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## Connecting - February 26, 2018

1 message

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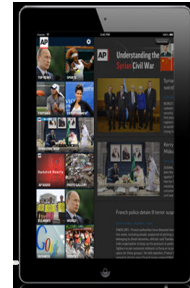
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# Connecting

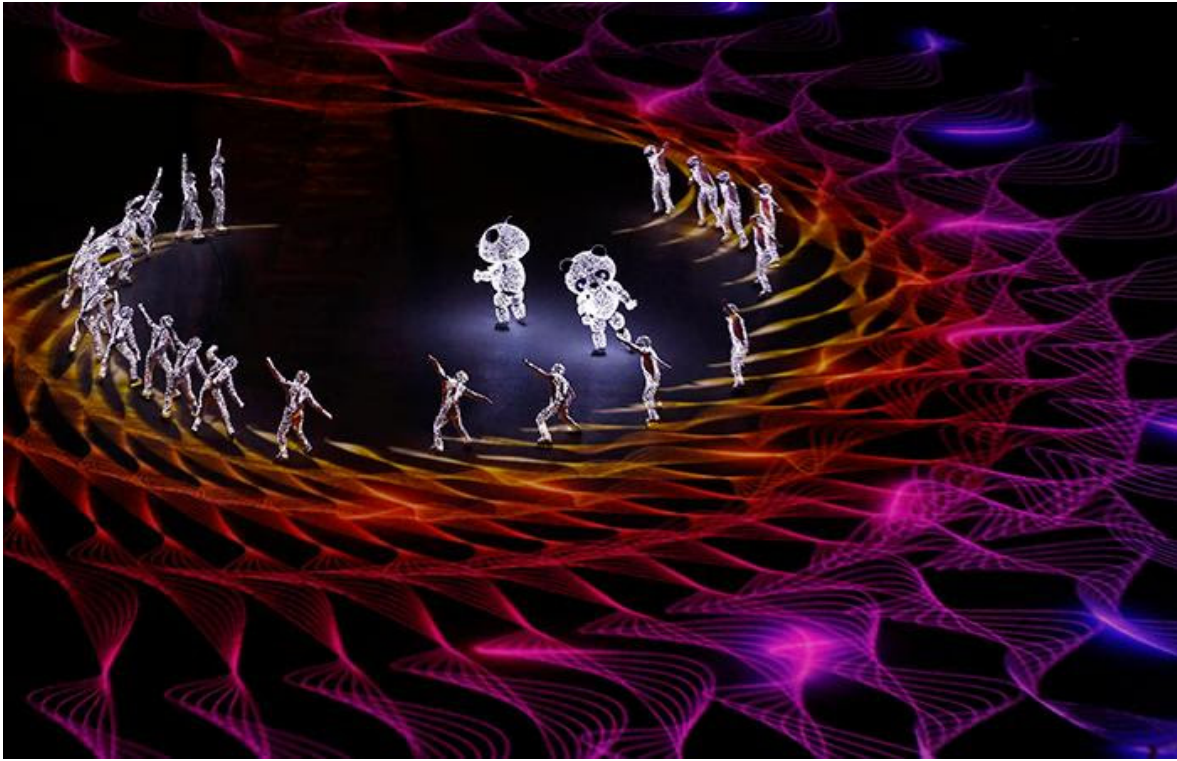
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**Performers dance during the closing ceremony of the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea on Sunday. The segment honored the next host of the Winter Olympics, Beijing. Charlie Riedel/AP Photo**

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

Our Connecting colleague **Jesse Holland** ([Email](#)) was featured in a Washington Post story relating to the hottest movie in the nation - "Black Panther."

Jesse is the AP's race and ethnicity reporter based in Washington who was asked by Marvel Comics to write a novel for the movie.

Today's Connecting also brings you an interesting encounter between our colleague **Myron Belkind** and the **Rev. Billy Graham**, who died last week at the age of 99. The headline for the report, "Where's UPI?" is bound to get your attention.

Here's to a great week ahead! I look forward to hearing from you with your stories.

Paul

## ***AP's Jesse Holland:***

**He loved 'Black Panther' comics as a kid. Then Marvel asked him to write a novel for the movie.**



**By DeNeen L. Brown**

**The Washington Post**

Jesse Holland grew up devouring Marvel comic books about Black Panther King T'Challa, who ruled the mythical African kingdom of Wakanda.

So when Marvel called the 46-year-old Washington journalist and author to write the companion novel to the studio's blockbuster movie "Black Panther," Holland was thrilled.

"It was the culmination of a lifelong dream for me," Holland said. "I've always wanted a chance to help mold some of the great Marvel superheroes, and to do that with the Black Panther, one of the first comic book characters I ever read, was incredible."

Holland, who works by day as a reporter covering race and ethnicity for the Associated Press, wrote the novel, "Who is the Black Panther?," at night in the basement of his house in Bowie, Md., where he lives with his wife, Carol, his 9-year-old son, Jamie, 11-year-old daughter, Rita, and their dog, Woodson Oblivious.

Holland wrote at a superhero's pace. During the six months he worked on the book, he also commuted to Fayetteville, Ark., where he was the distinguished visiting professor of ethics in journalism at the University of Arkansas for one semester.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Feinsilber.

## 'Where's UPI?', asked Billy Graham

**Myron Belkind** ([Email](#)) - "Where's UPI?", the Rev. Billy Graham asked as I introduced myself to him at Calcutta airport.

It was Nov. 19, 1972, and he had just arrived from the United States en route to Nagaland to hold a series of crusades commemorating the centenary of the arrival of the first Baptist missionaries in northeast India.



**Billy and Ruth Graham with Tower Bridge in background. Photo by Myron Belkind**

I replied I did not know, because I was not aware if any other American journalists had obtained the Inner Line Permit, which had been necessary to travel to the remote region on the Indo-Burmese border since the British Colonial era.

I had applied for the permit several months earlier when I saw a one-paragraph story in the Indian press that Graham would be making the trip to Nagaland. I only received a phone call from the Indian Home Ministry to pick up my permit the day before I was scheduled to fly to Calcutta.

The next morning, Graham and his small entourage and I took the daily Indian Airlines plane to the foothills of the Himalayas to begin the journey by land up to Kohima, the capital of Nagaland, at an altitude of 4,700 feet. There was no one from UPI or any other American media on the plane, and I realized it looked as if I would have an exclusive covering Graham for The Associated Press, and that was indeed what happened.

Nevertheless, Graham persisted. At our first breakfast the next day, to be briefed about the lesson he planned to use for his sermon that night, he asked again:

"Where's UPI?"

By then, comfortable with the rapport we had established, I replied:

"Reverend Graham, I do not worry about the devil, and why should you?"

"Because," Graham said, "my regular column is syndicated by UPI."

UPI did not come up again, until we flew back together to New Delhi after the final crusade, which had taken place in earshot of a Naga guerrilla attack on an Indian Army patrol.

As we walked across the tarmac, I spotted the UPI correspondent, my friend Leon Daniel, who asked Graham:

"Could you really hear those shots from the guerrilla attack on the Indian Army?"

Graham replied:

"Yes, we could, and ask Myron, who also was there."

Fast forward to 1984, when I was the London bureau chief and Graham presided over six crusades that summer throughout England. I contacted him to invite him to our residence for tea. He phoned me on a Saturday to say he would be free the next day, on Sunday, May 20, the day after his week-long crusade in Bristol had ended.

I asked if there was anyone special he would like to meet, and he replied that, if possible, it would be nice to invite the new American ambassador, Charles Price II.

I immediately phoned Winfield House, the U.S. ambassador's residence, and spoke with Price, who said he would be delighted to come to meet Graham at our residence, except that he had two members of Ronald Reagan's Cabinet staying with him and his wife Carol: Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole and Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige.

I replied that my wife and I would be honored if they also could attend - and they did, along with other guests we had invited from the American School in London and the American International Church, with Billy Graham as the guest of honor.

We still remember Elizabeth Dole, who is now our neighbor in Washington, introducing herself to our children, Yael, then 12, and our son Joshua, 9, as being "responsible for everything that moves in America," a befitting description for the transportation secretary.

It was a wonderful afternoon, made possible thanks to my wife Rachel, who managed to find enough sets of tea cups and saucers for everyone on a weekend when shops in our neighborhood were closed.

Five years later, Billy Graham came to tea again with us, this time with his wife Ruth, at our new residence overlooking the River Thames and Tower Bridge. It was the last time we saw them. Ruth Graham died in 2007.

This week, Billy Graham will once again come to a city where we live as his body lies in honor in the Capitol Rotunda.

We will be there to pay our respects to him.



**Billy Graham with the Belkind family in London in 1984, with Rachel, Joshua and Yael in the front row and Billy Graham and Myron in the back. Photo by Mark S. Smith.**

## Connecting mailbox

## ***On Michael Oreskes and his time at AP***

**Kevin Noblet** - ([Email](#)) - I was glad to see Marc Humbert pose the question (in Friday's Connecting) about Michael Oreskes' behavior at AP and see Connecting go to HR for a response. It appears Oreskes felt, while at AP, he couldn't get away acting the way he did earlier at the Times and later at NPR. I see that as a positive reflection on AP's culture and especially on the HR department and Jessica Bruce's leadership of it. I suspect Oreskes saw how quickly any inappropriate behavior would be reported, and how it wouldn't be tolerated.

I'm not saying AP's a perfect environment-for one thing, it's way overdue for a female president and general manager. But, while there may still be lots of room for improvement, it appears superior to some other newsrooms in this regard, judging by this case.

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## ***Winner of first Sally Jacobsen scholarship announced***



**Hiba Dlewati, winner of the first OPC Foundation Sally Jacobsen**

**Scholarship, with Patrick Oster, Sally's husband. Photo/Michael Dames**

**Patrick Oster** ([Email](#)) - The winner of the first Overseas Press Club Foundation's Sally Jacobsen Scholarship is Hiba Dlewati, a Syrian American born in Flint, Michigan, and educated in Damascus, where she got a medical degree before having to flee the country because of the civil war. She is fluent in English and Arabic and also speaks Turkish and French. She has worked in the Middle East as a freelancer, covering the plight of Syrian refugees, among other topics.

She will work for the AP in the Beirut bureau after she finishes her master's at Columbia's journalism school in September, when she will finish her training in making documentaries. She is currently working on a documentary about the aftermath of the recent hurricane damage in Puerto Rico.

Sally was on the board of the foundation and started a program to get young journalists internships with the AP and other news organizations. Sally, the first woman to serve as the AP's International Desk editor, died last year. About \$60,000 has been raised to endow the scholarships in perpetuity. Formally it's the Sally Jacobsen Scholarship if someone still wants to contribute. A check can be sent to the OPCF at [40 West 45th Street, NYC 10036](#).

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***AP staff in action at Winter Olympics***





**Kiichiro Sato** ([Email](#)) - In this photo taken with a "netcam," New York technology specialist Jorge Nunez, New Jersey photographer Julio Cortez, Bangkok technology specialist Kittisak Sataporn, Baltimore photographer Pat Semansky, Philadelphia photographer Matt Slocum, New York photographer Frank Franklin II, Des Moines technology manager David Tschantz and Central region photo editor Kii Sato pose in front of the goal at Gangneung Hockey Centre after the semifinal round of the men's hockey games at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Gangneung, South Korea, Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

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## ***The 'American chap' I was sent to interview was Billy Graham***

**Malcolm Barr Sr.** ([Email](#)) - Re: Billy Graham. I was sports editor of the Eastbourne Gazette & Herald Chronicle on the south coast of England in 1954. The call came down from the editor's office to the reporter's room asking if anyone was available to go interview "some American chap" at (I think) the Burlington Hotel. Looking around, I appeared to be the only one with nothing much to do so I walked over to the Burlington to see this American chap (Graham). I have no distinct recollection of the interview, or whether my story even made it into the paper. But I did recall in later years as he became famous, if not in England, in America, that I did, indeed, meet the "American chap, the then to be world-renowned evangelist"

named Billy Graham! Same place and year I interviewed Billie Jean King (I believe that wasn't her name then) prior to her first appearance at Wimbledon.

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## ***Son of Julie March raising money for childhood cancer research***



**Julie March** ([Email](#)) - My son Jimmy made a major decision this weekend - to shave his head to raise money for childhood cancer research! My nephew Andrew Lautzenheiser and sister Kelly Lautzenheiser have done this for years and have raised thousands of dollars. Jimmy will join the St. Baldrick's event in Dallas on March 24. I'm so proud of him! We've lost way too many family and friends to cancer, including my mom, my brother and my dear friend Vanessa Nielson, who battled Ewing Sarcoma throughout our senior year and passed away just after she turned 19. Kelly Lautzenheiser works in this

field and sees the ravages of childhood cancer every day - but also sees the miracles and healing brought about by new treatments and research.

[Click here](#) for a link on how you can contribute. Julie, a Connecting colleague, is AP's director for global training and development, based in Albuquerque.

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## ***Mourning the death of Don LeBrecht***

**Pauline Jelinek** ([Email](#)) - Reid G. Miller and I send our deepest sympathies to fellow Associated Press retiree Thelma LeBrecht on the death Feb. 21 of her husband, Don. Don was a broadcast journalist and executive for 50 years, most recently with the National Association of Broadcasters Productivity Council. In May, he would have celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with Thelma, who worked in AP broadcasting for 23 years. Upon retirement in 2004, they moved from the Washington, DC, area to Lakewood Ranch, Fl.

[Click here](#) for a story on his death.

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## ***KODACHROME is a natural for music related to media***

**John Epperson** ([Email](#)) - The music references to media and things relating to our professions, you have to include Paul Simon's very popular piece, KODACHROME. While not many of us used that film on the job, we used boatloads of Tri-X film as well as Plus-X film made by same company for a lot of years before we got into the color business and went KODACOLOR for a while. And most of us cranked it through a NIKON camera which Simon mentions in the same tune. Would imagine a lot of folks in J-school now or recent grads know little of the film and darkroom end of the news business.

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## ***There so stupid***

**Jim Bagby** ([Email](#)) - Offered as supplement to thought for the day; a kicker, if you will:

**I hate it when people don't know the difference between "you're" and "your."**

**There so stupid.**

# **Welcome to Connecting**



Richard Beene - [rmbeene@yahoo.com](mailto:rmbeene@yahoo.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***Hoax attempts against Miami Herald augur brewing war over fake, real news*** (McClatchy)

BY TIM JOHNSON

WASHINGTON - Two incidents hit The Miami Herald in recent days that underscore new tactics by those seeking to discredit mainstream media, and they augur what experts said are dark days in the battle between credible news and misinformation.

Both incidents came in the wake of the shooting in Parkland, Florida, on Feb. 14 when a teenage gunman killed 17 students and adults at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

In the first incident, a perpetrator used a software tool to create two fake tweets that looked like they came from the account of Alex Harris, a Herald reporter preparing tributes to the slain students. One fake tweet asked for photos of dead bodies at the school and another asked if the shooter was white.

The reporter almost immediately began getting angry messages.

"It was hampering our ability to cover this terrible tragedy in our own backyard because we're having to deal with the backlash," said Aminda Marques, executive editor of The Herald.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***To Cover Louisiana's Crises, The Times and Times-Picayune Team Up*** (New York Times)

**By John Schwartz**

Just before the 2016 presidential election, Dean Baquet, the executive editor of The New York Times, gave an interview that touched on the fragile, financially stressed condition of local journalism. In the interview, Ken Doctor, an expert on the business of news, asked whether The Times "could improve the local press in the country."

"I would be game," he responded. "It's a crisis."

He soon received a call from an executive at Advance Local, which owns the newspaper he once worked for in his hometown of New Orleans, now known as NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune. The caller wanted to know, would he consider working with The Times-Picayune?

"That was an easy call," Dean said, "given that the former editor is one of my closest friends, and that my brother works there."

The conversation gave rise to an unusual project that occupied much of 2017 for me, for Kevin Sack, my Times colleague, and for some folks in New Orleans, who quickly became good friends.

It all led to a first-of-a-kind partnership between the newsrooms of The Times and NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune, to take on the most critical environmental issues facing the country: coastal erosion and sea-level rise, as experienced at its epicenter in South Louisiana. (The Times has teamed up with other news organizations in the past, including Pro Publica and The Guardian, but not local ones.)

Read more [here](#).

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## ***AT LARGE: The hardest column I've had to write in 42 years*** (Tuscaloosa News)

**By Tommy Stevenson**

Somehow I've known for a long time that I would have to write this column, the most difficult one I've penned in nearly 42 years on this page.

A week ago this morning, I lost my best and nearly oldest friend when Ben Windham, longtime editor and columnist for The Tuscaloosa News, died peacefully at home.

We first met as freshman at Birmingham-Southern College in 1966 (that's nearly 52 years ago for those counting), became roommates later that school year and remained so for several years.

We both worked for the student newspaper, The Hilltop News, but even then Ben proved to be way ahead of most of us, diving into multi-part exposes while the rest of us seemed to be in it for the glory of self-expression.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ed Williams.

## **Today in History - February 26, 2018**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 26, the 57th day of 2018. There are 308 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 26, 1993, a truck bomb built by Islamic extremists exploded in the parking garage of the North Tower of New York's World Trade Center, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others. (The bomb failed to topple the North Tower into the South Tower, as the terrorists had hoped; both structures were destroyed in the 9/11 attack eight years later.)

### On this date:

In 1616, astronomer Galileo Galilei met with a Roman Inquisition official, Cardinal Robert Bellarmine, who ordered him to abandon the "heretical" concept of heliocentrism, which held that the earth revolved around the sun, instead of the other way around.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from exile on the Island of Elba and headed back to France in a bid to regain power.

In 1904, the United States and Panama proclaimed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to undertake efforts to build a ship canal across the Panama isthmus.

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson signed a congressional act establishing Mount McKinley National Park (now Denali National Park) in the Alaska Territory.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson signed a congressional act establishing Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

In 1929, President Calvin Coolidge signed a measure establishing Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

In 1945, authorities ordered a midnight curfew at nightclubs, bars and other places of entertainment across the nation.

In 1952, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed its own atomic bomb.

In 1962, after becoming the first American to orbit the Earth, astronaut John Glenn told a joint meeting of Congress, "Exploration and the pursuit of knowledge have always paid dividends in the long run."

In 1970, National Public Radio was incorporated.

In 1987, the Tower Commission, which probed the Iran-Contra affair, issued a report rebuking President Ronald Reagan for failing to control his national security staff.

In 1998, a jury in Amarillo, Texas, rejected an \$11 million lawsuit brought by Texas cattlemen who blamed Oprah Winfrey's talk show for a price fall after a segment on food safety that included a discussion about mad cow disease.

Ten years ago: A power failure later blamed primarily on human error resulted in sporadic outages across large parts of Florida. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, visiting Beijing, won a verbal assurance from Chinese officials to use their influence to jump-start the stalled process of dismantling North Korea's nuclear programs. The New York Philharmonic, led by Lorin Maazel, performed a historic concert in North Korea before the communist nation's elite. Former Israeli military chief Dan Shomron, who commanded the 1976 hostage rescue at Entebbe, died in Tel Aviv at age 70.

Five years ago: A deeply divided Senate voted, 58-41, to confirm Republican Chuck Hagel to be U.S. defense secretary. A hot air balloon burst into flames during a sunrise flight over the ancient Egyptian city of Luxor and then plummeted 1,000 feet to earth, killing 19 tourists (one tourist and the balloon's pilot survived).



One year ago: At the 89th Academy Awards, "Moonlight," an LGBT coming of age drama, won three Oscars, including best picture of 2016 (in a startling gaffe, the musical "La La Land" was mistakenly announced as the best picture winner before the error was corrected). Joseph Wapner, the retired Los Angeles judge who presided over "The People's Court" from 1981 to 1993, died at age 97. Kurt Busch won the Daytona 500, surviving a crash-filled season opener to win the race for the first time in 16 tries.

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Tom Kennedy is 91. Country-rock musician Paul Cotton (Poco) is 75. Actor-director Bill Duke is 75. Singer Mitch Ryder is 73. Actress Marta Kristen (TV: "Lost in Space") is 73. Rock musician Jonathan Cain (Journey) is 68. Singer Michael Bolton is 65. The president of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan (REH'-jehp TY'-ihp UR'-doh-wahn), is 64. Actor Greg Germann is 60. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., is 60. Bandleader John McDaniel is 57. Actor-martial artist Mark Dacascos is 54. Actress Jennifer Grant is 52. Rock musician Tim Commerford (Audioslave) is 50. Singer Erykah Badu (EHR'-ih-kah bah-DOO') is 47. Actor Maz Jobrani (TV: "Superior Donuts") is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Rico Wade (Society of Soul) is 46. Olympic gold medal swimmer Jenny Thompson is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kyle Norman (Jagged Edge) is 43. Actor Greg Rikaart is 41. Rock musician Chris Culos (O.A.R.) is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Corinne Bailey Rae is 39. Country singer Rodney Hayden is 38. Pop singer Nate Ruess (roos) (fun.) is 36. Tennis player Li Na is 36. Latin singer Natalia Lafourcade is 34. Actress Teresa Palmer is 32. Actor Alex Heartman is 28. Actress Taylor Dooley is 25.

***Thought for Today: "One resists the invasion of armies; one does not resist the invasion of ideas." - Victor Hugo, French author (born this date in 1802, died 1885).***

## 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.

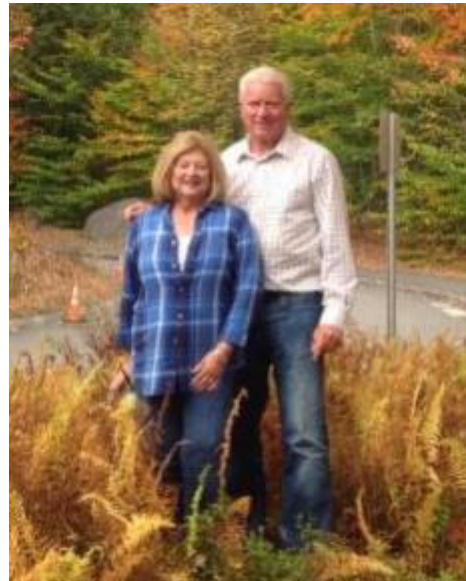
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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