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Connecting - November 13, 2017

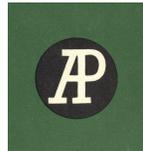
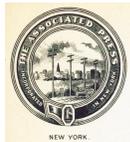
1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 13, 2017 at 9:03 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

November 13, 2017

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

We're saddened to report the death of our colleague **Gordon Sakamoto**, a Connecting regular for years, who was one of the first Asian-Americans hired to work in a U.S. bureau of an international news service. He died in Honolulu last Wednesday at the age of 82.

In the leadoff story today, former AP president and CEO **Louis D. Boccardi** remembered Gordon "as a quiet man who took pride in his appointment as our chief in Hawaii and was zealous in trying to

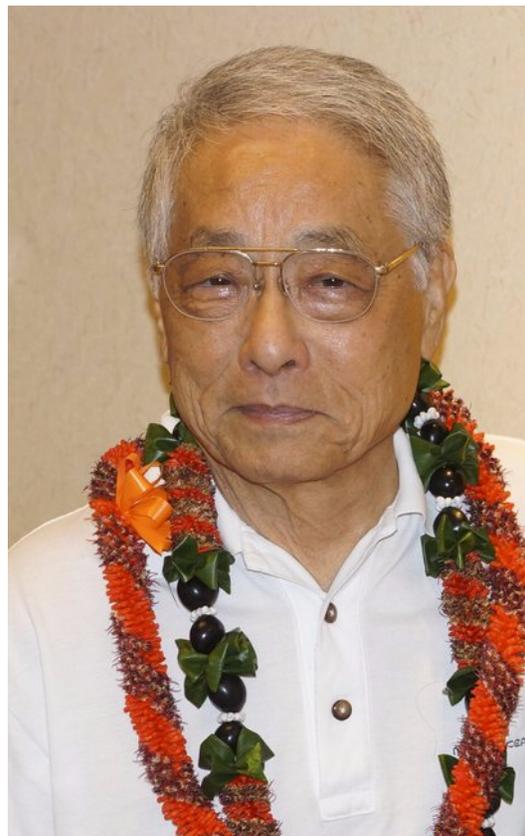
meet the members' needs in Hawaii and see that Hawaii's story made it out to the rest of AP."

Gordon was what his successor as Honolulu bureau chief, **David Briscoe**, termed one of the few home-grown AP bureau chiefs - meaning he assumed the title in the same and only bureau where he started and worked. (Know of any others in that category? If so, send to me.)

Got a favorite memory of working with Gordon? Send it along today to share with your Connecting colleagues.

May you have a great week ahead!

Paul



Gordon Sakamoto in 2014

Former AP Hawaii bureau chief Gordon Sakamoto dies at age 82



Gordon Sakamoto working in UPI's Honolulu bureau in 1980s.

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER

HONOLULU (AP) - Gordon Sakamoto, one of the first Asian-Americans hired to work in a U.S. bureau of an international news service, died Wednesday at 82.

Sakamoto, a former Hawaii bureau chief for The Associated Press, started his journalism career with United Press International in Honolulu in 1960. He retired in 2001 after overseeing operations in Hawaii and the Central Pacific for AP.

He died in his Honolulu home after heart failure and a long battle with chronic kidney disease, his son Kyle Sakamoto said.

Honolulu-born Sakamoto worked for UPI for 27 years in San Francisco and Hawaii. He joined the AP in 1993 after working five years as a marketing specialist for the state of Hawaii.

The AP named him chief of bureau in Honolulu on Jan. 1, 1994. The next day, he was kicked off the island of Lanai while trying to cover billionaire computer-software

mogul Bill Gates' ultra-secretive wedding. It was one of the adventures in reporting he often reminisced about.

To some former AP reporters, he wasn't only a mentor, but a father-figure.

"He taught me a lot about journalism, about life, about family and to be a better person," said Jaymes Song, a former Honolulu Star-Bulletin reporter Sakamoto hired to work with him at the AP.

Song recalled Sakamoto helping a cash-strapped student at the Asian American Journalists Convention in New York City in 2001.

"Gordon gave him money out of his own pocket- a complete stranger," Song said. "He brought the guy with us to a Yankees game. That's the kind of guy he was. He took care of people, and he cared about people. That's what made him a great news leader and person."

Sakamoto was a pioneer as an Asian-American in journalism.

"He was a manager in an industry where there were little-to-no minorities in management," Song said, noting that Sakamoto graduated from Missouri Valley College.

That wasn't something Sakamoto talked about or bragged about, but it made him a leader who was sensitive to differences in culture and values, said Song, who later led the Hawaii bureau as an administrative correspondent. Song and Sakamoto remained close even after Sakamoto retired and after Song left journalism for a career in real estate.

Jean Christensen was a rookie reporter fresh out of a temporary AP gig in Minneapolis when she called Sakamoto looking for a job.

"I told him I lived in Hawaii as a kid, and he said, 'How's your Pidgin,'" she recalled of the mix of languages created by Hawaiians, Filipinos, Puerto Ricans and others who worked in Hawaii's sugar plantations.

Sakamoto's Hawaii roots shaped the way he directed news coverage of the state, said Christensen, now a bankruptcy attorney.

"His love of Hawaii was just always so apparent," she said. "We were so protective of Hawaii. We wanted to make sure that stories about Hawaii didn't just play on stereotypes."

He was a "steady hand" during breaking news events such as the 1999 mass shooting at Xerox Corp.'s Honolulu warehouse, Christensen said. He championed his reporters' story ideas, she said, recalling how supportive he was when she pursued a story about paniolos, or Hawaiian cowboys, on the Big Island.

"I remember him as a quiet man who took pride in his appointment as our chief in Hawaii and was zealous in trying to meet the members' needs in Hawaii and see that Hawaii's story made it out to the rest of AP," said former AP President and CEO Louis D. Boccardi.

On top of his duties representing AP to member outlets, he juggled the bureau's sports coverage. Retired Honolulu Star-Advertiser reporter Ann Miller traveled with him covering golf for about a decade.

"He never complained about it," she said.

In 1998, Sakamoto wrote a first-person account of being a 6-year-old Lunalilo Elementary School student when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor.

While more than 100,000 people of Japanese ancestry living on the mainland were sent to internment camps during World War II, those in Hawaii fared better, he wrote: "Living in the islands, with their melting pot of ethnic groups, eased the fears of retaliation for my parents, who were second-generation Japanese-American, or Nisei. In no time, we kids of Japanese ancestry were out playing with our Chinese and Portuguese neighbors and parking ourselves in their homes."

Sakamoto's knowledge of Hawaii's culture, politics and society made him well-suited to lead the bureau, said David Briscoe, who succeeded him as bureau chief from 2001 to 2009.

"One of the great things about the AP is some of its best people do come from the local community," Briscoe said. "Gordon probably was one of the few really home-grown bureau chiefs."

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

More of your favorite memories as a veteran



Vice President Mike Pence cleans a portion of the wall at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day on Nov. 11. | Alex Brandon/AP Photo

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Robert O'Meara ([Email](#)) - Apparently there aren't many World War II veterans remaining among AP retirees so I will add my experience.

I was manning a remote radio station in Mauritania, then a colony of French West Africa, when the good news came that the war was over. We were told that a C47 cargo plane was coming to take us to Casablanca where we would board a ship for home.

I was in the Army Airways Communications System (AACS), a little-known but widespread branch of the Army Air Force which operated ground stations throughout Africa, Asia, the Pacific area and Europe. The US had thousands of planes around the world and they needed ground control.



With a local aide in Atar, Mauritania

I left the University of Wisconsin journalism school and joined the Army in March of 1943, took basic training at Fort Riley, Kan., was transferred to the Army Air Force for radio training. I served in Italy, Morocco and French West Africa.

After the war I finished at Wisconsin and joined the AP in Milwaukee.

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Mike Harris ([Email](#)) - Wanting desperately to avoid being drafted, I managed to join the U.S. Army Reserves in 1966, just a few months before graduating from the University of Wisconsin. Within a month of my graduation, I found myself at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. I got through basic training and was then assigned to the Engineers School at Leonard Wood for the rest of my six months of active duty.

I was then engaged to Judy Rose'e - now my wife of almost 50 years - and was missing her. I somehow managed to convince her very conservative parents to let her come to Missouri to visit me for a weekend during my schooling. My company commander - a good guy who liked my typing - arranged for her to stay in the Bachelor Officers Quarters - kind of like a decent motel near our barracks.

I met her at the bus station and we headed toward the BOQ, with me carrying her bags - a small suitcase and a duffel, one in either hand. As we walked along the main road of the Fort, a big car with a General's flag flying from the antenna approached. I knew I was supposed to salute but, instead of putting down the suitcase, I tried to salute with the bag still gripped in my hand. I'm sure it looked ridiculous and my future wife and I stood there and watched this general's car fading into the distance with the man himself and his driver both howling with laughter.

Definitely not one of my better moments. But she married me anyway.

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Larry Margasak (Email) - I can still visualize every second as I stood behind the pilot on our Pennsylvania Air National Guard C-121 going into Saigon in the mid-1960s. Our pilot kept calling in for landing instructions and getting no response because the airport was so busy with military traffic. Finally, at the last minute, the tower asked what type of aircraft we were and gave us a runway to land. We weren't delivering military equipment, but rather toys for Vietnamese kids at Christmas time. I was in the unit's public information section, and all I needed to get on a flight at that time was to say the magic words to the crew: "Hey, I'll do a story for all your hometown papers." My section head and I tried to pitch the Vietnam trip story _ citizen soldiers delivering toys to Vietnamese children _ to Look Magazine. They liked it but said they had just done a big Vietnam takeout and couldn't use another just then.



The C-121 was the military version of the Super Constellation, distinct because it had three tails. I believe it was one of the finest propeller planes ever built, and was in service on commercial international flights in the 1950s and early 1960s.

We only spent a day in Vietnam, but were given combat ribbons. I tried not to wear it, because people were dying and I really didn't consider our mission to be combat. But our unit commander demanded that we pin it to our uniform, I guess to show we were there.

One final note: about the midpoint of my six years in the Guard, we switched from a transport mission to a TEW (tactical electronic warfare) unit and all this secret stuff went on the planes. It didn't matter how much I pleaded to go on flights. I was grounded because

I didn't have the security clearance. The local stories were always welcome, of course, as long as I stayed on the ground.

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Hank Lowenkron (Email) - I was one of those lucky people who was too young for World War II or the Korean conflict. And I was too old for Viet Nam. My big memory from my days in the Air Force was a day when we had weapons training. I was assigned to fire a semi-automatic weapon. Here I was a teenager from Brooklyn and had never fired a powerful weapon. When we got to the range then instructor told me what to do, which was to point the weapon at a target and let the bullets fly.

My nerves were causing me to sweat as I heard, Ready on the left, ready on the right. Then came the command to fire and I pulled the trigger expecting a lot of noise. Here I was on a Strategic Air Command base and in the drill, we were protecting it as it was being invaded by the enemy. Imagine my frustration when nothing happened. So I followed the instructor's suggestion and raised my hand so he could come to assist me. He came over and checked the weapon, told me there was no problem other than the gun was not working. I felt real relieved when he told me I was qualified and shouldn't worry about the day's test. I wasn't worried, just grateful that it was only a Cold War experience!

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Charles Hanley (Email) - Some of us veterans of the old "citizens' army" (disgruntled draftees) will always relish those Sergeant Bilko moments from our youth, like the time our Master Sergeant Arlan Wilson had us sorry-ass REMFs fall in before sending us out to the perimeter and the bunkers for overnight guard duty in Vietnam.

"Now you ol' boys stay awake out thar. Because you never know," the grizzled veteran warned us. "You never know when Jerry'll come over that thar hill."

A moment's confused silence, then in unison, "Charlie, Sarge! Charlie!"

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Bill Schiffmann (Email) - One last word on Veteran's Day. On Saturday, my little town dedicated Veterans Memorial Park.

I'm guessing 15 per cent of the city's population of 5,500 was on hand, and all were standing to sing the National Anthem.

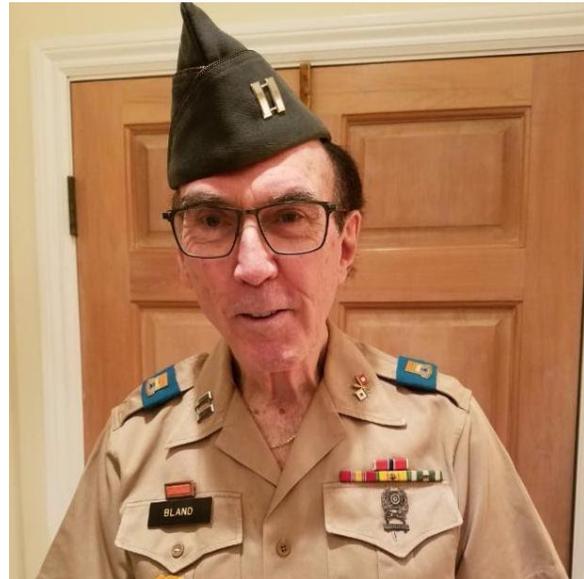
There was a flyover, a Marine color guard and a band from the high school. The park features bricks with each veteran's name and other information. I took a picture of mine.



At the end, I walked up with well over 100 of my fellow vets to receive a scroll and a small pin. Small town America at its best. There was a tear in my eye.

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Brian Bland (Email) - My active duty with the Army was 1964-1968, in the Signal Corps. I've written before about my two years as a producer with a Mobile TV Detachment in the states, traveling by convoy to various bases to videotape such series as "Lessons Learned in Vietnam." Then came a year in Vietnam running the 25th Infantry Division's combat photo detachment in Cu Chi and Dau Tieng.



It's been 50 years since my Vietnam tour; I was discharged in February 1968. So this year, have a look at two photos: one from Dau Tieng and the other from a few days ago. Yes, it's the same shirt I wore when discharged. (Wisecracks are expected, but at least it still fits). And thanks, fellow veterans.

Connecting mailbox

Recalling Max Desfor's Smithsonian visit to see the Enola Gay



Enola Gay returns to its base after dropping the first atomic bomb on Aug. 6, 1945



Michael Putzel (Email) - Seeing Connecting's note celebrating Max Desfor's 104th birthday reminded me that Max made an historic visit when he was a mere 100 to see an airplane he hadn't set eyes on since it appeared in one of his famous AP photos taken 68 years earlier.

Max, who now lives in a retirement community in the Maryland suburbs, was invited in December 2013 by Smithsonian Institution photographers to visit the Enola Gay, the B-29 bomber he photographed landing on Tinian Island in the Pacific after it dropped the first atomic bomb on Japan on August 6, 1945. The airplane was restored and put on display at the Udvar-Hazy Center, a vast annex of the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum on the National Mall in Washington. The center is in Chantilly, Va., near Washington's Dulles International Airport.

A plaque explaining the significance of the Enola Gay bears an image of Max's photo of the plane's final approach to the island airstrip after its devastating mission. Characteristically, Max reached for his Nikon and snapped a picture of the plane in its present resting place.

Jim Wallace, a photographer and retired photo archivist for the Smithsonian, took a shot of Max shooting the plane. Jim, a longtime friend of Max's, offered his pictures to AP Connecting with best birthday wishes to Max Desfor.

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Saddened by the death of Susan Linnee

Harry Dunphy ([Email](#)) - I was sorry to learn of Susan Linnee's passing. We were often in contact when she was in Abidjan and I was in Paris. She knew I had served in the Ivory Coast in the Peace Corps (when JFK was assassinated) and knew the country and its politics well. And opened the first bureau there with a correspondent who got ill and did not work out.

I commend my colleague Mort Rosenblum for taking the time to produce such a wonderful remembrance of Susan.

As has been noted, she had an extensive knowledge of Africa and suggested I should find a way to visit Chad and its quirky capital, N'Jamena.

Terry Wolkerstorfer, Mike Putzel, Holger Jensen and I and others were on the early in the late '60s on what was then called cables with the cantankerous but brilliant editor Harris Jackson. (Ed Dennehy on the General Desk as well.)

Afterwards at 7:30 in the morning we'd go off to a 6th Avenue bar called Hurley's and have lethal Bloody Marys with some of the news staff of NBC's Today Show (they had mimosas).

Terry, Mike and I lived in Brooklyn Heights and I don't think single AP staffers could find affordable accommodations there these days.

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Washington journalist Beverley Lumpkin dies at 68

Beverley Lumpkin, a longtime Washington journalist with a passion for journalism and the law, died on October 20, 2017. She was 68 years old. For more than 23 years, Beverley worked for ABC News as the network's chief reporter at the Justice Department and also covered high profile trials, Supreme Court cases, national security and later the newly created Department of Homeland Security.



She worked as a reporter in the AP Washington bureau in 2006-07.

[Click here](#) for her obituary in The Washington Post.

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Bob Woodward: Shut up when interviewing someone: 'Let the silence suck out the truth'

Richard Chady ([Email](#)) - share this from Axios:

Bob Woodward, who's working on a book about President Trump that's due out some time next year, is offering a rare window into the techniques that have made

him the most famous investigative reporter in the world, with 18 national nonfiction bestsellers.

"This is a time we're being tested," Woodward says in a preview video for his first-ever online class. "Let's not be chickenshit about this. Break the rules - not the law, but the rules. ... This is the final exam for democracy."

Woodward teaches the importance of working multiple sources: "No one ever gives you the full story."

Woodward says one tip for reporters is to just "shut up" when interviewing someone: "Let the silence suck out the truth."

Topics include: building trust with sources and protecting confidential relationships, understanding the importance of documents and contemporaneous notes, collaborating with and using editors, acting aggressively, taking everyone as seriously as they take themselves, going back for the sixth or seventh interview (!), avoiding bias and hyperbolic language, maintaining your independence and status as an outsider, developing stamina, and knowing you have one important audience - your readers.

The class is available for \$90 (pre-order) through MasterClass, a San Francisco company former in 2015.

Good advice in the preview video.

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Retired AP Sydney photographer Russ McPhedran inducted into Australia Media Hall of Fame

Longtime Sydney AP photographer Russ McPhedran, now retired, was inducted this weekend in to the Australia Media Hall of Fame. From the HoF web site:

Russell McPhedran's portfolio contains some of the most important news photographs of the 20th century. He worked in Hong Kong, London and Sydney,



often on overseas assignments. He photographed the good, great and infamous, including The Beatles, Princess Margaret and Ronald Biggs in Brazil. In 1972 during a rest day for competition at the Munich Olympics McPhedran captured one of the most dramatic images of the century, of a hooded Palestinian terrorist on a balcony at the athlete's village. This image came to represent the age of terrorism. He mentored scores of young photographers who are today some the industry's leading figures.

And...

Biography of RUSSELL MCPHEDRAN

By **MICHAEL BOWERS**

Few photographers take a picture powerful enough to enter the permanent consciousness of a nation, let alone become instantly recognisable around the world. Russell McPhedran, or Russ as his mates call him, has a clutch of them.

His most memorable image of a hooded Palestinian terrorist at the athletes' village has come to represent an era, instantly transporting the viewer to that time and place in Munich in 1972 that changed the world and big sporting events like the Olympic Games forever.

If you had to design the perfect career as a newspaper photographer during the second half of the 20th century, Russell McPhedran's is the template.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Brian Horton

1 family has survived 5 generations of Houston storms: Mine

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS**

HOUSTON (AP) - I returned to the city of my birth a few weeks ago, to a place that had drowned after a monster storm brought more than a year's worth of rain and sent its bayous and reservoirs overflowing. Hurricane Harvey had long left Houston, but its legacy lived on - in the ashy floors of Aunt Christine's home and the mold of Cousin Esther's house and the buckets that still sat scattered across the living room at Mom and Dad's to catch leaks.

I drove through neighborhoods with mountains of wrecked furniture and ripped-out walls tossed on front lawns. Boxes brimmed with soiled books and soggy clothes, Christmas decorations gone to ruin and soused childhood Power Rangers toys.

For five generations, my family has survived the worst of Mother Nature in a city that's seen more than its share of bad storms. But when the waters recede, despite the devastation left behind, they've always picked up and found a way to start again - because this has been home for 100 years and no hurricane or flood will drive them out.



Russell Contreras

Read more [here](#).

AP photographer Jae C. Hong shares experience documenting homelessness



Story and Photos by Jae C. Hong

I was drawn to document life on Skid Row after being repulsed by it.

Initially, it wasn't to bring awareness to the plight of the people there or to give voice to the homeless. It was more of a visual curiosity.

Tents were dwarfed by multimillion-dollar buildings. People were shooting heroin and smoking crack in broad daylight. A mentally-ill woman was screaming and cursing as if seeing a ghost.

My first encounter with this square mile of misery nearly a decade ago remains a vivid memory. I passed through in my car and double-checked to make sure my doors were locked and windows rolled up tight. It wasn't fear; it was shock.

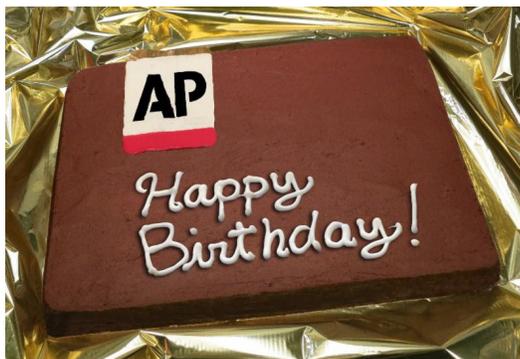
When I returned a couple years later, I was on foot with my camera. I had to experience, the sights, sounds and smells up close.

The project to document the homeless crisis on the West Coast began in late August. Except for a few days covering Northern California wildfires and the World

Series, this is all I did for nearly three months.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Valerie Komor.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Peter Arnett - parnett348@aol.com

Joe Galloway - jlgalloway2@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Pete Souza Looks Back on 1.9 Million Photos of Obama (PetaPixel)



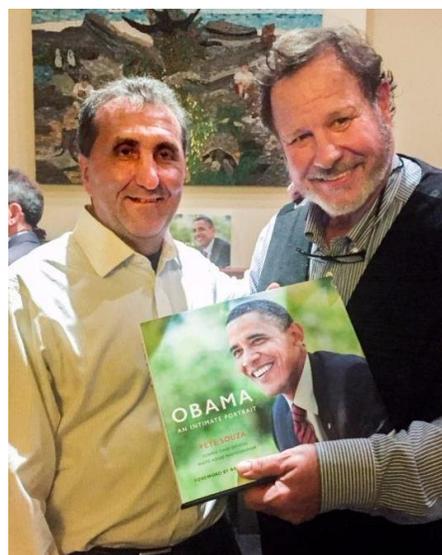
By **MICHAEL ZHANG**

NPR's Fresh Air just aired this fantastic 30-minute interview (here's a transcript) with Pete Souza, the Chief Official White House Photographer for U.S. Presidents Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama. In it, Souza reflects on 8 years of capturing Obama's presidency, creating an archive of over 1.9 million photos during that time.

Souza was a silent observer and a fly on the wall, present at virtually every meeting and moment during Obama's tenure. Here's what NPR writes about his silent documenting:

Souza sought to minimize his presence at the White House by working with what he calls a "small footprint" - not using a noisy camera, not using flash and moving around gingerly. "I'm not sure if 'invisible' is the right word," he says. "But I was certainly trying to be a piece of the woodwork."

Souza has just published a new book this week titled *Obama: An Intimate Portrait*. It's a 352-page hardcover book containing a collection of Souza's favorite photos during his latest stint in the White House.



Souza (left) with friend and Connecting colleague John Filo.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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Liz Smith, Longtime Queen of Tabloid Gossip Columns, Dies at 94 (New York Times)

By **ROBERT D. McFADDEN**

Liz Smith, the longtime queen of New York's tabloid gossip columns, who for more than three decades chronicled little triumphs and trespasses in the soap-opera lives of the rich, the famous and the merely beautiful, died on Sunday at her home in Manhattan. She was 94.

Her friend and literary agent, Joni Evans, confirmed her death.

From hardscrabble nights writing snippets for a Hearst newspaper in the 1950s to golden afternoons at Le Cirque with Sinatra or Hepburn and tête-à-tête dinners with Madonna to gather material for columns that ran six days a week, Ms. Smith captivated millions with her tattletale chitchat and, over time, ascended to fame and wealth that rivaled those of the celebrities she covered.

A self-effacing, good-natured, vivacious Texan who professed to be awed by celebrities, Ms. Smith was the antithesis of the brutal columnist J. J. Hunsecker in Clifford Odets and Ernest Lehman's screenplay for "Sweet Smell of Success," which portrayed sinister power games in a seamy world of press agents and nightclubs.



Read more [here](#).

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A list of heartbreak: Newspaper tallies 33,293 dead migrants

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER

BERLIN (AP) - A German newspaper has published a list of 33,293 people it says died while trying to immigrate to Europe between 1993 and May of this year.

The list, published by daily Der Tagesspiegel Thursday, covered 46 pages and included names, ages and countries of origin, when available, as well as how the victims died and their date of death. Often, though, they never were identified.

One entry said Iraqi migrant Talat Abdulhamid, 36, froze to death on Jan. 6 after walking for 48 hours through the mountains on the Turkish-Bulgarian border.

Another, citing the United Nations refugee agency, was for a 15-year-old boy who drowned on Nov. 15, 2016 when a rubber dinghy he was on with 23 others sank while trying to get from Libya to Europe.

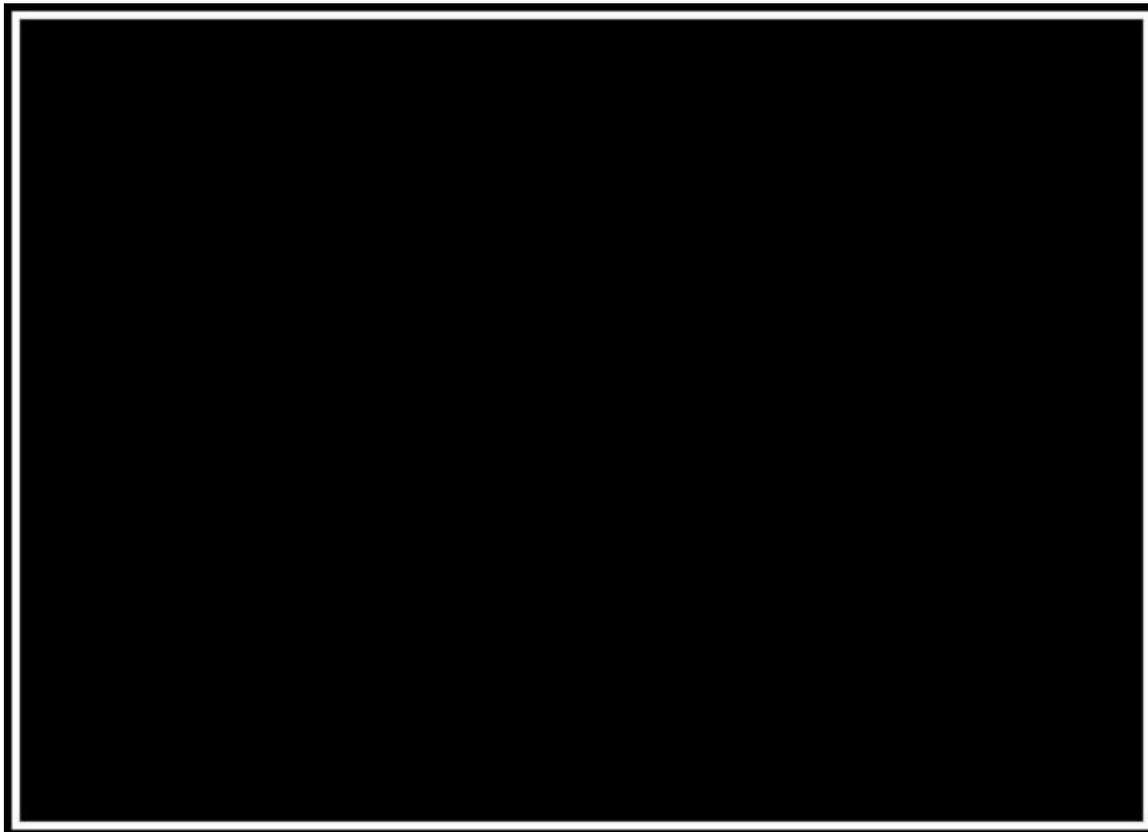
The newspaper said it wanted to document, "the asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants who died since 1993 as a consequence of the restrictive policies of Europe on the continent's outer borders or inside Europe."

Some of the immigrants who succeeded in reaching Europe later died in violent attacks or killed themselves in custody while waiting to be deported back to their home countries.

Read more [here](#).

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NYTimes Photog Tweets Blank Photo to Protest White House Pool Blackout (PetaPixel)



By **MICHAEL ZEHANG**

The photojournalists traveling in the White House Travel Pool aren't happy with how much access (or lack thereof) they're being given at an economic conference being attended by President Trump in Vietnam, and one photographer has taken to Twitter to protest... by publishing a black box as a "photo."

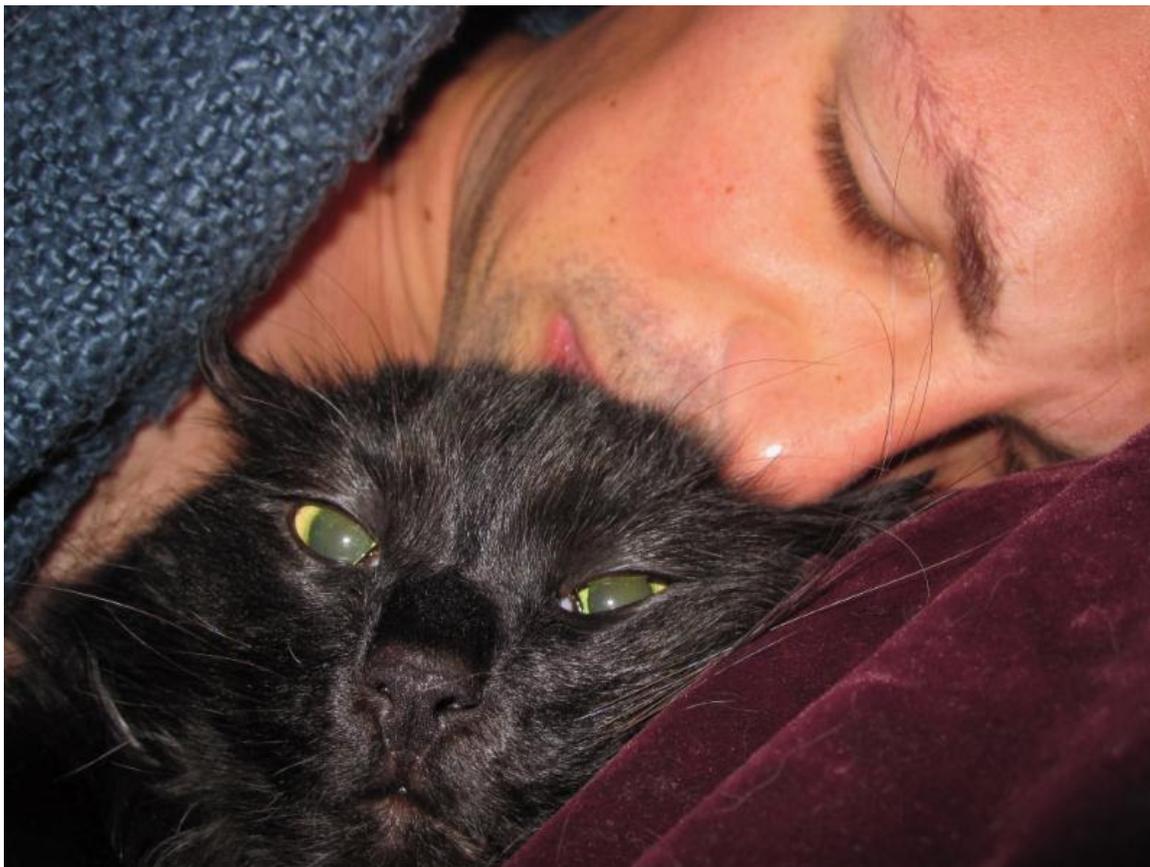
"This what our APEC Summit photo coverage looks today in Da Nang Vietnam," writes New York Times photojournalist Doug Mills in the Tweet. "Blank. No coverage by the White House Travel Pool photographers traveling with [Trump]."

The Washington Post reports that the pool has been traveling with Trump in his motorcade but has largely been kept waiting around away from events attended by Trump.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

The Final Word

Thierry loved LA most of all: A fond farewell to a cat who made us richer



C.J. Jackson ([Email](#)) - About 13 years ago, Johanna Maska found pet finder and a little adorable black cat found us. Thierry was at a shelter where his doom was almost guaranteed, in Leavenworth, Kansas at an animal control center where too many cats needed homes. (Later Leavenworth would become known as the location of a penitentiary Michael Vick would find his cell for the injustices he inflicted on animals.) But at the time all we knew of Leavenworth was that they housed our next cat and we needed to pick him up.

When we met Thierry, he bounded out of his little cell. He rode my shoulder home, his whiskers blowing from the air conditioning. He made me a cat man for life. He was small enough to fit in your pocket then, and on he went: From Lawrence, to Des Moines to Washington, DC to Los Angeles, where he took full advantage of the weather and his endless capacity for adventure and mischief.

Last night we lost T. We will miss him terribly. Johanna and I were both with him, and he star fish pawed us as he went, saying goodbye and ending his life as he lived it. Full of love.

Thierry grew up with Johanna and I. He was one of our first joint projects. Thierry went from pocket-sized kitten to a gloriously plump, beautiful friend. What we realized after taking him home from an animal control center was they don't bother to check for diseases and Thierry had them all. Ringworm, giardia, never vaccinated. He ended up costing the better part of our savings accounts. But he was entirely worth it. When he got better he lived life carefree, like a kitten who had a new lease on life.

So many things made him special. He would greet you at the door. He was uniquely kind and patient with children. (When Hugh was born, Thierry pulled down his car seat to examine him. Then he was deferent and protective, sometimes jumping into Hugh's bed and sleep at his feet.)

T loved visitors. He mostly loved his sister cat Gloria, or created a detente, anyway. He did seem to forgive her for trying to knock him off a staircase when he was a baby.

Thierry could sense when you were lonely and alone. When Johanna spent long months on the campaign trail, Thierry was always ready to greet her when she came back.

Thierry spooned. He had a glorious purr, and a terrific peevisish growl when a dog was around. He had the largest paws. He was ever curious and persnickety - took his water from a margarita glass and his wet food on a plate of china. He'd hide with the best of cats, once scrapping his way to the middle of a Christmas tree to avoid detection. But he never stayed gone long. He wanted love and cuddle time.

When we moved to Los Angeles, the family joke was that everyone loved Los Angeles, but Thierry most of all. (He growled the entire six-hour flight to get here.)

In his autumn years, Thierry relished the weather, lounging in the sun - and once wandered onto a famous actress' balcony. At our new house, Thierry ignored coyotes and other serious threats to munch the tall grass, sniff cedar scents and the sweet air of freedom. We are so grateful that his last home appeared to be his favorite.

There is this trope that a black cat crossing your path is bad luck. Thierry sauntered into ours more than 13 years ago and we are so much richer for it.

Today in History - November 13, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 13, the 317th day of 2017. There are 48 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 13, 1977, the satirical comic strip "Li'l Abner" by Al Capp appeared in newspapers for the last time.

On this date:

In 1789, Benjamin Franklin wrote in a letter to a friend, Jean-Baptiste Leroy: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

In 1849, voters in California ratified the state's original constitution.

In 1909, 259 men and boys were killed when fire erupted inside a coal mine in Cherry, Illinois.

In 1927, the Holland Tunnel opened to the public, providing access between lower Manhattan and New Jersey beneath the Hudson River.

In 1937, the NBC Symphony Orchestra, formed exclusively for radio broadcasting, made its debut.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure lowering the minimum draft age from 21 to 18.

In 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that struck down laws calling for racial segregation on public city and state buses.

In 1969, speaking in Des Moines, Iowa, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew accused network television news departments of bias and distortion, and urged viewers to lodge complaints.

In 1974, Karen Silkwood, a 28-year-old technician and union activist at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron plutonium plant near Crescent, Oklahoma, died in a car crash while on her way to meet a reporter.

In 1985, some 23,000 residents of Armero, Colombia, died when a volcanic mudslide buried the city.

In 1994, Sweden voted in a non-binding referendum to join the European Union, which it did the following year.

In 2015, Islamic State militants carried out a set of coordinated attacks in Paris on the national stadium, restaurants and streets, and a crowded concert hall, killing 130 people in the worst attack on French soil since World War II.

Ten years ago: Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto (BEN'-uh-zeer BOO'-toh) demanded the resignation of U.S.-backed President Gen. Pervez Musharraf (pur-VEHZ' moo-SHAH'-ruhv), dashing Western hopes the two would form an alliance to confront strengthening Islamic extremists. French rail workers went on a nine-day strike over President Nicolas Sarkozy's (sahr-koh-ZEEZ') bid to strip away labor protections. CC Sabathia won the AL Cy Young Award to become the first Cleveland pitcher in 35 years to earn the honor.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama put a hold on the nomination of Afghan war chief Gen. John Allen to become the next commander of U.S. European Command as well as the NATO supreme allied commander in Europe amid questions over documents and emails involving Allen and Tampa socialite Jill Kelley (a Pentagon investigation cleared Allen of professional misconduct). Christie's auctioned off the Archduke Joseph Diamond in Geneva for nearly \$21.5 million, a world auction record price per carat for a colorless diamond. Davey

Johnson of the Washington Nationals and Bob Melvin of the Oakland Athletics were named managers of the year by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump named Republican Party chief Reince Priebus (ryns PREE'-bus) as White House chief of staff and conservative media executive Stephen Bannon as his top presidential strategist. Leon Russell, who performed, sang and produced some of rock 'n' roll's top records, died in Nashville at age 74.

Today's Birthdays: Journalist-author Peter Arnett is 83. Actor Jimmy Hawkins is 76. Country singer-songwriter Ray Wylie Hubbard is 71. Actor Joe Mantegna is 70. Actress Sheila Frazier is 69. Actress Frances Conroy is 64. Musician Andrew Ranken (The Pogues) is 64. Actress Tracy Scoggins is 64. Actor Chris Noth (noth) is 63. Actress-comedian Whoopi Goldberg is 62. Actor Rex Linn is 61. Actress Caroline Goodall is 58. Actor Neil Flynn is 57. Former NFL quarterback and College Football Hall of Famer Vinny Testaverde is 54. Rock musician Walter Kibby (Fishbone) is 53. Comedian and talk show host Jimmy Kimmel is 50. Actor Steve Zahn is 50. Actor Gerard Butler is 48. Writer-activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali is 48. Actor Jordan Bridges is 44. Actress Aisha Hinds is 42. Rock musician Nikolai Fraiture is 39. NBA All-Star Metta World Peace (formerly Ron Artest) is 38. Actress Monique Coleman is 37. Actor Rahul Kohli is 32. Actor Devon Bostick is 26.

Thought for Today: "What is politics but persuading the public to vote for this and support that and endure these for the promise of those?" - Gilbert Highet, Scottish-born American author and educator (1906-1978).

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.

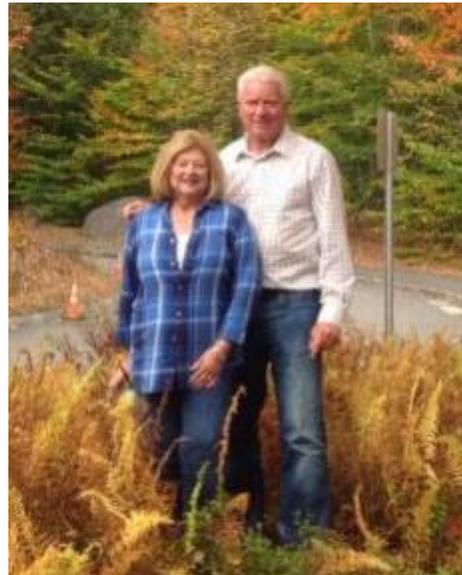
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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