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## Connecting - September 15, 2017

1 message

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Fri, Sep 15, 2017 at 9:20 AM

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# Connecting

September 15, 2017

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Spending the last couple days with a roomful of AP veterans who attended the AP Midwest Reunion was an awesome experience. The stories they covered, the things they experienced, the challenges they overcame to deliver the news.

Simply awesome.

So on Thursday, when my friend and Connecting colleague **Karen Testa** shared a staff note that she wrote on the 25<sup>th</sup> AP anniversary of Vermont Correspondent **Wilson Ring**, it resonated strongly with me and I thought it should be shared with all of you.

Wilson has been in Montpelier his entire AP career. He grew up in Vermont, graduated with a bachelor's degree in history from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, and then joined the Peace Corps and spent two years in Ecuador, South America. Upon his return, he worked in local journalism in Vermont and in 1985 went to Central America where he worked as a free-lance reporter. After returning to the states, he spent a year working at the Chicago Tribune and then returned again to Vermont where an AP job in Montpelier opened up shortly after his return.

If you'd like to send Wilson a note of congratulations, his email is - [wring@ap.org](mailto:wring@ap.org)

On Sunday, PBS begins airing the first episode of **Ken Burns'** long-awaited documentary on the Vietnam War. I would welcome your thoughts on the series - whether you served in the war, covered the war as a journalist, or lived through that era.

Time Magazine produced a story on some of the most memorable photos from the Vietnam War and several of them included were from the lenses of AP photographers. We bring you that report in today's issue.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## A salute to Wilson Ring as he celebrates 25 years with AP

**Karen Testa** ([Email](#)) - East Region editor, Philadelphia - I love to steal great ideas, so I channeled a frequent Jon Poet move today and went digging into the AP archives. I traveled back to late 1992, and found an intriguing story of a charismatic minister from a congregational church who was beloved by the people he served in his little Vermont hamlet.

*Attendance quadrupled in his first two years, and he moved on to yet another nearby church. As the story went on:*

*"He cared what happened to people. He made pastoral calls all the time, he was always there," said Bertha Brown, a member at Timothy Frost.*

*And he was always a fraud, authorities say. He wasn't really a minister, they say, but that was the least of his faults.*



**Wilson Ring**

If you want to know what other bad deeds this supposed man of the cloth committed, you'll have to go back to find that very first story to move on the AP wire under the byline of Wilson Ring. Since that story, Wilson has contributed literally thousands more over his 25 years with the AP.

Wilson's coverage areas in Vermont have run the gamut: From major propane tanker fire in a fish hatchery to international custody disputes to civil unions to border security to environmental and power concerns to politics and everything in between.

When Vermont has been most up-against-it, Wilson has done his best work. In 2012, the APME recognized Wilson and his colleagues with the highly coveted APME award for state reporting for their incredible cross-format coverage on Tropical Storm Irene. Vermont correspondent John Curran died just two weeks after the storm, and Wilson was tapped not only to lead the coverage, but to lead the state. Undaunted, he led the team there to compelling looks at the impact on farms, schools, the mental health system, infrastructure and more.

Anyone who has worked with Wilson can attest to his enthusiasm and integrity as a reporter and colleague. And I am pretty sure that in all the years we have worked together, he has only blatantly lied to me one time - when he was looking for runners to join him in a 5K race in Montpelier. "It's a flat course," he told me. Perhaps if I'd been paying attention, the "mont" in Montpelier would have given him away.

Please join me in saluting Wilson for his 25 years of service. We're proud of his good works and look forward to many more great years.

# 'Who is the enemy here?'

## The Vietnam War pictures that moved them most

### TIME Magazine

While the Vietnam War raged - roughly two decades' worth of bloody and world-changing years - compelling images made their way out of the combat zones. On television screens and magazine pages around the world, photographs told a story of a fight that only got more confusing, more devastating, as it went on. As Jon Meacham describes in this week's issue of TIME, the pictures from that period can help illuminate the "demons" of Vietnam.

And, in the decades since, the most striking of those images have retained their power. Think of the War in Vietnam and the image in your mind is likely one that was first captured on film, and then in the public imagination. How those photographs made history is underscored throughout the new documentary series *The Vietnam War*, from Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. The series features a wide range of war images, both famous and forgotten.

But few people have a better grasp on the role of photography in Vietnam than the photographers themselves, and those who lived and worked alongside them. With the war once again making headlines, TIME asked a number of those individuals to select an image from the period that they found particularly significant, and to explain why that photograph moved them the most.

Here, lightly edited, are their responses.

-Lily Rothman and Alice Gabriner

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

Excerpted from the story:

# HENRI HUET



Hal Buell, former photography director at the Associated Press, who led their photo operations during the Vietnam War:

In all wars, the battlefield medic is often the stopgap between life and death. AP photographer Henri Huét, under heavy enemy fire, saw that role through his lens and captured the uncommon dedication that medic Thomas Cole displayed in this memorable photo. Cole, himself wounded, peered beneath his bandaged eye to treat the wounds of a fallen Marine. Despite his wounds, Cole continued to attend

the injured in Vietnam's central highlands in January, 1966. This photo was only one of several Huet made of Cole that were published on the cover and inside pages of LIFE magazine.

A year later Huet was seriously wounded and was treated by medics until evacuated. In 1971 Huet died in a helicopter shot down over Laos.

## SAL VEDER



**Sal Veder** - I had photographed POWs returning home time and again, and been in Vietnam on two tours myself, as a photographer. On that day, There were 30 or 40 photographers boarded on a flat-bed, including TV. I was photographing a different family and out of the corner of my eye saw the action and turned. I was lucky to get a break. It was a great moment for Americans! The joyousness of the reunion and the coming together of the family as a visual is outstanding because it was the end of the war. We were glad to get it over with. I'm thankful that this is my picture. I feel it's symbolic, but I'm conflicted about it, knowing what I know. The picture is there and it comes back up again. There is no way to avoid it.

## NICK UT



**Nick Ut** - My older brother Huynh Thanh My, who was killed covering the Vietnam War for the Associated Press, always told me that an image could stop the war and that was his goal. I was devastated when he died. I was very young. But there and then, I decided to follow in his footsteps and complete his mission. A few years later on that fateful day in 1972 on the Trang Bang road, my brother's goal was accomplished. No one was expecting people to come out of the bombed-out burning buildings, but when they did, I was ready with my Leica camera and I feel my brother guided me to capture that image. The rest is history.

## Connecting mailbox

***My first day on job at Helena was uneventful, but then came my first night solo on the desk***

**Steve Graham (Email)** - My first day at the AP (1974) at Helena, Mont. was uneventful.

I had the good fortune to be under the inspired tutelage of News Editor Hugh van Swearingen, with help from staffers Steve Moore, Mel Reisner, Steve Rosenfeld, J.D. Holmes and COB Paul Freeman.

Helena was (and is) the epitome of small AP bureaus. Every staffer had to do everything. Newspaper, broadcast, Wirephoto™ and anything else. AP tended to glorify service in large (read "significant") bureaus, but the real talent was down in the small-bureau trenches.

I had no newspaper experience, but I had worked in small broadcast markets and had spent two years at the Montana Legislature, establishing the first public information office. Paul Freeman saw something in me and invited me to the vacation relief temporary spot.

(Previously, any Montana constituent seeking information on pending legislation was simply put in touch with his or her lawmaker. It was also the first time that Montana employed legislative staffers. Previously, support staff, including committee secretaries, was simply provided by organizations like Montana Power and Anaconda Mining, who obviously had a vested interest in legislation.)

Happily, I quickly absorbed the arcane nature of a premier wire service, i.e. leads, attribution, etc.

.... but then came my first night solo on the Helena desk.

I think it was a Sunday night that I was first unleashed on the AP membership.

Cleaning up the AMs report included doubleheader Pioneer League (lower than low in the baseball hierarchy) games at Billings and Great Falls with agate!!!

Moreover, the National Finals College Rodeo competition was coming to a head down at Montana State University in Bozeman.

... all this before releasing the Monday PMs report and morning weather and broadcast summaries.

Even though my shift supposedly ended at midnight, I was lucky to escape before the morning shift arrived at 6 a.m.

Somehow, I had survived, although I still have nightmares about having forgotten to do something.

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## ***A tip of the hat to hiring Don Harrison***

**Mike Short** ([Email](#)) - Don Harrison's profile Thursday (in Connecting) reminded me of the wisdom of hiring the occasional standout prospect despite an AP policy requiring two years of full-time daily newspaper experience. A tip of the hat to Hub Keavy or Bill Waugh, or whoever it was, who hired Don in 1967 right out of UCLA. I recall an unexpected benefit. Don can check my memory.

In 1969, When Angela Davis was one of the best known and most ferociously attacked civil rights activists in the country, UCLA hired her as an acting assistant professor. Her first lecture was in the spacious Royce Hall, but closed to all except students and faculty. How did AP get the story? Don knew his way around and, most important, still looked like a teenager.

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## ***A lot of fun was had nine months earlier***

**Gene Herrick** ([Email](#)) - My sense of humor enjoyed the following part of the item in The Final Word, in Connecting, Sept.11, 2017, which read:

"This weekend, millions of Americans may have that feeling when the country's most popular birth date comes around. Birth data shows that Sept. 9 is the most common birthday in the U.S., and September is the busiest month for births overall. x x x "

Does this mean that a whole lot of folks in the previous December spent a lot of enjoyable time enjoying themselves?

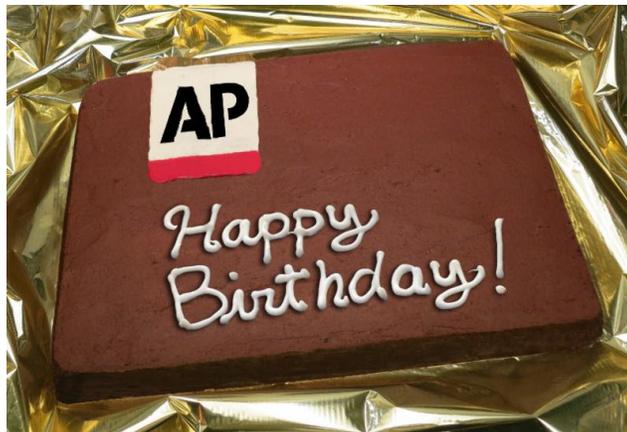
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## ***An AP photo of the day***



President Donald Trump can be seen speaking to the media reflected in the sunglasses of first lady Melania Trump as they arrive at the White House on Sept. 14. Alex Brandon/AP Photo

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Connie Farrow - [cfarrow01@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cfarrow01@sbcglobal.net)

*On Sunday to...*

Rod Richardson - [rodrichardson@att.net](mailto:rodrichardson@att.net)

Suzanne Vlamis - [svlamis13@gmail.com](mailto:svlamis13@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Stephen Fehr - [scfehr@ap.org](mailto:scfehr@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

***CDC official sends troubling message to employees about media questions*** (CJR)

**By Trudy Lieberman, CJR**

AN OFFICIAL WITH THE CENTERS FOR Disease Control and Prevention has instructed employees not to speak directly with members of the press, Axios' Sam Baker reported yesterday. Several health journalists quickly condemned the CDC move, calling it "really disturbing" and a "gag order," among other critiques:

Axios published text from a late August email by a CDC public affairs officer that directs staff to route any correspondence with journalists-"everything from formal interview requests to the most basic of data requests"-through the communication office at its Atlanta headquarters:

"The message-sent by public affairs officer Jeffrey Lancashire and dated Aug. 31-instructs all CDC employees not to speak to reporters, 'even for a simple data-related question'... Lancashire did not respond to requests for comment about the policy. But I'd love to know what harm was being done by CDC employees answering 'the most basic of data requests.'"

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

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## ***RT, Sputnik and Russia's New Theory of War***

(New York Times)

**By JIM RUTENBERG**

One morning in January 2016, Martin Steltner showed up at his office in the state courthouse building in western Berlin. Steltner, who has served for more than a dozen years as the spokesman for the Berlin state prosecutor, resembles a detective out of classic crime fiction: crisp suit, wavy gray hair and a gallows humor that comes with having seen it all. There was the 2009 case of the therapist who mistakenly killed two patients in an Ecstasy-infused session gone wrong. The Great Poker Heist of 2010, in which masked men stormed a celebrity-studded poker tournament with machetes and made off with a quarter-million dollars. The 2012 episode involving the Canadian porn star who killed and ate his boyfriend and then sent the leftovers home in the mail. Steltner embraced the oddball aspect of his job; he kept a picture of Elvis Presley on the wall of his office.

But even Steltner found the phone calls he received that morning confounding. They came from police officers from towns far outside Berlin, who reported that protests were erupting, seemingly out of nowhere, on their streets. "They are demonstrating - 'Save our children,' 'No attacks from immigrants on our children' and some things like that," Steltner told me when I met him in Berlin recently.

The police were calling Steltner because this was ostensibly his office's fault. The protesters were angry over the Berlin prosecutor's supposed refusal to indict three Arab migrants who, they said, raped a 13-year-old girl from Berlin's tight-knit Russian-German community.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

## The Final Word

### ***The 9 Qualities That Help You Thrive Under Pressure*** (Time)

In new and challenging situations, some people fold under pressure and some manage to squeak by. And then there are the people who really thrive-blossoming in the face of uncertainty or adversity. Now, researchers say they've pinpointed a number of personality traits and external factors that, when combined, can predict a person's chances of thriving.

For their recent paper, published in the journal *European Psychologist*, scientists from the University of Bath in the U.K. reviewed a wide variety of research on what makes people thrive in all types of circumstances-physically, professionally, athletically, artistically and academically, to name a few. From those studies, they came up with two lists of variables-nine personal traits and six outside influences-that are common among people who continuously grow, learn and succeed in life.

People don't have to possess every component on these lists in order to thrive, say the authors, but a combination of a few from each list could certainly help. That formula could include any or all of the following:

Read more [here](#).

# Today in History - September 15, 2017



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Sept. 15, the 258th day of 2017. There are 107 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On September 15, 1940, during the World War II Battle of Britain, the tide turned as the Royal Air Force inflicted heavy losses upon the Luftwaffe.

### On this date:

In 1789, the U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs was renamed the Department of State.

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr was acquitted of a misdemeanor charge two weeks after he was found not guilty of treason.

In 1857, William Howard Taft - who served as President of the United States and as U.S. chief justice - was born in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1917, the first issue of Forbes magazine was published.

In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws deprived German Jews of their citizenship.

In 1942, during World War II, the aircraft carrier USS Wasp was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; the U.S. Navy ended up sinking the badly damaged vessel.

In 1950, during the Korean conflict, United Nations forces landed at Incheon in the south and began their drive toward Seoul (sohl).

In 1963, four black girls were killed when a bomb went off during Sunday services at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. (Three Ku Klux Klansmen were eventually convicted for their roles in the blast.)

In 1972, a federal grand jury in Washington indicted seven men in connection with the Watergate break-in.

In 1981, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to approve the Supreme Court nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor.

In 1997, two of the nation's most popular diet drugs - dexfenfluramine and fenfluramine - were pulled off the market because of new evidence they could seriously damage patients' hearts.

In 2000, the 2000 Summer Olympics opened in Sydney, Australia, with a seemingly endless parade of athletes and coaches and a spectacular display; Aborigine runner Cathy Freeman ignited an Olympic ring of fire.

Ten years ago: In his Saturday radio address, President George W. Bush said while "formidable challenges" remained in Iraq, the United States would start shifting more troops into support roles in addition to troop withdrawals announced earlier. Several thousand protesters marched from the White House to the Capitol to demand an end to the Iraq war. Sarah Thomas became the first female official to work a game in the Football Bowl Subdivision, formerly I-A, serving as the line judge in the Jacksonville State-Memphis game (which Memphis won, 35-14). Actress-comedian Brett Somers died in Westport, Connecticut, at age 83.

Five years ago: Four days after the deadly attack on a U.S. diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, Libya, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula called for more attacks on U.S. embassies. The State Department ordered non-essential government personnel and family members to leave its embassies in Sudan and Tunisia and warned U.S. citizens against traveling to the two countries. The National Hockey League locked

out its players at 11:59 p.m. EDT; it was the league's fourth shutdown in a decade and one that would cost the league nearly half its season.

One year ago: A report issued by the Republican-led House intelligence committee condemned Edward Snowden, saying the National Security Agency leaker was not a whistleblower and that the vast majority of the documents he stole were defense secrets that had nothing to do with privacy; Snowden's attorney blasted the report, saying it was an attempt to discredit a "genuine American hero." Arizona's first female governor, Democrat Rose Mofford, died in Phoenix at age 94.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Forrest Compton is 92. Comedian Norm Crosby is 90. Actor Henry Darrow is 84. Baseball Hall of Famer Gaylord Perry is 79. Actress Carmen Maura is 72. Opera singer Jessye Norman is 72. Writer-director Ron Shelton is 72. Actor Tommy Lee Jones is 71. Movie director Oliver Stone is 71. Rock musician Kelly Keagy (KAY'-gee) (Night Ranger) is 65. Rock musician Mitch Dorge (Crash Test Dummies) is 57. Football Hall of Famer Dan Marino is 56. Actor Danny Nucci is 49. Rap DJ Kay Gee is 48. Actor Josh Charles is 46. Singer Ivetta (EE'-veht) Sosa (Eden's Crush) is 41. Actor Tom Hardy is 40. Actress Marisa Ramirez is 40. Pop-rock musician Zach Filkins (OneRepublic) is 39. Actor Dave Annable is 38. Actress Amy Davidson is 38. Britain's Prince Harry is 33. TV personality Heidi Montag is 31. Actress Kate Mansi is 30.

***Thought for Today: "The lack of a sense of history is the damnation of the modern world." - Robert Penn Warren, American poet (born 1905, died this date in 1989).***

## 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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