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# Connecting - January 30, 2018

1 message

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Tue, Jan 30, 2018 at 8:55 AM

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# Connecting

January 30, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

The newest AP book is out - timed for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tet Offensive, a turning point of the Vietnam War.

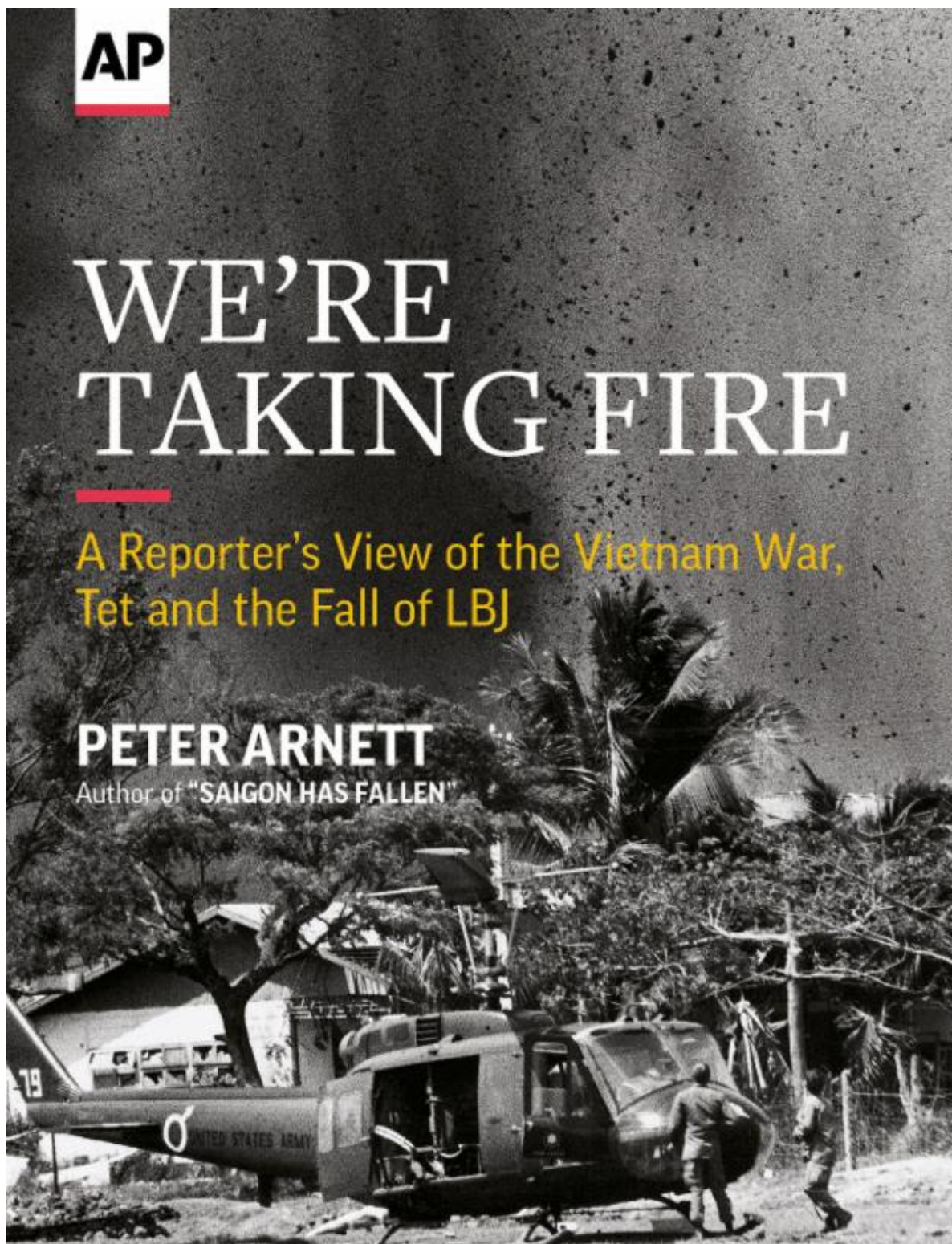
Our colleague **Peter Arnett** ([Email](#)), a Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent, is the author of "We're Taking Fire: A Reporter's View of the Vietnam War, Tet and the Fall of LBJ."

Today's issue brings you information on the book and about AP wire coverage of that event.

Have a great day!

Paul

**Tet Offensive account published by AP  
for 50th anniversary**



The Associated Press has published "We're Taking Fire: A Reporter's View of the Vietnam War, Tet and the Fall of LBJ," by Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent Peter Arnett, ahead of the 50th anniversary of the Tet Offensive.

This powerful account revisits Arnett's coverage of the Vietnam War for AP, examining what led to the surprise attack that began in the early hours of Jan. 31, 1968, and became a turning point of the war, and the turbulent aftermath.

An eyewitness to the battles, maneuvers and cultural challenges that prevented a definitive victory, Arnett explores the complexities that drove the decisions made by the Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon administrations and how each was unable to achieve a winning strategy that would put an end to the unpopular war.

Arnett, who reported on the Vietnam War for AP from 1962 until its end in 1975, offers a unique perspective that only someone who was on the ground can share, as well as sharp analysis shaped by observing U.S.-Vietnam relations in the decades after the war.



**Peter Arnett**

"Peter Arnett's account of the Tet Offensive is riveting from the first chapter," said Peter Costanzo, AP digital publishing specialist. "His insights and observations as to how this pivotal moment impacted both U.S. strategy and Johnson's presidency are invaluable, shedding light on lessons learned and lessons forgotten 50 years later."

Illustrating the compelling story are more than 50 images from AP's photo archive and Arnett's personal collection.

Arnett won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting in 1966 for his Vietnam coverage. He later joined CNN and became well-known to TV audiences during the first Gulf War when he broadcast live from Baghdad during the U.S. raids.

"We're Taking Fire" is available in paperback and as an e-book exclusively on [Amazon](#).

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

## **AP WAS THERE: The Vietnam War's Tet Offensive**

EDITOR'S NOTE - Early on the morning of Jan. 31, 1968, as Vietnamese celebrated the Lunar New Year, or Tet as it is known locally, Communist forces launched a wave of coordinated surprise attacks across South Vietnam. The campaign - one of the

largest of the Vietnam War - led to intense fighting and heavy casualties in cities and towns across the South.

While battles raged for more than a month in some places like the city of Hue, the Tet Offensive was from a strictly military standpoint a defeat for the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces. Yet the campaign had a profound impact on the U.S. war effort, stunning leaders in Washington and leaving the American public questioning their country's involvement in the overseas campaign.

Fifty years after their original publication, The Associated Press is making available four stories from Jan. 31, Feb. 2 and Feb. 21, 1968, written by AP journalists Peter Arnett, Edwin Q. White and John Lengel documenting the offensive. The package includes a Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph by the AP's Eddie Adams.

Read more [here](#).

## In an instant, Vietnam execution photo framed a view of war



By **JENNIFER PELTZ**

NEW YORK (AP) - It was a fraction of a second that jolted Americans' view of the Vietnam War.

In a Saigon street, South Vietnam's police chief raised a gun to the head of a handcuffed Viet Cong prisoner and abruptly pulled the trigger. A few feet away, Associated Press photographer Eddie Adams pressed his shutter.

Taken during the North's surprise Tet Offensive, Adams' Feb. 1, 1968, photo showed the war's brutality in a way Americans hadn't seen before. Protesters saw the image as graphic evidence that the U.S. was fighting on the side of an unjust South Vietnamese government. It won Adams the Pulitzer Prize. And it haunted him.

"Pictures don't tell the whole story," he said later. "It doesn't tell you why."

After 50 years, the Saigon execution remains one of the defining images of the war. Time magazine has declared it one of history's 100 most influential photos.

"It still represents a lot of what photojournalists do, that idea of bearing witness to an important event," says Keith Greenwood, a University of Missouri photojournalism-history professor. "There are ugly things that happen that need to be recorded and shared."

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting mailbox

*Packed away but not forgotten*



**Mark Mittelstadt (Email)** - Clearing out boxes of papers and memorabilia that had accompanied us in three moves and 5,300 miles I came across this button made in 1985 or 1986 to remember Terry Anderson and Tom Sutherland, who at the time were being held hostage by militants in the Middle East. Both men had connections to Iowa State University -- Anderson graduating in 1974 with dual degrees in journalism and mass communication; Sutherland was awarded a master's degree and PhD in animal breeding in 1958. My recollection is the button was created by Iowa State and distributed by Iowa Daily Press Association, possibly at the newspaper association's annual convention.

Anderson, then Middle East bureau chief for The Associated Press, was abducted by militants from the street in Beirut after finishing a tennis game on March 16, 1985. Sutherland, Dean of Agriculture at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon, was kidnapped by Islamic Jihad members near his Beirut home on June 9, 1985.

Sutherland was released on Nov. 18, 1991; Anderson on Dec. 4 of that year. Sutherland's 2353 days in captivity was second longest only to Anderson's of nearly seven years.

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## ***Bob Parry burned with a fire that seemed would never dim***

**Brian Brumley** ([Email](#)) - I remember standing next to Bob Parry in the old AP Washington bureau on K Street, on Nov. 25, 1986, watching a televised press briefing by Attorney General Edwin Meese from the White House. Meese wandered a little as he began unveiling what he described as newly uncovered facts about the secret sale of arms to Iran by the Reagan Administration.

Bob, in a relatively quiet voice, said: "They sent the money to the Contras," preempting the AG and drawing some glances from the bank of AP lead writers glued to the television and hammering out leads.

And then Meese dropped the bomb: "Certain monies, which were received in the transaction between representatives of Israel and representatives of Iran, were taken and made available to the forces in Central America, which are opposing the Sandinista government there."

Head shaking, mustache bristling, eyes on fire, Bob listened to some more of the briefing, then headed back to his phone to work sources that had helped him break story after story about secret U.S. backing for anti-Communist forces in Central America.

His stories on CIA support for the Contras, including an assassination manual, earned Bob the George Polk Award in 1984, and numerous other honors over the years. In 1985, he and fellow AP Washington reporter Brian Barger documented the involvement of Col. Oliver North in the Contra affair, and CIA and Contra ties to cocaine trafficking. He was a Pulitzer finalist that year.

Bob and I started in the AP Washington bureau in the same week in October 1977, Bob with considerable more experience and more fire in his belly than I had. Between 1979 and 1985, I also worked in the AP's Tehran, Moscow and Warsaw bureaus, returning to D.C. after the birth of our twins.



And there was Bob, still burning with a fire that seemed would never dim. So it was a shock when his brother-in-law, an Oregon friend, contacted me late last week to say that Bob was in hospice. There can be no silver lining in a death so young, but I was told that when he was stricken, Bob knew that his beloved Patriots were advancing to another Super Bowl.

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## ***David Shaffer's presence made atmosphere electric, gratifying, fun***

**Charles Hanley** ([Email](#)) - I was very saddened to learn of David's passing, at much too early an age. The intellect, the energy, the good humor and healthy cynicism -- David's larger-than-life presence helped make the atmosphere electric and gratifying and fun for all of us, his colleagues, in the Capitol scene of the 1970s. We were fortunate to have him at our side in the Albany newsgathering trenches in those years.

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## ***Shaffer attacked fiscal crisis like World War III***

**Peter Slocum** ([Email](#)) - It was the mid 1970s and New York State was desperately maneuvering to keep the city and itself from tumbling into bankruptcy because they could not make scheduled debt payments. So state officials were conducting a high stakes, late night negotiation with the public employee unions that held massive amounts of public debt. They needed to agree to buy more bonds so that when the banks opened in the morning there would not be a default.

The AP's city bureau, not normally involved in covering state issues, was not interested in staking out this meeting. David Shaffer, who attacked this whole fiscal crisis story like it was World War III, in his backyard, hit the roof; he was frantic that our report would not include these make-or-break developments.

So he found a flight and flew down to the city on his own dime to cover the meeting.

The end result was that the unions went along, New York did not go belly up. And I have no idea who ultimately paid for the plane ride.

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## ***#worstjobinterviewever - on joining UPI***

**Lee Mitgang (Email)** - It was the fall of 1972, I was fresh out of grad school and sure I was born to be a reporter, having scored some freelance bylines for feature pieces I'd written for Newsday during my school years. The many news organizations I contacted for interviews weren't sold, each offering instead the rote "come-back-when-you've-had-a-couple-of-years'-daily-experience."

Then came a phone call from Dean Miller, then-business editor of UPI:

"Lee, I read your resume and we have an opening for a writer in our financial department. Interested?"

"Yes," I stammered, "but I have to tell you that I know nothing about business news."

"But it says here you have a master's degree from the London School of Economics," Dean said.

"True, but if you read on, my degree was in philosophy."

Long pause on the other end of the line.

"Well," Dean finally said, "I guess that means you can learn."

Thanks again for the leap of faith, Dean.

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## ***Joyce Rosenberg celebrates 40 years with AP***

**Joyce Rosenberg** ([Email](#)) - Today (Monday) is a big round-number day...

40 years ago I went on staff at the AP. I never expected to be here this long, or even half the time, but I kept earning new and great assignments, and my bosses supported me when journalism, as much as I loved it and was dedicated to it, just wasn't enough and I needed to go to law school and eventually enter analytic training.



I have been fortunate to have wonderful jobs like night city editor and stock market editor. And more important, the privilege of being editor and mentor to many other journalists. Some of my greatest moments were sitting side by side with a writer and talking about a story -- what should the lead be, and where should this graf go? I've also had plenty of eye-rolling moments, as are bound to happen over the course of four decades, but also many soulmates who commiserated with me. And yes, plenty of moments I'd rather forget, but that too is inevitable.

If you were with me on this ride, thank you for sharing it, for making it what it has been. Especially Charlie Monzella -- thank you for hiring me and supporting me ever since. And Jim Hood, who nudged me out of the Broadcast Nest and helped launched the rest of my AP career.

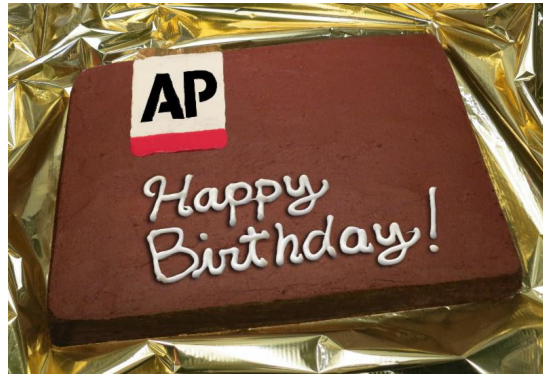
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## ***His daughter going for \$50,000 prize tonight***

**Lindel Hutson** ([Email](#)) - My daughter, Sarah Wade, competes for \$50,000 prize in the Chopped sweepstakes on the Food Network.

Program is tonight at 10 Eastern and 9 Central. She won the first go-around on Jan. 2.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



to

Rich Oppel - [richinaus@gmail.com](mailto:richinaus@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***West Virginia Pulitzer-winning paper warns of layoffs, sale***

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - The owner of the Charleston Gazette-Mail, which won a Pulitzer Prize last year for its coverage of the state's opioid drug crisis, has warned its entire staff of pending layoffs and said it plans to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and find a potential buyer.

The Gazette-Mail reports its owner, Charleston Newspapers, issued the 60-day layoff notice to its 209 employees Monday afternoon.

Charleston Newspapers President Trip Shumate said the company plans to file for Chapter 11 protection Tuesday.

The newspaper said buyers are being sought and the highest current bidder was Wheeling-based Ogden Newspapers, which owns more than 40 daily newspapers nationwide, including several in West Virginia. Any potential buyer would have the decision whether to retain the employees.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Troubled Los Angeles Times Picks New Editor Amid Unrest*** (New York Times)



**Jim Kirk, the former publisher of The Chicago Sun-Times, was expected to be named editor in chief of The Los Angeles Times as soon as Monday. Credit Charles Rex Arbogast/Associated Press**

**By SYDNEY EMBER**

In an attempt to calm rising newsroom tensions at The Los Angeles Times, the paper was expected to name Jim Kirk, a veteran journalist and former editor and publisher of The Chicago Sun-Times, as its next editor in chief on Monday, according to company officials.

Mr. Kirk, who joined Tronc, the parent company of The Times, in August, will replace Lewis D'Vorkin, whose brief stint atop one of the country's most prominent newspapers touched off widespread tension in the newsroom.

Mr. D'Vorkin, 65, who became the newspaper's top editor in November, will become Tronc's chief content officer, a strategic role that will involve establishing new products to distribute the company's journalism, according to a company official briefed on the plans but not authorized to speak publicly about personnel matters.

The leadership changes are the latest twists in a continuing drama at The Times, which already this year has dealt with a successful unionization vote, a leave of absence for its publisher and a swelling sense of mistrust in its newsroom.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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## ***Local owners bought this newspaper back from a cost-cutting national chain. Next step: Bringing back the readers*** (Nieman)

By SHAN WANG

This is a story all of us hope has a happy ending. But even its authors only have so much control.

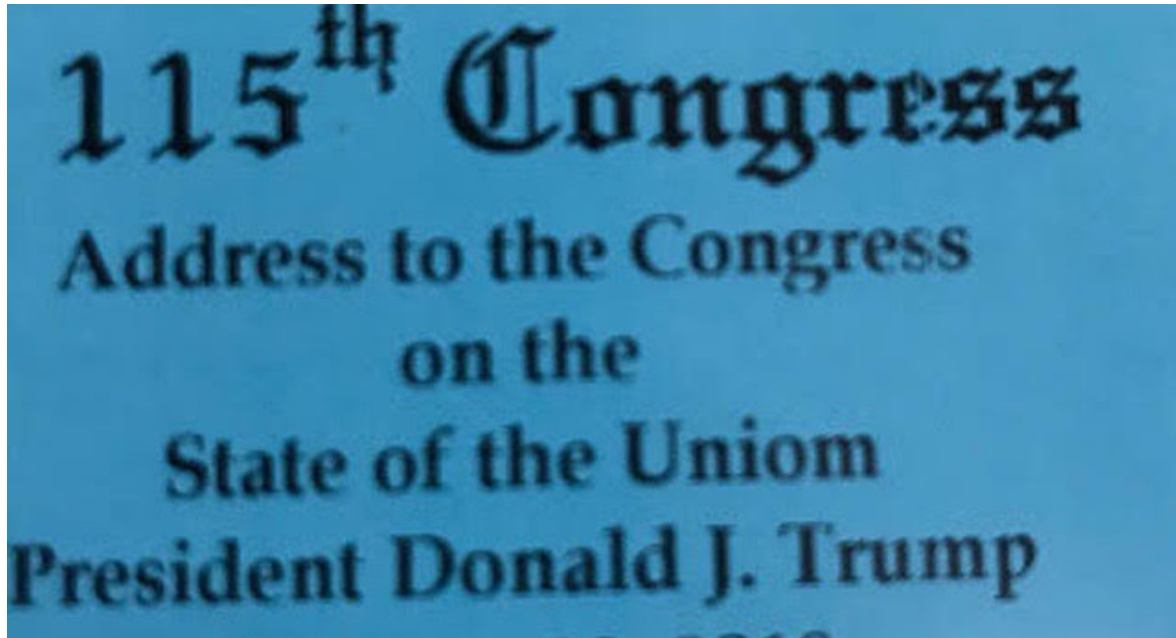
Two summers ago, a group of four investors bought the largest paper serving the westernmost part of Massachusetts, the Berkshire Eagle, as well as a collection of Vermont papers, the Bennington Banner, the Brattleboro Reformer, and the Manchester Journal.

Newly rid of Digital First Media and its cost-cutting ways, and now owned by people with real ties to the county, the Eagle newsroom was reinvigorated. The new owners laid out a guiding strategy - if you build it up, they will come back - and promised to stay in the business of local news for the long haul. Producing better, local-focused news, and more of it, they surmised, would be the straightest path to bringing back subscribers, raising more revenue - more to invest in digital products and, finally, sustainability.

Read more [here](#).

# The Final Word

*To form a more perfect Unio(m)n?*



**Bob Daugherty** ([Email](#)) - Believe they are reprinting in order to form a more perfect Union... At least there must be an opening for a copy editor in the House Sergeant at Arms. Looking on the bright side!

## Today in History - January 30, 2018



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 30, the 30th day of 2018. There are 335 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Jan. 30, 1968, the Tet Offensive began during the Vietnam War as Communist forces launched surprise attacks against South Vietnamese towns and cities; although the Communists were beaten back, the offensive was seen as a major setback for the U.S. and its allies.

### **On this date:**

In 1649, England's King Charles I was executed for high treason.

In 1798, during a meeting of the U.S. House of Representatives in Philadelphia, Matthew Lyon of Vermont spat tobacco juice in the face of Roger Griswold of Connecticut (two weeks later, Griswold physically attacked Lyon on the House floor).

In 1882, the 32nd president of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was born in Hyde Park, New York.

In 1933, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany. The first episode of the "Lone Ranger" radio program was broadcast on station WXYZ in Detroit.

In 1945, during World War II, a Soviet submarine torpedoed the German ship MV Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic Sea with the loss of more than 9,000 lives, most of them war refugees; roughly 1,000 people survived. Adolf Hitler marked the 12th anniversary of his appointment as Germany's chancellor with his last public speech in which he called on Germans to keep resisting until victory.

In 1948, Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi, 78, was shot and killed in New Delhi by Nathuram Godse (neh-too-RAHM' gahd-SAY'), a Hindu extremist. (Godse and a co-conspirator were later executed.) Aviation pioneer Orville Wright, 76, died in Dayton, Ohio.

In 1958, "Sunrise at Campobello," a play by Dore Schary (DOHR'-ee SHER'-ee) about Franklin D. Roosevelt's struggle against polio, opened on Broadway with Ralph Bellamy as FDR.



In 1962, two members of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act were killed when their seven-person pyramid collapsed during a performance at the State Fair Coliseum in Detroit.

In 1969, The Beatles staged an impromptu concert atop Apple headquarters in London; it was the group's last public performance.

In 1972, 13 Roman Catholic civil rights marchers were shot to death by British soldiers in Northern Ireland on what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

In 1981, an estimated 2 million New Yorkers turned out for a ticker-tape parade honoring the American hostages freed from Iran.

In 1993, Los Angeles inaugurated its Metro Red Line, the city's first modern subway.

Ten years ago: John Edwards bowed out of the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. Rudy Giuliani dropped out of the Republican presidential contest and endorsed front-runner and longtime friend John McCain. The Federal Reserve cut a key interest rate for the second time in just over a week, reducing the federal funds rate by a half point to 3 percent.

Five years ago: In a dramatic appeal before the Senate Judiciary Committee, wounded former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords urged Congress to enact tougher curbs on guns, saying, "too many children are dying" without them. Patty Andrews, 94, the last surviving member of the singing Andrews Sisters trio, died in the Los Angeles suburb of Northridge.

One year ago: President Donald Trump fired Acting U.S. Attorney General Sally Yates after she publicly questioned the constitutionality of his controversial refugee and immigration ban and refused to defend it in court. It became legal in Maine to possess and grow marijuana.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Michael Anderson is 98. Producer-director Harold Prince is 90. Actor Gene Hackman is 88. Actress Vanessa Redgrave is 81. Country singer Jeanne Pruett is 81. Chess grandmaster Boris Spassky is 81. Country singer Norma Jean is 80. Former Vice President Dick Cheney is 77. Rock singer Marty Balin is 76. Rhythm-and-blues musician William King (The Commodores) is 69. Singer Phil Collins is 67. Actor Charles S. Dutton is 67. [World Golf](#) Hall of Famer Curtis Strange is 63. Actress Ann Dowd is 62. Actress-comedian Brett Butler is 60. Singer Jody Watley is 59. Actor-filmmaker Dexter Scott King is 57. The King of

Jordan, Abdullah II, is 56. Actor Wayne Wilderson (TV: "Veep") is 52. Actor Norbert Leo Butz is 51. The King of Spain, Felipe VI, is 50. Country singer Tammy Cochran is 46. Actor Christian Bale is 44. Rock musician Carl Broemel (My Morning Jacket) is 44. Actress Olivia Colman is 44. Actress-singer Lena Hall is 38. Pop-country singer-songwriter Josh Kelley is 38. Actor Wilmer Valderrama is 38. Actress Mary Hollis Imboden is 32. Actress Kylie Bunbury is 29. Actor Jake Thomas is 28. Actress Danielle Campbell is 23.

***Thought for Today: "History repeats itself in the large because human nature changes with geological leisureliness." - Will (1885-1981) and Ariel Durant (1898-1981), American historians.***

## 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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