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## Connecting - March 26, 2016

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# Connecting

March 26, 2016

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Colleagues,

Good Saturday morning!

Today's Connecting leads with a story by **Richard Pyle**, whose distinguished AP career included service as AP's Saigon chief of bureau during the Vietnam War. With **Edie Lederer** recently reaching her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the AP, Richard contributed his memories of the days when more women began to be assigned to war zones - and how he lobbied to get AP

New York to bring Edie onto the Saigon staff.

We also received some great letters relating to **Harry Dunphy**, Washington newsman who completed his 50-year-plus AP career on Friday - joining the ranks of retirees after a career of service internationally and in the nation's capital.

Have a great weekend - and a Happy Easter!

Paul

# Edie Lederer and the Vietnam War

**By Richard Pyle**

When Detroit bureau chief Clem Brossier recruited me off the suburban daily Royal Oak Tribune to join AP in August 1960, one of my new colleagues was a young woman reporter named Evelyn August. She was good at the job, holding her own in an otherwise all-male staff. Having worked with women at the Tribune, I saw nothing unique about it.

Soon, however, I realized that I had actually joined one of journalism's most affirmed male bastions. That became clear as I moved from covering sports in Ann Arbor to general assignment in DT to Statehouse/politics in Lansing, to international reporting and editing in NY where I discovered that neither the AP World Service desk, where I worked, nor the NY Foreign desk - the launch pads for new reporters going abroad - had any female staffers in training.

Company lore says the foreign editor of the time flatly vetoed that idea, and AP's longtime GM and president Wes Gallagher is alleged to have said he would never send a woman to cover a war. (WG wasn't noted for his fatherly manner, but I choose to think that if true, it might have reflected a concern acquired in his own career as a WW2 correspondent in Europe.)

By 1968, when I got AP's call to join the Saigon staff, this was starting to change, and Vietnam may have been a primary factor. Women reporters were showing up in the war zone, and our arch-rival UPI had two of them, including the formidable Kate Webb. AP did have Jurate Kazickas, a courageous super-stringer who was

wounded while covering the siege of Khe Sanh (and later became a Stateside AP staffer). We also welcomed brief, temporary working visits to the war zone by U.S.-based AP staffers Kelly Smith Tunney and Ann Blackman. So it wasn't as if there were zero female bylines on the wire.

In 1970, about the time that I replaced David Mason as Saigon bureau chief, we first met Edith Lederer, a San Francisco-based AP reporter who with a friend was making a globe-girdling vacation trip, and stopped off in Vietnam to find out what the big story of the day looked and sounded like. As Edie recalls it today, "I had been covering the anti-war movement in San Francisco and I knew people who were being drafted, so I wanted to learn everything possible about the war that I was already covering."



*Edie Lederer in Saigon bureau, 1972*

To that end, we arranged for Edie and her friend Nancy to make a couple of field trips and helicopter flights, and introduced them to the wondrous world of MACV's daily news briefings known as the Five O' Clock Follies. (Edie herself might recall whether we sent them any place requiring flak jackets.)

As a newly minted COB in Saigon, my first letter to WG was to request a pay raise for myself and, by tradition, for all Vietnamese employees of the bureau. The second letter, written on or about the next day, was a proposal that 50 Rock send us a full-time woman staffer, and asking that it be Edith M. Lederer.

I told Gallagher that I felt AP's highly rated war reporting needed more support on peripheral themes such as the war's impact on the Vietnamese civilian population, and that this reporting would really need a fresh "woman's perspective." While I worried that this idea might be dismissed as naive, WG did not argue the point. In fact, he said nothing that I recall for almost a year - then, in early 1971, unexpectedly approved my proposal to have Ms. Lederer join the Saigon staff.

Edie says Gallagher never told her he would not send a woman reporter to war, but in "War Torn," a 2004 book she co-authored with eight female journalist colleagues who also served in Vietnam, she says, "In a letter, he made clear that as far as he and Pyle were concerned, I wasn't going anywhere near the fighting."

"Neither he nor I want you popping in and out of the fronts just to prove you can do everything that one of our veteran war correspondents can do," Gallagher wrote. "You are being sent there to do a job on special coverage, not to go into any combat zones. You are too valuable..."

It was clear that AP's underlying fears about women war correspondents hadn't gone away...

U.S. combat forces at that time (1971-73) were beginning their systematic, unit-by-unit withdrawal from Vietnam, but between the events naturally generated by the ongoing conflict and ideas from other staffers, there was no shortage of stories suited to Edie's energetic and resourceful pursuit of the news. When I asked her recently to recall some of her most memorable reporting from those days, she offered these examples:

"An enemy rocket attack on Tan Son Nhut airport on Dec 6, 1972 and finding the house where a 20-year-old woman had been killed, going aboard the aircraft carrier USS America to interview Navy pilots after Secretary of State Henry Kissinger declared ``peace is at hand" as the result of the Paris negotiations with the Saigon and Hanoi governments, writing about the Vietnamese bar girls suddenly left behind by departing American boyfriends, mingling with both communist and Saigon officials at a bizarre cocktail party and my trip up-country to Da Nang, Hue and war-battered Quang Tri for a Viet Cong-Saigon prisoner exchange, and then covering the first limited release of American POWs at Tan Son Nhut."

I like to think that my long-ago brainstorm to recruit Edie Lederer in Saigon was partly responsible for the experiences through which she sharply honed the special reporting skills that have served her so well in her later career as AP's chief diplomatic correspondent at the United Nations. And one memory that still lingers in my mind from the Saigon era was a comment from a Washington Post reporter who told me, ``Edith Lederer drives me crazy. I can never seem to get an interview started before she's suddenly standing between me and the person I'm talking to."



*Left to Right: Carl Robinson, former AP photo editor in Saigon; Richard Pyle, former AP bureau chief in Saigon, with Tim Page UPI photographer, and Edie Lederer, former AP reporter in Saigon, together looking back, at the Vietnam Old Hacks Journalism Reunion in California in 2011. (AP Photo/Nick Ut) (Photos shared by Santos Chaparro)*

## Memories from career of Harry Dunphy

**David Briscoe** - Harry and I transferred to Washington under similar circumstance. I came in 1986 from six years of running our then-newsy bureau in Manila. Harry came a decade later to the Washington world desk from his role in an elite group of AP European bureau chiefs. Their posts in important capitals were, in many ways, the envy and aspiration of their colleagues in the foreign service.

At the time, foreign AP international bureau chiefs had hefty expense accounts, private offices, company cars, even drivers and access to low-cost domestic services. Plus, we lived in some of the most coveted cities in the world, with company-paid leave with our families and a host of other benefits.

AP foreign COBs also had considerable autonomy in overseeing AP services and subscribers in their territory, answering directly to the AP general manager, with the freedom to do reporting when they wanted to or to rely on news editors and strong staffs to cover their high-profile territories. A lot has changed since Harry and I left, but memories linger.

In Washington, we basically started over as Guild-covered AP reporters, often finding difficulty adjusting in a big room of cubicles with more than 100 highly competitive and experienced AP reporters, photographers and layers of bosses.

Washington itself, for all its importance to global affairs and its impressive monuments, always seemed to me a poor substitute for the grandeur and dramatic history of Europe, the cultural clashes of the Middle East or the colorful cultures and turmoil of Asia, Africa or South America.

Even Washington's constant stream of important news stories seemed to me more about thick paper reports and rulings, lackluster personalities in unsuited roles, unending and inconsequential news conferences, and dragged-out committee hearings, than real events you could witness and feel, like coups, riots in the streets, and earthquakes.

Some might even say we went from one of the best jobs in journalism (king of our own AP country) to one of the worst (journalistic AP bureaucrat in a city of bureaucrats.)

For Harry, moving from Paris to a Virginia suburb of Washington in 1995, could have been a tough transition.

But he made the switch magnificently, adding a fresh European perspective to our small band of internationalists covering the White House, the State Department, the Pentagon, Congress and a host of government agencies and organizations mainly for foreign readers.

As testament to an AP global management rooted in trench journalism, Harry hit the ground with an arsenal of reporting skills, immediately covering top stories for readers around the world, showing that moving from one of the world's most romantic cities to its most stressful didn't have to be a downer - it could also ignite the journalistic soul.

His abiding humility and willingness to take on even the most mundane assignments also helped.

In an earlier time, Harry, as a World Desk reporter, might have found himself at the White

House alongside a domestic reporter writing for a different audience. But as the bureau began consolidating and better coordinating coverage under Jon Wolman and then Sandy Johnson, his job and that of the small international staff of which he was a part became more vital.

Harry covered congressional foreign affairs committees, visiting foreign leaders, State Department briefings and a wide variety of stories of interest to both foreign and domestic readers.

He never balked at an assignment, never wavered in his dogged pursuit of a story, and if he felt the letdown I sometimes felt at missing the glamour of a foreign posting, he never showed it.

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**Tom Kent** (AP Standards editor, New York; former Moscow COB) One thing I remember particularly about Harry is chilling story he told us about what happened to him and Verity when they went on a family excursion to Gorky park.

If I recall the details correctly, they had gone there for a day of relaxation, and a so-called Russian TV crew came up and asked to shoot some film of them as foreigners enjoying the park.

After a few minutes of setting up the shot and general confusion, Harry and noticed that their child was missing. They were frantic. Eventually, someone brought the child back. But Harry said he took it as a warning from the authorities about their power.

Nonetheless, Harry was an effective and courageous chief, pushing the bureau to report as aggressively as we could in those very difficult times. I remember him as a terrific professional.

He kept our morale high and the bureau a happy place, respecting both the American correspondents and the Soviet staff.

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**David Crary** (AP national writer and former Paris news editor and far-flung foreign

correspondent) - What I remember vividly from my five years working with Harry (1990-95) is his steadfast decency, collegiality and support. I can't imagine having a better COB to work under. Even before I reached Paris to become news editor (I stayed in South Africa waiting for Nelson Mandela's release from prison), Harry provided a warm and helpful welcome to my wife and two young sons as they arrived before me to start the new school term and look for a place to live. During those five years, the Paris bureau teemed with idiosyncratic personalities; Harry dealt with all of them calmly and tactfully. At times, I empathized: his dossier included oversight of AP's French Service - an enterprise that was losing money yet was insulated from change by a raft of complex French labor laws. And even with a full plate of administrative chores, Harry remained committed to personally handling coverage of Paris-based UNESCO, a beat of which his knowledge was unparalleled.

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**Ken Guggenheim**, deputy North America editor: One of the amazing things about Harry is that back when we had foreign correspondents regularly coming through WDC regularly on home leave (a practice that is rarer these days), it seemed that everyone stopping by had worked with Harry at some point - or, more likely, worked for Harry. And in the rare instance when he didn't know somebody, he'd still inevitably greet the visitors with a few words of French, Arabic, Russian or whatever language was used in the visitor's bureau.

Harry has always been the consummate professional and the pure AP newsperson. His main job for some time has been trying to make sense out of Washington news for international readers. But he's done so much more than that. For years, he's covered the IMF and World Bank's semi-annual meetings and regularly pitches on news reports from those organizations. He's been called on to bird-dog foreign visitors, especially when we've needed a strong French speaker. On short notice, he's always been willing to come in early or stay late or take on new responsibilities. And he's unfailingly polite, doesn't complain and shows no concern about whether he gets credit. He's a pure team player.

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**Elaine Ganley** (newswoman in Paris): Harry was the boss in the blue shirt. The slacks and jackets changed, but each day, every day it seemed, he wore a crisp blue shirt. And that spoke to me: a steady hand on the keel, no surprises, no outbursts of panic when radical leftists of the Direct Action group set off bombs, or when the French government fell -- in my first week on the job in Paris in 1984 - an event that gave France its youngest prime minister. (Laurent Fabius who just recently guided to success the world climate conference as foreign minister, has just bowed out of political life.)



Harry was a presence in his backroom office, but always ready to roll up his (blue) sleeves at the desk. Did Rock Hudson have AIDS or a liver ailment? Was UNESCO going to collapse under Uganda's divisive leadership and minus the membership of the appalled U.S., which left). Yes, Harry was also the AP bureau's master of the mammoth, sometimes incomprehensible institutions headquartered in Paris.

The stories I best remember in my first years as a foreign correspondent in the French capital so often featured Harry, cool and calm, a salty correspondent who'd worked around the globe but neither bragged nor swaggered. He just donned a blue shirt and did it.

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**Marilyn August** (Paris newswoman): Thinking about Harry reminds me why I was so happy for so many years at the AP... I can tell you from my own personal experience that he was as good a journalist under pressure as he was a COB. Example: he and I, of all people, were in the office by ourselves (except for the French Service) when the news of Princess Grace's car crash broke - about 10:00 am. He had opened the bureau at 9:00 or earlier, and was on the story in a flash, banging out urgents and news alerts, while I manned the radio, translating the latest broadcasts along with the copy provided by the French service. He was the man of the hour - I was simply his little helper, with solid language skills but a novice when it came to reporting hard news.! And guess what? We did just fine - beating out the competition as I recall, and getting kudos from Nate! The other American correspondents arrived as the day wore on ...and the rest is history. Harry was always eager and ready to step in and take over the desk when necessary. He also read the French press assiduously, and surprised me more than once with his knowledge of the french culture scene. Which meant he respected mine.

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**Marty Crutsinger** (chief economics writer): Harry jumped into coverage of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Harry and I have spent two decades working together and you could not ask for a more congenial colleague. No matter how big the story, Harry remained cool and unflappable. We covered plenty of international financial crises from the Asian currency crisis of the late 1990s which pushed 40 percent of the global economy into recession to the U.S. financial crisis of 2008 which quickly spread around the world and the European debt crisis which is still unfolding. The IMF and World Bank have two major meetings each year in the spring and fall in Washington. Harry and I would set up in the IMF press room for those sessions, which would start early and often go late into the night. We made a great team even though we often felt like a rag-tag band battling the much bigger reporting forces of Reuters and Bloomberg who would bring in dozens of reporters to cover these meetings. Harry was a consummate professional and always enjoyed the respect of the IMF and World Bank officials that he dealt with.

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**Patrick McDowell** (former Paris newsman, now Southeast Asia bureau chief for the Wall Street Journal): He was a fair and decent man who gave me a six-month fill-in shot that turned into a 23-year career. I'm very grateful to him for that. Less wonderful were those little ham-and-butter cardboard finger sandwiches that he had brought up for every one of the countless French elections, even after Domino's established a presence in Paris.

## Connecting mailbox

*A collector of children's fiction relating to newspapers*



**Arnold Garson** - I have been collecting 1960s-and-earlier children's fiction related to newspapers for many years.

Quite honestly, they're not great reading, pretty formulaic. But the collection does have redeeming value -- the wonderful dust jackets and covers and the names of the books and the characters. Examples: "Peanut - Cub Reporter," "Front Page for Jennifer," "Helen in the Editor's Chair," "Speed McDermott Junior Reporter," and, of course, my favorite, "Mickey Mouse Runs His Own Newspaper."

Several sets are included in the collection, most notably the 16-volume "Sally Baxter Girl Reporter" series from Australia. There also are a couple of Horatio Alger books, "Dan the Newsboy," and "Luke Walton or The Chicago Newsboy." Oldest books are a couple from 1884, "Didley Dumps the News-Boy," (another great character name) by R. Ratchford Starr (which would have been a great newspaper name, too) and "Left Behind or Ten Days A News-Boy," by James Otis.

The authors also include Howard Garris, who went on to write the Uncle Wiggily series, and Emma Bugbee, who worked as a reporter at the New York Herald Tribune from 1911 until the newspaper closed in 1966.

## CLOSE TO THE NEWS

*"Close to the News" is a newsletter about the news report, worldwide and in all media. Our focus is balance, taste, clarity, standards and fairness, with occasional digressions on style and mechanics. Suggestions, contributions and pushback are welcome at [tkent@ap.org](mailto:tkent@ap.org).*

*In this issue, we look at the thinking that went into some recent standards decisions on photos and video.*

### SOME RECENT STANDARDS DECISIONS ON IMAGES

**By TOM KENT**

**AP Standards Editor**

We have extensive policies on how to handle gory and controversial images. We don't want to unnecessarily sanitize frightening events. But we're not into "blood porn" or distributing propaganda.

Every image is a little different, so we often have to apply our general standards to new situations. Let's look at the decisions we made on some recent photos and video.



When two U.S. patrol boats lost their way in the Persian Gulf Middle East. The Islamic State group issued a video in February containing the image above. The shot showed a 4-year-old boy exulting next to the wreckage of a vehicle. According to the video, the IS group had captured several spies, shackled them inside a car and then allowed the boy to blow the car up.

There was no specific evidence that the boy was posing under duress. But we felt the video put the boy in a potentially traumatic situation, however happy he looked. We didn't use it.

Our traditional standards almost always serve us well in judging photos and video. We don't expect to change our position against imagery that inspires hate, or images of mutilated faces or bodies. When a less disturbing image can tell the story as effectively as a gory one, we'll go for the less disturbing one.

At the same time, standards do evolve somewhat. Sometimes an image goes beyond our normal practice but is so newsworthy, or likely to become iconic, that we should use it. The key is to be aware when we're doing something that could possibly raise questions, and have the proper discussions before acting.

Photo and video managers, the global news managers and the Standards Center are all available for consultation in such cases.



By **BRIAN CAROVILLANO**

It's the most closely guarded secret in Washington and one that every news organization desperately struggles to break: Who will the president nominate for a rare vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court?

Getting that name is no accident, matter of luck or easy handout. It's a grinding, competitive slog of hard, diligent reporting. On March 16, President Barack Obama sent out a 7 a.m. email that said, "I've made my decision" \_ without revealing a name. That created a frenzy among Washington reporters. One major news organization went with the wrong name and had to issue an embarrassing correction.

Three AP Washington reporters got it first and got it right: The nominee was Merrick Garland, a federal appeals court judge. For their scoop, Mary Clare Jalonick, Alan Fram and Kathleen Hennessey earn the Beat of the Week.

Their work began immediately after the February death of Justice Antonin Scalia. Hennessey, a White House reporter, and congressional reporters Jalonick and Fram were tasked with breaking the news of who would be nominated to succeed him. They immediately cast a wide net.

Hennessey reached out to former officials who'd been involved in a nomination to get a good sense of how the president made his choice and who would know. Fram worked Senate leadership and advocacy groups to find out who they were pushing and how potential candidates would be received. And Jalonick worked the Senate Judiciary Committee, looking for signs of candidates who would be preferred by ranking Democrats.

Early on, the three lined up a day of back-to-back meetings with key sources on Capitol Hill, delivering the message that AP wanted to be first and should be their first call.

Hennessey compiled a list of potential names and, with help from colleagues, wrote stories on each so the AP would be ready with a comprehensive story when the news broke. That process got her up to speed on the candidates' weaknesses and strengths, information she used to draw out her sources. About a week before the announcement, Hennessey reported on the list of finalists in a story a source later told her had caused heartburn at the White House.

On the day of the announcement, Hennessey got early word from the White House that Obama would put out an email at 7 a.m. saying he planned to name his choice. She alerted the news and then she, Jalonick and Fram hit the phones and contacted sources via email on one of the more difficult days getting around in Washington \_ since the Metro system was closed down.

Fram prowled the hallways of the Senate, trying to find out the name. Reuters had reported the choice was likely Judge Sri Srinivasan. That looked like a beat, but the AP's sources said no, and Reuters later issued a correction.

Jalonick got a tip that the president would be holding a conference call with Democrats on the Judiciary Committee at 9:45 a.m. As the call was going on, she kept emailing her sources while Fram shadowed people who might be on the call.

Within minutes, three congressional officials sent word: It was Garland, chief judge of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The pick was something of a surprise. At the White House, Hennessey got the same name. She'd prepared a complete urgent series on five leading candidates and was ready to go.

The AP news alert moved at 9:56 a.m., before any other news organization. NPR followed five minutes later. In the next 15 minutes or so, the New York Times, the Washington Post, ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox, the Wall Street Journal and others followed. By then, the AP had its full

story out.

<http://bit.ly/1VkSdKy>

A simple headline from Bloomberg on Twitter captured the AP's scoop: "Obama to Nominate Merrick Garland for Supreme Court, AP reports."

For their teamwork and source-building that put the AP ahead on a most competitive major story, Jalonick, Fram and Hennessey share this week's \$500 prize.

### **Others whose work impressed the judges:**

Matthew Barakat, Mid-Atlantic correspondent, McLean, Virginia, for a story that ended a courthouse policy denying reporters access to motions in Virginia's second-largest county. After Barakat sought files in a murder case, the clerk's office provided him with a written policy dating to 2011 that stated reporters were not allowed to see motions, even though the files are public records. A supervisor in the office explained that the general public could read the files but reporters could not because "we know you'd write about them." Barakat's reporting on the matter led the current presiding judge to rescind the order. His open-records victory coincidentally came during Sunshine Week, was cited in a Washington Post column and drew praise from a state lawmaker. <http://apne.ws/1Mc5WRN>

Gerry Shih, Beijing correspondent, and Paul Traynor, video journalist, Shanghai, for persevering against government and industry obstruction to tell the story of Chinese miners in the country's northeast. Authorities swept in with tight security after thousands of coal miners protested a governor's false claim that none of the workers were owed back wages. Shih and Traynor faced numerous attempts by local security and officials to obstruct their work, including the seizure at one point of their car and driver.

<http://wapo.st/1Zjxalp>

Jeff Amy, reporter, Jackson, Mississippi, for a data-driven statehouse accountability story that showed how former state elected officials had cashed out their campaign accounts and used the money for personal reasons. The former state auditor, for example, used his



campaign fund to buy a BMW, a camper and a garage door. Amy combed through hundreds of campaign finance reports and created a spreadsheet to keep track of the data.

<http://apne.ws/1RkdaSH>

Richard Lardner, reporter, Washington, D.C., for revealing that the Army failed to search for a deserter who went AWOL after learning he was suspected of raping a 15-year-old girl. Lardner pieced together the story partly through documents obtained under Illinois' public records act and a FOIA request that took the military seven months to fulfill. Despite labeling the deserter as a "sexually violent predator," the Army failed to notify the U.S. Marshal's Service and even police in his home town, where he fled after leaving his base at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.<http://abcn.ws/1RupnHI>

Joshua Goodman, Andes bureau chief, Bogota; and Mauricio Savarese, reporter, Rio de Janeiro, for reporting that cities and states on the front lines of Brazil's Zika epidemic had run out of larvicide and that supplies nationwide had to be rationed. Interviews and documents revealed that the shortage lasted several months, contradicting statements by Brazil's health minister.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/article66822902.html>

Mike Schneider, correspondent, Orlando, Florida, for prompting change in a three-decade long court practice in which misdemeanor defendants were told they could pay a fine rather than contest the charge in court. Many defendants were under the mistaken impression that the charge would be wiped off their record if they paid the fine. As Schneider was reporting the story, the chief judge responded by announcing he would issue an order ending the practice within six weeks.<http://apne.ws/1RxWcgJ>

Maeva Bambuck, video journalist, Beirut, for a creative approach to mark the fifth anniversary of Syria's civil war. Bambuck told the story through refugee children who are 5 years old \_ and thus have known nothing but war and displacement during their young lives. The result was a visually powerful stack presentation for mobile that included video, photos and text.

<http://goo.gl/FhomgP>

Ted Bridis, investigations editor, and Jack Gillum, reporter, Washington, D.C., for revealing a startling number: 129,825. That's how many times the Obama administration said it could not find records for the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The story analyzed the government's own FOIA performance data to reveal gaps in transparency. <http://apne.ws/1WvH6g7>

Victor Caivano, Southern Cone news director, Buenos Aires, for leading an all-formats team that scored the first AP interview of a sitting Argentine president since 1999. Caivano had been cultivating sources and pushing for access over the past year. <http://apne.ws/1WvH6g7>

Sharon Cohen, national writer, Chicago, for tallying the settlements reached in cases of brutality, harassment and other misconduct by Chicago police, revealing that the city had paid out \$662 million over the last 12 years. Despite that financial hit to the city, Cohen also found that only a handful of officers had been charged or disciplined. <http://apne.ws/1RkEFTN>

Lori Hinnant, reporter, Paris, and Aya Batrawy, reporter, Dubai, for being first to confirm a development that arose from the Brussels raid that captured one of the masterminds of the Paris terror attacks. They provided details of a

previously unknown extremist, including that he had enlisted in the Islamic State group and said he wanted to be a suicide bomber.

<http://bit.ly/1MC0yID>

Robert Burns, national security writer, Washington, D.C., for an exclusive report about drug use by airmen at a nuclear weapons base in Wyoming. More than a dozen people whose job it is to guard nuclear missiles from intruders may have been high on cocaine or marijuana.

<http://dpo.st/1UMtZbw>

Steve Wilson, Europe sports editor, London, for breaking the news that the International Olympic Committee would use new techniques to retest hundreds of doping samples from the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The move is designed to catch any cheaters who got away with it at the time and are planning to compete at this year's games in Rio de Janeiro.

<http://news.yahoo.com/ap-exclusive-ioc-retests-beijing-drug-samples-ahead-143531632.html>

John Flesher, correspondent, Traverse City, Michigan, for being first to report on emails between EPA chief Gina McCarthy and top aides involving lead-contaminated water in Flint. In a September email, McCarthy warned that the matter "could get very big very quickly." Yet it was not until the following January that the EPA issued an order demanding action, saying the state and city were moving too slowly. <http://bit.ly/1Lv08CL>

Errin Haines Whack, reporter, Philadelphia, for getting early access to a report showing that the graduation rates of black men playing football and basketball at top college programs continue to lag their black male counterparts. She landed the story in time to run the morning March Madness began.

<http://bit.ly/1LB8Pvi>

Ken Thomas, reporter, Washington, D.C., for source work that allowed AP to break the news that Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders would not contest Hillary Clinton's razor-thin margin of victory in the Missouri primary. Sanders' concession to the AP and the subsequent race call reinforced the signature role AP plays in U.S. elections. <http://bit.ly/1RxWIAL>

Michael Balsamo, reporter, New York City, for source work that paid off with a scoop \_ on his day off \_ giving details about the derailment of an Amtrak train in Kansas that injured more than 30 people.

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/mar/14/29-people-taken-to-hospitals-after-kansas-train-de/>

Ellen Knickmeyer, reporter, San Francisco; Scott Smith, Fresno correspondent; Terry Chea, video journalist, San Francisco; Rich Pedroncelli, photographer, Sacramento; and Phil Holm, interactives editor, New York, for an all-formats enterprise package that examined Gov. Jerry Brown's controversial plan to build massive water tunnels in the California delta, a \$15.7 billion project. <http://bit.ly/1q1ZUJx>



By **BRIAN CAROVILLANO**

It happened to be smack in the middle of Sunshine Week, the media's annual effort to promote public access and government transparency, when Northern Virginia correspondent Matthew Barakat decided to check on motions in the case of a man charged with killing a local police officer on her first day of work.

The first two times he asked, he was simply rebuffed. On the third try, the clerk handed him a shocking piece of paper. It was a 5-year-old order from a judge barring clerks from giving reporters court motions - even though they were public records.

When Barakat asked why the public could see the documents, but not reporters, a clerk told him it was because "we know you'd write about them."

Barakat quickly pivoted and began reporting the story of this strange rule in Prince William County. The policy had apparently been implemented by a now-retired judge. As Barakat pressed ahead, the current chief judge quickly rescinded the rule, allowing reporters the same access to documents as the rest of the public.

Barakat's work was the subject of a laudatory column in the Washington Post. State Sen. Jeremy McPike, who represents Prince William County, tweeted "Good to see more daylight in PWC judicial system."

Barakat's doggedness scored a victory for the press and helped AP maintain its leadership in the fight for access and open records.

For making Sunshine Week a little bit sunnier, Barakat wins this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

(Beat of Week and Best of States shared by Valerie Komor)

## Welcome to Connecting



Donna Abu-Nasr - [dabunasr@gmail.com](mailto:dabunasr@gmail.com)

Jill Bleed - [jbleed@ap.org](mailto:jbleed@ap.org)

## More stories of interest

***These Journalists Dedicated Their Lives to Telling Other People's Stories.***

***What Happens When No One Wants to Print Their Words Anymore?*** (The Nation)



**A**rthur Miller's classic 1949 Pulitzer Prize-winning **play** *Death of a Salesman* opens with musical direction: "A melody is heard, played upon a flute. It is small and fine, telling of grass and trees and the horizon. The curtain rises." The play follows Willy Loman, past 60, as his grasp on life crumbles amid job troubles. When, at the end of Act II, he reaches his beaten-down end, the melody soars again, this time a requiem. "Only the music of the flute," writes Miller, "is left on the darkening stage...."

**I heard this flute's dirge throughout last summer and fall, as I made the rounds talking with downsized journalists—men and women who had gotten hooked on the profession as young, ink-stained idealists, only to find themselves cast out in mid- or**

**later life. These veterans spoke of forced buyouts and failed job searches-of lost purpose, lost confidence, even lost homes. I had known of the decimation of my profession: I'd read the statistics, seen the news articles, watched old friends pushed from jobs as bureau chiefs, editors, senior reporters, into the free fall of freelance. But the texture of their Lomanesque despair surprised me. There were some grim moments.**

**[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.**

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***Meet Molly Crabapple, an Artist, Activist, Reporter, and Fire-Eater All in One***  
(SmithsonianMag)

In her 2013 book about Teddy Roosevelt and the Progressive Era, *The Bully Pulpit*, Doris Kearns Goodwin celebrates the "muckrakers," the crusading journalists who fought to correct long-standing injustices and change society. Many of them were women: Nellie Bly, who exposed the horrors of mental institutions; Ida Tarbell, who took on the monopoly

power of Standard Oil; and Jane Addams, who shone a light on the misery of impoverished immigrants. Intrepid reporters who revealed realities that were so powerful that the facts alone were a form of activism.

There is someone working today I think of in the same tradition, a fiery young woman—a former fire-eater, in fact—who is a reporter, artist and activist all rolled into one. She calls herself Molly Crabapple, she's 32 and she has braved the hell of ISIS-plagued territory to report on the plight of Syrian refugees. She has dressed down in gritty work clothes to record the shocking conditions in immigrant labor camps in Abu Dhabi one day, and dressed up the next to swan through tight security at a Dubai press conference to confront Donald Trump about the low wages of workers building his glitzy new golf course and housing development. She has railed against the victimization of sex workers and dug up leaked videos from one of the worst "holes" in the American prison system in Pennsylvania to draw attention to the wretched souls incarcerated there. She's traveled to Guantanamo, Gaza, Lebanon, Istanbul and riot-torn Athens.



[Click here](#) to read more.

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## ***Kaiser Family Foundation Remembers Peggy Girshman Through KHN Web Reporting Fellowship***

**WASHINGTON, D.C.-** The Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) is honoring the late Peggy Girshman, a founding executive editor of Kaiser Health News (KHN), by naming its annual web reporting fellowship for young journalists the "Peggy Girshman Web Reporting Fellowship."

Girshman died last week at the age of 61 due to complications from the rare disease amyloidosis, which she had battled for the past few years. Girshman joined the Kaiser Family Foundation in 2008 to help launch Kaiser Health News, which is an editorially-independent news service and major program of KFF. She retired in 2014. Over the course of a journalism career spanning four decades, Girshman won multiple Emmy Awards as a producer. Her stints at local and national outlets included 15 years at NPR, first as a reporter and then as a managing editor, and as a senior medical producer for "Dateline NBC." The naming of the fellowship memorializes Girshman's role as a mentor to countless



young journalists at KHN and throughout her journalism career.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Dick Chady.

## Today in History - March 26, 2016



### By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, March 26, the 86th day of 2016. There are 280 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On March 26, 1979, a peace treaty was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihn) and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and witnessed by President Jimmy Carter at the White House.

#### On this date:

In 1812, an earthquake devastated Caracas, Venezuela, causing an estimated 26,000 deaths, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1827, composer Ludwig van Beethoven died in Vienna.

In 1874, poet Robert Frost was born in San Francisco.

In 1892, poet Walt Whitman died in Camden, New Jersey.

In 1917, the Seattle Metropolitans became the first U.S. team to win the Stanley Cup as they defeated the Montreal Canadiens.

In 1945, during World War II, Iwo Jima was fully secured by U.S. forces following a final, desperate attack by Japanese soldiers. Former British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, 82, died in Ty Newydd, Llanystumdwy, Wales.

In 1958, the U.S. Army launched America's third successful satellite, Explorer 3.

In 1964, the musical play "Funny Girl," starring Barbra Streisand as Fanny Brice, opened on Broadway.

In 1971, East Pakistan proclaimed its independence, taking the name Bangladesh.

In 1982, groundbreaking ceremonies took place in Washington, D.C., for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In 1996, former U.S. senator and secretary of state Edmund Muskie died in Washington,

D.C., two days shy of his 82nd birthday.

In 1997, the bodies of 39 members of the Heaven's Gate techno-religious cult who'd committed suicide were found inside a rented mansion in Rancho Santa Fe, California.

Ten years ago: An Afghan court dismissed the case against a man facing possible execution for converting from Islam to Christianity. (Abdul Rahman was released and granted asylum by Italy.) Paul Dana, 30, died when he slammed into a stopped car during a warmup session of the Toyota Indy 300 at the Homestead-Miami Speedway.

Five years ago: More than 250,000 people took to London's streets to protest the toughest spending cuts since World War II; riot police clashed with small breakaway groups and arrested more than 200 people. Former Democratic vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, the first female major party nominee for the office, died in Boston at 75. Harry Wesley Coover Jr., 94, known as the inventor of the popular adhesive Super Glue, died in Kingsport, Tennessee.

One year ago: Indiana Gov. Mike Pence signed a measure prohibiting state and local laws that "substantially burden" the ability of people to follow their religious beliefs; opponents charged the new law could legalize discrimination against gay people. In New York City, a gas explosion and fire destroyed three buildings in Manhattan's East Village, killing a restaurant worker and a diner (five people are accused of rigging an illegal gas delivery system blamed for the blast).

Today's Birthdays: Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is 86. Actor Alan Arkin is 82. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is 81. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (puh-LOH'-see) is 76. Actor James Caan is 76. Author Erica Jong is 74. Journalist Bob Woodward is 73. Singer Diana Ross is 72. Actor Johnny Crawford is 70. Rock singer Steven Tyler (Aerosmith) is 68. Singer and TV personality Vicki Lawrence is 67. Actor Ernest Thomas is 67. Comedian Martin Short is 66. Country singer Ronnie McDowell is 66. Movie composer Alan Silvestri is 66. Rock musician Monte Yoho is 64. Radio talk show host Curtis Sliwa is 62. Country singer Dean Dillon is 61. Country singer Charly McClain is 60. TV personality Leeza Gibbons is 59. Actress Ellia English is 57. Actress Jennifer Grey is 56. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Marcus Allen is 56. Actor Billy Warlock is 55. Actor Eric Allan Kramer is 54. Basketball Hall of Famer John Stockton is 54. Actor Michael Imperioli is 50. Rock musician James Iha (EE'-hah) is 48. Country singer Kenny Chesney is 48. Actress Leslie Mann is 44. Actor T.R. Knight is 43. Rapper Juvenile is 41. Actress Amy Smart is 40. Actress Bianca Kajlich

(KY'-lihk) is 39. Actress Keira Knightley is 31. Rapper J-Kwon is 30. Actress Carly Chaikin is 26.

***Thought for Today: "Life's like a play; it's not the length but the excellence of the acting that matters." - Seneca the Younger, Roman statesman and philosopher (3 B.C.-A.D. 65).***

## 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.
- **"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.

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