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## Connecting - March 26, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

March 26, 2018

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## AP Photo of the Day



People on the balcony at the Newseum join with protesters on Pennsylvania Avenue as they look toward the stage near the Capitol during the "March for Our Lives" rally in support of gun control in Washington, Saturday, March 24, 2018. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning! - especially if you're a Kansas Jayhawk...or a Michigan Wolverine...or a Loyola Rambler...or a Villanova Wildcat.

Our Connecting series on self-profiles - Connecting selfie - is into its third Monday and today features **Denis Gray**, longtime AP chief of bureau in Bangkok, who reveals among other things that the most influential person in his career was **George Esper**.

Denis and I have never met, but we have a strong tie - his departure from the AP's Albany bureau in 1973 for assignment to the Saigon bureau headed by George created the staff opening that led to my first job in the AP - thanks to a decision by Albany Chief of Bureau **Ed Staats** to hire me as Denis' "numerical replacement."

I look forward to hearing from anyone who might like to be the next subject of a selfie, following in the footsteps of colleagues **Susan Clark**, **Estes Thompson** and **Denis Gray**. Drop me a note, please.

Have a great week!

Paul

## Connecting 'selfie' - Denis Gray, Thailand



**Denis and his wife Sarah McLean last Christmas in the Himalayan hill town of Darjeeling in India.**

**What is your present job and what does it involve?**

When I officially retired from the AP as Bangkok Bureau Chief a few years ago, the AP kindly asked me to stay on to write longer assigned or self-generated pieces from our region and even provided a cozy corner in the Asia Desk office.

I have also been lucky to work under three highly supportive bosses -- Brian Carovillano, Ted Anthony and very recently appointed Adam Schreck. The one

downside has been the ever-shrinking news budget - so many more stories that I would love to write and think should be written are not possible because the money just ain't there anymore.

Nonetheless, I've enjoyed a number of fulfilling assignments from diving with sea horses off Cambodia to depicting the sad downward spirals of once hopeful countries like Cambodia and Myanmar.

Why do I keep at it and not fully retire to our lovely home in the hills of northern Thailand? It's not for the money (I refuse to divulge the astronomical fees I am paid) but rather the pleasure of continuing to work with wonderful colleagues and the opportunity to share what I think are important issues through the still wide-reaching network of an AP which despite its problems continues to adhere to the core journalistic principles we all believe in.

**How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?**

I came out of the Army and the Vietnam War in 1971 and had to live with my parents for almost a year while trying to land a job in journalism. I had degrees from Yale and George Washington, army service as a captain, spoke several languages but nobody would look at me when they discovered I had absolutely no experience in journalism.

But out of the blue the AP asked me to come down from Connecticut to 50 Rock to take THE test. I think I made a mess of it, what with that blasted, key-sticking typewriter, my nervousness and not having written a single news story in my life. I guess the AP took a chance, probably because several reporters had recently left the Albany bureau and I was close and ready to pounce on the job right away.

The Albany bureau was in some sense initially tougher than army boot camp, but what helped me get through those one-person overnights and the nerve-wracking radio shifts was a team headed by COB Ed Staats and which included truly great folks, some of whom (like Charley Hanley and his wife Pam, who also worked in the bureau) remain close friends to this day. My goal was to become a foreign correspondent but I left Albany with a rather heavy heart.

**What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each?**

I volunteered to cover the Vietnam War so in 1973 President Wes Gallagher sent me on "temporary duty" to Saigon. I've never worked in the US since. I spent most of the next two years in Vietnam and Cambodia with a thankfully short assignment in boring Bonn.



Saigon COB George Esper, my "second father" who so many of our generation worshipped, asked for me to return and help cover the last phases of the Indochina War. I was evacuated from Phnom Penh as the Khmer Rouge moved in and assigned on "temporary duty" to Bangkok. I never left.

Our bureau was responsible for Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Burma and Vietnam and over the years I have covered a wide range of stories further afield including probably more conflicts than almost any correspondent that I know of -- from Vietnam, to Somalia, Rwanda, Gulf War I, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan as well as numerous insurgencies and revolutions. I survived, with only one very minor shrapnel wound during fighting in Baghdad's Sadr City. But perhaps the stories I've enjoyed most include those on wildlife and the environment and one I wrote about returning for a reunion with my surviving Czech relatives when the Iron Curtain fell. The saddest story was the fall of Phnom Penh and the deaths of so many brave stringers who worked for the AP at the hands of the Khmer Rouge.



**On patrol in the mountains of Afghanistan on one of his assignments there.**

### **Who was your most influential person in your career?**

"Big George" (Esper) was also the most influential person in my career both in his uncompromising devotion to journalism and the way her ran the bureau, always taking time to empathize with and advise everyone including the office cleaning lady. He shepherded me through one personal crisis. I still find myself imitating some of his mannerisms, expressions and humor.

### **What's your favorite hobby or activity?**

Biking, swimming and in ten minutes going out for some SCUBA diving off southern Thailand. Also classical music, especially opera.

### **What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?**

I honestly can't think of even the top ten best vacation trips. We travel often, making an annual pilgrimage to Europe and the US to soak up some Western culture and meet old friends and family including relatives in the land of my birth, the Czech Republic.

**Tell me names of your family members.**

My wife is Sarah McLean, a Hong Kong-born English (sorry Scottish) lady and from previous marriages we have five children variously spread out in England, France and Maryland. We're having a family reunion in southern France this spring, all 17 of us including grandchildren.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Denis Gray's email - [denisdgray@gmail.com](mailto:denisdgray@gmail.com)

## Connecting mailbox

### *A look at Air Force One from the media van*



**Air Force One is seen on the tarmac at Palm Beach International Airport in West Palm Beach, Fla., Sunday, March 25, 2018, from the media van traveling in a motorcade with President Donald Trump. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)**

**Mark Mittelstadt (Email)** - How fresh and interesting can a shot be of Air Force One preparing to take off? Tens of thousands have no doubt been taken over the years.

I thought Carolyn Kaster captured a different look in this photo as President Trump prepared to depart Mar-a-Lago Sunday. A classic old car (me thinks it's a Lincoln Continental convertible but perhaps Connecting's car experts know better) in the foreground of Palm Beach International somehow seemed fitting.

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## ***A reminder of my 'foreign tour' in Texas***

**Mike Holmes (Email)** - Reading Friday's piece about being a modern foreign correspondent reminded of my tenure as a "foreign" correspondent in Texas.

Transferred from Columbus, Ohio, to Austin, I was a "Yankee" - and that's a foreign as you could get. In fact, every time I asked Gov. Bill Clements a tough question, he'd begin his reply with, "I don't know how they do it in O-hi-o, but here in Texas..."

I had to learn a new language: fixin' to; turn left past yonder; harder than a pew; bigger 'n Dallas.

I had to learn local customs: chili has no beans; you get beer at an ice house; South Texas isn't the same as West Texas and neither are similar to East Texas.

I learned that certain local datelines practically guaranteed A Wire play: Muleshoe; Gun Barrel City; Cut and Shoot; Dime Box.

Listening rather than talking worked then, too; so did taking the time to get to know the natives. I left with many good friends and a framed certificate designating me an Honorary Texan. It hangs on my wall to this day.





Some people might think I am exaggerating. To them, I'd point out that while I was there, the state's official tourism slogan became:

Texas - It's like a whole other country.

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## ***An image from March For Our Lives in NYC***



**Chris Sullivan** ([Email](#)) - In case you're collecting photos from Connecting members of the various March for Our Lives events, I pass along this image that I shot while marching in NYC amid stirring call-and-response chants of, "Tell me what democracy looks like. THIS is what democracy looks like!"

Thanks again for all the hard work on your invaluable newsletter, which so many of us look forward to each day and which knits us tightly together.



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## ***Jimmy March gets a hair-shave from mom after surpassing his charity goal***



**Julie March** ([Email](#)) - Many thanks to our Connecting friends for your words of encouragement and/or donations as my 10-year-old son Jimmy raised money for childhood cancer research. He surpassed his goal, raising nearly \$3,900 for St. Baldrick's. I had the honor of shaving Jimmy's head at the Dallas event. He shaved alongside his cousin, Andrew Lautzenheiser, who has done this 10 years in a row. It was an inspiring morning with family and friends, virtually all who have been touched by cancer in some way.

[Click here](#) for the St. Baldrick's page.

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## ***Bartimus, Willse reunion in Hawaii recalls memories of long-ago days in Miami bureau***



**From left: Sharon and Jim Willse, Tad Bartimus and Dean Wariner**

**Tad Bartimus** ([Email](#)) - Here's a photo of Sharon and Jim Willse, and Dean and I (Tad Bartimus & Dean Wariner) taken on March 21 on the lanai at Travaasa-Hana Hotel in Hana, on Maui, Hawaii. Jim and Sharon have been my friends since I was a probationer April 1969 in the Miami AP bureau. Jim was on the General Desk in New York 1969-74, San Francisco news editor 1975-77, had a Knight Fellowship at Stanford (need to email him to check year), and went on to management positions at the New York Daily News and the Newhouse Star-Ledger in Newark.

Jim is one of the greats. He and Ed Dennehy were my (and many, many others') North Star on the General Desk. We were so lucky if, as young reporters on the overnight or covering a wide territory by ourselves on a weekend or in the middle of the night, we had a huge story explode in front of us and we got Willse or Dennehy. I remember those times so well, especially the ones with Jim, who leavened even the worst or most tense situations with dry wit, steady voice and droll humor. He was ALWAYS calm, but professional and, as a true "wire man" reminding me/others that accuracy first, speed a very close second, and walk yourself through your story to find mistakes or omissions before you let it go.

I was so happy to learn he and Sharon were coming to Hawaii for a family wedding, and delighted that they would come to far-off in-the-jungle Hana to see us. Despite rain and gray clouds, it was a memorable and very special visit and I am sure that,

now that we are reconnected as only dear friends of long standing can be, it won't be the last.

## ***And from Jim:***

**Jim Willse** ([Email](#)) - Just to fill in the rest of my timeline: As Tad said, I left AP in 1977 to be city editor of SF Examiner, then NY Daily News as ME, Editor and, as payment for my sins, Publisher. Joined Newhouse in 1993 and was Editor at Star-Ledger until 2011. Now retired, which is how I get to see old and dear friends like Tad.

On Tad's memory of our earliest contact: When you were on the General Desk back in the days of 66wpm, you formed relationships with people in the buros without ever laying eyes on them. Over time, I came to feel I had real friendships with folks in places like LA, FX, CX and especially MH.

Apparently they felt the same way, because when Sharon and I got married in 1973 and went to Florida for our honeymoon, the MH buro threw us a party. That's where we first met Tad for real, along with Reid Miller and Ann Hellmuth, all of whom we stayed in contact with over the years.

So here we are 45 years later, and our dear friend is still throwing us parties. We've both had interesting and at times complicated careers, but a constant is our affection for that 21-year-old sassy and incredibly talented kid in Miami.



**Tad, barely 21, during probation in Miami**

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## ***On the days when photo coverage of prep basketball finals was a given***

**Brian Horton** ([Email](#)) - I was surprised to hear from friends and AP staffers in Indiana and Kentucky (and I assume Ohio is the same) that the AP doesn't even cover the state high school basketball finals with photos anymore. Wow, what a change that is.

I can remember the coverage provided each year was a huge selling point for COBs and sometimes a cancellation lift hung in the balance.

As a high schooler, I saw the preparations in the Indianapolis bureau for the annual announcement of the high school tourney pairings. Dale Burgess, the AP's Indiana sports editor back then, would have a phone installed in the IHSAA office and dictate the late-morning announcement line-by-line. Someone in the bureau took in the dictation, take by take, and a puncher sped it on its way.

Mess up those pairings and there was a whole lot of explaining to do as PM papers across the state were holding a spot on page one on who the local heroes would be playing in the first round of the sectionals.

Photos would kick in when the second and third rounds the regionals and semistates, would be played at several sites around the state. Chicago Photos had to do a lot of juggling as members offered photos with varying levels of expertise.

The traditional state photo legs, like Indiana-Kentucky and Illinois-Missouri-Kansas were broken down for the month of March so individual states could move more high school basketball copy.

The state finals in Indianapolis were a hugely competitive event for words and photos. I was involved with then-Indy staffer Doug Roberts as a runner while in high school and later as a stringer out of IU for then-staffer Chuck Robinson. We'd shoot a minute or two of the championship and run for the darkroom set up in a closet somewhere in the building to get an action out on a Saturday night so Sunday papers would have art. The race to get out the first jubilation at the end of the game gave AP or UPI bragging rights that could only be topped by an extraordinary performance at the Indy 500 later in the spring.

As an aside, the games were played in the historic Hinkle Fieldhouse, where the movie "Hoosiers" was shot. A bonus was that there was a swimming pool in the building and legend has it that skinny dipping went on among the photo crew between the afternoon and evening sessions.

Later, when I was the Cincinnati photo staffer, I would travel to Louisville for a couple of stretches each March to cover the Kentucky boys' and girls' tournaments. I felt the same competitive pressure that I'd seen in Indiana, though there wasn't as much competition from UPI and I covered the games by myself.



I'd shoot a couple of minutes, run and soup my film, make a print and get it captioned. With luck, Chicago would get me going quickly. While the first one moved, I'd fix up a second photo. With Chicago's blessing, I could start the second one just in time to get back out to the floor to cover the last couple of minutes of the game. I'd use something from that coverage for my PMer. We had something like four games a day for four days - two in the afternoon and two in the evening - with just enough time in between to go to a chili parlor with sportswriter Mike Clark for dinner.

When I was a staffer in the Columbus bureau, there was a lot more competition from UPI, though we usually could prevail just because we worked out of the arena and UPI usually went back to their bureau, which was a five or ten minute drive.

In Columbus, I had the luxury of having some help (stringers Amy Sancetta and Charles Arbogast, who would both go on to staff positions at the AP) and we'd turn out a solid report from each game - action and jubilation. Our operation was based in a janitor's closet (see March 22 Connecting) just steps from the arena floor.

That was a step up from my first tourney in Columbus when I stood in for Harry Cabluck and we worked out of a tunnel under the arena where steam pipes from the heating system were routed. With all of the heat and hissing of the steam pipes, it was a pretty good approximation of what hell must be like. It was nice when we got to move up to the janitor's closet the next season.

Now, that is evidently all just part of AP lore as the world's oldest and largest newsgathering organization has dropped photo coverage of the tournaments in at least two of those states. Kind of hate to see the coverage go, especially this year as my alma mater, Warren Central of Indianapolis, had a perfect 32-0 record this year and won its first state championship. Hope some parent or high school kid was there with a camera to record the historical event.

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## ***Connecting travel photos - Galapagos***

**John Lumpkin** ([Email](#)) - We were in Galapagos from March 8 to March 13 with side trips to Quito and Guayaquil, Ecuador.



This photo shows blue-footed boobie and marine iguana on Espanola Island.  
Reachable only by Zodiac boat and hike over vulcan rock to boobie nesting area.



Sunset off shore of San Cristobal Island on our last evening. Taken from upper deck of Isabella II, 20-stateroom yacht that employs three naturalists, all from Galapagos.

## **AP Was There: Loyola-Chicago's 'Game of Change' in '63 NCAAs**

**By JERRY GREEN AP Sports Writer**

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) - Loyola-Chicago's run to the Sweet 16 is resurfacing memories of 1963, when it won the NCAA Tournament on an overtime tip-in.

But even more culturally significant was the Ramblers' 1963 regional semifinal against Mississippi State - a game that was in danger of not being played because of Mississippi's informal law barring its schools from playing against racially integrated teams.

Mississippi State came up with a sneaky plan to fly up to Michigan for the game that would later become known as the "Game of Change," three years before the Texas Western Miners became the first team with an all-black starting lineup to win the NCAA title.

Here are two stories from The Associated Press coverage of that meeting: the story recapping the game played March 15, 1963, written by AP sports editor Jerome "Jerry" Green, and the story of Mississippi State making the trip. The game story is presented as it appeared in the Brunswick (Georgia) News while the earlier story is shown as published in the Boston Herald.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Valerie Komor.



## Sex assaults among children on US military bases routinely ignored



Leandra Mulla at her home in Tabor City, N.C., Feb. 7, 2018. As a high school freshman in



**2014, Mulla told Army investigators her ex-boyfriend dragged her to a secluded area of their base in Germany and sexually assaulted her. Four years later, she still wonders what came of her report. AP PHOTO / GERRY BROOME**

Neither Reese Dunklin nor Justin Pritchard had done much military reporting before they embarked on the investigation that wins this week's Best of the States.

Last May, as they separately sifted through readers' email responses to the 2017 investigation into Schoolhouse Sex Assault, both reporters flagged the same messages for follow-up: The tips described problems with the handling of sex assaults reported on U.S. military bases among the children and teens of service members.

Through dozens of FOIA requests and interviews, they found that reports of sexual assaults and rapes among military kids were getting lost in a dead zone of justice, with neither victim nor offender receiving help. Cases often died on the desks of prosecutors, even when an attacker confessed. And criminal investigators shelved other cases, despite requirements they be pursued, the reporters found.

Using government records and data released by the Pentagon's military branches and school system, Dunklin and Pritchard catalogued nearly 600 cases of sex assaults among children on military bases, often after protracted FOIA negotiations. Though an acknowledged undercount, it was the first such quantification - something neither the Pentagon nor its global school system had previously done.

Dunklin and Pritchard catalogued nearly 600 cases of sex assaults among children on military bases, often after protracted FOIA negotiations.

The initial story detailed systemic problems within both the Pentagon, its global system of K-12 schools, and the Justice Department. The reporters also decided with editor Maud Beelman to tailor NewsNows for 15 states where they had documented at least three cases since 2007. That approach helped front page treatment. Spurred by state-specific numbers, papers and TV stations with large bases in their coverage areas featured their own reporting. The second day's story focused on one gut-churning case in a Pentagon-run base school in Germany.

ICYMI: Sex assault among kids on U.S. military bases <https://t.co/1xTdEqtofw@ReeseDunklin@Ialanewsman@AP><https://t.co/rJLYIA52gs>

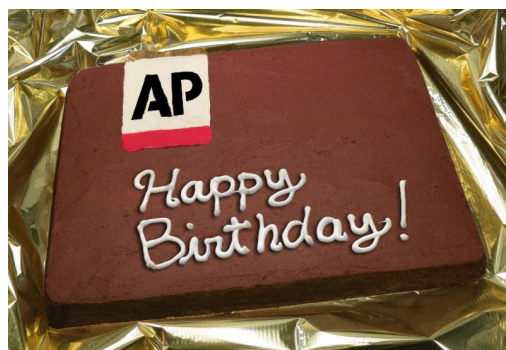
- Maud Beelman (@maudbeelman) March 22, 2018

Stars & Stripes, the print and online newspaper read by generals and grunts alike, featured the first story on its front page more prominently than the U.S. secretary of state's ouster, which occurred the same day, and followed up with A1 treatment of the second story the next day. AP's own metrics showed unusually high levels of engagement that lasted days, gaining traffic through Facebook shares. Dunklin also traveled to Colorado to gather audio for AP's collaboration with the Center for Investigative Reporting's Reveal radio and podcast program, and both he and Pritchard were interviewed for shows that aired nationally.

The stories had immediate impact. Leaders on the Senate committees overseeing the military and education policy demanded answers from the Pentagon. Another senator asked the Justice Department's inspector general to investigate its handling of cases. The House Armed Services Committee began its own investigation, and one member promised a public hearing within six months.

For shedding light on a problem too long ignored, and localizing it for AP members in their states, Dunklin and Pritchard share this week's \$300 prize.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Jerry Schwartz - [jschwartz@ap.org](mailto:jschwartz@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

***The Elements of the Stylebook*** (New York Times)

**By Remy Tumin**

There's style, and then there's Style.

"Style, with a capital S, achieves what a rule book never can: it lights the page, draws readers, earns their delight, makes them gasp or weep and sometimes captures a place in memory," begins the online foreword to The New York Times Manual of Style and Usage, the paper's reference guide, established in 1895, which encourages consistent and polished language throughout the news report. "Writerly style (even without the illicit capital S) is a set of tools and tricks, a tone of voice."

The Associated Press has long been the gold standard for uniformity among most international news publications. But for over a century, The Times's stylebook has set a parallel course when it comes to journalistic style. The stylebook largely consists of rules dictating renderings, syntax and abbreviations - Gov. vs. Governor, capitalization of words for headlines and the devilish Oxford comma, for example. But as a living document that constantly grapples with the ethics of language, it also absorbs the larger cultural lexicon.

The stylebook codifies a set of practices designed to make the paper easy to read.

"In a news organization where you have hundreds of writers and editors working very quickly on deadline, you want the reader to get the sense that there's some consistency," said Philip B. Corbett, the associate managing editor for standards, who oversees the use of style and editing standards across the newsroom.

Read more [here](#).

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***The world still needs news. It's time Facebook realised this*** (The Guardian)

**By JON SNOW**

We are at a crunch point between truth and lies, and Facebook is right at the centre. This week we - the Observer and Guardian, Channel 4 News and the New York

Times - have thrown our all at exposing the dark arts facilitated by Facebook's waywardness and its neglect of the security of those who love and live it, its users.

Facebook's users are voters across the world. What we revealed was the extent to which a London-based company, Cambridge Analytica, had used data to target them and affect elections. Trading in fear, it sought in the US to erode Democratic voters' faith in their own candidate, with the "crooked Hillary" viral effort that depicted her as a wanted criminal.

It took old media to rumble Cambridge Analytica. Carole Cadwalladr of the Observer, which shared the story with Channel 4 and the New York Times, worked with her source Chris Wylie for a year. on all this Channel 4 News spent four months investigating the way Cambridge Analytica was doing business. This was toil that Facebook had a moral imperative to do for itself. Facebook had a duty to protect its users' profiles from theft, and to detect and track down any entities attempting to use them.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

## ***Betty Ann Bowser, Versatile TV Newswoman, Is Dead at 73*** (New York Times)

**By NEIL GENZLINGER**

Betty Ann Bowser, one of television's most prominent newswomen for years as a correspondent for CBS and then the "PBS NewsHour," died on March 16 at her home in Ajijic, Mexico. She was 73.

Her son Patrick Kelley said he believed the cause was pneumonia. She had been in declining health for several years.

In an era when journalism, both broadcast and print, was still dominated by male reporters, Ms. Bowser became one of the most recognizable women in the field.

"She interviewed people from U.S. senators to stars like Elton John," her son said in a Facebook post, "and covered major breaking stories such as the trial of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh. It seemed like she knew everyone and always had a favor to cash in."



Read more [here](#). Later in the story:

"Betty Ann started off at the weekly Ohio Wesleyan Transcript as a cub reporter, covering general university news that ranged from the serious to campus hi-jinx," recalled Larry Heinzerling, who was her editor there and went on to a distinguished career with The Associated Press. "In the first category was coverage of faculty efforts, eventually successful, to have Ohio Wesleyan end racial discrimination at its fraternities and sororities. The latter included a story in May 1965 on 'spring fever.' "

## Today in History - March 26, 2018



### By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 26, the 85th day of 2018. There are 280 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlights in History:

On March 26, 1945, during World War II, Iwo Jima was fully secured by U.S. forces following a final, desperate attack by Japanese soldiers. Former British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, 82, died in Ty Newydd, Llanystumdwy, Wales.

### On this date:

In 1812, an earthquake devastated Caracas, Venezuela, causing an estimated 26,000 deaths, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1827, composer Ludwig van Beethoven died in Vienna.

In 1874, poet Robert Frost was born in San Francisco.

In 1892, poet Walt Whitman died in Camden, New Jersey.

In 1917, the Seattle Metropolitans became the first U.S. team to win the Stanley Cup as they defeated the Montreal Canadiens in Game 4 of the finals by a score of 9-1.

In 1934, Britain enacted a Road Traffic Act reimposing a 30 mile-per-hour speed limit in "built-up areas" and requiring driving tests for new motorists.

In 1958, the U.S. Army launched America's third successful satellite, Explorer 3. "The Bridge on the River Kwai" won seven Academy Awards, including best picture of 1957.

In 1967, Pope Paul VI issued an encyclical, "Populorum Progressio," on "the progressive development of peoples," in which he expressed concern for those trying to escape hunger, poverty, endemic disease and ignorance.

In 1979, a peace treaty was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihn) and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and witnessed by President Jimmy Carter at the White House.

In 1988, Jesse Jackson stunned fellow Democrats by soundly defeating Michael S. Dukakis in Michigan's Democratic presidential caucuses.

In 1992, a judge in Indianapolis sentenced former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson to six years in prison for raping a Miss Black America contestant. (Tyson ended up serving three years.)

In 1997, the bodies of 39 members of the Heaven's Gate techno-religious cult who committed suicide were found inside a rented mansion in Rancho Santa Fe, California.

Ten years ago: Behind the Pentagon's closed doors, U.S. military leaders told President George W. Bush they were worried about the Iraq war's mounting strain on troops and their families, but indicated they'd go along with a brief halt in pulling out troops during summer 2008. The space shuttle Endeavour landed at Cape Canaveral, Florida, making a rare nighttime touchdown that ended a 16-day mission.

Five years ago: A study from the Society of Actuaries said that insurance companies would have to pay out an average of 32 percent more for medical claims under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. President Obama named veteran Secret Service agent Julia Pierson as the agency's first female director. Italy's top criminal court overturned the acquittal of American Amanda Knox in the grisly murder of British roommate Meredith Kercher and ordered Knox to stand trial again. (Although convicted in absentia, Knox was exonerated by the Italian Supreme Court in 2015.)

One year ago: President Donald Trump took to Twitter to attack conservative lawmakers for the failure of the Republican bill to replace former President Barack Obama's health care law. A man was fatally shot and 16 other people were hurt when a dispute escalated into a gunbattle at the Cameo club in Cincinnati; police arrested two men on murder charges.

Today's Birthdays: Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is 88. Actor Alan Arkin is 84. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is 83. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (puh-LOH'-see) is 78. Actor James Caan is 78. Author Erica Jong is 76. Journalist Bob Woodward is 75. Singer Diana Ross is 74. Actor Johnny Crawford is 72. Rock singer Steven Tyler (Aerosmith) is 70. Singer and TV personality Vicki Lawrence is 69. Actor Ernest Thomas is 69. Comedian Martin Short is 68. Country singer Ronnie McDowell is 68. Movie composer Alan Silvestri is 68. Rock musician Monte Yoho is 66. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao is 65. Radio talk show host Curtis Sliwa is 64. Country singer Dean Dillon is 63. Country singer Charly McClain is 62. TV personality Leeza Gibbons is 61. Actress Ellia English is 59. Actress Jennifer Grey is 58. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Marcus Allen is 58. Actor Billy Warlock is 57. Actor Eric Allan Kramer is 56. Basketball and College Basketball Hall of Famer John Stockton is 56. Actor Michael Imperioli is 52. Rock musician James Iha (EE'-hah) is 50. Country singer Kenny Chesney is 50. Movie director Martin McDonagh (Film: "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri") is 48. Actress Leslie Mann is 46. Actor T.R. Knight is 45. Rapper Juvenile is 43. Actress Amy Smart is 42. Actress Bianca Kajlich (KY'-lihk) is 41. Moderator Margaret Brennan (TV: "Face the Nation") is 38. Actor Sterling Sulieman is 34. Actress Keira Knightley is 33. Rapper J-Kwon is 32. Actress Carly Chaikin is 28.

***Thought for Today: "Our whole life is an attempt to discover when our spontaneity is whimsical, sentimental irresponsibility and when it is a valid***

***expression of our deepest desires and values." - Helen Merrell Lynd, American sociologist and author (1896-1982).***

## 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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