues, of about \$9 million in its first year.

"Delivering original news content on mobile platforms is becoming increasingly important, especially in engaging the next generation of news readers who value raw content, differing perspectives and personalization," Solomon said. "Circa's focus will be on issues



trending from around the country, delivered in an independent-minded style, with a heavy focus on short and long form video, optimized for mobile and social media engagement."

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

## Stories of interest

***The Gun Epidemic: The Making of a Page 1 Editorial*** (New York Times)

By **ANDREW ROSENTHAL**

Not long after the latest mass murder, in San Bernardino, Calif., on Dec. 2, Arthur Sulzberger Jr., our publisher, was on the phone with Terry Tang, deputy editorial page editor, and me. What were we going to write about the killings?

There was nothing particularly unusual about this conversation. Arthur often discusses issues and news events with us, since the editorial board represents The Times as an institution and Arthur is its publisher. Arthur is particularly incensed about gun violence and the nation's failure to deal with it.

The day after the school massacre in Newtown, Conn., in December 2012, Arthur was in my office. Would it be possible, he asked, for us to go bananas on guns for a while? (He actually used an earthier expression than bananas.) I said yes, and mobilized our editorial writers. In the next month, we published about 15 editorials on the subject of guns, gun violence and gun regulation.

By last Thursday, as details of the carnage in California emerged, Arthur had another, bolder idea: *What if we did an editorial on the front page?* We later found out that this had not happened in almost 100 years. The editorial and news departments are kept separate, and editorials go on the editorial page.

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

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### ***Huffington Post reverses policy of covering Trump under 'Entertainment'*** (Politico)

The Huffington Post is reversing its much-discussed policy of relegating coverage of GOP presidential frontrunner Donald Trump to its entertainment vertical.

In a post on the site, president and editor in chief Arianna Huffington said that the decision is a response to Trump's call for "a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States."

"Now that Trump, aided by the media, has doubled down on the cruelty and know-nothingness that defined his campaign's early days, the 'can you believe he said that?' novelty has curdled and congealed into something repellent and threatening -- laying bare a disturbing aspect of American politics," Huffington [wrote](#) in the post -published on the site's Politics vertical.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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***Perspective: Covering more tragedy in our community of Colorado Springs*** (Gazette, Colorado Springs)

**By JOANNA BEAN**

It was exactly one week ago today that I got the phone call.

I was running errands with my daughters, one home from college for Thanksgiving break, the other a high school student.

The Gazette's on-duty editor in the newsroom on that Black Friday was calling about an active shooter situation. Reporters and a photographer were on their way to the scene. I don't remember anything else about the call - even whether he told me it was happening at Planned Parenthood.

I immediately dropped my daughters off at home and headed for the newsroom. Other editors and reporters also canceled their holiday weekend plans to cover the story. Some called in and asked where they could be of use. Others stayed long after their shifts would have normally ended - and were back in the newsroom the next morning, and the next.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Gary Graham.

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***Lawyer in Times v. Sullivan Libel Case, Dies at 91*** (New York Times)

***M. Roland Nachman, left, at an event in 1984 commemorating the anniversary of Times v. Sullivan, with his legal adversaries in the case, William P. Rogers, center, and Herbert Wechsler. Dith Pran/The New York Times***

M. Roland Nachman, an Alabama lawyer who opposed The New York Times in a libel case that resulted in a landmark Supreme Court decision establishing greater leeway for newspapers and individuals to criticize government officials and other public figures, died on Nov. 24 at his home in Montgomery, Ala. He was 91.

His daughter Betsy Wild said that Mr. Nachman had bladder cancer and Alzheimer's disease and that the likely cause of death was kidney failure.

A prominent figure in Alabama legal circles - he served for a time as president of the Alabama Bar Association - Mr. Nachman became part of history when he agreed to represent L. B. Sullivan, a Montgomery city commissioner who had brought suit against The Times for an advertisement it published on March 29, 1960.

The ad, a full-page request for financial support for the legal defense of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who had been charged with felony perjury, and more generally for the struggle for civil rights in the South, appeared under the headline "Heed Their Rising Voices," a phrase taken directly from a Times editorial 10 days earlier.

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

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***#LoveWins, #BlackLivesMatter, #JeSuisCharlie among the news that dominated Twitter in 2015*** (Poynter)



Twitter has released its "2015 Year on Twitter," with a look at the most influential users, new voices, most retweets and the top trends.

Under the news category, the top 10 trends are:

1. #jobs
2. #Quran
3. #ISIS
4. #PrayForParis
5. #LoveWins
6. #CharlieHebdo
7. #JeSuisCharlie



8. #BlackLivesMatter
9. #地震
10. #SandraBland

Last year, #Ferguson, #RIPMayaAngelou and #MH17 were among the hashtags that made Twitter's year-end roundup.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story.

## Today in History - December 8, 2015



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 8, the 342nd day of 2015. There are 23 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Imperial Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

**On this date:**

In 1765, Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton gin, was born in Westborough, Massachusetts.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free of original sin from the moment of her own conception.

In 1865, Finnish composer Jean Sibelius was born in Haemeenlinna.

In 1914, "Watch Your Step," the first musical revue to feature a score composed entirely by Irving Berlin, opened in New York.

In 1940, the Chicago Bears defeated the Washington Redskins, 73-0, in the NFL Championship Game, which was carried on network radio for the first time by the Mutual Broadcasting System (the announcer was Red Barber).

In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

In 1962, the first session of the Second Vatican Council was formally adjourned. Typographers went on a 114-day strike against four New York City newspapers.

In 1972, a United Airlines Boeing 737 crashed while attempting to land at Chicago-Midway Airport, killing 43 of the 61 people on board, as well as two people on the ground; among the dead were Dorothy Hunt, wife of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt, U.S. Rep. George W. Collins, D-Ill., and CBS News correspondent Michele Clark.

In 1980, rock star John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by an apparently deranged fan.

In 1982, a man demanding an end to nuclear weapons held the Washington Monument hostage, threatening to blow it up with explosives he claimed were inside a van. (After a 10-hour standoff, Norman D. Mayer was shot dead by police; it turned out there were no explosives.)

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty at the White House calling for destruction of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

In 1992, Americans got to see live television coverage of U.S. troops landing on the beaches of Somalia as Operation Restore Hope began (because of the time difference, it was early Dec. 9 in Somalia).

Ten years ago: A Southwest Airlines jet landing at Chicago Midway International Airport during a snowstorm slid off the runway and onto a busy street, killing a boy in a car. In Iraq, a suicide bomber set off explosives inside a packed bus bound for a southern Shiite city, killing 32 people.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama rejected claims that he had betrayed Democrats by cutting a deal with Republicans on Bush-era tax cuts and implored his party to back the compromise, arguing it could jump-start the economy. Hackers rushed to the defense of WikiLeaks, launching attacks on MasterCard, Visa, Swedish prosecutors, a Swiss bank and others who had acted against the site and its founder, Julian Assange. A fire that started during an inmate brawl swept through an overcrowded prison in Chile, killing at least 81 people.

One year ago: The U.S. and NATO ceremonially ended their combat mission in Afghanistan, 13 years after the Sept. 11 terror attacks sparked their invasion of the country to topple the Taliban-led government. Britain's Prince William sat down with President Barack Obama in Washington while his wife, Kate, made an impression of a down-to-earth duchess on preschoolers and prominent British expats in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Flutist James Galway is 76. Singer Jerry Butler is 76. Pop musician Bobby Elliott (The Hollies) is 74. Actress Mary Woronov is 72. Actor John Rubinstein is 69. Rock singer-musician Gregg Allman is 68. Reggae singer Toots Hibbert (Toots and the Maytals) is 67. Actress Kim Basinger (BAY'-sing-ur) is 62. Rock musician Warren Cuccurullo is 59. Rock musician Phil Collen (Def Leppard) is 58. Country singer Marty Raybon is 56. World Bank President Jim Yong Kim is 56. Political commentator Ann Coulter is 54. Rock musician Marty Friedman is 53. Actor Wendell Pierce is 52. Actress Teri Hatcher is 51. Actor David

Harewood is 50. Rapper Bushwick Bill (The Geto Boys) is 49. Singer Sinead (shih-NAYD') O'Connor is 49. Actor Matthew Laborteaux is 49. Rock musician Ryan Newell (Sister Hazel) is 43. Actor Dominic Monaghan is 39. Actor Ian Somerhalder is 37. Rock singer Ingrid Michaelson is 36. R&B singer Chrisette Michele is 33. Actress Hannah Ware is 33. Country singer Sam Hunt is 31. Rock singer-actress Kate Voegelé (VOH'-geh) is 29. Christian rock musician Jen Ledger (Skillet) is 26. Actress Wallis Currie-Wood (TV: "Madam Secretary") is 24. Actress AnnaSophia Robb is 22.

***Thought for Today: "War does not determine who is right - only who is left." - Author unknown (although this sentiment is sometimes attributed to Bertrand Russell).***

## 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!

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