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#### Connecting - March 01, 2017

1 message

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## Connecting

March 01, 2017









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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning - and here's to the first day of March!

In today's issue, Connecting salutes two of the AP's finest - **Mark Smith** and **Jerry Bolander** - who retire today from AP Radio after distinguished careers.

Connecting colleague **Hank Ackerman** shared news of the death Monday of journalist and author **Sam Summerlin**, who covered the Korean War for The Associated Press and was the first to report the end of the war. Summerlin died Monday in California at the age of 89. AP Los Angeles newsman **John Rogers** wrote a great account of his life for the wire, and we feature that work along with photos shared by Summerlin's daughter Claire.

As noted in Breaking News: How the Associated Press Has Covered War, Peace, and Everything Else: "When the end came at 10 p.m. on July 27, 1953, Sam Summerlin dictated by phone to AP Seoul: "Flash! The Korean War is over." Bob



Summerlin in Korea, 1952

Tuckman rushed it downstairs to the censor, who called it to AP Tokyo. AP stories were in print hours before the skies over the Korean front were lit up by artillery and tracer rounds, fired by both sides in celebration."

They know how to party in Los Angeles - and what a party it was Monday night for retiring AP photographer **Nick Ut**, one of the best in the business, who will close out his 51-year AP career at the end of March. **Linda Deutsch** provides her Connecting colleagues a great account of the evening.

Paul

# Mark Smith, Jerry Bolander retiring from AP Radio - combined for 80 years of AP service



From left: Mark Smith, Sagar Meghani, who will become AP Radio White House correspondent, and Jerry Bodlander, at White House Correspondents Association farewell toast Monday night.

**Brad Kalbfeld** (Email) - Today (March 1) is the last day on the beat for two AP mainstays: AP Radio White House correspondent Mark Smith and AP Radio Capitol Hill reporter Jerry Bodlander retire at day's end.

Smith, who joined AP as a vacation relief writer on the Broadcast Desk in New York in 1975, has spent the past two decades covering the White House and presidential campaigns for AP's radio stations and video clients.

Bodlander joined AP Radio in Washington in 1978 and has been covering Capitol Hill since the late 90s.

Both have covered stories around the world: Bodlander reported from the Sarajevo Olympics in 1984 and the Israel-Lebanon war in 2006. Smith covered stories ranging from the Charles and Diana Royal Wedding in 1981 to the ouster of Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines in 1986. Bodlander spent his entire AP career at Broadcast in Washington. In addition to his Broadcast work at headquarters in New York and in Washington, Smith was a writer in the Washington bureau and spent five years as a writer in London. He covered seven presidents, starting with Jimmy Carter, and nine presidential campaigns.

Collectively, Jerry and Mark have put in 80 years of reporting, writing and editing for AP. I had the privilege of working with both for the entirety of their AP careers, and can attest that they are two remarkably talented, reliable and respected reporters. They were a delight to work with. They end their AP careers with a familiar intensity: covering President Trump's speech to Congress Tuesday night and doing live reports just hours later in Wednesday's morning drive newscasts.

# How do you pay tribute to a living legend? Nick Ut's colleagues in LA found a way



By Linda Deutsch

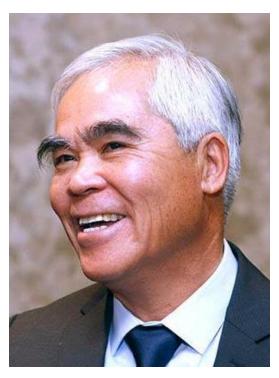
How do you pay tribute to a living legend? On Monday night the AP Los Angeles bureau met that challenge in a big way. They threw a party for Nick Ut that will long be remembered for the huge crowd of photographers, AP current and former staffers and dignitaries who turned out to honor him. It will also be remembered for the great smile and humble attitude of the extraordinary man known to all as "Nicky" who is retiring after a 51-year career in which he made history.

They gathered at the Luxe Hotel downtown - so many of them that the originally planned room had to be moved to a larger one. They drank and mingled until the program began and the talkative guests grew silent.

These were not the usual speeches at a retirement party. But then again this was not a usual retiree. Nick was the world-famous AP photographer whose picture, known everywhere as "Napalm Girl," had made him the youngest Pulitzer Prize winner for 1972. Many believe his searing photo of a young girl, her clothes burned off her body, fleeing in pain, helped to end the Vietnam War. Now was the time to look back at his remarkable career.

AP President Gary Pruitt flew in from New York to pay tribute to Nick as symbolizing the extraordinary work done by the AP. He spoke of Nick's beginnings in Vietnam where his brother, an AP photographer, was killed on the job. Pruitt told how Nick, then 15, volunteered to take his brother's place at the AP. He was told that he belonged with his family, but told photo editor Horst Faas: "The AP is my family."

Pruitt recounted Nick's illustrious career and told of traveling with him to Vietnam for the opening of an AP photo exhibit. "He is a rock star there," said Pruitt, joking, "They want to carry him around in a sedan chair." And through all the adulation, he said, Nick has this "humble charisma that is irresistible."



Nick's fellow AP Pulitzer winner Peter Arnett, who was in the Saigon bureau the day Nick took his famous picture, gave a first-hand account of the young Nick rushing into the bureau with his film, shouting that he had a great story. When those in the bureau saw his film, they were stunned, he said. Faas decided to send it quickly to New York for transmission. Retired AP photo chief, Hal Buell, was on the desk in New York. Buell, who flew to LA for the party, then told of seeing the pictures and knowing these were important. He said there was some discussion of the girl's nudity, but it was decided quickly this was showing the reality of war and he sent it out on the wire. Immediately, it started showing up on front pages everywhere. Over the years it would wind up being one of the most reproduced pictures in history.

Valerie Komor, AP's Director of Corporate Archives, who has handled countless requests for Nick's picture over the decades, also flew to Los Angeles for the party. Like many of us, she has come to see Nick as family.



Linda Deutsch and Nick Ut

and Bette Davis among others.

Bringing Nick's career full circle, I spoke of my meeting with him when he first set foot in the United States as a refugee in a tent city on Guam. It was April, 1975, just after the fall of Saigon. Nick was among 42 staffers from the AP Saigon bureau evacuated in the final days of the war. I told of finding him in tent which was labeled "AP Tent" and realizing this young man was the famous Pulitzer Prize winner. I could not imagine that he and I would wind up working together for over four decades.

With Nick's pictures lining the wall at the party, I pointed to the ones from famous trials we had covered together - O.J. Simpson, Michael Jackson, the Menendez Brothers and more. Nick also covered many Hollywood stories which were on display, photos of Paris Hilton

AP News Editor Frank Baker, who organized the party, wound up the ceremony by presenting Nick with a gift from the staff - a new iPhone-and two exquisite "Memory Books" of pictures and letters to Nick compiled by the bureau's historian and art director, Sue Manning, who has not abandoned that post after retirement.

Baker noted that with Nick retiring, the AP would also be losing one of its most famous - and funny - email addresses: nut@ap.org.

As the festivities seemed to be winding down, a famous face came forward from the back of the room. Judge Lance Ito, who presided over the OJ Simpson trial, joined Nick at the podium and every camera in the room now was aimed at them. Nick, the photographer, was now the subject, the celebrity in the room. And for once, he didn't shoot any pictures.

# Sam Summerlin, AP correspondent in Korea and noted author, dies at 89



Sam Summerlin, in center, with other reporters and photographers covering the release of prisoners of war in Korea in 1953.

#### By JOHN ROGERS

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Former Associated Press foreign correspondent Sam Summerlin, who was the first to report the Korean War had ended and covered everything from Latin American revolutions to U.S. race riots during a long and distinguished career, has died. He was 89.

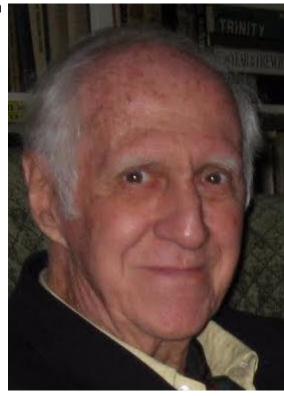
He died Monday at a care home in Carlsbad, California, from complications of Parkinson's disease, according to his daughter, Claire Slattery of Encinitas, California.

Summerlin had a second successful career as a New York Times executive and then a third as producer of scores of documentaries on historical figures and entertainers. But it was his days as an AP foreign correspondent that he treasured the most, he said in a 2004 oral history for the news service's archives.

It was a job that gave him a window through which to view some of world's most historic events, as well as an opportunity to meet such disparate cultural icons as author Ernest Hemingway and Latin American revolutionary Che Guevara.

Summerlin was born on New Year's Day 1928 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He graduated with Phi Beta Kappa honors at the University of North Carolina and joined The Associated Press in 1949. Two years later, he was sent to cover the Korean War, where at age 23 he was one of the youngest war correspondents in Asia.

When the two Koreas signed an armistice ending the fighting on July 27, 1953, Summerlin was the first to report it. That was in large part, he said, because he



weighed only 125 pounds and could outrun the other 200 or so reporters to the only telephone available at the signing ceremony in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

He was given just 15 seconds to dictate his report, so he recalled simply saying, "Flash: The Korean War is Over," before handing the old-fashioned crank phone back to a military official. (The word flash signifies the highest level of news priority the AP uses.)

After the war, the AP sent Summerlin to Cuba. It was several years before the Communist revolution that would bring Fidel Castro to power, and Hemingway was living and writing in a converted lighthouse outside of Havana.

Summerlin went to drop in on the author one day, but when he saw an ominous sign written in English and Spanish ordering people without prior appointments to stay away he decided to call first.

Hemingway, not known to like reporters, or anyone else who would barge in unannounced, so appreciated the courtesy that he invited him over. Several visits followed.



With Hemingway, 1954

press conference.

"We used to sit and talk about who should have won the Nobel Prize and all this kind of stuff, and it would be 20 million cats at the table when we had lunch - you know he loved cats," he said.

When Hemingway won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1954, he gave Summerlin the first interview and agreed not to speak with anyone else until he had filed his story. Afterward, Hemmingway asked Summerlin to organize his first post-Nobel Prize

Summerlin left Cuba to become AP bureau chief in Buenos Aires before Castro rose to power, but he returned years later with a small group of reporters, a visit he would jokingly say resulted in him making the biggest mistake of his career.

ABC News star Barbara Walters was in the group, and when Castro asked for an introduction, Summerlin, who spoke fluent Spanish, provided one. Castro immediately left the other reporters behind to take Walters on a personal tour.

"Don't introduce a celebrity to the person you're trying to interview," Summerlin would say afterward.

He also confided that he never cared much for Castro or the Cuban leader's famously longwinded, boring speeches, which he said would almost put reporters to sleep.

"Fidel had no sense of humor," Summerlin said. "He was a brutal, tough guy."

Guevara on the other hand did, and the two became friendly.



With Castro, 1975

Summerlin recalled one meeting in particular, at an Alliance For Progress conference in Uruguay, when a photographer who had accompanied him approached Guevara. He proudly showed the Latin American revolutionary prints of 20 photos he'd taken of him over the years, pointing out there was no error in any caption.

"Che Guevara laughed and said the AP couldn't be correct 20 times in a row if they tried." Summerlin said.

While in Argentina, Summerlin covered several Latin American revolutions and was among the first to report the capture of Nazi fugitive and Holocaust architect Adolph Eichmann there in 1960.

After a stint in the Philippines, he was promoted to chief of the AP's New Orleans bureau in 1963. There he found himself immediately immersed in the civil rights movement and the often-violent encounters between police - and white supporters of the status quo - and those seeking change.

"For two years it was just like looking back at Argentina with all the race riots," he said.

In 1965, he moved to New York, where he worked as deputy news editor for AP's World Services division. He left in 1975 to join The New York Times, where he was president and chairman of the newspaper's news service and syndicate.

After retiring from the Times in 1987, he founded Hollywood Stars Inc., which produced video programs, and SAGA Agency Inc., which provided celebrity still photos and interviews.

He produced TV shows for various cable channels, including biographies of Tom Hanks, Denzel Washington and Jamie Lee Curtis for the A&E Network.

He also authored or co-authored several books, including "Latin America: Land of Revolution" and "The China Cloud." The latter was an examination of China's development of nuclear weapons.

Summerlin's wife, Cynthia, died in 2000. In addition to his daughter, Summerlin is survived by his son, Thomas A. Summerlin of Arlington, Virginia, and three grandchildren.

**EDITOR'S NOTE**: In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation to the National Parkinson's Foundation (www.parkinson.org) or the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org).

## **Connecting mailbox**

# High Dynamic Range (HDR) Photos: More Accurate Depiction or Unethical Manipulation?

**Peter Leabo** (Email) - Throughout the history of photography, the images captured have been limited by camera technology and the dynamic range of the film and print (i.e., the ratio between the darkest and brightest areas that the media can support).

The issue is that the human eye has a dynamic range far greater than any media (analog film or digital). The human eye is estimated to have a total dynamic range of 24-30 stops, and an instantaneous dynamic range (where the pupil size remains constant) of 10-14 stops. A modern digital SLR camera has a dynamic range of 8-11 stops. But the human eye can respond in milliseconds to process both the darkest and brightest areas of a scene (as well as process significant differences in color temperature) and "see" it as a single image.

When that scene is captured image by a camera, it is not necessarily what the photographer actually saw, but rather an image limited by camera/media technology.

HDR is accomplished (to varying degrees) by two different methods. The first - and generally less extreme - method is using image editing software, such as Adobe Photoshop or Adobe Lightroom, with a single image (usually in camera raw format to capture the widest dynamic range possible) and lift the darkest shadow details and lower the brightest highlight details to more accurately reflect what the eye saw. The second method - which most consider to be "true" HDR - is to take multiple photographs of the scene (often 3) at different exposures (e.g., 2 stops underexposed, proper exposure, and 2 stops overexposed). These multiple images are then combined in image editing software, or dedicated HDR software, to produce a single image that can reveal an extreme range of tones. The latter process often results in images that look surreal, unnaturally compressing an extreme range of tones into a single image. The multiple-image HDR technique is used most frequently for effect in landscapes (and probably has no place in photojournalism).

In short, HDR (when done properly) can produce an image that more accurately represents what the human eye saw. Just as with cropping, dodging, and burning in the photographic darkroom, the use of HDR techniques should be governed by a sense of ethics. Are these techniques being used to create a more faithful representation of the scene, or are they being used to change the scene or skew a viewer's perception of the scene?

Disclaimers? Again, it's a matter of ethics. Did we ever have a disclaimer for conventional film/print images saying, "This image does not accurately represent the actual scene due to technology limitations of the camera/media"? But any time an image is comprised of multiple exposures (for any reason), there should be a disclaimer. And, again, I'd argue that should done only in the realm of photo illustration or art, rather than in photojournalism.



Original image (camera raw format)



Lift shadows, lower highlights

Here is an example of a single-image HDR treatment on a photograph I shot recently of a sunrise on a rural road north of Kansas City, Mo. This scene had a very high dynamic range from the brilliant highlights of the sun rising through the clouds to the dark shadows in the farm land and road. The image on the left is what the camera captured (Canon 6D, camera raw format). The image on the right was edited in Adobe Lightroom, lifting the shadows to reveal the detail in the land and lowering the highlights to reveal more detail in the sunrise to produce a much more accurate representation of what I saw when shooting this scene.

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**Hal Buell** (Email) - David Briscoe, in Feb. 27 CONNECTNG, asked whether the new technology that automatically balances light sources in photographs is a form of technical manipulation.

I think not.

What this new technology does is capture images the way the eye captures scenes in which light and dark clash sharply. In the days of film a photographer would burn in those blown out areas in the printing process...sometimes that worked, sometimes it didn't. Film, and many digital systems, could not match the versatility of the combined eye-retina-brain combination. This new technology does a better job of recording and to an improved degree matches what we see in these special situations.

In many ways, the accepted use of very long lenses or very wide- angle lenses distort scenes (I avoid the word manipulate) beyond the range of what we see. Long lenses compress scenes; wide-angle lenses open up scenes, in both instances in ways not captured by the human eye. We use these lenses for a variety of reasons and not for the purpose of manipulation.

When technology helps, we should use it; when it distorts we have to think again.

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### Smith story a rambling piece of nonsense

**Chuck McFadden** (Email) - Lee Smith's piece in Tuesday's "Connecting" was a rambling piece of nonsense. The simple fact is the legitimate media (and by that I mean the NY Times, The AP, CNN, ABC, CBS, NBC, etc.) are reporting facts on the most bizarre president in memory. Trump is being reported on. Legitimately. That makes some people, such as Smith, go through loopy gyrations in print. I reminds me of the old story about Harry Truman: He was campaigning from the back of a train in 1948 during his "whistlestop" tour of the midwest. A farmer shouted from the crowd, "Give 'em hell, Harry!" and Truman replied "I'm telling the truth, and the Republicans think it's hell."

### **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



To

#### Melinda Smith - mablardsmith@swbell.net

### Stories of interest

# Jon Stewart Tells The Media How To Break Up With 'A\*\*hole' Donald Trump (Huffington Post)



Jon Stewart is back, and he has a message for the media: It's time to break up with President Donald Trump.

The former "Daily Show" host visited the "Late Show With Stephen Colbert" to share a few thoughts on Trump's souring relationship with the press.

"Finally thought you met your match," Stewart said in his message to the media. "A blabbermouth who's as thin-skinned and narcissistic as you are."

So how can the press get its groove back? Stewart suggested trying a hobby.

"I recommend journalism," he said.

Click here for a link to this story, Shared by Jennifer Volanakis.

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# Matt Apuzzo: 'Tickling the Wire,' Knocking on Doors, Getting the Story on Government Wrongdoing (New York Times)

Working in an office suite behind a Burger King in Virginia, government agents allegedly swindle American farmers out of \$24 million in a cigarette smuggling scam? Sounds like a B-movie.

Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Matt Apuzzo, however, wrote an investigative report last week about a real-life, shadowy operation that gave rise to a federal racketeering suit against the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco and Explosives whose agents, the farmers say, cheated them out of millions.

In this podcast, Matt talks about his story and provides behind-the-scenes insight into how he reported it.

Read more here.

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# The secret to a happier, healthier life: Just retire (MarketWatch)

Retirement, contrary to popular opinion, is not the time in which your satisfaction with life declines and your health deteriorates. Instead, it's the exact opposite: Retirement is likely to improve your overall happiness and health, according to a working paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research.

And that improvement happens immediately, according to the authors of the paper, Aspen Gorry and Devon Gorry, both professors at Utah State University, and Sita Slavov, a professor at George Mason University.

But is it so obvious that retiring is better than working, and that you start to feel happier and healthier as soon as you retire?

Below, Aspen Gorry answers our questions about the study, its implications and what those planning for retirement should take away from the study.

Read more here. Shared by Kevin Walsh.

### Today in History - March 1, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 1, the 60th day of 2017. There are 305 days left in the year. Today is Ash Wednesday.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On March 1, 1867, Nebraska became the 37th state as President Andrew Johnson signed a proclamation.

#### On this date:

In 1565, the city of Rio de Janeiro was founded by Portuguese knight Estacio de Sa.

In 1792, Holy Roman Emperor Leopold II died; he was succeeded by his son, Francis II.

In 1815, Napoleon, having escaped exile in Elba, arrived in Cannes, France, and headed for Paris to begin his "Hundred Days" rule.

In 1932, Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was kidnapped from the family home near Hopewell, New Jersey. (Remains identified as those of the child were found the following May.)

In 1940, "Native Son" by Richard Wright was first published by Harper & Brothers.

In 1954, four Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the spectators' gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives, wounding five members of Congress. The United States detonated a dry-fuel hydrogen bomb, codenamed Castle Bravo, at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

In 1957, "The Cat in the Hat" by Dr. Seuss was released to bookstores by Random House.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed an executive order establishing the Peace Corps.

In 1967, U.S. Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, D-N.Y., accused of misconduct, was denied his seat in the 90th Congress. (The Supreme Court ruled in 1969 that Powell had to be seated.)

In 1971, a bomb went off inside a men's room at the U.S. Capitol; the radical group Weather Underground claimed responsibility for the pre-dawn blast.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army member Bobby Sands began a hunger strike at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland; he died 65 days later.

In 1997, severe storms hit Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi, and spawned tornadoes in Arkansas blamed for two dozen deaths.

Ten years ago: Tornadoes killed 20 people in the Midwest and Southeast, including eight students at Enterprise High School in Alabama. Maj. Gen. George W. Weightman, who had been in charge of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, was relieved of command after disclosures about dilapidated buildings and inadequate treatment of wounded soldiers. An independent commission concluded the National Guard and Reserves weren't getting enough money or equipment.

Five years ago: Senate Democrats narrowly blocked, 51-48, an effort by Republicans to overturn President Barack Obama's order that most employers or their insurers cover the cost of contraceptives. Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley signed a measure legalizing same-sex marriage in his state, effective Jan. 2013. Online publisher and conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart died in Los Angeles at age 43.

One year ago: In the Super Tuesday primaries and caucuses, Republican Donald Trump won Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia; Ted Cruz won Alaska, Oklahoma and his home state of Texas; Marco Rubio won Minnesota. On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton won Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia while Bernie Sanders prevailed in Colorado, Minnesota, Oklahoma and his home state of Vermont.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Robert Clary is 91. Singer Harry Belafonte is 90. Actor Robert Conrad is 82. Rock singer Mike D'Abo (Manfred Mann) is 73. Former Sen. John Breaux, D-La., is 73. Rock singer Roger Daltrey is 73. Actor Dirk Benedict is 72. Actor-director Ron Howard is 63. Actress Catherine Bach is 63. Country singer Janis Gill (aka Janis Oliver Cummins) (Sweethearts of the Rodeo) is 63. Actor Tim Daly is 61. Singer-musician Jon Carroll is 60. Rock musician Bill Leen is 55. Actor Bryan Batt is 54. Actor Maurice Bernard is 54. Actor Russell Wong is 54. Actor Chris Eigeman is 52. Actor John David Cullum is 51. Actor George Eads is 50. Actor Javier Bardem (HAH'-vee-ayr bahr-DEHM') is 48. Actor Jack Davenport is 44. Rock musician Ryan Peake (Nickelback) is 44. Actor Mark-Paul Gosselaar is 43. Singer Tate Stevens is 42. Actor Jensen Ackles is 39. TV host Donovan Patton is 39. Rock musician Sean Woolstenhulme (WOOL'-sten-hyoolm) is 36. Actress Lupita Nyong'o is 34. Pop singer Kesha (formerly Ke\$ha) is 30. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sammie is 30. Pop singer Justin Bieber is 23.

Thought for Today: "Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind." - Rudyard Kipling, English author (1865-1936).

### 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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