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Connecting - March 06, 2018

1 message

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An AP photo of the day



Seventeen people dressed as angels stand Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018, at the memorial outside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., for those killed in a shooting on Feb. 14. Organizer Terry Decarlo said the idea originated after the death of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, who was tortured and murdered in 1998. Decarlo said the costumes now travel to disasters and mass shootings around the country. "We want to the survivors to know angels are looking over them and protecting them," Decarlo said. (AP Photo/Terry Spencer)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

The Connecting mailbox included some interesting observations from our members today.

We lead with another memory from a colleague, **Brian Bland**, on covering mass shootings.

Note the **AP Photo of the Day** at the top of the page. If you spot an AP photo that ought to be featured, please send it along to Connecting.

Have a good day!

Paul

All the mass shootings I covered involved degree of mental illness



Casper Star-Tribune photo

Brian Bland ([Email](#)) - I covered at least six mass shootings in my 28 years with AP and AP Radio; five of them were in schools. I missed Columbine - I was on vacation. But I did cover another potential school massacre in May 1986, when more than 150 kids and teachers were held for ransom in a Wyoming elementary school by a gunman and his wife-accomplice for nearly three hours. The woman accidentally set herself aflame with the couple's homemade firebomb while her husband was out of the classroom where everyone was being held. The gunman returned, shot his burning wife to death, then killed himself. About 80 kids and adults suffered burns. None died, but they all had to live with what they had seen.

The first mass murder I covered is still one of the worst in U.S. history both in terms of casualties and sheer sustained cruelty. In 1984, in the San Diego suburb of San Ysidro, a man entered a McDonald's armed with three guns, including an Uzi semi-automatic carbine. He killed 21 -- including children as young as a few months -- and wounded 19. The murdering went on for more than an hour due in part to the hesitation of first responders; they had difficulty seeing into the restaurant because of sunlight and shattered glass, as the killer moved among the fallen, executing the moaning wounded.

Five years later, I was at a Stockton, California, elementary school not long after a gunman took just three minutes to shoot 37 people, five fatally. The dead were all children. The weapon was a variant of the AK-47 rifle.

All the mass shootings I covered included an element of mental illness, which is why the NRA leaders and their supporters in Congress harp on that element to the exclusion of banning combat-style rapid-fire weapons. It's a simplistic argument: any assailant who massacres people is obviously insane. Therefore, our (only) task is to identify them before they act and mass shootings will decline.

Most people can see through this. The range of mental illness is great; while some people are obviously dangerous, others fall into a great gray area of being "troubled" and most of those never shoot anyone.

We should accept the fact some weapons were made for the primary purpose of efficiently killing people, and that no citizen should have such a weapon. For home defense, a 9mm pistol or a shotgun should do nicely.

Gun owners are not evil. However, Wayne LaPierre and Dana Loesch, in their words and actions, seem to lack a scintilla of human kindness. They are beneath contempt.

Remembering Roger Bannister



Arnold Zeitlin (Email) - Long before I joined AP, I was sports editor of The Daily Pennsylvanian in 1952 when I got a call from the university's sports PR guy, Mort Berry. He said an English runner was visiting the campus. Would I like to show him around and, maybe, take him to a ball game? I was tied up, too busy to see the visitor and turned down the invitation. Of course, our visitor two years later broke the 4-minute mile, leaving me with a memory of having missed a chance to pal around with Roger Bannister.

And...

Dick Lipsey (Email) - The obituary on Roger Bannister in Monday's Connecting reminds me of the interview I had with Wes Santee in 1997 when I was on legislative relief in Topeka. Santee and John Landy of Australia were competing with Bannister, casually on Santee's part, to be the first to run under four minutes in the mile in 1953-54.

Santee was living near Eureka (Kansas) at the time, and I met him at a motel coffee shop near Emporia where we talked for over two hours. I still have the cassette tape and my notebook from the interview, somewhere in a storage locker since we downsized last year, along with a Life magazine article from the '50s about him and other notes.

When he died, I **wrote a brief** on him for the Lawrence running club. This also has a link to two of the stories I wrote for AP.

Since then, I've found a site that has the best brief summary of his life and career that I know of: [click here](#).

Interestingly, under the conventions of the time, Bannister's race should not have been accepted as a record. He had two pacemakers for the first three laps who set the pace he needed and broke the wind for him.

I don't know whether it was a rule, but as another article on the "racingpast" site notes, "... the attitude at the time was that world records should be achieved through pure racing."

AP's EAP came to LA to talk to staff after Northridge earthquake



In this Jan. 17, 1994, file photo, the covered body of Los Angeles Police Officer Clarence Wayne Dean lies near his motorcycle which plunged off the State Highway 14 overpass that collapsed onto Interstate 5, after a magnitude-6.7 Northridge earthquake in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Doug Pizac, File)

Andy Lippman (Email) - Re Jeff Barnard's comment (in Monday's Connecting) about the AP offering counseling to prevent PTSD, I know that I had someone from the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) come out and talk to my LA staff after the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

People had homes bumped off foundations, or left their families sitting on the lawns to come in to work. It was very traumatic for staffers and families alike.

A lot of the comments at the session were like: "This didn't happen to me, but a friend of mine had this happen....." There were too many "this didn't happen to me's" for the counselor not to see that this was happening to the questioner.

Jeff, I am pretty sure you played a part in that coverage (you sure were a big help in all the stories the LA bureau covered in the 1990s). I think you were gone by the time I held the meeting.

One reason I had someone come to the bureau in 1994 was because of what happened to then AP staffer Norm Clarke when he was covering the 1977 Beverly Hills Supper Club fire in northern Kentucky where 165 people died and 200 were injured.

Norm saw some horrific things as he worked through the night. A few hours after he finally went home, he called me and said: "I just woke up sweating and almost in tears. I dreamed I was in an airplane and my seatbelt was stuck. Everyone around me was charred and burned and I was screaming to get out." Now that is PTSD.

I didn't suggest EAP then, but I did learn a lesson for the future.

Noreaster gave him a chance to ferry president of Gillette home

Joe McGowan (Email) - The Noreaster storm that has been battering New England reminded me of a Noreaster which hit while I was COB in Boston between 1975 and 1978. I was making my membership rounds in Rhode Island and called on the publisher of the Newport Daily News, a lifetime New Englander. I believe his last name was Palmer. After talking over business, he suggested we go out to lunch. He said we could each drive our car and after lunch I could head to my next stop. After a delightful lunch, we went outside and a few snowflakes were falling. The publisher looked round, sniffed a couple times and then declared "Joe, we have a Noreaster

coming in." He asked where I was going next and I said back to the bureau in Boston. He said I better get moving "very fast."

As I drove north, the snow got heavier but I made it to the bureau. Meanwhile, the car radio had told me of all the dire things that would happen because of the Noreaster which was bearing in on us. At the bureau, I told the staff on duty to book hotel rooms a block away because they likely would not get home at the end of their shifts.

About then the PR man for Gillette Co. called me and asked if I was driving home. He knew I lived in a northwest suburb called Sudbury. I told him I was leaving very quickly. He asked if I could stop by the Gillette headquarters and take the president home, which was on my way. I said I would. So I ferried the president of Gillette to his house and continued toward home. The snow got worse and worse and the road conditions were terrible. By the time I reached home, snow was a couple feet deep. I drove into my driveway and the car stalled. I couldn't make it go any farther. Days after the storm, the mail brought me a thank-you note and a sample packet of razors and other Gillette items from the company president.

Big Brother watching



Michael Rubin (Email) - If the AP photo of Putin on a video screen (in last Friday's Connecting) doesn't remind you of Big Brother, nothing will. Photo by

Alexander Zemlianichenko.

Mike Cochran once wrote of the 'debonair' George H.W. Bush in his first political win

TWO IN CONGRESS

State GOP Is Rejoicing

By MIKE COCHRAN
Associated Press Writer

An Ivy League oilman and a Panhandle rancher guided Texas Republicans from the congressional wilderness, providing state GOP leaders a rare opportunity to rejoice Wednesday.

Texas voters rejected four other Republican candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and several minor party hopefuls while seating eight Democrats.

Thirteen Democratic congressmen were unopposed for re-election in Tuesday's balloting.

Twin victories by debonair George Bush and youthful Bob Price served as a pleasant backdrop for the GOP to the re-election of John Tower to the U. S. Senate. Bush beat former Dist. Atty. Frank Briscoe of Houston and Price defeated Dist. Atty. Dee Miller of Amarillo, both Democrats.

Meanwhile, Reps. Graham Purcell of Wichita Falls and Joe Pool of Dallas won handily in races which pre-election fore-

Tuesday's election restored the congressional breakdown among the Texas delegation to the 1964 ratio: 21 Democrats and two Republicans. Democrats controlled all 23 seats the past two years.

State GOP leaders predicted victories by Bush and Price but miscalculated Democratic strength in the Purcell-Norwood and Pool-Collins contests, which they viewed as potential Republican triumphs.

Many Republicans speculated privately that a Bush victory would provide merely a stepping stone for the eloquent Houston candidate.

Bush, 42, a Phi Beta Kappa scholar at Yale, is the son of former U. S. Sen. Prescott Bush of Connecticut. He opposed Sen. Ralph Yarborough, D-Tex., in 1964 but was swept under in the LBJ landslide.

A moderate conservative who denounced the John Birch Society in his congressional bid, Bush polled 1,134,337 votes against Yarborough, most ever for a Texas Republican.

His boyish good looks and



GEORGE BUSH



JOE POOL

Tower Leads Dallas County

DALLAS (Special) — Democrats made a clean sweep of other races in Dallas County, but Sen. John Tower built up a



Scott Charton (Email) - The clip linked in this tweet by Steve Kornacki of NBC/MSNBC is cool - AP's Mike Cochran writing in 1966 about "debonair" George H.W. Bush unseating a Democratic congressman in his first political win. Kornacki Tweeted: TX-7, one of the top House battlegrounds in the country, has been a GOP district since 1966, when George H.W. Bush's "boyish good looks and casual approach undoubtedly influenced the feminine vote"

Strib: Super Bowl freebies violated ethics code; reimbursement paid (MPR News)

By BOB COLLINS

When a big, national event rolls into town - a national political convention, for example - a host committee will almost always have a party for the thousands of representatives of the media beforehand.

That's the way it worked at the Super Bowl in Minneapolis last month, too. The exclusive party at the Mall of America was for credentialed media only.

It's a "splendid evening on someone else's dime," as SB Nation called it in 2014.

It's also an "ethical disaster that will haunt us for some time to come," a member of the Star Tribune's union said in a post Super Bowl performance survey that showed wide disagreement among journalists on the question.

The complaint, however, caught the attention of management at the newspaper. On Wednesday, newsroom executives announced in an internal memo that the newspaper will reimburse the Super Bowl Host Committee for the cost of providing the perk to employees who attended.

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

Today in History - March 6, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 6, the 65th day of 2018. There are 300 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 6, 1836, the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, fell as Mexican forces led by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna stormed the fortress after a 13-day siege; the battle claimed the lives of all the Texan defenders, nearly 200 strong, including William Travis, James Bowie and Davy Crockett.

On this date:

In 1475, Italian artist and poet Michelangelo was born in Caprese (kah-PRAY'-say) in the Republic of Florence.

In 1853, Verdi's opera "La Traviata" premiered in Venice, Italy.

In 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, ruled 7-2 that Scott, a slave, was not an American citizen and therefore could not sue for his freedom in federal court.

In 1933, a national bank holiday declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt aimed at calming panicked depositors went into effect. Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak, wounded in an attempt on Roosevelt's life the previous month, died at a Miami hospital at age 59.

In 1944, U.S. heavy bombers staged the first full-scale American raid on Berlin during World War II.

In 1953, Georgy Malenkov was named premier of the Soviet Union a day after the death of Josef Stalin.

In 1967, the daughter of Josef Stalin, Svetlana Alliluyeva (ah-lee-loo-YAY'-vah), appeared at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi and declared her intention to defect to the West. Singer-actor Nelson Eddy, 65, died in Palm Beach, Florida.

In 1970, a bomb being built inside a Greenwich Village townhouse by the radical Weathermen accidentally went off, destroying the house and killing three group members.

In 1983, in a case that drew much notoriety, a woman was gang-raped atop a pool table in a tavern in New Bedford, Massachusetts, called Big Dan's; four men were later convicted of the attack.

In 1988, the board of trustees at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., a liberal arts college for the deaf, selected Elisabeth Zinser, a hearing woman, to be school president; outraged students shut down the campus, forcing selection of a deaf president, I. King Jordan, instead.

In 1998, the U.S. Army honored three Americans who risked their lives and turned their weapons on fellow soldiers to stop the slaughter of Vietnamese villagers at My Lai (mee ly) in 1968.

In 2016, former first lady Nancy Reagan died in Los Angeles at age 94.

Ten years ago: A Palestinian killed eight students at a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem before he was slain; Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip praised the operation in a statement, and thousands of Palestinians took to the streets of Gaza to celebrate. Twin bombings in a shopping district in Baghdad killed at least 68 people and wounded 130 others.

Five years ago: Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., a critic of the Obama administration's drone policy, launched an old-style filibuster to block Senate confirmation of John Brennan's nomination to be CIA director; Paul lasted nearly 13 hours before yielding the floor. Syria's accelerating humanitarian crisis hit a grim milestone as the number of U.N.-registered refugees topped 1 million, half of them children.

One year ago: Without fanfare, President Donald Trump signed a scaled-back version of his controversial ban on many foreign travelers, one that still barred new visas for people from six Muslim-majority countries and temporarily shut down America's refugee program. Robert Osborne, the genial face of Turner Classic Movies and a walking encyclopedia of classic Hollywood, died in New York at age 84. The world's most famous sled dog race, the Iditarod, started with 71 mushers setting off from the heart of Alaska and embarking on a nearly 1,000-mile trek across the wilderness. (Mitch Seavey, 57, won the race in 8 days, 3 hours and 40 minutes.)

Today's Birthdays: Former FBI and CIA director William Webster is 94. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan is 92. Dancer-actress Carmen de Lavallade is 87. Former Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova is 81. Former Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond, R-Mo., is 79. Actress-writer Joanna Miles is 78. Actor Ben Murphy is 76. Opera singer Dame Kiri Te Kanawa is 74. Singer Mary Wilson (The Supremes) is 74. Rock musician Hugh Grundy (The Zombies) is 73. Rock singer-musician David Gilmour (Pink Floyd) is 72. Actress Anna Maria Horsford is 71. Actor-director Rob Reiner is 71. Singer Kiki Dee is 71. Fox News reporter John Stossel is 71. Composer-lyricist Stephen Schwartz is 70. Rock singer-musician Phil Alvin (The Blasters) is 65. Sports correspondent Armen Keteyian is 65. Actor Tom

Arnold is 59. Actor D.L. Hughley is 54. Country songwriter Skip Ewing is 54. Actor Shuler Hensley is 51. Actress Connie Britton is 51. Actress Moira Kelly is 50. Actress Amy Pietz is 49. Rock musician Chris Broderick (Megadeth) is 48. Basketball Hall of Famer Shaquille O'Neal is 46. Country singer Trent Willmon is 45. Country musician Shan Farmer (Ricochet) is 44. Rapper Beanie Sigel is 44. Rapper Bubba Sparxxx is 41. Rock musician Chris Tomson (Vampire Weekend) is 34. Actor Eli Marienthal is 32. Actor Jimmy Galeota is 32. Rapper/producer Tyler, the Creator is 27. Actor Dillon Freasier is 22. Actress Savannah Stehlin is 22. Actress Millicent Simmonds (Film: "Wonderstruck") is 15.

Thought for Today: "Best be yourself, imperial, plain and true!" - Elizabeth Barrett Browning, English poet (1806-1861).

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.

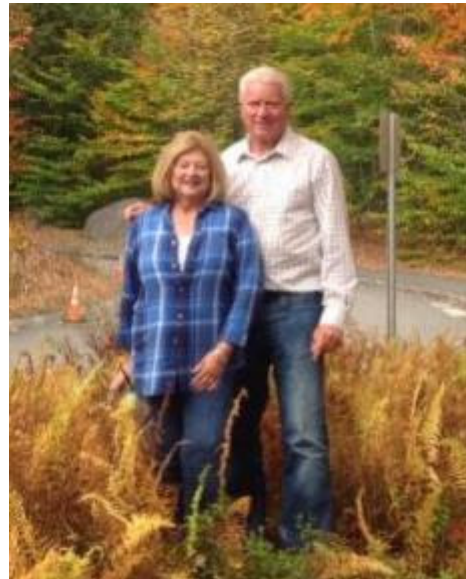
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"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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