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Connecting - February 21, 2018

1 message

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Wed, Feb 21, 2018 at 8:54 AM

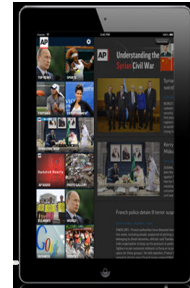
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Connecting

February 21, 2018

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Colleagues,

We share more of your memories of **Max Desfor** in today's edition of Connecting.

And for a good look at the legendary AP photographer and his career, [click here](#) for a tribute to Max composed by AP Images (and shared by Francesca Pitaro). Max died Monday at the age of 104.

On this Friday (February 23), the Overseas Press Club Foundation will be awarding the first scholarship established in **Sally Jacobsen's** name for journalists from developing countries who want to be foreign correspondents. Sally was on the board of the foundation and started a program to get young journalists internships with the AP and other news organizations. This year's winner will be working with the AP in Beirut.

Sally was a widely experienced AP correspondent who became the first woman to serve as the AP's international editor. She died in 2017 at the age of 70.

Lunch is at the Yale Club, [50 Vanderbilt](#), in NYC (next to Grand Central). noon to 2 with a reception beforehand. members \$85 and nonmembers \$150.

Patrick Oster ([Email](#)), Sally's husband, said about \$60,000 has been raised to endow the scholarship in perpetuity. Formally it's the Sally Jacobsen Scholarship if you'd still like to contribute. A check can be sent to the OPCF at [40 West 45th Street, NYC 10036](#).



Paul

Memories of a photo legend, Max Desfor



A great mentor for Tokyo staffers

Shigeyoshi Kimura ([Email](#)) - who retired from AP's Tokyo bureau in 2002 - Max will be remembered for his mentoring Tokyo staffers throughout his career. One time he had a guy in the photo department who couldn't communicate all that well call him nightly at home to brush up his English conversation. His instruction and advice helped another staffer, Sadayuki Mikami, win the 1978 World Press photo competition at the Hague.

Back in the late 60's he encouraged me to promote myself from teletype operator and become a reporter. I had taken a photo of then well-known Hawaiian Sumo wrestler Jesse. Max liked the photo and bought me a cup of coffee as an award. It was my first step to becoming a journalist.

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He convinced the bosses I should go back to shooting

Chick Harrity ([Email](#)) - I had the pleasure of meeting Max Desfor in 1965 when I started working for the AP as a photo editor in New York.

At that time Max was the head of Wide World Photos, AP's commercial photo business and he became a mentor and assisted me in convincing the bosses that I should go back to shooting.

He also went back to what he loved best when he became the AP's Asian Photo Editor in Tokyo while I did one-year stints in Albany and Chicago.

I was transferred to AP's Washington Bureau in 1968 and wound up working with Max on many Presidential trips and other assignments in Asia.

He was forced to retire from the AP when he turned 65 the year before the law was changed to allow you to work until 70.

When he was in Korea covering the war he sometimes roomed with Marvin Stone, then a UPI correspondent and they remained good friends.

Marvin was now the Editor of US News & World Report magazine so Max arranged a visit where he expressed his frustration with retirement and Marvin offered to hire him as a consulting Photo Editor.

Max jumped at the chance and was soon at work at the magazine in 1980.

(I have lost a name here) but the photo editor at the time soon decided to retire and Max was offered the job.

In those days the photo department was under the Art Department and Max agreed to take the job only if they separated the two which after much discussion they did, and he became the magazine's Director of Photography.

In early 1981 he got permission to reshuffle the department a bit and to hire 2 new photographers.

He called Darryl Heikes of UPI and me and asked us if we would like to come to work for him.

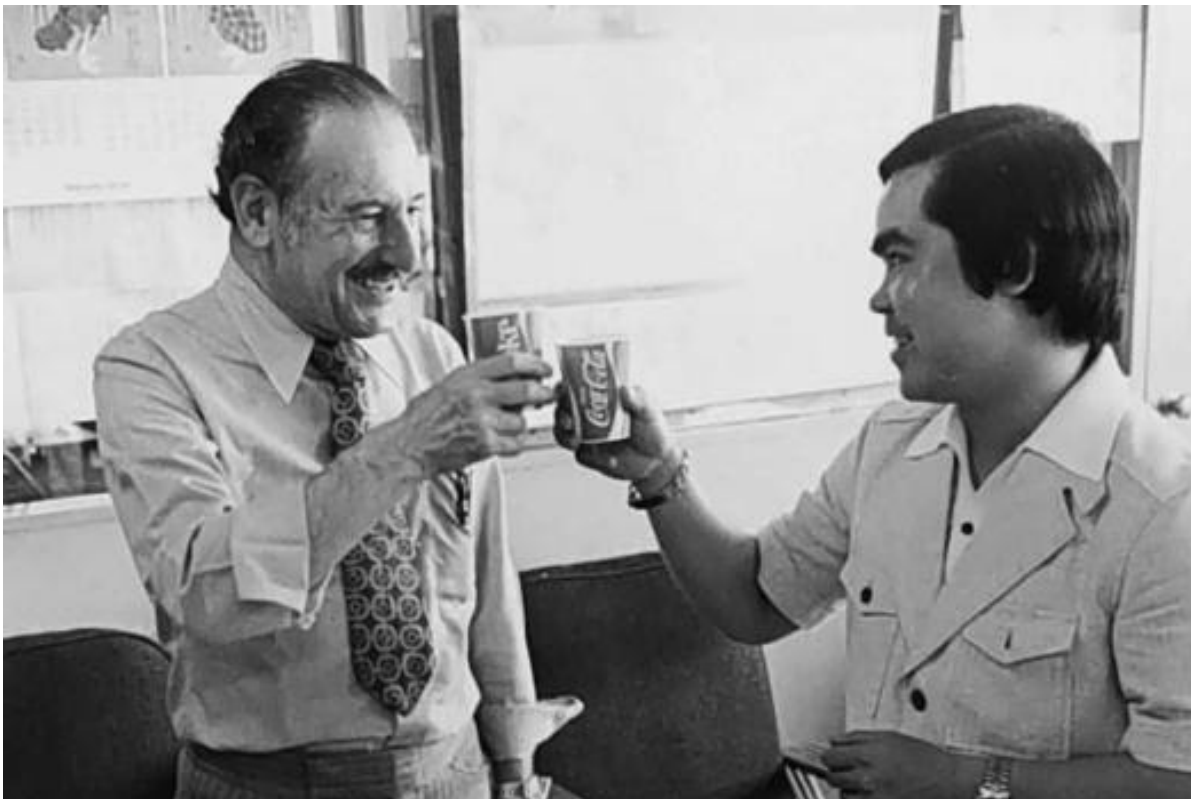
After hearing his plans for the department both Darryl and I agreed and we started a new career as magazine photographers.

Max was able to keep working until he turned 70 then he was forced to retire again even though he didn't want to.

When I decided to take early retirement in 2001, Max called me and told me I was making a mistake and I would be bored out of my mind, that was one of the very few times that he turned out to be wrong.

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A welcoming (Coke) toast for Nick Ut



Nick Ut ([Email](#)) - This is a picture of me with Max at AP's office in Tokyo, in 1977. I knew Max very well and he visited AP Saigon during Vietnam. After the 1975 fall of Saigon, I came to LA, became a Vietnamese refugee and AP transferred me to Tokyo. Max welcomed me to Tokyo with an AP staff party. After Max retired, we stayed in contact and he invited me to stay at his home when I visit. Max was a wonderful boss. I will miss.

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When Max was born, the Gettysburg address was approaching its 50th anniversary

Valerie Komor ([Email](#)) - director of AP Corporate Archives, made these remarks at the 100th birthday celebration for Max Desfor on October 27, 2013:

Max, I want to thank you for inviting me to speak on this very special occasion. I am deeply honored and humbled, both as your good friend and as the Archivist of the organization you worked for from 1933 to 1978, The Associated Press.

If you will permit me to think of you as a living archive, a treasured repository of vast experience, I would like to celebrate your century of life by placing it within its larger context.

When Max was born, on November 8, 1913, the Gettysburg Address was approaching its 50th anniversary. It was still common to find Civil War veterans marching in Decoration Day parades. World War I would break out in the Balkans within months. Max was already 15 when the stock market crash of 1929 occurred.

At the age of 20, Max arrived at The Associated Press as a messenger boy in the photo department. It was September of 1933, and our offices were still at 383 Madison Avenue. In that year, AP enrolled 1,300 newspaper members, employed nearly 2,000 staff members, and leased 250,000 miles of wire. Every 24 hours, it transmitted the staggering total of 200,000 words at 60 words per minute. It took 10 minutes for a story to go from London to New York.

Kent Cooper had been AP General Manager since 1925. He oversaw the development of a news photo feature service in 1927 and hired the first photographers in 1928. And he spearheaded Wirephoto, a revolution in picture transmission which effectively created news photography.

It also altered Max's job. It meant that pictures did not have to be *exclusively* delivered by motorcycle messenger but could be transmitted on the same wire that sent news stories. Pictures could arrive in newspaper offices the same day they were taken. Pictures could be news.

Max's career followed the course of photo technology throughout the 20th century. A dedicated and diligent student of the darkroom, he learned everything he could there about what made a good negative and what made a good photograph. He could

develop in a tank or in a toilet. He also knew how to read airplane schedules, a valuable skill for a photographer overseas.

After four years, he was promoted from Messenger to Photographer and sent to Baltimore. For many years, he carried the 4 x 5 Speed Graphic, that is, when he wasn't shooting football games with Big Bertha, the great beast of a sports camera. And he lived through a mind-spinning series of changes in the ensuing decades, from flash powder pictures, peanut flash pictures, four by five, one-twenty, and thirty-five millimeter.

In his 1997 oral history interview with Hal Buell, former Head of AP Photos, he admitted his only disappointment to date was with the new motor drives for cameras.

"I have perhaps a little bit against that," Max said, "and the only reason I say that is because I, I find that when you have a motor drive on your camera, and you shoot the motor drive, you have a tendency to make movies. Now, fine. You're going to have the picture somewhere in that one, three, or ten rolls of film that you're going to be shooting on a subject. But it's nowhere near as selective. It's nowhere near as accurate as the one picture that you made at the right moment."

Max: a connoisseur of the "right moment," the moment of seeing. Fate gave Max numerous "right moments" and he seized them eagerly.

They came on Okinawa, Saipan and on Tinian. In New Delhi, Calcutta, Tokyo, Jakarta, Saigon and Rome.

And, most memorably, on a broken bridge over the Taedong River in North Korea.

Max's great gift, of seeing what is in front of him, has brightened every facet of his life. He not only sees pictures in his mind's eye before making them. He also sees who is dear to him and keeps them close.

Which explains why there are so many well-wishers here this evening, why there are so many who love and admire Max.

Max, I am honored to be counted among them.

Happy Birthday.

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Max's photo became an Indian postage stamp



Myron Belkind ([Email](#)) - The news of Max Desfor's death recalls many highlights of his career including his time in India after World War II when he took the iconic photo of Mohandas K. Gandhi, India's independence leader, and Jawaharlal Nehru, the nation's first prime minister.

You may want to include in Connecting this article written for Connecting in September 2016 at the suggestion of Hal Buell about "Max Desfor and an Indian postage stamp":

Myron Belkind - The bicycle messenger from the Indian government's press office dropped off the nightly packets of press releases at the AP bureau at 19 Narendra Place in New Delhi-the normal delivery mode during my time in India from 1966 to 1977.

I opened the envelope and had a moment of exhilaration followed by a surge of shock and disbelief.

To my great happiness, one press release in the packet said that the government would be issuing a new stamp commemorating Independence leader Mohandas K. Gandhi and India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, by featuring a photo of them together.

It was a great photo that was attached to the press release. No other image of these two iconic leaders captured their close relationship so poignantly.

It had been taken by the AP's Max Desfor in Bombay in 1946, a year before Indian independence, at the annual convention of the Congress Party that led the independence campaign against British rule.

But there was no credit to the photographer.

I immediately wrote a letter to the government to say that while we were honored Max's photo had been selected to be shown on the stamp, we felt it was important to give credit to the photographer who took the photo.

At first, the reaction was one of surprise, because Max's photo had been widely displayed and used, often without credit. I was reminded of something that the AP's local correspondent, Rangaswamy Satakopan, had told me about how a former New Delhi bureau chief, Preston Grover, dealt with a similar issue about the same photo.



After the photo was published in 1946 and distributed to AP subscribers in India, some newspapers used the photo on the cover of their 1947 calendars.

As told by Satakopan, who himself won the George Polk Award for outstanding photography in 1960 for his photo of Nehru walking with his hands clenched behind him, Grover went to the editor of one leading newspaper to say that no one had sought permission to use the photo for commercial purposes on a calendar.

The editor replied:

"Mr. Grover, that very special photo of the Mahatma and Panditji (as Gandhi and Nehru were known with reverence) belongs to all of India. It is a national treasure."

Still, this time, I felt it was important that the government acknowledge the photographer.

It took some years for the government to do so - originally it thought the photo had come from a rival photo agency - but eventually, it did acknowledge that the AP's Max Desfor was the photographer.

Long after I had left New Delhi, Max made a return journey to India, and the government publicly thanked him for taking that iconic photo.

On a personal note, Max and another AP photo legend, Nick Ut, were honored guests at the inaugural gala when I became the 107th president of the National Press Club in January 2014.

That night, Nick presented his Pulitzer photo of the "napalm girl" to the National Press Club for display on its Pulitzer Wall. It has a special place next to Max's own Pulitzer photo from the Korean War of refugees fleeing the advancing Chinese Communists over girders on a destroyed bridge. It had been presented to the NPC earlier.

Max also presented to the NPC the photo of Gandhi and Nehru, which adorned the president's office that year.

Connecting profile - Blake Sell

Blake Sell ([Email](#)) - has more than 30 years of experience in the photo industry, having held senior positions in a number of major news media organizations and photo agencies, including most recently as the global director of the Associated Press photo business.

As a staff photographer for the Reuters news agency, Blake covered hundreds of major stories in 50 countries including most of the major news, sports and entertainment events over two decades. He served as Reuters' White House photographer during the Clinton administration. His photographs have been



published in every major magazine, newspaper and website in the world thanks largely to the tremendous reach of the wire service business.

He helped pioneer the use of digital photography starting in 1992 when Kodak designed the first digital camera and used Reuters photographers to secretly test the new technology in real world situations.

Blake moved to the business side of the photo industry, heading two photo agencies and then as director of business development at Getty Images. In 2011 he founded Invision, the entertainment startup company partially owned by the AP.

He splits his time between New York and Annapolis, Maryland, working as a consultant for news media organizations and testifying in federal court as an expert witness in copyright and photo practices cases.

Connecting series

On your favorite songs relating to the news media

Robert Egelko - As at least one fellow contributor, and probably more, have pointed out, I misidentified the composer of "Daily News" in today's Connecting. It was Tom Paxton, not Tom Lehrer. My apologies to both Toms, and to Connecting and the rest of the AP world.

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A Day in the Life

Brian Bland ([Email](#)) - I guess it's no surprise that, like fellow broadcast alum Jim Limbach, I thought of "Dirty Laundry." But the first song that came to mind was the Beatles' "A Day in the Life."

I read the news today, oh boy
About a lucky man who made the grade
And though the news was rather sad
Well, I just had to laugh
I saw the photograph
He blew his mind out in a car
He didn't notice that the lights had changed
A crowd of people stood and stared
They'd seen his face before
Nobody was really sure if he was from the House of Lords
Etc.

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A Day in the Life

Carol Riha ([Email](#)) - The Beatles - A Day in the Life. [Click here](#) to listen.

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57 Channels (And Nothin' On)

Jim Spehar ([Email](#)) - How about Bruce Springsteen's "57 Channels (And Nothin' On). Think of it often while watching CNN's merry-go-round of talking heads, Faux News and MSNBC. Especially the final verse...

So I bought a .44 magnum it was solid steel cast
And in the blessed name of Elvis well I just let it blast
'Til my TV lay in pieces there at my feet
And they busted me for disturbin' the almighty peace
Judge said "What you got in your defense son ?"
"Fifty-seven channels and nothin' on"

Connecting colleagues and their pets

His Bianca does pet therapy work



Joe McGowan (Email) - Here is a photo of my purebred AKC registered Havanese dog, Blanca. She will be 14 years old on Feb. 19. Blanca has been doing pet therapy work since she was two months old, just a few days after I got her from a Cuban exile breeder in Bradenton, FL. She started the therapy work at Rocky Mountain Cancer Center where my late wife was receiving chemotherapy. The head nurse there transferred to Lutheran Hospital and one day e-mailed me saying the Pet Therapy dogs at Lutheran could get in the program as soon as they were two years old. So we transferred to Lutheran and she has been calling on patients ever since. Lutheran has about 40 dogs in the therapy program, ranging from a Newfoundland down to a Yorky. The dogs visit patients in all sections of the hospital except the ER and the birthing center. There is a

senior ER where the dogs do visit.

We get varying assignments which include going to the Hospice Center, Infusion Center, West Pines (a lock-down building where alcohol and drug addicts are treated), three patient floors in the hospital and also Wheat Ridge Manor, a couple miles from Lutheran which treats the elderly and also offers hospice care.

The Havanese, which come from Cuba, are closely related to the Maltese and the Bichon Frise. All three have hair not fur and they do not shed. Also, and a big plus for a therapy dog that calls on hospital patients, is that they are hypo-allergenic.

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Like siblings, they cuddle and squabble equally

Carol Riha (Email) - These are our very loved kitties, Napoleon (L) and Josephine (R). We adopted them as buddies from the Animal Rescue League in late 2014. We were told they were about 3 years old and were siblings. Probably true, since they seem to cuddle and squabble in equal measure.



Those who follow me on Facebook see them from time to time, as well as lots of

other cats. A family member told me I was posting too many political stories, so I post a handful of stories - and a cat. The formula seems to satisfy.

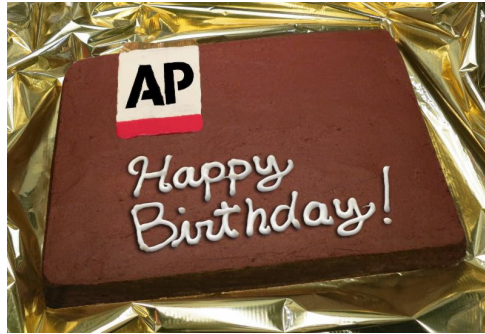
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What's on your refrigerator door?



Jim Bagby (Email) - Couldn't resist contributing this: Our refrigerator door reflects nearly every aspect of our life: children, grandchildren, favorite vacation spots, memorable trips, sports teams, avocations and more.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Susan Clark - sclark@ap.org

Mark Duncan - markduncan@ameritech.net

Stories of interest

Report Detailing Harassment At NPR Cites 'High Level Of Distrust' Of Management (NPR)

By DAVID FOLKENFLIK

An outside legal review found a "perception of a culture at NPR that favors men," in a way that it said many employees believe "can foster harassment and bullying."

An outside legal review of NPR's handling of allegations against its former top news executive, Michael Oreskes, found that questions were raised about his behavior toward women even before he was hired. And concerns about misconduct were reportedly flagged throughout Oreskes' 2 1/2-year tenure at the network right up to the day he was fired.

Repeated warnings from the network's top leadership about Oreskes' inappropriate conduct and expenditures



proved ineffective, the review by the law firm Morgan Lewis noted.

Michael Oreskes

"Attempts to curtail Mr. Oreskes' conduct and attention to women were not successful," the report stated. "While management made multiple attempts to counsel Mr. Oreskes about his conduct, he was not deterred from pursuing conversations and dinner meetings with women inside and outside of NPR that were inappropriate and served a nonbusiness purpose." Oreskes was forced to resign on Nov. 1.

In an interview on Tuesday, NPR Board Chairman Paul Haaga compared the process of reviewing Oreskes to "whack-a-mole."

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

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Local reporting is dying. This training corps wants to bring it back. (Pacific Standard)

By GWENDOLYN WU

A decades-long journalism career at Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report, and Beliefnet left Steven Waldman sure of one thing: The collapse of local newspapers would be detrimental to small communities. Without quality reporting, he says, it would be "impossible" for Americans to hold power accountable.

"Communities just don't function well and families don't get the services they need when there's not good local journalism," Waldman says.

In 1994, Waldman left Newsweek and joined the Corporation for National and Community Service, which runs the job-training organization AmeriCorps. Later, he served as a senior adviser with the Federal Communications Commission, where he published a 2011 report on the disappearance of local accountability reporting. His experiences at the FCC taught him that a lack of boots-on-the-ground reporting was the biggest problem with modern media. When outlets focused more on generating advertising, the breadth and depth of coverage went down. If local reporters were not visible in the community, newspaper readers felt like they couldn't trust the outlets.

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

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Long Island University Announces Winners Of The 69th Annual George Polk Awards In Journalism

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 2018 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- In a ceremony held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, Long Island University (LIU) announced the winners of the 69th annual George Polk Awards in Journalism, continuing the University's longstanding tradition of honoring and celebrating the impact of courageous and authentic journalism on our national and global discourse.

Special recognition goes out this year to the staffs of The New York Times and The Washington Post for their extraordinary effort in uncovering the connection between the Trump presidential campaign and the Kremlin that led to Special Counsel Robert Mueller's ongoing investigation. The Polk judges felt the investigative work, based on the cultivation of sources, was equally outstanding on the part of both newspapers and may play a significant role in safeguarding our democracy from foreign interference. But the important topics of sexual abuse, immigration enforcement, ecological disaster and modern-day slave auctions also gained award-winning coverage in this year's prizes.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - February 21, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2018. There are 313 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 21, 1965, black Muslim leader and civil rights activist Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death inside Harlem's Audubon Ballroom in New York by assassins identified as members of the Nation of Islam. (Three men were convicted of murder and imprisoned; all were eventually paroled.)

On this date:

In 1437, James I, King of Scots, 42, was assassinated in Perth by a group of conspirators led by Walter, Earl of Atholl; his 6-year-old son succeeded him as James II.

In 1513, Pope Julius II, who commissioned Michelangelo to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, died nearly four months after the project was completed.

In 1613, Mikhail Romanov, 16, was unanimously chosen by Russia's national assembly to be czar, beginning a dynasty that would last three centuries.

In 1885, the Washington Monument was dedicated.

In 1916, the World War I Battle of Verdun began in France as German forces attacked; the French were able to prevail after 10 months of fighting.

In 1945, during the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima, the escort carrier USS Bismarck Sea was sunk by kamikazes with the loss of 318 men.

In 1947, inventor Edwin H. Land publicly demonstrated his Polaroid Land camera, which used self-developing film to produce a black & white photograph in 60 seconds.

In 1958, the USS Gudgeon (SS-567) became the first American submarine to complete a round-the-world cruise, eight months after departing from Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon began his historic visit to China as he and his wife, Pat, arrived in Beijing.

In 1975, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were sentenced to 2 1/2 to 8 years in prison for their roles in the Watergate cover-up (each ended up serving a year and a-half).

In 1986, Larry Wu-tai Chin, the first American found guilty of spying for China, killed himself in his Virginia jail cell.

In 1992, Kristi Yamaguchi (yah-mah-GOO'-chee) of the United States won the gold medal in ladies' figure skating at the Albertville Olympics; Midori Ito (mee-doh-ree ee-toh) of Japan won the silver, Nancy Kerrigan of the U.S., the bronze.

Ten years ago: Serb rioters broke into the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade and set fire to an office during protests against Western support for an independent Kosovo. President George W. Bush concluded his six-day African tour in Liberia, where he offered help to lift the country from years of ruinous fighting. A Venezuelan plane crashed in the Andes, killing all 46 on board. Author Robin Moore, who wrote "The French Connection" and "The Green Berets," died in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, at age 82. Former Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham (MEE'-kuhm), who was removed in a 1988 impeachment trial, died in Phoenix at age 83.

Five years ago: Drew Peterson, the Chicago-area police officer who gained notoriety after his much-younger fourth wife, Stacy Peterson, vanished in 2007, was sentenced to 38 years in prison for murdering his third wife, Kathleen Savio.

One year ago: President Donald Trump condemned recent threats against Jewish community centers in the U.S. as "painful reminders" of lingering prejudice and evil; the president also denounced "bigotry, intolerance and hatred in all of its very ugly forms" during his first visit to the new Smithsonian black history museum. Conservative writer Milo Yiannopoulos (MY'-loh yuh-NAH'-poh-lihs) resigned as an editor for Breitbart News, apologizing for comments he'd made in video clips in which he appeared to defend sexual relationships between men and boys as young as 13.

Today's Birthdays: Former Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe (moo-GAH'-bay) is 94. Fashion designer Hubert de Givenchy is 91. Movie director Bob Rafelson is 85. Actor Gary Lockwood is 81. Actor-director Richard Beymer is 79. Actor Peter McEnery is 78. U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., is 78. Film/music company executive David Geffen is 75. Actress Tyne Daly is 72. Actor Anthony Daniels is 72. Tricia Nixon Cox is 72. Former Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, is 71. Rock musician Jerry Harrison (The Heads) is 69. Actress Christine Ebersole is 65. Actor William Petersen is 65. Actor Kelsey Grammer is 63. Country singer Mary Chapin Carpenter is 60. Actor Kim Coates is 60. Actor Jack Coleman is 60. Actor Christopher Atkins is 57. Rock singer Ranking Roger is 57. Actor William Baldwin is 55. Rock musician Michael Ward is 51. Actress Aunjanue Ellis is 49. Blues musician Corey Harris is 49. Country singer Eric Heatherly is 48. Rock musician Eric Wilson is 48. Rock musician Tad Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 45. Singer Rhiannon Giddens (Carolina Chocolate Drops) is 41. Actor Tituss Burgess is 39. Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt is 39. Comedian-actor Jordan Peele is 39. Actor Brendan Sexton III is 38. Singer Charlotte Church is 32. Actress Ashley Greene is 31. Actress Ellen Page is 31. Actor Corbin Bleu is 29. Actress Hayley Orrantia is 24. Actress Sophie Turner is 22.

Thought for Today: "In scandal, as in robbery, the receiver is always as bad as the thief." - Lord Chesterfield, English author and statesman (1694-1773).

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.

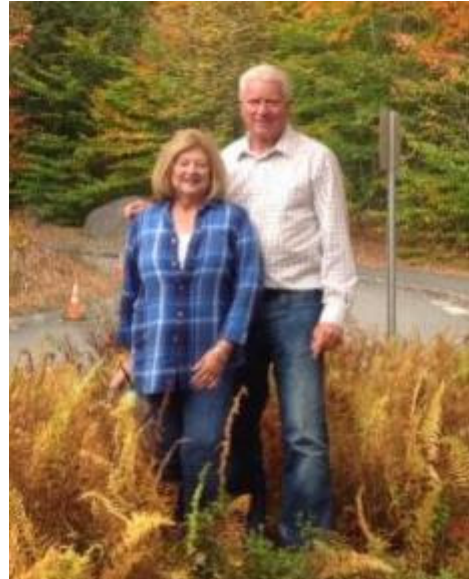
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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