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## Connecting - February 13, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

February 13, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Connecting is saddened to bring you news of the death of **Mary Ellen Slavin**, who served as the administrative assistant in the AP's Boston bureau for 27 years. She died on Feb. 2 at the age of 63.

Her life is remembered in today's issue by the bureau chief who hired her into the AP, **Michael Short**, and one of her close friends and colleagues, **Marie McConnell**, retired administrative assistant in the Hartford bureau. Marie noted that at her request, there was no funeral service but there will be a "Celebration of Life" in Hyannis on April 4.

## Ever involved in Olympics coverage?

Were you ever involved in coverage of an Olympics Winter Games? If so, how about sharing a favorite memory or story from your experience.

**Michael Giarrusso** ([Email](#)) - AP's global sports editor - shared these photos of his Olympic housing at the South Korea Winter Olympics.



"It is essentially one metal rectangle of dozens making up a temporary apartment building," he said. "Inside, it is drab but modern and clean. And the organizers won't be stuck with a building they don't need after the games...It is basically a long room with a sink and a bathroom, one closet and a washing machine I can't figure out because the controls are all in Korean."

Between AP and its partner sntv, Giarrusso said, "we have just over 100 people, between photos, text, video and technology."

Two of them are deputy managing editor **Sarah Nordgren** and Kansas City-based photographer **Charlie Riedel**, who stay warm in the media tent at the Alpensia

Sliding Center before sliding events began on Tuesday. The venue includes bobsled, luge and skeleton.

Temperatures were single digits and the wind gusts were fierce, Nordgren said.

Paul



## Mary Ellen Slavin, retired Boston administrative assistant, dies at 63



**Michael Short** ([Email](#)) - I don't know what it's like now, but in those ancient days toward the end of the 20th century AP bureaus were blessed to have administrative assistants, versatile employees who appeared to be secretaries but performed valuable membership work. I was blessed to work with **Mary Ellen Slavin**, who held that post in Boston for 27 years.

Mary Ellen died on Feb. 2 on Cape Cod, where she was born and lived virtually her entire life. She was 63 when she succumbed to melanoma.

After I hired her in 1979 she routinely commuted some 70 miles from Hyannis to be close to family and the theater where she was active on stage and off for more than 30 years. At the Barnstable Comedy Club her many parts included Joan of Arc, Aunt Eller in "Oklahoma" and the title role in "Sabrina Fair" (played onscreen by Audrey Hepburn). Backstage, she was once credited as the "child wrangler" for "The Sound of Music." She was a theater board member and historian and a volunteer tour leader at the Hyannis Library.

Mary Ellen was a steady presence in the New England AP News Executives Association, which comprised the member newspapers of six states and in those prosperous times presented serious programs drawing well known speakers. Offering them a fall weekend at Hyannis, Newport, Burlington or Kennebunkport didn't hurt. (William F. Buckley planned to arrive for his talk on his sailboat but, disappointingly, drove instead.)

Among her gifts to The AP, Mary Ellen was a fount of accurate information about the Kennedy family. She had grown up above the family's grocery store near the Kennedy compound in Hyannis, becoming something of an expert, and many years later she could identify many Kennedy-related people at sight. The store made deliveries, and sometimes family members would drop in for a sandwich or soda. Because ready cash wasn't always in their vocabulary, Mary Ellen recalled, her mother's patience and partial grasp of family bookkeeping were always eventually rewarded.

Mary Ellen, a graduate of the University of Massachusetts/Amherst, had an astonishing and valuable memory for names, phone numbers and faces, and she looked forward to seeing editors, photographers and reporters she might meet only once or twice a year. Bureau chiefs will appreciate how useful a bright admin assistant could be.

Once I casually accepted a telephoned invitation to speak at a regional gathering of federal agency executives not far from the bureau. I scrawled a typically illegible note on my calendar. As the day approached I realized that I had mislaid my notes (no electronic devices in those days) and couldn't recall the location or in fact which agency it was. "Mary Ellen, a few weeks ago I may or may not have mentioned to you that I agreed to speak somewhere to some people at some federal agency. Does that ring a bell?" "Sure. ATF."

After retiring in 2006 Mary Ellen blossomed as a photographer and published an annual calendar called "Mary Ellen's Cape Cod." There was never a touristy shot.



Instead she pictured bagpipers at a parade, a Stutz Bearcat automobile on the road, Chatham in winter with snow piled high on outdoor chairs, an old grist mill, a tugboat.

Mary Ellen is survived by her companion, Ian McColgin, an avid sailor; two sisters, a brother, and six nieces and nephews.



Reunion of New England AA's in 2002 at The Cliff House in Maine. From left - Michelle Mitchell, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont; Marie McConnell, Connecticut, and Mary Ellen Slavin, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

## ***Remembering Mary Ellen...***

**Marie McConnell** ([Email](#)) - Mary Ellen worked for several COB's in Boston as well as with other New England Administrative Assistants - myself include - to put together regional awards weekends for both newspaper and broadcast members along with other bureau duties for both Massachusetts and Rhode Island. She commuted each day from Hyannis and spent what little spare time she had participating in amateur theatrics in the Cape Cod area.

Upon retirement she also went back to one of her great loves, photography, and spent the past several years putting together thousands of photos of her beloved

Cape Cod.

At her request, there was no funeral service but there will be a "Celebration of Life" in Hyannis on April 4.

# Connecting mailbox

## *Violence in Mexico*

**Dave Tomlin (Email)** - The piece on Mexican journalists fleeing for their lives was a reminder of how mad I'd get when fellow expats would claim Mexico was really as safe as anyplace else but the media purposely hyped the crime and violence there to thrill readers and discourage tourism.

Their shallow cynicism drove me away early from more than one happy hour crowd of flower-shirted geezers. I wrote a blog post a few years back, which I won't inflict on you in its entirety but here are the last few grafs:

*Blaming an image problem on the media has been a popular parlor game forever for people who start with a grudge against them anyway. But players who claim to think journalists are hyping narco peril for fun and profit should be aware of an additional statistic.*

*Between 2006 and 2012, 67 reporters and editors were killed in Mexico and another 14 went missing, according to the country's special prosecutor for crimes against journalists. During those years, Mexico was one of the most dangerous countries in the world for people who report the news.*

*They continued to show up for work anyway, because they believe the cartel cancer on their society is a story that has to be told regardless of the risk to themselves.*

*As they were putting their lives on the line, I doubt they gave much thought to how it might affect the plans of snowbirds and retiring baby boomers.*

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## ***An elk traffic tie-up***



**Marc Wilson** ([Email](#)) - A herd of elk backed up traffic on US 34 Monday as they tried to cross the road. Just west of Loveland Colorado.

## **Connecting members and their books**

### ***Please Stay - based on a real life-threatening situation***

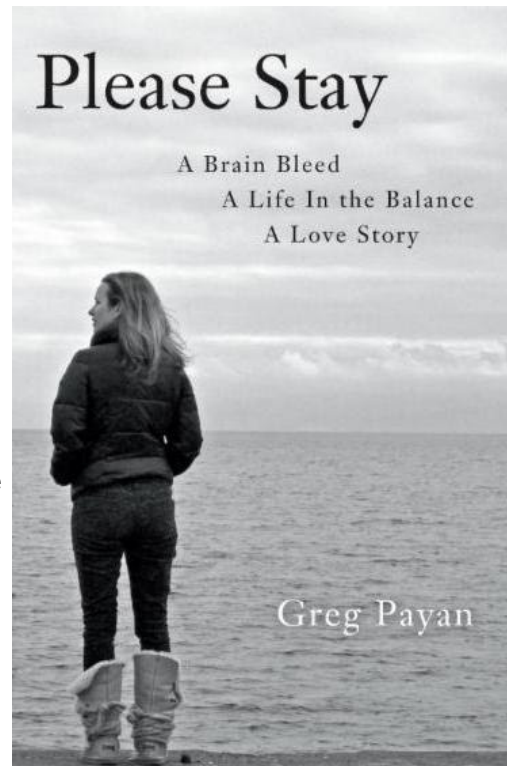
**Greg Payan** ([Email](#)) - Deputy Director of AP Images Content in New York - recently self-published a book, *Please Stay*, on Amazon through CreateSpace.

A grade IV brain hemorrhage endured by my then girlfriend, now wife, lent itself to both an extremely compelling story and an interesting story-telling methodology. A multiple-perspective take on a life-threatening situation, it documents love and luck in a hospital in New York in a real-time narrative as things unfolded.

*Please Stay* is the story of a healthy 39-year old college professor struck down by a sudden, near fatal brain aneurysm. After a short prologue, the book begins as Holly wakes up with a debilitating headache and the panic in those initial moments before a brain bleed is diagnosed at the hospital. Readers learn about her through letters sent by close friends and former students, who sent memories to be read at her bedside while she was on a respirator, fighting for her life, about the impact she had

on their lives. They plead with her not to die through their words and share what she means to them.

The story is told through my actual correspondence which updated friends, colleagues and loved ones through long emails at the end of each of 24 ICU days; text messages sent back and forth to Holly's sister as things unfolded; and photos documenting events as Holly fought to live. The reader experiences the fears and prayers of Holly's loved ones who come to the realization that she may eventually recover but be left compromised, potentially losing her writing and teaching career and altering irrevocably her myriad relationships.



*Please Stay* is a book that one person described as 'more of a love letter at times, than a memoir.' Yes, she is now my wife, but the lead character is unmistakably smart and beautiful: a surfer, writer and world traveler with her own book recently published through Oxford University Press. This book is a unique story of love and survival that speaks to people across boundaries of health and wellness. It's a story of faith and hope and love.

The book is currently available on Amazon. [Click here](#) for the link

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## ***Nokes' new web site to latest book***

**Gregory Nokes (Email)** - Check out my new website - <http://gregnokes.com/> - for my new book, "The Troubled Life of Peter Burnett: Oregon Pioneer and First Governor of California," due out from Oregon State University Press on May 15. If you liked my earlier books, you should like this one as well. Pre-orders are welcome.

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## ***Review: Sulome Anderson's The Hostage's Daughter***



## By JETT WILSON

These pages are a rare glimpse into the price paid by family members of journalists who dedicate their lives to working in conflict zones. Without these people, we'd never learn the truth about what happens in these parts of the world. In spite of what the current crop of tyrants say, journalists are essential to our well-being for they hold the lamp in their pens that shed the light on dark chapters of humanity.

Sulome Anderson is the daughter of journalist and former hostage Terry Anderson. She is a great journalist in her own right. In *The Hostage's Daughter*, she utilizes her skills to learn the truth about why her father was kidnapped in Lebanon, then held as a hostage for nearly a decade. The result is a work that details the maze of double-dealing, triple-crossing, political alliances that constrict the political Lebanese political landscape like a boa which doesn't quit want to choke its prey to death quite yet.

Yet, this journey to discover what occurred to her father, is really a catalyst for Sulome to come to grips with her own demons, of which she has many, for this is her true journey. Kudos to her for being open about her mental health issues, rampant drug addiction, sexual assault, and string of bad relationships. These actually dominate the first part of the book and you get a look at a young lady devastated internally and by outward events.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

## More of your Connecting pets



**Gerald Jackson** ([Email](#)) - Here are three bros enjoying the good retirement life here in Tellico Village out for a boat ride. Left to right is Linus (ours), Stax, and Guinness.

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**Paul Albright** ([Email](#)) - Our cat adopted us in the forests of the Rocky Mountains about 10 years ago. Coco, as she came to be known, apparently had been dumped by her previous caretaker and was hiding beneath a house downslope from our summer log cabin southwest of Denver. We were having our morning coffee on the deck when Coco came up the hill, jumped onto my wife's lap, and joined our family.

Even though she somehow survived in the forest, Coco was 100 percent a housecat from Day One in our household, reflecting, we think, her previous upbringing. She will even sit before an open doorway and not cross the threshold. Coco, a mix called a Sealpoint, is an amazingly calm and comforting pet. The only stress in her life is the 90-minute car ride to and from the cabin. Once at the cabin, she is comfortable inside her second, high-country home.

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**Paul Simon** ([Email](#)) - Here is the best I've got right now. Katie is the Border Collie and is 15. Marius the cat and Mochalatte both are 3. All three are rescue animals.

## Burnished in history: How an AP photo showed the cost of war



By **DYLAN LOVIN**

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) - Dallas Brown can still see the bullets coming for him 50 years later, smacking into the dirt at his feet as north Vietnamese soldiers fired on his platoon during an ambush deep in the jungle.

Minutes later, as the deadly firefight wound down, Brown and his fellow soldiers in the 101st Airborne would be immortalized.

In one of the most searing images of the Vietnam War, Brown grimaces as he lies on the ground with a back injury. Not far away, a platoon sergeant raises his arms to the heavens, seemingly seeking divine help.

Landing on the front page of The New York Times, the black and white image by Associated Press freelancer Art Greenspon gave Americans back home an

unflinching look at the conditions soldiers endured in what would become the war's deadliest year. Captured on April 1, 1968, it was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and appeared prominently in Ken Burns' recent Vietnam War documentary.

But for the young Americans who have decided to talk about it a half-century later, it was merely a moment in another sweltering day in a Southeast Asian jungle with well-hidden enemies all around. Some of them have spent years putting the experience in perspective.

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

## Story of interest

### ***One dangerous year: Journalists under threat in 2017***

**By Christie Chisholm, Denise Southwood, and Alexandra Ellerbeck**

At the beginning of last year, the US Press Freedom Tracker began recording all instances of journalists taken into custody.

Seventy-six percent of the journalists arrested in the US in 2017 were apprehended during just three events: protests in St. Louis, Missouri, following the acquittal of former police officer Jason Stockley; in Washington, DC, during Donald Trump's inauguration; and at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota, in response to the Dakota Access Pipeline.

SOURCE: The US Press Freedom Tracker, a project launched in 2017 that records press freedom violations in the United States. \*Arrest data in the US includes short-term arrests and releases throughout the year.

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

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# The Final Word

***Seth Meyers' Newspaper-Movie Parody, Aptly Titled Newspaper Movie, Goes All the Way to the Top*** (Slate)



By **RACHEL WITHERS**

Do you like watching middle-aged white people typing for two hours? Do you enjoy men in bad ties and short-sleeved colored shirts? Do you thrill to the word sources? And do you just love long overly dramatic pauses while waiting for an editor to make a call?

If you answered yes to any of the above, then this is the nonexistent movie for you. Seth Meyers and his team of intrepid reporters have put together a trailer for what might just be the most comprehensive parody of the classic award-winning-movies-set-in-newsrooms-specifically-at-newspapers genre ever: *Newspaper Movie*. This one, unsurprisingly, goes straight to the top.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Chris Connell.

# Today in History - February 13, 2018



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 13, the 44th day of 2018. There are 321 days left in the year.

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

On Feb. 13, 1633, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei arrived in Rome for trial before the Inquisition, accused of defending Copernican theory that the Earth revolved around the sun instead of the other way around. (Galileo was found vehemently suspect of heresy, and ended up being sentenced to a form of house arrest.)

## **On this date:**

In 1542, the fifth wife of England's King Henry VIII, Catherine Howard, was executed for adultery.

In 1741, Andrew Bradford of Pennsylvania published the first American magazine. "The American Magazine, or A Monthly View of the Political State of the British Colonies" lasted three issues.

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln was officially declared winner of the 1860 presidential election as electors cast their ballots.



In 1914, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, also known as ASCAP, was founded in New York.

In 1933, the Warsaw Convention, governing airlines' liability for international carriage of persons, luggage and goods, went into effect.

In 1935, a jury in Flemington, New Jersey, found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of first-degree murder in the kidnap-slaying of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was later executed.)

In 1943, during World War II, the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve was officially established.

In 1968, actress Mae Marsh, known mostly for her silent film work ("The Birth of a Nation"; "Intolerance"), died in Hermosa Beach, California, at age 73.

In 1974, Nobel Prize-winning Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the Soviet Union.

In 1988, the 15th Winter Olympics opened in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

In 1998, Dr. David Satcher was sworn in as the 16th Surgeon General of the United States during an Oval Office ceremony.

In 2016, Justice Antonin Scalia, the influential conservative and most provocative member of the U.S. Supreme Court, was found dead at a private residence in the Big Bend area of West Texas; he was 79.

Ten years ago: Under oath and sometimes blistering questioning, seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens told Congress: "I have never taken steroids or HGH," while his accuser, former personal trainer Brian McNamee, sat a few feet away. Hollywood writers returned to work a day after voting to end their 100-day strike that had disrupted the TV season and canceled awards shows. Japanese movie director Kon Ichikawa died in Tokyo at age 92.

Five years ago: Beginning a long farewell to his flock, a weary Pope Benedict XVI celebrated his final public Mass as pontiff, presiding over Ash Wednesday services inside St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

One year ago: President Donald Trump's embattled national security adviser, Michael Flynn, resigned following reports he had misled Vice President Mike Pence and other officials about his contacts with Russia. The Senate confirmed David Shulkin to be secretary of Veterans Affairs and Steven Mnuchin to be treasury secretary. Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, died after falling ill at an airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; two women are accused of killing him by smearing a nerve agent onto his face. Actor Harrison Ford mistakenly landed his single-engine plane on a taxiway of John Wayne Airport in Orange County, California, after passing over an American Airlines jet.

Today's Birthdays: U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager (ret.) is 95. Actress Kim Novak is 85. Actor George Segal is 84. Actor Bo Svenson is 77. Actress Carol Lynley is 76. Singer-musician Peter Tork (The Monkees) is 76. Actress Stockard Channing is 74. Talk show host Jerry Springer is 74. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., is 72. Singer Peter Gabriel is 68. Actor David Naughton is 67. Rock musician Peter Hook is 62. Actor Matt Salinger is 58. Singer Henry Rollins is 57. Actor Neal McDonough is 52. Singer Freedom Williams is 52. Actress Kelly Hu is 50. Rock singer Matt Berninger (The National) is 47. Rock musician Todd Harrell (3 Doors Down) is 46. Country musician Scott Thomas (Parmalee) is 45. Singer Robbie Williams is 44. Singer-songwriter Feist is 42. Rhythm-and-blues performer Natalie Stewart is 39. Actress Mena Suvari (MEE'-nuh soo-VAHR'-ee) is 39. Rock musician Dash Hutton (Haim (HY'-ehm)) is 33. Actress Katie Volding is 29. Michael Joseph Jackson Jr. (also known as Prince Michael Jackson I) is 21.

***Thought for Today: "To go against the dominant thinking of your friends, of most of the people you see every day, is perhaps the most difficult act of heroism you can have." - Theodore H. White, American political writer (1915-1986).***

## 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.

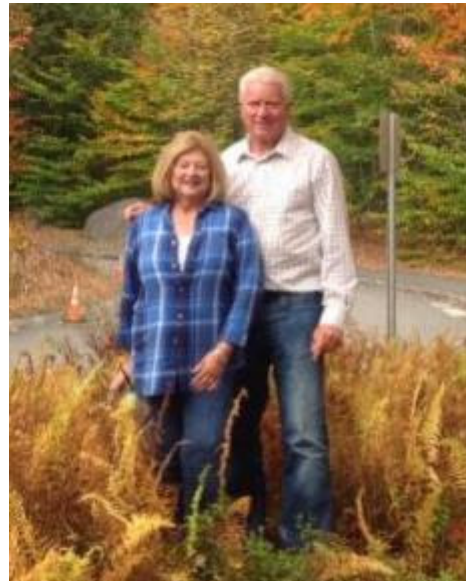
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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