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## Connecting - June 20, 2017

1 message

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# Connecting

June 20, 2017

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

We lead today's issue with an account of a gathering in New York AP headquarters to honor the memory of **Sally Jacobsen**.

Thanks go to **John Daniszewski** for providing it for his Connecting colleagues. John is vice president and AP's editor at large for standards and earlier headed AP's international news department for 10 years.

Sally's legacy will be with The Associated Press and the many whose lives she touched for many years to come.

Paul

## Turnout for Sally Jacobsen unites three communities her life enriched



**Patrick Oster speaks about his wife Sally Jacobsen toward end of ceremony. (Photos by Tim Donnelly)**

**John Daniszewski** ([Email](#)) - It was a large turnout at the AP's headquarters at 200 Liberty St. to honor and remember Sally Jacobsen, uniting three different communities her life enriched: her AP colleagues, the Associated Press Media Editors and the Overseas Press Club Foundation. Sally's husband, Patrick Oster, and son, Alex Oster, also attended. Speakers choked back tears at times, but there

was more laughter and an overwhelming sense of appreciation for Sally's warm, wry personality and her contributions and gifts to those whose lives she touched both professionally and personally.

Executive Editor Sally Buzbee opened by praising Sally's character and strength, including her grace under pressure as the AP's international editor during the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, and saying how much her calm support meant to people in the field. Noting that it has been a sad period for AP, Buzbee also paid tribute to Jim Fitzgerald, the AP's long-serving New York metro and suburban Westchester correspondent and husband of Ellen Nimmons, who recently



**Summer Moore remembers Sally**

passed away. She was followed by remembrances of Laura Sellers, past president of APME and managing editor of the Daily Astorian in Oregon, who read a poem eulogy she had written for Sally, and Summer Moore, an APME board member with the NWI Times of Northwest Indiana, whom Sally had mentored when Summer was working at AP. Bill Holstein, ex-UPI and president of the Overseas Press Club Foundation, where Sally had been a vice president, recalled Sally's role in launching the OPC Fellows program that provides aspiring would-be foreign correspondents with scholarships to work abroad at established news organizations including AP, Reuters and the Wall Street Journal. He announced that OPC is raising money for a Sally Jacobsen Scholarship Fund, so that one of the fellowships would be endowed in perpetuity in Sally's name. (Donation information below).

Two AP colleagues spoke next. Colleen Newvine, the project manager for the the AP Stylebook recalling Sally's time as Stylebook editor, and Kristin Gazlay, AP Top Stories editor and editor at large.

Here are Kristin's remarks in full:

*If you were lucky enough to get to know Sally Jacobsen, you know that there was no one else -- and that there will never be anyone else - like her. Sally was an unparalleled combination of gentle grace, effortless elegance ... and solid steel. Unmistakable authority ... and deep humanity. Probing intelligence ... and dry, wicked, conspiratorial humor.*

*Sally staunchly stood for high standards and ensuring the right thing happened. She cared deeply about the work that we do, but she never forgot that human beings were doing it. People were important to her -- and they knew it. She was kind. She was compassionate. She was understanding. She was thoughtful. Somehow, she*

*always knew just the right thing to say. And yet she also, at heart, was a champion listener.*

*She was loved and admired for all those reasons and more. After her death, the outpouring of affection and respect from colleagues around the country and around the world was off the charts ... and completely not surprising. Most striking were the numerous personal remembrances about Sally as mentor, as cheerleader, as inspiration, as role model, as coach. She had a way of supporting and encouraging people that stuck with them, indelibly, even decades later. It's because they knew she meant every word that she said. That she believed in them, and she wanted them to succeed. That she had done it herself, and would help them do it, too.*

*Some of my favorite times with Sally were spent in my office or over long lunches, laughing and talking about the most important things in life. For her, it was about Pat, and about Alex. About her beloved pups. About theater, and about food. And about all the trips already on the calendar and the many, many trips still on the far horizon. We'd turn to my computer and look at whatever fabulous hotel she and Pat had just booked. Sally, she did love a nice hotel.*

*She likely would be more than a little embarrassed by all the wonderful -- and very true -- things we are saying about her today. She preferred the spotlight to shine on others.*

*She left us all too soon, but I find comfort in the fact that she knew how we all feel -- we got to tell her what she meant to us when she retired.*

*Sally traveled the world, before and after her retirement -- and she made it such a better place. We are forever richer for having known her, and we will always, always miss her.*

At the end, Patrick, a retired Bloomberg News managing editor and novelist, thanked everyone and spoke of his plans to continue the traveling the two of them had planned to do together. He's learning to do all the tasks in their marriage that she used to do: travel agent, social secretary and filling the bird feeder with the food that the hummingbirds like.

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# Connecting mailbox

## ***The tragic sea collision - and the old AP writing test***

**Michael Rubin (Email)** - I wonder if any other AP alum or retirees had feelings of deja vu from the terrible collision between a container ship and the Navy destroyer Fitzgerald off Japan.

The AP hiring exam I took in 1967 in Los Angeles included a writing test focused on a collision involving a US destroyer that left sailors dead and injured.

As I recall, my lead used the provided description the Navy ship had been sliced open "like a can opener" had done it -- and included the number of those killed and injured.

Obviously I passed the exam before starting my decade with AP, but was advised that the number of deaths and injuries should have been left out of the lead and included in a later paragraph instead for easier updating when more information became available.

And the story on "vintage" typewriters? The one in the foreground looks newer than just about anything we had in LA prior to CRT's. The exception was one electric typewriter the COB's secretary had. We still have a portable Olympia that saw AP duty at various venues in Southern California, as well as afterlife on the road, plus a true vintage Royal willed us by my late mother-in-law.

As you can see, an iPad makes for easier communicating now.

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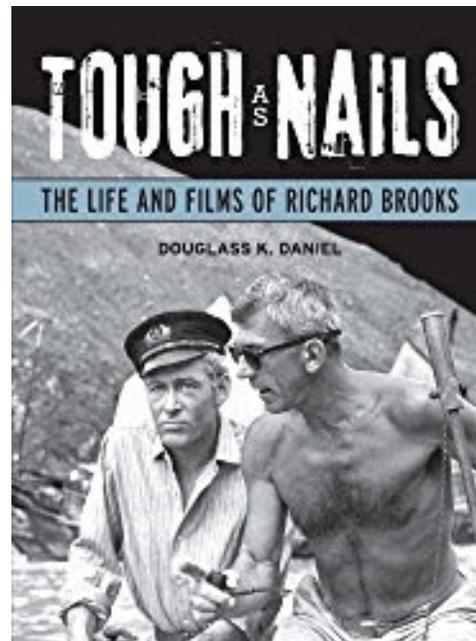
## ***How my dad helped Doug Daniel with his book***

**Larry Margasak (Email)** - A follow-up to Doug Daniel's wonderful Father's Day Story. My dad got to help Doug with his book.

One day, about six years ago, I was talking to Doug in the Washington bureau about the book he was writing on Academy Award-winning, director-writer Richard Brooks (Blackboard Jungle, Cat On A Hot Tin Roof, Elmer Gantry, In Cold Blood).

When Doug mentioned that Brooks grew up in Philadelphia, where I was born, it suddenly dawned on me that my dad lived across the street from someone who became a famous director. I called dad, asked who the guy was, and he said "Ruben Sax." Doug, of course, knew that Ruben Sax became Richard Brooks.

Dad, who is gone now, gave Doug a great interview for his book, "Tough As Nails." Here are a few excerpts from the book, starting with the fact that Ruben drew up poor because his father, Hyman, was ill.



"When I knew Rube, his father didn't work at all," remembered Sid Margasak, who lived across the street from the Sax family as a teenager. "He was sick. I would see him through the window, sitting and reading or looking out the window...They didn't have any money at all. They were really poor."

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"He was always a sports fiend. He could play football and was very good at baseball," Sid Margasak remembered. "He was a good kicker and punter and a very good first baseman."

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Tall and athletic as a teenager, Richard often joined Sid and other boys in a vacant lot near their homes to play baseball in the twilight. At times, Richard would take Sid aside and ask him to read the latest short story he had written mainly to have Sid correct his spelling and grammar.

A plug: Doug did a great job with the book, and I'm sure his next one on Anne Bancroft will be just as entertaining.

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## ***Help your friends, neighbors***

**Doug Richardson** ([Email](#)) - Just when you think DC is a tough place to live, a moment that gives you hope. I was in Rock Creek Park tonight, as I am every night, for my after-dinner walk. A woman driving toward Grant Road was forced off the road by an aggressive driver and her car was stuck on a curb.. Couldn't move much forward or backward. I stopped. Three other people stopped to help. We tried everything. Wood pieces under the tires to give some lift. Then, a great guy in a pickup, with tools, pulls up and we try again. He rigged up something with a rope tied to a log on the wheel to give it some lift. It worked. We hugged, high fived. Drove off. Will never see these folks again, and that's the point. Help your friends, neighbors. No matter who they are.



## **Video storytelling exclusives: Paris terror attack and Philippines militant plot**



**In this image taken from UGC video licensed by AP, people run from the Notre Dame Cathedral after a man wielding a hammer attacked police, shouting "This is for Syria," June 6, 2017, in Paris. (PHOTO FROM LAWRENCE LANGNER VIDEO VIA AP)**

A video beat of 15 minutes on a terrorism story in the heart of a European capital? Footage showing militants in Asia actually plotting an attack? On two continents in the same week, Associated Press journalists obtained these exclusives through remarkable ingenuity and persistence.

Their efforts are rare co-winners of the Beat of the Week.

When an attacker targeted police guarding throngs of tourists outside Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, video journalist Nicolas Garriga brought the world the first live broadcast video of what was happening - and then, within minutes of setting up his live signal, obtained amateur video of the initial attack.

Paris Senior Producer Jeff Schaeffer got a tip from a freelancer about an incident at Notre Dame, and Garriga rushed to the scene on a motorcycle with a LiveU, a tool that allows broadcast of live events using just cell phone signals. A police security perimeter already had been established around the cathedral, but Garriga was able to get around it on his motorcycle.

He quickly set up the camera near where an Algerian doctoral student who declared allegiance to the Islamic State group had just pounced on police with a hammer, crying, "This is for Syria!" Inside Notre Dame, hundreds of tourists were immediately sequestered while police checked them one by one in a tense scene that lasted nearly two hours.

Garriga made a deal on the spot for UGC video. It was sent to clients within 40 minutes of his arrival at Notre Dame.

As soon as his live signal of the esplanade outside the cathedral was broadcasting to the world, Garriga started asking witnesses about amateur video. While competitors were still trying to reach the scene, Garriga was negotiating with a retired American who had filmed the chaos of tourists running away from the scene. Garriga made a deal on the spot and hooked him up with text reporter Philippe Sotto for witness testimony. The video was sent to clients within 40 minutes of Garriga's arrival.

Despite its much more extensive French resources, Paris-based AFP wasn't live until 13 minutes later, and Reuters a few minutes after that. Other media were held farther back behind police lines.

Usage was immediate and worldwide. AP customers led bulletins at the top of the hour with AP's live shot while non-AP subscribers could show only maps and graphics. AP was also first with edited video, just minutes later. Teletrax showed that clients used our material a remarkable 2,466 times that day. The initial live shot racked up an impressive 831 hits alone.

In the Philippines, meanwhile, AP also made a major splash with exclusive video, obtained by Manila correspondent Jim Gomez. Amazingly, it showed Islamic militants - including one of the world's most-wanted militant leaders, Isnilon Hapilon - plotting an attack on Marawi, which has become a flashpoint for a brewing insurgency.

Reuters, BBC and all the local stations had teams in Marawi but could not match AP's scoop. Reuters was forced to cite AP's story and pick up AP's quote from the military chief of staff. The footage also ran on ABS-CBN's prime time newscast in the Philippines with a special - and unusual - mention of AP.

After more than a week of digging, Gomez was granted permission to film the video off a source's laptop.

Gomez had heard from his sources that authorities had found the video during a raid to capture Hapilon. After more than a week of digging, he was granted permission to film the video off a source's laptop.

AP authenticated it via the military chief of staff and by using a third source who had a screen grab of the same meeting, which helped nail down when it was filmed. AP moved the exclusive images and a robust text story, written beautifully by Asia

correspondent Todd Pittman, on assignment in the Philippines, about how the Islamic State group is breathing new life into Muslim insurgencies in Southeast Asia.

For their compelling work showing different sides of the job of video storytelling on the high-stakes terrorism beat, Garriga, Gomez and Pittman win this week's \$500 prize.



## Only on AP: Countless inland bridges being raised to prepare for climate change floods



Construction is underway on a piling of the Red Bridge pedestrian span over the Des Moines River in Des Moines, Iowa., March 28, 2017. A little more than a decade after it was restored, crews went back to the site with a crane to hoist the span more than 4 feet higher, at a cost of \$3 million, after experts concluded that the river's flooding risk was double the previous estimates. AP PHOTO / CHARLIE NEIBERGALL

Des Moines News Editor Scott McFetridge was out on his daily run one morning when he discovered that a pedestrian bridge he often crossed was blocked off for

reconstruction. He was mystified. Why did a fancy bridge that had been rehabilitated only recently need another overhaul?

The answer put him onto a fascinating story.

This Iowa bridge, and countless others far from the coasts, had to be raised because higher river levels expected from more rain caused by climate change might inundate them. New bridges and old bridges, major multi-lane spans and small rural ones, were in danger.

Cities and counties were getting the bad news in new government flood maps and wrestling over what to do. In not a few cases, this was happening in states where many in government question the validity of climate change.

The federal agencies engaged with the problem didn't want to talk about it - perhaps because of the questions raised about climate change.

McFetridge set out to report a straightforward piece. But it turned out to be much more difficult than expected. No one keeps track of bridges being made higher. And the federal agencies engaged with the problem, the Corps of Engineers and FEMA, didn't want to talk about it - perhaps because of the uncomfortable questions raised about the impact of climate change. Officials ignored repeated phone calls and emails about possible data, costs or cities affected.

So McFetridge collected examples of bridge-raising himself, calling city halls in a handful of states, doing internet searches and finding experts.

Eventually, he came up with more than 20 examples and an estimate that there are hundreds if not thousands more. And each example was accompanied by a pricetag of millions.

McFetridge's story moves the climate change issue away from the usual coastal areas.

McFetridge's story carried an "Only an AP" designation. It takes the climate change issue away from the usual coastal areas to the inland cities where many would least expect it.

Newspapers, television stations and websites from coast to coast used the story and photos, contributed by colleagues throughout the Midwest led to bridges by McFetridge's reporting.

For discovering something that was in plain sight but no one had noticed, McFetridge wins this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

## Stories of interest

### ***The Not-So-Bitter Rivalry of Dean Baquet and Marty Baron*** (Politico Magazine)

New York Times executive editor Dean Baquet was being grilled by his own media columnist recently during a sardonically titled talk, "Covering POTUS: A Conversation with the Failing NYT," when someone in the audience asked: "Better slogan: 'The truth is more important now than ever,' or 'Democracy Dies in Darkness?'"

The former was from a brand campaign the Times kicked off during the Oscars; the latter was the Washington Post's new motto, an old saying that had been invoked by owner Jeff Bezos in an interview last year with Marty Baron, the Post's editor.

"I should say that I love our competition with the Washington Post, I think it's great," said Baquet, grinning as if he was about to do something that might get him in trouble. "But I actually think their slogan-Marty Baron, please forgive me for saying this-sounds like the next Batman movie." Later on, Baron shot back, "No apology necessary from the people of Gotham."

Baron and Baquet are the two most important newspaper editors in America right now, at a time when the news media are tackling the most epic and consequential story of the past 40 years. Donald Trump's presidency has revved up the competition for news organizations far and wide; big and small; print, broadcast and digital. In the process, he has sparked a resurgence of storied legacy outlets like the Times and the Post, each of which has struggled with changes in the news business while doomsayers augured its demise. As with the rest of the media, their so-called "Trump bump" has been a boon in terms of scoops and subscribers, even if it may seem a bit like a huge bubble that's destined to deflate one of these days.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***The Trump White House's latest weapon against the media: Silence*** (Newsweek)

The photo of a maritime-themed sock was all CNN's Jim Acosta could broadcast to the world, via Twitter, from Monday's White House press briefing, which press secretary Sean Spicer conducted with the stipulation that no one record video or audio of the gaggle. The sock, allegedly part of a newly purchased pair, were a bit of comedic relief. But as is often the case with the Trump administration, this was humor of the ominous variety.

Later, Acosta called Spicer "kind of useless." (President Trump appears to agree, with CNN reporting later in the day that the White House was actively seeking a new press secretary.)

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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## ***RTDNA blasts White House ban on video/audio at daily press briefing***

The RTDNA Voice of the First Amendment Task Force joined several White House reporters today in blasting Trump administration Press Secretary Sean Spicer for barring cameras and audio from yet another daily press briefing Monday.

CNN White House correspondent Jim Acosta was among the more outspoken critics of Spicer's ban. He posted a series of tweets Monday afternoon. Among them:

Read more [here](#).

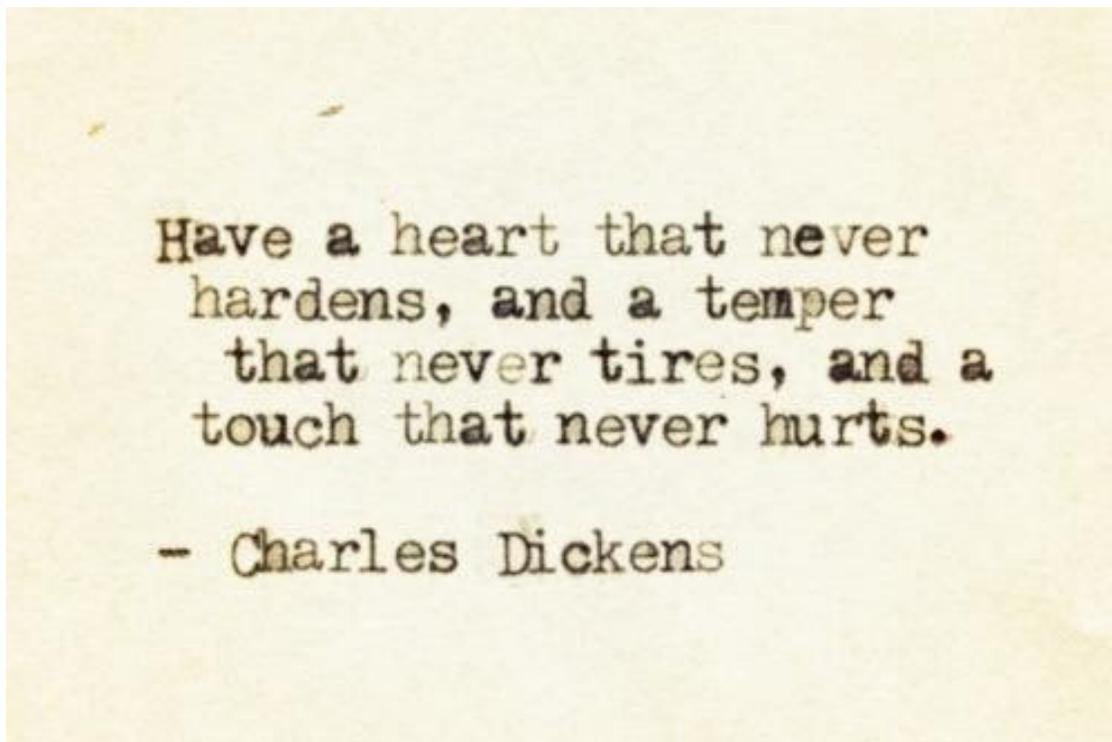
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## ***How to Win at Retirement Savings*** (NY Times)

While most workers are responsible for their own retirement savings these days, high schools don't have required classes on 401(k)'s and Individual Retirement Accounts (I.R.A.s). And colleges usually don't teach anything about Roth I.R.A.s or 403(b)'s. That's where we come in. Here is what you need to know about saving for life after you stop working and getting on the path toward a comfortable retirement, no matter your career or the size of your paycheck.

Read more [here](#).

## **The Final Word**



## **Today in History - June 20, 2017**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, June 20, the 171st day of 2017. There are 194 days left in the year. Summer begins at 9:24 p.m. Pacific time/10:24 p.m. Mountain time/11:24 p.m. Central time (12:24 a.m. Eastern time June 21).

### Today's Highlight in History:

On June 20, 1967, boxer Muhammad Ali was convicted in Houston of violating Selective Service laws by refusing to be drafted and was sentenced to five years in prison. (Ali's conviction was ultimately overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court).

### On this date:

In 1782, Congress approved the Great Seal of the United States, featuring the emblem of the bald eagle.

In 1791, King Louis XVI of France and his family attempted to flee in the so-called "Flight to Varennes," but were caught.

In 1837, Queen Victoria acceded to the British throne following the death of her uncle, King William IV.

In 1863, West Virginia became the 35th state.

In 1893, a jury in New Bedford, Massachusetts, found Lizzie Borden not guilty of the ax murders of her father and stepmother.

In 1921, U.S. Rep. Alice Mary Robertson, R-Okla., became the first woman to preside over a session of the House of Representatives.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman vetoed the Taft-Hartley Act, which was designed to restrict the power of labor unions, but had his veto overridden by Congress. Gangster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel was shot dead at the Beverly Hills, California, home of his girlfriend, Virginia Hill, apparently at the order of mob associates.

In 1966, the Beatles album "Yesterday and Today" was released by Capitol Records, initially with its notorious "butcher" cover photo which ended up being replaced.

In 1977, the first oil began flowing through the recently completed Trans-Alaska Pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez (val-DEEZ').

In 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld a New York City law making it illegal for private clubs with more than 400 members to exclude women and minorities.

In 1990, South African black nationalist Nelson Mandela and his wife, Winnie, arrived in New York City for a ticker-tape parade in their honor as they began an eight-city U.S. tour.

In 2001, Houston resident Andrea Yates drowned her five children in the family bathtub, then called police. (Yates was later found guilty of murder, but had her conviction overturned; she was acquitted by reason of insanity in a retrial.)

Ten years ago: For the second time, President George W. Bush vetoed an embryonic stem cell bill as he urged scientists toward what he termed "ethically responsible" research. Sammy Sosa, playing for the Texas Rangers after a year out of baseball, hit his 600th home run, making him the fifth player to reach the milestone; the round-tripper came in the fifth inning of Texas' 7-3 victory over Sosa's former team, the Chicago Cubs.

Five years ago: A Republican-controlled House committee voted along party lines, 23-17, to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress for failing to turn over Justice Department documents related to Operation Fast and Furious. (The full House voted in favor of the contempt citation eight days later.) Pittsburgh Penguins center Evgeni Malkin won the Hart Trophy as the NHL's most valuable

player. Painter and sketch artist LeRoy Neiman, best known for evoking the kinetic energy of the world's biggest sporting and leisure events with bright quick strokes, died in New York at age 91. Movie critic Andrew Sarris, 83, died in New York.

One year ago: Donald Trump abruptly fired campaign manager Corey Lewandowski in a dramatic shake-up designed to calm panicked Republican leaders and end an internal power struggle plaguing the billionaire businessman's White House bid. A divided U.S. Supreme Court bolstered police powers, ruling 5-3 that evidence of a crime in some cases may be used against a defendant even if the police did something wrong or illegal in obtaining it.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Martin Landau is 89. Actress Bonnie Bartlett is 88. Actress Olympia Dukakis is 86. Actor James Tolkan is 86. Actor Danny Aiello is 84. Blues musician Lazy Lester is 84. Actor John Mahoney is 77. Movie director Stephen Frears is 76. Singer-songwriter Brian Wilson is 75. Actor John McCook is 73. Singer Anne Murray is 72. TV personality Bob Vila is 71. Musician Andre Watts is 71. Actress Candy Clark is 70. Producer Tina Sinatra is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lionel Richie is 68. Actor John Goodman is 65. Rock musician Michael Anthony is 63. Pop musician John Taylor is 57. Rock musician Mark degli Antoni (de-GLI'-an-toh-nee) is 55. Christian rock musician Jerome Fontamillas (Switchfoot) is 50. Rock musician Murphy Karges (Sugar Ray) is 50. Actress Nicole Kidman is 50. Country/bluegrass singer-musician Dan Tyminski is 50. Movie director Robert Rodriguez is 49. Actor Peter Paige is 48. Actor Josh Lucas is 46. Rock musician Jeordie White (AKA Twiggy Ramirez) is 46. Rock singer Chino Moreno (Deftones) is 44. Country-folk singer-songwriter Amos Lee is 40. Country singer Chuck Wicks is 38. Actress Tika Sumpter is 37. Country musician Chris Thompson (The Eli Young Band) is 37. Actress-singer Alisan Porter is 36. Christian rock musician Chris Dudley (Underoath) is 34. Rock singer Grace Potter (Grace Potter & the Nocturnals) is 34. Actor Mark Saul is 32. Actress Dreama Walker is 31. Actor Chris Mintz-Plasse (plahs) is 28. Actress Maria Lark is 20.

***Thought for Today: "Know how to ask. There is nothing more difficult for some people, nor for others, easier." - Baltasar Gracian, Spanish philosopher (1601-1658).***

## Got a story or photos 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:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **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.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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