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Connecting - April 02, 2018

1 message

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Mon, Apr 2, 2018 at 9:13 AM

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Connecting

April 02, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning - and here's to the month of April!

Our Monday series - Connecting Selfie - continues today with a self-profile of one of AP's finest communications executives, our colleague **Ken Fields**.

His 35-year AP career took him from St. Louis to Chicago and Seattle - he held the chief of communications title in both bureaus.

Connecting is looking for your thoughts on a couple items in today's issue:

First, in an article he shared on defining fake news, colleague **Mark Mittelstadt** invites you to share your thoughts on the meaning of the term.

Second, in sharing the article on two rival journalists in the San Francisco Bay Area, colleague **Richard Chady** asks, "Wonder how many other couples are or were rival journalists. Helen Thomas of UPI and Doug Cornell of AP, for one."

And finally...



The Fort Dodge Lanciers Drum and Bugle Corps in my hometown in Iowa was the focus of my monthly Spotlight in The Messenger for Sunday, and I am sharing the story of those marching Baby Boomer musicians who learned so many life's lessons by their participation. One of them is a newspaper publisher - **Mike Schlesinger** of the Marshalltown (Iowa) Times Republican, who met his wife Julie in the corps. [Click here](#) to read the story.

Have a great week!

Paul

Connecting Selfie - Ken Fields



Ken Fields receives his 30-year award certificate in 2008 from his supervisor, Regional Director Roseann Treloar.

What are you doing these days?

I'm currently enjoying retirement in Mill Creek, WA, learning more about cooking and also taking some photography classes at a local community college. I volunteer at a Senior Center, where I teach computer classes in Windows, Mac, Excel and Word. Our three children and granddaughter still live in the area.

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

I was taking electronics classes at a local community college with St Louis technician Bruce Olmsted. Bruce and I discovered that we had both served in Chu Lai, South Viet Nam at the same time, although the base was so large we never met. He informed me the local bureau had an opening for a technician assignment. I was hired by Kansas City COC Herb Mundt in August 1978 to work out of the St Louis bureau as a field technician. I was

familiar with the Teletype, but my first days were spent learning to routine and repair them.

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



Bruce Olmsted (left) and Ken Fields

My first assignment as field technician was to routine and repair AP equipment and also make installations and removals. Bruce and I were responsible for the eastern half of Missouri, from the borders of Iowa to Arkansas and as far west as Columbia, Missouri. Measuring distance by driving time the farthest point south was 5.5 hours from St Louis as was the farthest point north. Working as a field technician meant being on call (unofficially) most of the time. It wasn't unusual to be called out to travel several hours to service equipment for a Missouri member. Missouri is a beautiful state, and I did a lot of traveling throughout it. One year I put 45,000 miles on my vehicle between commuting and trips to member sites.

In August 1989 I received the assignment of Laserphoto Operations Manager and Jackie and I moved our family to Chicago. As LOM I was responsible for the maintenance of the Electronic Darkroom as well as quality control for 18 Midwestern states that the Chicago bureau serviced with a wirephoto report. Almost all of the photos that moved to and from the Midwestern states were transmitted through the Electronic Darkroom in Chicago.

I was assigned the job of Chief of Communications in Chicago in 1991. The assignment as COC was quite a challenge and when the AP added subsidiary operations such as SATNET, Phototechnology Maintenance and ADSEND it made the assignment much more hectic. At one time we had between 800 and 1,000 SATNET customers. The saving grace for me was that I worked with a great technical staff who took pride in their work.

I transferred to Washington State as COC in April 2001 and Jackie and I moved our family; Ryan, Robyn and Andrew to Seattle. The Seattle assignment was quite a contrast to the one in Chicago. The field included Alaska and eventually Oregon, Idaho, and Montana were added. Alaska was a challenge because of the distances, weather and size of the state.

Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

Several people played important roles in my career including COC's Herb Mundt, Walt Tabak and Dave Young. But Phil Emanuel played the most significant role. When I took the assignment as COC in Chicago, Phil would check in with me and

give me advice. In addition to the heavy daily workload we had problems in Chicago that were magnified by the sheer size of the bureau; the Chicago flood where we lost power for several days, the Chicago bureau move, installation and maintenance of the Tribune's large Leafdesk, and several others. I could always reach out to Phil for advice and he gave me a lot of support throughout my career. I kept in touch with Phil after his retirement and move to Florida.

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

I have become interested in several hobbies since I retired, especially cooking and genealogy, but my favorite is photography. I have taken a few photography classes at a community college and usually take my camera with me when I head out for walks or trips. My photography skills have improved, but I am enjoying the journey of refining those skills. We have more time for trips now.

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

The best vacations Jackie and I have taken have been to Hawaii. I adapt to 'Island Time' very quickly and enjoy the island life. We have made a trip each year since I retired. My favorite destination in Waikiki. We enjoy the beach, walking everywhere and the poke.

After 35 years with the AP, I have noticed that when people leave the AP they almost always say that they will miss their co-workers most of all because the AP is full of really great, supportive people.

Ken Fields' email is - ken-fields@comcast.net

How to define 'fake news'?

What is "fake news"?

Increasingly, it seems, for much of the American public it is news produced or carried by "those guys on the other side." For pundits and anchors on CNN, MSNBC, other networks and news publications, just about anything aired or distributed by FOX News or various conservative sites is, by definition, "fake news." For their part, Sean Hannity, Laura Ingraham, morning hosts on FOX -- even President Trump -- append the



label to other cable channels or to stories in major publications such as The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

In newsrooms, editors are likely to define "fake news" the way Justice Potter Stewart famously determined the threshold for content viewed as pornographic: "I know it when I see it."

For a more scientific definition, a professor at the Technical University of Berlin researched news coverage of the 2016 Brexit vote and the presidential campaign in the United States. In a 34-page paper published on the academic research site [Academia.edu](https://www.academia.edu) and shared by Connecting colleague **Mark Mittelstadt**, Alex Gelfert argues that the term "fake news" should be reserved for "cases of deliberate presentation of (typically) false or misleading claims as news, where these are misleading by design."

Fake News: A Definition

AXEL GELFERT

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Abstract: Despite being a new term, 'fake news' has evolved rapidly. This paper argues that it should be reserved for cases of deliberate presentation of (typically) false or misleading claims as news, where these are misleading *by design*. The phrase 'by

Résumé: En dépit de son utilisation récente, l'expression «fausses nouvelles» a évolué rapidement. Cet article soutient qu'elle devrait être réservée aux présentations *intentionnelles* d'allégations (typiquement) fausses ou trompeuses comme si elles étaient des nou-

Click to read report on Fake News

He adds that "fake news" is not new. "Yet, when combined with online social media that enable the targeted, audience-specific manipulation of cognitive biases and heuristics, it forms a potent and, as the events of 2016 show, politically explosive mix," he writes.

View the report [here](#). What are your thoughts?

His speech didn't meet two-minute time limit, but it won the hearts of his audience



Gene Herrick, at home after Hall of Fame banquet last Thursday night.

Dorothy Abernathy ([Email](#)) - I had one piece of advice for retired AP photographer Gene Herrick before he headed into a banquet room to be inducted into the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame.

"Don't worry about the two-minute time limit," I said of the amount of time the Hall of Fame recipients were allotted to speak. "Just say what you want to say."

As the presentation started, emcee Brad Armstrong referenced the time limit, holding up a package and joking that he had a prize for the inductee who had the shortest speech.

When it came time for Gene to take the stage, he looked at Armstrong and said, "I'm not after that prize," which prompted laughter from throughout the ballroom.

Gene did stick largely to his prepared remarks, which focused on thanking people who have been important to him in his AP career and in his life. But he veered from the script a few times to tell stories. And anyone who knows Gene knows he can tell stories, whether or not he has a camera.

He talked about being promoted to an AP photographer job with hardly any experience. He learned later that AP had a rule requiring that photo journalists hired

by AP to have five years' experience with a major daily newspaper. Executive newsphoto editor Al Reisch had to lobby hard for permission to hire Gene, who provided additional details about his hiring when we talked this weekend.

"Twenty years later (Reisch) sat me down and told me, 'When I hired you to come onto the staff, I had to go to the Board of Directors and get special dispensation,'" Gene said. "I just about collapsed. If I had known that, I probably would have failed in the first week!"

Gene also told the Hall of Fame audience about being called at home on April 4, 1968, when AP was pursuing a tip that Martin Luther King Jr. had been shot. AP was trying to confirm the news but wanted Gene to get to Memphis immediately to cover the story, assuming it was true. Gene quickly got on a commercial flight, but halfway through the flight, a stewardess told Gene that the plane couldn't land in Memphis because of the emergency caused by the King shooting. The city was under curfew, and 4,000 National Guard troops had been deployed.

Flights were being diverted to other airports, such as Baton Rouge. Gene insisted that he couldn't take the time to drive back from Baton Rouge and urged the crew to "find a cornfield" and land. Gene's insistence made an impression. The pilot landed the plane in a field near the airport, dropped Gene off and took off immediately for Baton Rouge with the rest of the passengers.

"I don't think you'd see that happen today," Gene said.

Gene also told the audience about standing exactly where King's shooter stood as he fired the shot that killed King.

"I got into the bathtub and I stood there. I put my forearms on the same shelf and looked out on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel - the same shelf the killer had put his arms on 24 hours earlier. That was just a weird, humble feeling - to know that a killer stood there and killed Martin Luther King. That really touches your heart and emotions."

Gene talked beyond the 2-minute limit and didn't win the award for the shortest speech. But it was clear from the applause that the 91-year-old recipient won the hearts of his audience.

He said afterward that he was very impressed by the event and that he appreciated the kindness shown to him by the people there, including several past Hall of Fame recipients.

"It was just awesome - first class from beginning to end," he said.

From the AP to WikiLeaks, the changing DNA of journalism collaborations

By ABIGAIL HARTSTONE, Columbia Journalism Review

IN 1846, FIVE DAILY NEWSPAPERS in New York came together to create the Associated Press. At the time, their aim was to share the cost of covering the Mexican-American War. It has since become one of journalism's longest-standing and most productive collaborations.

The concept behind journalistic collaboration has always been to generate a sum or quality of content that is greater than what one individual or organization could do on its own. That hasn't changed. What has changed over the years, with the advent of digital and the 24-hour news cycle, are the traits that make a collaboration successful.

New research from the Tow Center for Digital Journalism by Carlos Martínez de la Serna looks back over the last three decades at the changing nature of journalistic cooperation in the digital era, finding that not only does the current DNA of the most effective collaborations look very different from the past, but one of its key byproducts is the creation of an open-access digital infrastructure for information-which the report calls a new "journalism commons."

Collaboration facilitated by the internet means that, along with traditional news organizations, technologists, software designers, public database architects, research institutions, and citizen activists cooperate-sometimes without formal agreements or agendas-to create new tools and information resources that set the conditions for how news is produced and circulated. Those include, according to the research, a range of technologies. From the introduction of email, and the launch of the Apache web server and open-source Linux operating system in the 1990s, to more modern developments like Slack, each are now "core components of the new infrastructure for journalism."

Read more [here](#). By Paul Albright.

Help! I married my dreaded baseball rival (a love story)



Our veteran sports writer Daniel Brown squares off against his competition (and wife), Susan Slusser of the San Francisco Chronicle.

By DANIEL BROWN, San Jose Mercury News

Some sources decline interviews because they are not authorized to go on the record. Some decline because they don't want to disrupt, say, a free-agent negotiation in progress.

And there are those who, like me, are just trying to avoid my wife's bad side.

"Susan's going to kill me," Billy Beane joked when I called him for a comment at the end of the Winter Meetings last year.

Susan Slusser is the formidable, competition-crushing A's beat writer for the San Francisco Chronicle. You don't mess with The Sluss. Now in her 20th year on the

beat, she patrols her territory with an iron pen. Her earned reputation as one of the game's most diligent and trusted insiders helped her become the president of the Baseball Writers Association of America in 2012.

That would be lovely, except sometimes, because of the nature of our jobs at competing Bay Area outlets, we are forced to wage war against each other. It's husband vs. wife, mano-a-womano, vying for the same news. It makes for terrible date nights.

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



AP analysis: At least 19,000 in Iraq detained for terrorism, thousands sentenced to death



A blindfolded suspected Islamic State militant stands against a wall at a Kurdish

screening center in Dibis, Iraq, Oct. 3, 2017. An AP analysis of a spreadsheet listing all 27,849 people imprisoned in Iraq shows that Iraq has detained or imprisoned more than 19,000 people accused of connections to IS or other terror-related offenses. More than 3,000 people have been sentenced to death. AP PHOTO / BRAM JANSSEN

Prisons in Iraq held thousands of Islamic State group militants, but few outside the government knew exactly how many. Baghdad-based reporter Qassim Abdul-Zahra set out to find out - and he wasn't going to take a rough estimate for an answer.

With Baghdad correspondent Susannah George and Mideast enterprise editor Lee Keath, Abdul-Zahra analyzed documents he obtained from a Justice Ministry official, finding that the government was holding at least 19,000 people accused of ISIS connections or other terror-related offenses and that more than 3,000 of them had been sentenced to death.

For their exclusive reporting and analysis, Abdul-Zahra, George and Keath win this week's Beat of the Week.

When Abdul-Zahra set out on his search for the elusive number, he knew that government spokesmen would not give any numbers. He remembered an official who would be in a position to know and whom he'd seen at public events, so through his contacts, Abdul-Zahra tracked him down and arranged a meeting. The official told Abdul-Zahra that he would only give him approximate figures.

"We don't want approximate," Abdul-Zahra said, and asked if he had any documents. The official was hesitant at first. Eventually, Abdul-Zahra was able to meet the official and copy the government files from his laptop.

"We don't want approximate."

Qassim Abdul-Zahra, to an Iraqi official offering less-than-accurate data on detainees

It turned out to be two files in Arabic: One, a main spreadsheet listing all 27,000-plus prisoners in Iraqi prisons as of late January - with names, the charges they were convicted on, their sentences. The other was a set of individual spreadsheets from each of the 25 prisons run by the federal government.

Keath, with help from Abdul-Zahra, Hamza Hendawi and members of the Cairo bureau, arrived at the number of nearly 9,000 terror convicts in prisons. But this was missing the large number of detainees, those swept up by security agencies in the assault on Mosul and other operations who are still being interrogated but are supposed to go on trial.

Abdul-Zahra was able to get a figure of 11,000 for those held by the Interior Ministry's intelligence agency alone, putting the overall tally at least 19,000.

In prisons overcrowded with IS suspects, echos of Bucca - our latest from #Iraq@AP<https://t.co/VvG75FTCvE>

- susannah george (@sgreports) March 21, 2018

Susannah George, who had already reported on conditions in detention centers and knew that the justice system was swamped by these numbers, worked with Abdul-Zahra to pursue interviews on how prisoners are crammed in and how militants mix with other inmates trying to recruit them.

The story ran with difficult-to-obtain photos of detainees from Bram Janssen:

The result was a story showing how officials were struggling with the flood of prisoners, causing some embarrassment for the government. It was cited in Iraqi media - though not on the state-run channel. The Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV, one of the main news channels in the region, also ran a segment on the AP report.

Notably, the story was also bounced around among members on pro-ISIS and other militant web forums, mainly garnering comments praying to God to win the prisoners' release. Human Rights Watch cited the story in a short piece entitled "Rush to Judgment in Iraq Harms Justice."

For intrepid source work and analysis to establish the facts around the imprisonment of thousands of Islamic State group militants in Iraq, Abdul-Zahra, George and Keath win Beat of the Week.



Multi-format team dominates coverage of Austin serial bombing



Officials investigate the vehicle where Mark Anthony Conditt, the suspect in a series of bombing attacks in Austin, blew himself up as authorities closed in, March 21, 2018, in Round Rock, Texas. Photographer Eric Gay was perched in a tree to make this photo. AP PHOTO / ERIC GAY

Three previous bombings had put Austin on edge for weeks, triggering a manhunt involving 500-plus federal agents and prompting residents to flood 911 operators with calls about suspicious-looking packages on doorsteps. Reporters soon inundated Texas' capital.

When emergency personnel reported another explosion late on a Sunday night, Austin correspondent Will Weissert quickly called sources and prepared a NewsAlert reporting that the blast was a bomb. Newsman Paul J. Weber rushed to the scene and soon confirmed the same bomber had struck a fourth time, this time using a sophisticated tripwire.

Austin residents living near the tripwire blast express a mix of fear, surprise and confusion over the recent string of bombings. <https://t.co/lde18OL8ixpic>.
twitter.com/izXFgrkxta

- AP Central U.S. (@APCentralRegion) March 19, 2018

During continuous coverage across all formats for the next nearly 96 hours, Weber and Houston video journalist John Mone spoke exclusively to the grandfather of a bombing victim, reporting that the latest explosive was full of nails - a detail that drove other outlets' coverage. Before dawn the following morning, a bomb exploded

inside a package at a FedEx processing center and Weissert got early FBI confirmation that it was related to the previous blasts. Weber scored another scoop when U.S. House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul confirmed surveillance cameras caught the bomber dropping off FedEx packages and that he likely would be caught soon - a prediction that proved correct within hours.

As authorities closed in, the suspected bomber blew himself up around 2 a.m. the following day, and Austin newsman Jim Vertuno was among the first reporters on the scene interviewing witnesses and the bomber's neighbors. Photographer Eric Gay scaled a tree to make unique pictures of the aftermath. Correspondent Emily Schmall drove in from Fort Worth and tracked down two more exclusives: That the bomber's roommate was black, undermining theories that racism was a motivation, and that the roommate was detained by SWAT teams hours before the bomber himself died.

Throughout the week, AP also produced nuanced, multi-platform reporting on how police track cell phones, shipping facilities screen packages and how the bombings shook Austin's chill attitude.

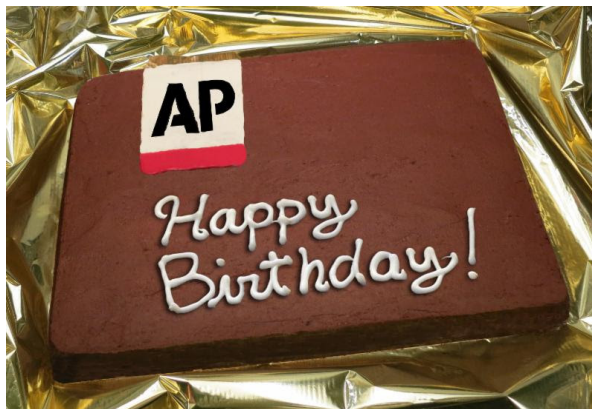
Can Austin stay weird despite the bombs that keep exploding? (from @AP)
<https://t.co/VtHPcptwjD>

- Will Weissert (@apwillweissert) March 20, 2018

After the bomber's death, Weber and correspondent Ryan J. Foley, on loan from Iowa City, had a tight and timely piece on how police mishandled the manhunt repeatedly - despite numerous accolades when it was finally over. Vertuno and Weissert's story on the bomber's death made 19 front pages nationwide, Gay's pictures dominated visual reports and other outlets repeatedly cited scoops by Weber, Mone, Schmall and Foley.

For their tireless and aggressive efforts to break news by mining sources, searching records and knocking on countless doors, journalists Will Weissert, Jim Vertuno, Paul Weber, Eric Gay, John L. Mone, Emily Schmall and Ryan Foley share this week's Best of the States.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

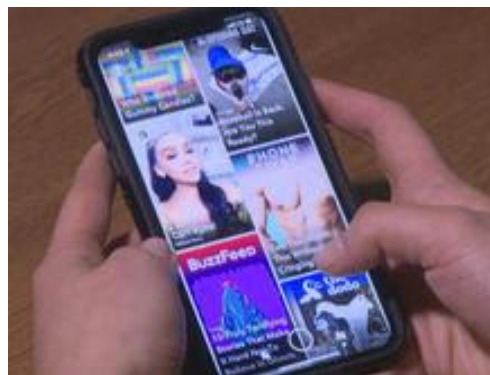
Amanda St. Amand - astamand@post-dispatch.com

Stories of interest

Overload: How technology is bringing us too much information (CBS)

CBS Sunday Morning

Smartphones and other gadgets deliver a wealth of information, but are they also delivering an OVERLOAD to our senses? Our Cover Story is reported by Sunday Morning Senior Contributor Ted Koppel:



Fifty, sixty years ago, television was the threat. It would, we feared, rot our children's minds, and our minds -- diminishing our attention span, addicting millions to mindless drivel.

There are those who say, "And they were right!"

So, what's different about today and the internet?

"I think every technology that changes the way people live inspires exaggerated hopes and fears," said technology critic Nicholas Carr, who has spent most of the past decade worrying, and warning, about the dangers of social media and the internet -- posing the famous question: "Is Google making us stupid?"

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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The News Literacy Project takes on 'fake' news - and business is better than ever (Washington Post)

By VALERIE STRAUSS

Ten years ago, Alan Miller, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter at the Los Angeles Times, founded the News Literacy Project, an effort to teach students how to distinguish what's real and fake in the age of digital communication.

That was a time when students used the Internet to do research and struggled with recognizing truth from fiction. It was well before Donald Trump, as a candidate and then as president, began to routinely call real news "fake" news, and the country found itself facing real questions about whether planted fake "news" affected the results of the 2016 presidential election.

It should come as no surprise, then, that the News Literacy Project is growing as never before across the country, with teachers looking for resources to teach their students how to evaluate the credibility of information.

This is a Q&A I did with Miller, who explains why he started this work, how it works and how the political climate has affected the News Literacy Project.

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

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Tweets are the new vox populi (CJR)

By HEIDI TWOREK

AMERICAN MEDIA OUTLETS HAVE A TWITTER PROBLEM. The problem is not journalists' notorious addiction to the platform-it's their use of tweets as a way to include opinions from "ordinary people." Often, these ordinary people turn out not to be "ordinary" or "people" at all.

By embedding tweets from ordinary people, news outlets hope to include more voices in their work and create stories about more than recycled, elite reactions to events. In this sense, those tweets are the updated version of a historical journalistic practice: the use of "vox pop" or "people on the street" quotations. Short for "vox populi," or "voice of the people" in Latin, the technique sends reporters onto the streets to find a few people to provide their thoughts on a topic. Ideally, the reporter finds opposing views on the topic to represent the supposed breadth of public opinion.

But using ordinary voices from Twitter can easily backfire. A recent study by two researchers at the University of Madison-Wisconsin found that 32 out of 33 major American news organizations had embedded tweets created by the Internet Research Agency, an organization located in St. Petersburg and backed by Russians linked to Vladimir Putin. This included outlets ranging from NPR and The Washington Post to digital natives like BuzzFeed and Salon.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Hartzell.

Today in History - April 2, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 2, the 92nd day of 2018. There are 273 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 2, 1968, "2001: A Space Odyssey," the groundbreaking science-fiction film epic produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick and starring Keir Dullea and Gary Lockwood, had its world premiere in Washington, D.C.

On this date:

In 1792, Congress passed the Coinage Act, which authorized establishment of the U.S. Mint.

In 1800, Ludwig van Beethoven premiered his Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21, in Vienna.

In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet fled the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, because of advancing Union forces.

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy." (Congress declared war four days later.)

In 1932, aviator Charles A. Lindbergh and John F. Condon went to a cemetery in The Bronx, New York, where Condon turned over \$50,000 to a man in exchange for Lindbergh's kidnapped son. (The child, who was not returned, was found dead the following month.)

In 1942, Glenn Miller and his Orchestra recorded "American Patrol" at the RCA Victor studios in Hollywood.

In 1956, the soap operas "As the World Turns" and "The Edge of Night" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1974, French President Georges Pompidou, 62, died in Paris.

In 1982, several thousand troops from Argentina seized the disputed Falkland Islands, located in the south Atlantic, from Britain. (Britain seized the islands back the following June.)

In 1986, four American passengers, including an 8-month-old girl, her mother and grandmother, were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a TWA jetliner en route from Rome to Athens, Greece.

In 1992, mob boss John Gotti was convicted in New York of murder and racketeering; he was later sentenced to life, and died in prison.

In 2005, Pope John Paul II died in his Vatican apartment at age 84.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush suffered a diplomatic setback when NATO allies rebuffed his pleas to put former Soviet republics Ukraine and Georgia on the path toward membership. Irish Taoiseach (TEE'-shuk) Bertie Ahern, who helped broker peace in Northern Ireland but couldn't survive a scandal over his collection of cash from businessmen, announced he would resign.

Five years ago: North Korea said it would restart its long-shuttered plutonium reactor and increase production of nuclear weapons material in what outsiders saw as its latest attempt to extract U.S. concessions by raising fears of war. Pope Francis prayed before the tomb of Pope John Paul II on the eighth anniversary of the beloved pontiff's death. Irish character actor Milo O'Shea, 86, died in New York.

One year ago: President Donald Trump brought Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., to his Virginia golf course to talk health policy with the outspoken critic of the failed plan to repeal and replace so-called "Obamacare." Jason Aldean was named entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards held in Las Vegas; Miranda Lambert's "The Weight of These Wings" won album of the year, Florida Georgia Line's "H.O.L.Y." won single of the year, and song of the year went to "Die a Happy Man" by Thomas Rhett. A'ja Wilson scored 23 points to help coach Dawn Staley and South Carolina win their first women's NCAA championship with a 67-55 victory over Mississippi State.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Sharon Acker is 83. Actress Dame Penelope Keith is 78. Actress Linda Hunt is 73. Singer Emmylou Harris is 71. Actor Sam Anderson is 71. Social critic and author Camille Paglia is 71. Actress Pamela Reed is 69. Rock musician Dave Robinson (The Cars) is 69. Country singer Buddy Jewell is 57. Actor Christopher Meloni is 57. Singer Keren Woodward (Bananarama) is 57. Country singer Billy Dean is 56. Actor Clark Gregg is 56. Actress Jana Marie Hupp is 54. Rock musician Greg Camp is 51. Rock musician Tony Fredianelli (Third Eye Blind) is 49. Actress Roselyn Sanchez is 45. Country singer Jill King is 43. Actor Pedro Pascal is 43. Actor Adam Rodriguez is 43. Actor Jeremy Garrett is 42. Actor Michael Fassbender is 41. Actress Jaime Ray Newman is 40. Rock musician Jesse Carmichael (Maroon 5) is 39. Actress Bethany Joy Galeotti is 37. Singer Lee Dewyze (TV: "American Idol") is 32. Country singer Chris Janson is 32. Actor Drew Van Acker is 32. Actress Briga Heelan (TV: "Great News") is 31. Actor Jesse Plemons is 30. Singer Aaron Kelly (TV: "American Idol") is 25.

Thought for Today: "Failure has a thousand explanations. Success doesn't need one." - Sir Alec Guinness, British actor (born this date in 1914, died 2000).

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.

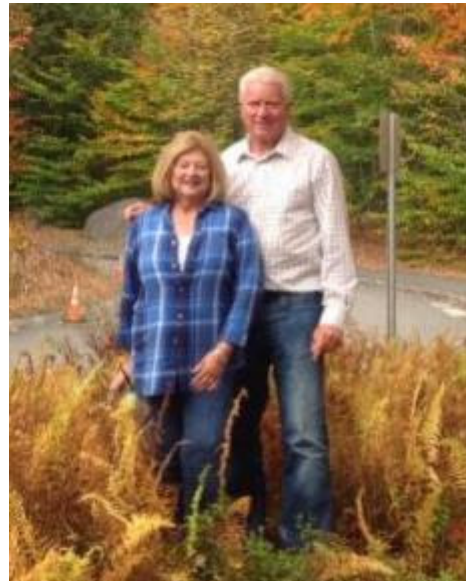
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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