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Connecting - February 22, 2017

1 message

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Assistant Chief of Bureau.

It was once a key position in larger AP bureaus throughout the country, but like the Chief of Bureau position, it exists no more in domestic bureaus.

It often was a training position for a future chief of bureau in which someone who most often had been in AP news positions only learned the ropes of membership, personnel and other aspects of overseeing a bureau. To some, the duties involved whatever the bureau chief didn't want to do. But done correctly, ACoB was an invaluable position.

Did you ever serve as an assistant chief? If so, Connecting would welcome your favorite memories and stories about the job.

This idea came to mind when Connecting colleague **Kia Breaux** celebrated her 20th AP anniversary last Friday. Kia is one of six AP regional directors and is based in Kansas City, where her AP career began and included ACoB duties.

I worked with six assistant chiefs of bureau, or ACoBs, in my years as Kansas City chief of bureau from 1984 to 2003. (All are Connecting colleagues.) They were:

Mercer Bailey, on board when I arrived - I had worked for him and CoB Fred Moen earlier in my career in St. Louis and Wichita. He had numerous earlier AP assignments in which he served with distinction and Mercer continued to teach me until he retired.

Eva Parziale, who succeeded Mercer. She moved on to CoB in Portland, Oregon, and to New York headquarters as director of AP's photo archive before serving as Columbus CoB. Today, she - like Kia - is an AP regional director based in Columbus.

Fran Richardson Mears, who was promoted to Baltimore CoB and later served as managing editor of Gannett News Service.

Peg Coughlin, who today is one of AP's election coordinators for the past 17 years and also helps coordinate AP state contests.

Cliff Schiappa, who later moved into a photo regional position and left AP when it was eliminated. Today he's development director of the Kansas City Men's Chorus and assists in coordinating AP contests.

And **Kia Breaux**, who succeeded Cliff in 2005 and held the job until she became chief of bureau. She was the last to serve in the Kansas City ACoB position.

I look forward to your ACoB stories - and would welcome those from colleagues who recall the assistant chief of communications title.

Paul

Connecting mailbox

Steve Buttry's sons accept the Chairman's Citation on his behalf



Sandy Johnson ([Email](#)) - Steve Buttry was honored with the National Press Foundation's Chairman's Citation last Thursday, three days before he died. His three sons accepted the award with a moving tribute to their father.

[Click here](#) for a video of their tribute.

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Community journalists lost great friend in Steve Buttry

John Lumpkin (Email) - This comment about Steve Buttry was shared with me by Dr. Tommy Thomason, whom I succeeded as director of the Schieffer School of Journalism at TCU. Tommy is founder and director of TCU's Texas Center for Community Journalism. The Center was a favorite of Steve, who was a TCU journalism alumnus.

Dr. Tommy Thomason - Community journalists lost a great friend yesterday when Steve Buttry died of cancer in Baton Rouge. Steve was 62. He packed so much achievement and service to the profession into those 62 years. In fact, even when the doctors had told him that his cancer was terminal, he was still planning a trip to Fort Worth for an upcoming workshop. Only when he was looking at admission to hospice did he finally email to say he wouldn't be able to make it. Community journalists throughout the nation have benefited from Steve's training and his blogs on journalism issues.

Steve faced death openly and calmly and wrote several times about his cancer diagnosis. A journalist to the end, he wrote his own obit.

Death wrote a -30- on a great career yesterday. We'll all miss his wisdom and humor and insight -- and essential humanity.

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Memories sparked of Selma Times-Journal

Joe McKnight (Email) - I had a surprising -- and nostalgic -- moment when I reached the end of Tuesday's "Connecting" column and saw the picture of Mark Zuckerberg in front of The Selma Times-Journal. The front of the newspaper office is largely unchanged from the June day in 1938 when I walked in and asked Circulation Manager Roy Moore if there was a job for me delivering the Times-

Journal. My only thought at the time was to earn school lunch money. Moore said yes, and on July 1, 1938 I began what turned out to be my life's calling. I delivered the newspaper for five years, in time adding work in the composing room, mail room and press room. The job ended Sept. 1, 1943 when I quit to go into the U. S. Army Air Corps.

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Mr. President, About Us Enemies...

By Mort Rosenblum ([Email](#))

I'm past my shock and aw-for-Christ's-sake reaction to your Stalinist slur of reporters. Now I've moved on to raw fury. Of all the inane, insane brain farts that roll off your thumbs that one best shows why you are so toweringly unfit to personify America.



You call Islamist terror our greatest threat, worse than climate endgame or World War III. Maybe you're just a fool whose ham-fisted policies swell terrorist ranks by geometric proportions. More likely, you mean to scare free people into embracing demagoguery.

The fear you exploit spiked in 2014. A hooded man beheaded a young hostage clad symbolically in Guantanamo orange. Jim Foley, an "enemy of the American people," went to Syria to file insightful reports to help us see ISIS for what it is: a faction embittered by U.S. torture during the Iraq War that uses captured American weaponry to subject blameless Muslim majorities to medieval rule.

For brave work as a freelancer, Jim earned only a few hundred dollars per story because Americans now think news should be free. After all, as you keep saying, "the media" is just a homogeneous sludge that oozes across our screens. If facts displease, they are fake, the work of disgusting, horrible people.

After Jim, ISIS beheaded Steven Sotloff. He had reported for CNN on the 2012 attack on Benghazi. (That's in Libya, Mr. President, on a different continent.) The assault on a CIA compound, unfortified because Congress withheld funds that Barack Obama requested, began late at night, Washington time. Hillary Clinton was

secretary of state, but your repeated accusation that she "did nothing" is cynical political slander or simple ignorance of how the world works.

But let's step back. I have reported from abroad and at home under 11 presidents, starting in Venezuela when JFK was in the office you occupy. The gods willing, I'll still be at it under a 12th in four years, hopefully sooner. The first colleague I mourned was Baudouin Kayembe, who died at Mobutu Sese Seku's hands in the Congo in 1968. As an Associated Press stringer, he fit your category as an enemy of the American people. The list since then is long.

War correspondents gather each year in Bayeux near the Normandy beaches where America earned the global respect that you are fast converting into contempt. Not surprisingly to anyone who knows actual journalists, we drink and laugh a lot more than we bemoan our plummeting popularity among those we inform. But the mood is grim on the first afternoon when we pay homage to fresh victims.

In a memorial park, 2,000-plus names are engraved on white stone pillars, journalists killed on the job since 1944. Despots executed some as enemies of the people. Many more died while trying to get close to non-fake news.

That is just the extreme. My profession - really a calling - includes thousands upon thousands of gifted reporters and editors who work cheap for long hours, risking their meager savings because of the baseless lawsuits people like you threaten as punishment for revealing hard truths.

During 50 years on the road, I have worked in every sort of evil empire and tin-pot tyranny. My private zoo of amoebas do back flips deep in my gut when I see those fucking morons at your rallies guffaw about lynching all journalists.

Generalities are complex. Many practitioners who call themselves journalists are blots on the name. Have you actually observed a TV performance by that parody of a person who edits your beloved Breitbart "News"? The latest outrage involves Sweden, a noble ally of long standing, which in one year alone gave asylum to 163,000 people fleeing violence we triggered that the Swedes opposed.

You watched media-performer Tucker Carlson skew facts on Fox, and then you suggested in a speech the next day that a terror attack had rocked Sweden. Carl Bildt, a former Swedish prime minister and seasoned U.N. envoy, told the New York Times:

"We are used to seeing the president of the U.S. as one of the most well-informed persons in the world, also well-aware of the importance of what he says. And then,

suddenly, we see him engaging in misinformation and slander against a truly friendly country, obviously on sources of a quality at best described as dubious."

Then, in character, you heaped on nitroglycerin: "Give the public a break. The FAKE NEWS media is trying to say that large scale immigration in Sweden is working out just beautifully. NOT!"

Of course, Sweden is stressed by accepting so many refugees. But it is coping admirably and, unlike you, its leaders seek not to dramatize societal pressures. Like it or not, 70 million refugees are on the move around the world. Many will be radicalized if left in limbo. You slam our doors and mock others for not doing the same. The unwanted won't just disappear. So what's the solution? Gas chambers?

Mr. President, professional fairness requires me to regard you as legitimate, James Comey notwithstanding. Your slavish siding with Vladimir Putin rather than our own intelligence community is only seditious if the courts say it is. But, strictly personally, I believe you are the greatest single threat America has faced in my lifetime.

You and our rubber-stamp Congress may, in fact, be just what is needed for apathetic citizens to finally realize the fragility of the world's greatest democracy. Citizens United, the court decision that pours billions into politics, is no match for real citizens who are really united. People are organizing, marching and besieging elected representatives who betray their trust.

Journalists are not the enemy. Our Fourth Estate is now the only thing that can save us. I believe that it will - and that those big gold letters - TRUMP - that you have emblazoned in so many places will end up as a lasting badge of shame.

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Whole-hearted endorsement of AP collaboration with the Hughes Institute

Mike Tharp ([Email](#)) - 'The Feb. 16 issue of Connecting carried the news that AP is in a year-long collaboration with the Howard Hughes Institute's Department of Science Education.

Some have expressed reservations about the partnership. I wholeheartedly endorse it. When I was executive editor of the McClatchy daily Merced Sun-Star in Central

California, we signed on with two similar collaborations. Both were rousing successes.

In 2008 we tied up with the brand-new Center for Health Reporting, then at the USC Annenberg School. Michael Parks, former editor of the Los Angeles Times (and a correspondent I knew in his days as Beijing bureau chief), came to our office. Accompanying him was Richard Kipling, also a former LAT reporter (and I knew him because he grew up in Topeka; I once got 17 rebounds against his high school team).

Cutting to the chase, we agreed to team up on a series about the proposed med school at UC Merced. My education reporter Danielle Gaines did the heavy lifting for us. Richard and Deborah Schoch (another former LAT reporter) hung out in Merced and did both reporting and editing. The result was a strong three-part series.

Here's what the Center had to say:

"The Center has earned a reputation for in-depth, impartial and accurate journalism. We're known for taking on difficult topics and evoking change large and small.

"Our first project, "Sowing Hope," with the Merced Sun-Star, laid the groundwork for a program training pre-medical students at UC Merced to practice in underserved areas."

We were the first newspaper in California to take the leap. After others saw our series, more than 20 dailies agreed to collaborate with the Center.

We did it again a year later. Here's the center:

"The Jan. 29 issue of the Merced Sun-Star featured a front-page series on the foreclosure climate in northern California, reported by the USC Annenberg-based California HealthCare Foundation Center for Health Reporting headed by journalism professor Michael Parks.

Michael Parks"Parks, who is the founding director of the grant-funded Center, said the Sun-Star series 'Houses of Blues' - focusing on how the recession is impacting issues of mental health - fit the greater mandate of the Foundation, which seeks to improve the way health care is delivered and financed in California by promoting innovations in care and broader access to information.

"This is one of the most important experiments underway in philanthropically financed journalism,' said Parks, who will chair the Center's advisory board. 'They are going to be really good examples of storytelling that put into a larger framework problems that need attention, that need resolution. We hope that they cause a public discussion that builds toward solutions ... and that readers will be mobilized to care more about their neighbors, communities, and take up these problems as they talk across their back fence.'"

In 2010 two officials from the California Endowment, a private health foundation in Los Angeles, came to Merced. I took them to breakfast. They asked the best ways to get the word out in our communities about health care issues. I gave them a dozen suggestions, saying we at the Sun-Star would cover their efforts.

An hour later Mary Lou Fulton from the Endowment called me. How would you like us to fund a health-care reporter for the Sun-Star for a year? She has repeated my response several times: "The short answer is yes. The long answer is hell, yes."

I then emailed her other story suggestions. She emailed back: let's make it three years. So we did. We were one of two dailies in the state to get the grant.

Yesenia Amaro, now at the Phnom Penh Post, was our first health-care reporter. She did an outstanding job till she moved to the Las Vegas Review-Journal. By then McClatchy had eliminated my position.

But the Sun-Star still has a full-time, Endowment-funded health-care reporter.

These tie-ups address many needs and are force-multipliers. Financially strapped news organizations can cover many health-care issues because they have teamed up with these foundations and other nonprofits. Cui bono? Our audience.

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AP's Hannah Dreier, Kathy Gannon among finalists for Shadid Award

Six projects that combined aggressive reporting on important issues with care for the consequences of that reporting are finalists for the 2017 Anthony Shadid Award for Journalism Ethics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The 2017 winner will be chosen from among six outstanding examples of journalism that displayed high ethical standards in the pursuit of truth, said judging chair Jack Mitchell. The finalists are:

Mother Jones reporter Shane Bauer, who wrestled with the problem of journalistic deception when he spent four months undercover as a prison guard in a corporate-run Louisiana prison.

The Spotlight team at the Boston Globe, which made sophisticated judgments in choosing when to identify victims and accused abusers while investigating sex abuse at New England private schools.

In her series "Venezuela Undone," Associated Press reporter Hannah Dreier balanced journalistic objectivity with her human instinct to help victims as she showed the human cost of Venezuela's crumbling infrastructure.

Kathy Gannon's "Honor Bound" series for the Associated Press took fairness and balance to an unusual level by seeking to understand the motives of men in some parts of the world who torture and murder women.

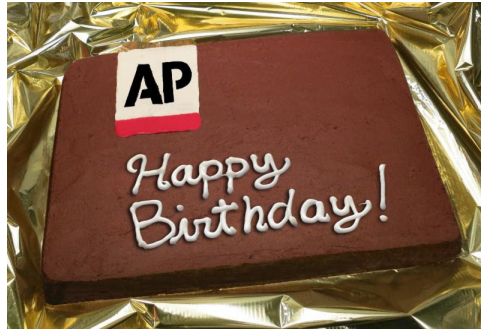
The Palm Beach Post chose public awareness of a not widely recognized problem over individual privacy when it devoted its front page to the photos of every person in Palm Beach County who had died from a heroin-related overdose in 2015.

In her report published in The Guardian, reporter Lauren Wolfe had to weigh whether publishing a story would do more harm than good as she brought international attention to the plight of young girls being kidnapped and raped in a village in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Shadid Award honors journalists who, individually or as a team, exhibit a strong commitment to ethical journalism by acting with integrity, honoring ethical principles in their practice and/or resisting pressure to compromise ethical principles.

While many stress the hard work of skilled journalists who write compelling stories that serve the public interest, the Shadid Award focuses on the ethical aspects of excellent journalism - the degree to which journalists honor ethical aims and standards.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Dorothy Abernathy - dabernathy@ap.org

Welcome to Connecting



Jody Calendar - Consultjody@aol.com

Stories of interest

Stop the hand-wringing, get on with the work
(Poynter)

By **JAMES WARREN**

Poynter

The American press is as stunned and fatigued as George Foreman in Zaire just before he finally went down against Muhammad Ali in 1974's epic "Rumble in the Jungle."

It's verging on being a "rope-a-dope" victim, just like Foreman, who punched himself out as he sought to demonstrate his superiority.

There's exhaustion among reporters covering President Trump with a combo of investigations, fact-checking and unceasing feeding-the-beast digital realities. It's now even now called an "enemy" by Trump, which is only a minor semantic leap by someone who's long positioned the press as an opposition party.

Throughout journalism there is a rising cry of "What shall we do?" There's talk of somehow setting Americans straight on journalism's role in democracy. The press is acting like, well, an opposition party backed into a corner, as opposed to the inevitably maligned countervailing force it is and should be.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Byron Yake.

Today in History - February 22, 2017



By **The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 22, the 53rd day of 2017. There are 312 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 22, 1732 (New Style date), the first president of the United States, George Washington, was born in Westmoreland County in the Virginia Colony.

On this date:

In 1862, Jefferson Davis, already the provisional president of the Confederacy, was inaugurated for a six-year term following his election in Nov. 1861.

In 1892, "Lady Windermere's Fan" by Oscar Wilde was first performed at London's St. James' Theater.

In 1909, the Great White Fleet, a naval task force sent on a round-the-world voyage by President Theodore Roosevelt, returned after more than a year at sea.

In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge delivered the first radio broadcast from the White House as he addressed the country over 42 stations.

In 1935, it became illegal for airplanes to fly over the White House.

In 1940, the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, was enthroned at age four in Lhasa, Tibet.

In 1959, the inaugural Daytona 500 race was held; although Johnny Beauchamp was initially declared the winner, the victory was later awarded to Lee Petty.

In 1967, more than 25,000 U.S. and South Vietnamese troops launched Operation Junction City, aimed at smashing a Vietcong stronghold near the Cambodian border. (Although the communists were driven out, they later returned.)

In 1974, Pakistan officially recognized Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan).

In 1980, the "Miracle on Ice" took place in Lake Placid, New York, as the United States Olympic hockey team upset the Soviets, 4-3. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)

In 1987, pop artist Andy Warhol died at a New York City hospital at age 58; talk-show host David Susskind was found dead in his Manhattan hotel suite; he was 66.

In 1997, scientists in Scotland announced they had succeeded in cloning an adult mammal, producing a lamb named "Dolly." (Dolly, however, was later put down after a short life marred by premature aging and disease.)

Ten years ago: Britain's Ministry of Defense announced that Prince Harry, a second lieutenant in the British army, would be deployed to Iraq (officials later reversed the decision because of insurgent threats; Harry later served two tours of duty in Afghanistan). The U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said Iran had ignored a Security Council ultimatum to freeze uranium enrichment, and instead expanded its program by setting up hundreds of centrifuges.

Five years ago: Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum swapped accusations about health care, spending earmarks and federal bailouts in the 20th debate of the roller-coaster race for the Republican presidential nomination, held in Mesa, Arizona. Two Marine Corps helicopters collided over a remote section of the California desert during a nighttime exercise, killing seven Marines. A jury in Charlottesville, Virginia, found University of Virginia lacrosse player George W. Huguely (HYOOG'-lee) V (the Fifth) guilty of second-degree murder in the death of his ex-girlfriend and lacrosse player Yeardeley (YAHRD'-lee) Love in May 2010 (Huguely was sentenced to 23 years in prison).

One year ago: President Barack Obama sent lawmakers an official \$1.9 billion request to combat the spread of the Zika (ZEE'-kuh) virus in Latin America and the U.S. (Congress passed a \$1.1 billion package in Sept. 2016.) The City Council of Charlotte, North Carolina, voted 7-4 to pass a new law allowing transgender people to choose public bathrooms that corresponded to their gender identity. Country singer Sonny James, 87, died in Nashville. British cinematographer Douglas Slocombe, 103, died in London. The Lady Vols' streak of 565 consecutive weeks in The Associated Press women's basketball poll ended as Tennessee fell out of the Top 25.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Paul Dooley is 89. Actor James Hong is 88. Movie director Jonathan Demme (DEH'-mee) is 73. Actor John Ashton is 69. Actress Miou-Miou is 67. Actress Julie Walters is 67. Basketball Hall of Famer Julius Erving is 67. Actress Ellen Greene is 66. Former Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., is 65. Former White House adviser David Axelrod is 62. Actor Kyle MacLachlan is 58. World Golf Hall of Famer

Vijay Singh is 54. Actress-comedian Rachel Dratch is 51. Actor Paul Lieberstein is 50. Actress Jeri Ryan is 49. Actor Thomas Jane is 48. TV host Clinton Kelly is 48. Actress Tamara Mello is 47. Actress-singer Lea Salonga (LAY'-uh suh-LONG'-guh) is 46. Actor Jose Solano is 46. International Tennis Hall-of-Famer Michael Chang is 45. Rock musician Scott Phillips is 44. Singer James Blunt is 43. Actress Drew Barrymore is 42. Actress Liza Huber is 42. Rock singer Tom Higgenson (Plain White T's) is 38. Actor Zach Roerig is 32. Actor Daniel E. Smith is 27.

Thought for Today: "It is infinitely better to have a few good men than many indifferent ones." - President George Washington (1732-1799).

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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