



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - April 16, 2018

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Mon, Apr 16, 2018 at 9:11 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

April 16, 2018

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP photos](#)

[AP books](#)
[Connecting Archive](#)
[The AP Store](#)
[The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)



The Damascus sky lights up missile fire as the U.S. launches an attack on Syria targeting different parts of the capital early Saturday, April 14, 2018. Syria's capital has been rocked by loud explosions that lit up the sky with heavy smoke as U.S. President Donald Trump announced airstrikes in retaliation for the country's alleged use of chemical weapons. (AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

The **2018 Pulitzer Prize** winners will be named today at 3 p.m. Eastern from the Columbia Journalism School's World Room.

The naming of the Pulitzer Prize winners and nominees will be available to watch and can be livestreamed on [pulitzer.org](https://www.pulitzer.org).



Did you know that telegraphic reporting was awarded prizes both nationally and internationally from 1942 through 1947? Click on [this Poynter story](#) for more factoids on the Pulitzer. (This factoid gave me the chance to use this classic photo of the AP's New York General Desk on September 18, 1942. Photo by Walter Durkin.

We lead this issue with our now-regular Monday Connecting Self-Profile series, today's focusing on **Giovanna Dell'Orto** - author and journalism professor who worked for the AP in the United States and abroad. She is associate professor at the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Connecting also features an account by colleague **Chris Connell** of a celebration of the life of **Robert Parry**, one of the great investigative reporters of our era.

Have a great week!

Paul

Monday Q-and-A: Giovanna Dell'Orto



A discussion of Giovanna Dell'Orto's book based on interviews with 61 AP journalists during a 2016 event at AP headquarters. From left: John Daniszewski, Tom Herman, Kathy Gannon and Dell'Orto.

What is your present job and what does it involve?

I'm a professor in the journalism school at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. In ten years there, I've taught a bunch of undergraduate and graduate classes mostly on international communication and journalism history. My favorite moments have been teaching about journalistic coverage of migration in the Americas and Europe, including a study abroad class in Spain and Morocco, and using my book on AP Foreign Correspondents in Action (<http://www.cambridge.org/9781107519305>) -- I love seeing the students write essays engaging the insights of Terry Anderson, John Daniszewski, Kathy Gannon, Bob Reid ... and the 57 other correspondents I interviewed. Aside from teaching, I advise graduate students (top moment: A former Ph.D. candidate telling me that, after meeting "real" journalists like the AP folks, she started thinking maybe she could study journalism without bashing it ... which is the rather astonishing norm of much communication literature). And of course I do research -- book manuscript #7, on covering Europe's refugee crisis, entered production on Friday (April 13).

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

Dave Pyle and Doug Glass hired me as a newswoman in the Minneapolis bureau for the summer of 1999 (I believe I was a maternity replacement), when I was in-between my two-year Master's. Perhaps an hour into my first day, an arrest was announced in a notorious (and, it turned out, fatal) kidnapping in Moose Lake, Minn. -- I still didn't even have an AP log-in, and being useless on the desk, I got sent to the scene (about two hours north) with veteran photographer Jim Mone. We tracked the FBI and other detectives searching for the young woman's body in nearby lakes, only taking a break at a motel for Jim to transmit photos (1999 still meant bathtub darkrooms). My first, seriously overtime day at AP ended when we finally crashed at a Super 8 Motel -- after a Walmart shopping spree to get pajama, deodorant, toothbrush (but I believe we shared the toothpaste to save AP money). As I recall, the next day the FBI agent in charge saw me hurrying up the hill where they had set up a command post of sorts and just blurted "Oh God you again" -- which was my first compliment on aggressive reporting. Most of my students (and "civilian" friends) don't understand this, but of course it was AP love at first sight, and ever since.

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

I ended up staying part time in Minneapolis for the next academic year, and then went to Rome (Italy) to work for Dennis Redmont and Victor Simpson. It was a short stint, but I loved that too -- and again, the photographers took me under their wings, and some are best friends to this day. After Rome it was off to Phoenix -- where I started working the border beat (since I speak Spanish) and had perhaps the biggest breaking news story of my AP career, the deadly border crossing on the "Devil's Path" near Yuma in May 2001. My car transmission blew as I was driving on I-8 to the scene at dusk ... so I covered it via tow-truck, rental car, and U-Haul truck (and acquired a new Walmart pajama). A couple of days in, at a presser at the hospital where some of the victims were recovering, I remember the New York Times correspondent telling me "Hey, AP, that was a great lead on your story last night" -- I flushed with pleasure while praying he wouldn't ask any details about it, since I hadn't seen it -- CoB Steve Elliott had written it. I can only hope that I reciprocated at some later point on the desk in Phoenix or later Atlanta, which was my last AP assignment -- two years there, again mostly on the immigration beat, starting with another momentous first week (with a murder spree targeting migrant farm workers in Tifton, Ga.). Again I was lucky to be welcomed by, and learn from amazing editors (Barry Bedlan, Michael Giarrusso) and fellow newspeople -- everything from getting out urgent business news by running to/from the printer (thanks, Harry) to enjoying a Thanksgiving turducken (thanks, Errin).

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

Does writing travel stories for AP Travel Editor Beth Harpaz count??? I already love to experience and explore new places, both in the US (only missing one state, Alaska!) and abroad. When I get to do it with a special eye for detail and understanding because I can convey a new place to AP readers, that's just bliss.



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

I have been blessed to have seen so many places of extraordinary natural and artistic beauty, and met so many people who invariably challenged my assumptions and broadened my world, that I couldn't possibly pick. I suppose the most "unusual" vacation I've taken is the month-long, 500-mile walk on the Camino de Santiago in Spain -- I've walked it three times, and it's truly a transformative, profoundly spiritual experience. (It can also be blisteringly hot, good thing that I still have my trusty summer pajama from that northern Minnesota Walmart ... no, shopping and fashion are not my strongest suits).

Tell me names of your family members.

My mother Paola and my father Dario have been my strongest fans, fiercest critics, and devoted supporters throughout the years. After I published my first big-shot book (American Journalism and International Relations, Cambridge University Press, 2013), I did a book reading at the National Press Club in Washington, with George Bria, Max Desfor, their wives and my parents in attendance (as well as Valerie Komor, without whose help and insights I wouldn't have published a thing, and Myron Belkind, who generously organized the whole event). We had all dinner together afterward at the NPC's restaurant -- I will never forget my father, a big WWII fan, in animated back-and-forths with George and Max. Once again, it's all about the people -- and the conversation.

Giovanna Dell'Orto's email - dell0014@umn.edu

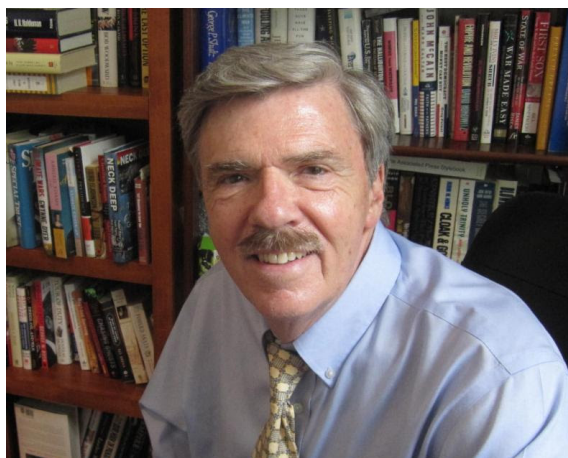
More than 250 bid a fond farewell to investigative reporter Robert Parry



Former New York Times executive editor and longtime family friend Jill Abramson eulogizing Bob Parry.

Chris Connell (Email) - More than 250 friends, family, sources and other admirers on Saturday packed a hotel ballroom that fittingly overlooked the Pentagon to bid farewell to Robert Parry, a relentless investigative reporter who put fear into the hearts of prevaricating officials and entertained legions of children, his own and the neighborhood kids. He'll be remembered as much for making Ollie North squirm as for evoking squeals from children who watched him feed little mice to the pet snake he and wife and former AP newswoman Diane Duston allowed his son Nat to keep in their South Arlington home.

There were many poignant moments, but this truly was a celebration with a touch of an Irish wake for the former Associated Press and Newsweek reporter and founder of the Consortium for Independent Journalism with its ahead-of-its-time investigative website, ConsortiumNews.com. The nonprofit enterprise is still going strong after 23 years. In fact, Bob's successor as editor-in-chief, Joe Lauria, was introduced at the memorial.



Robert Parry

Brian Barger, who broke deeply sourced Contra stories with Parry despite "a wall of resistance" from editors, said the secret U.S. support for the rebels' seeking to overthrow the Sandinistas in Nicaragua "stripped away whatever naiveté Bob had about U.S. journalism."

"Bob followed the breadcrumbs ... and made those 10 extra calls," said Barger. "Bob was not an ideologue. His deal was in pursuing the truth."

Spencer Oliver, former chief counsel for the House Foreign Affairs Committee (and no relation to Ollie), introduced himself as one of Bob's many sources. "He was the best journalist I ever met, certainly the most courageous, thorough and tough," he

said. "He was the only one who connected all the dots. The world's going to miss him."

The tributes began with National Public Radio's Lynn Neary telling of Bob one night spinning a tale of still-unfolding Reagan administration machinations in Latin America and her thinking "'Bob's gone a little too far this time.' But everything he outlined that night turned out to be true."

"He was absolutely relentless in pursuit of the truth, maybe too serious at times," said Neary, a onetime roommate of Diane's. Neary and her husband often hosted the couple at their lakefront cottage in Canada, a retreat that lacked one essential amenity: Wi-Fi. Every morning the news junkie would rise before anyone else, take a dip in the lake and drive 45 minutes to a Tim Horton's to make his connections and complete his work before heading back with doughnuts and chilling out the rest of the day.

Neary and Parry had different sports allegiances - the Connecticut-born and Colby College-educated Parry was a Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots diehard, and the Bronx-born Neary is a Yankees' fan - but in Bob's honor, Lynn confessed, she put aside her convictions and rooted for Brady, Belichick and company in Super Bowl LII.



"He adored his kids," said Neary. "He loved playing Barbie with his daughter Lizzie...and disparaging Ken."

Then there was the hand puppet, Kanga, with which Parry entertained generations of kids, even when grownups blushed for him. (Photo above)

Jill Abramson, once an Arlington neighbor, recalled his "completely nutty puppet shows" and the snake feeding ritual, as well as Halloween parties of legend including the time he dressed as the ghost of CIA Director Bill Casey and another time as Manuel Noriega.

(See photo below and right.)

The former Wall Street Journal reporter and later Washington bureau chief, managing editor and executive editor of The New York Times said, "I had the most establishment job there was, but Bob didn't hold that against me."

The noise from the mainstream media's Mighty Wurlitzer and echo chamber could be deafening, "but Bob's voice was louder," she said.

When he created the online investigative news site, "I thought he was nuts, but Bob saw the potential of the internet," said Abramson. "He built something people were waiting for."

Filmmaker Oliver Stone, in a recorded message, said, "We need Bob Parry more than ever and we know that Bless you, Bob, for bringing your wisdom and courage to this life." And to his ConsortiumNews contributors, Stone asked, "Please keep doing it."

Lauria, the new editor-in-chief, quoted Australian muckraker and documentary filmmaker John Pilger's remarks when he presented the Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism in London last June. Pilger called Parry "a journalist with a social conscience and courage ... who dated to step outside the mainstream."

Lauria said Parry "understood the mainstream media's greatest sin was the sin of omission, marginalizing or leaving out points of view at odds with" the accepted U.S. agenda.

Sam Parry said, "Dad chose a difficult profession and path. He challenged the mainstream media. For a lot of that work he was attacked by the left, the right, powerful interests, bloggers It was the people here in this room who were his community."



He called his father a patriot who "felt he was serving the country and the American people through his journalism."

Brother Nat, who lives in Denmark, described a scene at an Old West exhibit in Legoland where Bob grabbed his two granddaughters on one arm and Kanga on the other, began twirling them around and gleefully declaiming, "We're American dancers! We're American dancers!"

"He was a lovable, goofy grandpa who couldn't care less what people thought of him," he said.



Diane Duston (center) greeting Ann Blackman and Mike Putzel.

In a video prepared for the memorial, Sy Hersh was quoted as saying, Bob was "not even so much a critic of mainstream media, as a critic of lousy reporting."

His credo, and a fitting coda for his life, was, "I don't care what the truth is. I just care what the truth IS."

Parry won a George Polk Award in 1984 for uncovering an assassination manual the CIA furnished the Contras. In 2015 the Nieman Foundation at Harvard University gave him the I.F. Stone Medal for Journalistic Independence.

Parry died Jan. 27, weeks after strokes brought on by advanced, undiagnosed pancreatic cancer. He is also survived by son Jeff and daughter Lizzie and six grandkids.

Among the AP contingent at the memorial were: Carole Feldman, Owen Ullman, Larry Margasak, Alan Fram, Eileen Putnam, Bob Furlow, Jim Rubin, Jim Drinkard, Debbie Mesce, Joan Mower, Mike Putzel, Ann Blackman, Bill Outlaw, Matt Yancey, Peter Eisner and Jeannine Aversa.

Diane Duston's email - dduston429@aol.com

Connecting mailbox

Remembering Gordon Glover - a 93-year-old Mainer who lived a bucolic existence

Norman Abelson ([Email](#)) - Gordon Glover died last week.

We met in an Associated Press office in 1960, and formed a lasting friendship.

There was not a lot that seemed extraordinary about this man, an 93-year-old Mainer who lived a bucolic existence with Lynn, his late wife of more than 70 years, in their dream home beside the sea in South Freeport. Unless you counted his new tattoo.

Etched at the top of his left arm, the tattoo is a replica of the 8th Air Force insignia he wore proudly and heroically on his uniform as the young commander of a B-17 Flying Fortress in World War II.

If there were only two words to describe this man's essence - aside from family - they would be "journalist" and "flyer."

Yet to say that Gordon was reticent about writing or telling about his wartime adventures is to give new meaning to understatement. In our more than half-century

of close friendship, and in spite of my often urging that he should write his story, he told me nothing - until a few years ago. Little by little since, the story spun out, him trying to make it seem matter-of-fact, me insisting it was anything but. The more than 25 missions he flew over flak-filled enemy skies. Seeing friends' ships going down in flames beside him. The time he had to ditch his plane in the ocean, and his rescue in Holland.



These exploits seemed to him hardly worth mention. So it was rather surprising when he almost bragged to me about the new tattoo ("It was done by this girl right there in a shop on a main drag in Portland."); and downright shocking when he pulled up his sleeve and showed it!

Despite suffering a broken neck in a fall some years ago, Gordon made a miraculous recovery and kept up an active life of long walks, swimming and traveling, until he was finally tied down to a wheel chair. He also stayed in touch over the years with his bomber crew, and a few years ago flew to the West Coast for a reunion of the 8th Air Force. There is only one other member of his crew still alive, and as Gordon related to me recently: "When I told him about my tattoo, damned if he didn't go out and get one just like it."

One sad aftermath of his accident was that he no longer could pilot his beloved glider. After a lifetime of flying small engine-powered planes, some years ago he shifted to gliders, and I was privileged (if not so say a little scared) to have gone up with him a few times. Gordon and I soaring with the birds above the ridges of the White Mountains - a gorgeous seal on our friendship.

As I thought about writing this piece, I wondered whether I might be breaking faith with my old friend's sense of modesty and privacy. But in a time when "celebrities" with no accomplishment are spreading their muddy lives across the globe, wouldn't it be valuable to tell a bit about a decent man of many accomplishments and no feeling that his deeds were worth telling.

Childhood in a small community in Massachusetts. Wartime flying for the U. S. Army Air Corps. Journalism school in Tennessee after the war. Meeting and marrying his beloved Lynn. Writing for small newspapers and radio stations. Appointment as an Associated Press newsman in Portland (and later in Concord, N.H., where I worked and we met in 1960). Then purchase of a weekly paper in New Jersey, which he fashioned into a nationally respected and award-winning journal. A stint as an editorial writer for the New York Daily News. Grant-giver in the arts, humanities and environment for a major philanthropy. Speech writer for a U. S. senator.

Finally returning home to his beloved Maine

And all through the years there was the sub-text of Gordon's love of and fighter for the environment. In addition, he and Lynn raised three daughters and a son of whom any parent could be proud.

My friendship with Gordon had a rocky beginning which well could have ended at the start. I had hoped to be named correspondent at the small Associated Press office in Concord. Instead I was passed over, to be supervised by some guy from the Portland office whom I never had met.

It was a cold November day in 1960 when Gordon and Lynn walked into the office and introduced themselves. Discomfort hung in the air. But it didn't last long. Our friendship was locked on that day. I can't imagine these more than six decades later how much poorer my life would have been without Gordon Glover in it.

Gordon is gone now. But he will live on in the memories of the people who knew, respected and loved him.

-0-

April snowstorm in Iowa



Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - A scene from my parents' home in Storm Lake, Iowa - after 10 inches of snow from an April storm. This is what you get with a handful of birdseed and a slice or two of torn bread. Mostly juncos, sparrows, a few robins and cardinal who were hiding for their picture.

-0-

Coverage of Brazil and Rohingya earn AP staffers National Headliner Awards



Rohingya Muslim man Naseer Ud Din holds his infant son Abdul Masood, who drowned when the boat they were traveling in capsized just before reaching the shore, as his wife Hanida Begum cries upon reaching the Bay of Bengal shore in Shah Porir Dwip, Bangladesh, Sept. 14, 2017. (AP Photo/Dar Yasin)

By LAUREN EASTON

Reporting on horrifying violence across Brazil and the plight of Rohingya Muslims fleeing Myanmar earned AP journalists top honors in the National Headliner Awards, announced Friday by the sponsoring Press Club of Atlantic City.

AP staffers share first prize in the International News Beat Coverage or Continuing Story category for their documentation of brutal violence across Brazil fueled by fallout from the country's worst recession in decades and erosion in myriad aspects of security and political crisis. In video, text and photos, AP's Brazil staff brought these issues to light by going deep into slums, prisons and police ranks.

The five stories that won the award are:

[Rio's kids are dying in the crossfire of a wave of violence](#)

[Rising violence takes huge psychological toll in Rio favelas](#)

[Homeless in Rio skyrockets, creating tensions, violence](#)

[Chopped off heads, torn out hearts in brutal Brazil gang war](#)

100 police killed in Rio, on pace to be worst year in decade

For photography, Dar Yasin's gripping image of a Rohingya Muslim man holding his infant son, who drowned when the boat they were traveling in capsized, as his wife cries upon reaching Bangladesh, earned him first prize honors in the Spot News Photography category.

Visual journalist Felipe Dana's photo series "The Battle for Mosul," earned second prize for photo essay or story for his pictures of devastation in the Iraqi city.

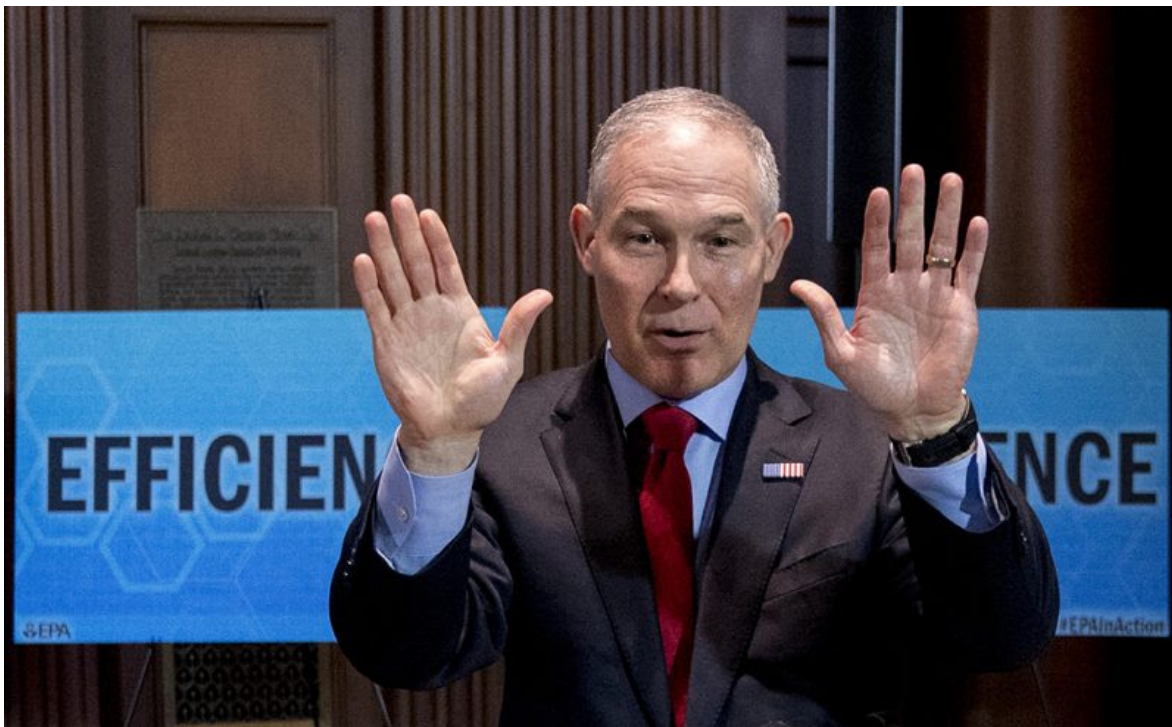
See the full list of winners [here](#).

AP reporting on the Rohingya exodus and triumph and tragedy in Mosul has also been recognized with prestigious awards from the Overseas Press Club of America.

[Click here](#) for link to this story.



AP Exclusive: EPA's Pruitt spent millions on security, travel



Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt waves at the agency in Washington, April 3, 2018, as he arrives for a news conference on his decision to scrap Obama administration fuel standards. An AP exclusive revealed that Pruitt's security cost taxpayers about \$3 million in the administration's first year. AP PHOTO / ANDREW HARNIK

Environmental Protection Administrator Scott Pruitt's lavish spending and deep concerns about security had put his future in the Trump Cabinet in jeopardy. But what was the cost to taxpayers?

AP beat reporter Michael Biesecker, whose aggressive coverage of Pruitt began more than a year ago when Trump nominated him for the EPA post, began working sources still at the agency and those who had left in search of the answer. His findings - that Pruitt spent about a whopping \$3 million on security in the first year - win the Beat of the Week award.

Pruitt's staff had rebuffed reporters' questions for months, saying that publicly revealing the size of Pruitt's security team or how much it was spending would imperil his safety. FOIAs about Pruitt's security arrangement had yielded only a few documents, all of them almost completely redacted.

Working in a highly competitive environment, Biesecker found a current EPA official who had direct knowledge of Pruitt's security spending and was willing to talk. The official told Biesecker that Pruitt spent about \$3 million on security in his first year, protected by an armed detail more than three times that of his predecessor. The demands of 24-7 protection blew through overtime budgets, forcing investigators to be diverted from field work to assist in security.

Biesecker also learned from sources that Pruitt, who said he was flying first-class at taxpayer expense because of unspecified security threats, chose to fly coach for some weekend trips home to Oklahoma, when taxpayers weren't paying.

Also, at times, he accepted a companion ticket obtained with frequent flyer miles accumulated by a former law partner whom Pruitt had hired as a senior aide at EPA, which experts said raised additional ethical issues.

Biesecker's exclusive story landed Friday night, sending his competitors scrambling. Lisa Friedman of The New York Times tweeted the AP story while still needling Biesecker, and Emily Holden of Politico tweeted: "Big scoop here from @mbieseck."

That's cool @mbieseck just ruin our Friday night (said all of Washington's EPA reporters who were still working anyway...) <https://t.co/R4SHRyOwqx>

- Lisa Friedman (@LFFriedman) April 7, 2018

By Saturday, the eye-popping details revealed in AP's report were reverberating around Washington. Investigators within EPA and on Capitol Hill expressed interest in Biesecker's reporting as part of ongoing probes into Pruitt's activities. The New York Times was among the news organizations crediting AP in their own stories about Pruitt.

In a highly competitive environment, Biesecker found an EPA official who had direct knowledge of Pruitt's spending and was willing to talk.

And in a tweet Saturday night, President Donald Trump confirmed AP's report that Pruitt's security costs were higher than his predecessor's, but repeated the claims of Pruitt's staff that the outsized spending was necessary because of "unprecedented" death threats.

The AP story was picked up 780 times and widely tweeted and retweeted. It also appeared prominently in print, including on the front page of Pruitt's hometown paper, the Tulsa World.

For scooping the competition with key details on a huge Washington story, Biesecker wins the Beat of the Week.



AP tracks record number of women running for US House seats



Kara Eastman, an ardent gun-control advocate and one of two Democrats vying to challenge Republican incumbent Don Bacon in a district centered in Omaha, Neb., poses before a event in Omaha on April 5, 2018, as the number of women running for U.S. House seats set a record nationwide. The vast majority of the women are Democrats motivated against President Donald Trump and policies of the Republican-controlled Congress. AP PHOTO / NATI HARNIK

The Women's March shortly after Donald Trump's inauguration energized its backers with a message to get politically engaged. The emergence of the #MeToo movement later that year provided even more momentum. But would women follow through? At the start of 2018, a midterm election year, the state government and data teams decided to find out.

The goal was ambitious: Track every woman running for Congress, statewide office and state legislature in the country, get historical numbers for comparison and follow their electoral fates through Election Day to see if the movements had led to real change. That effort, which will be ongoing throughout the year, produced its first scoop last week when AP declared a record number of women running for the U.S. House of Representatives. The newsbreak by state government team reporters Christina Cassidy and Geoff Mulvihill, and data team visual journalist Maureen Linke wins this week's Best of the States.

The focus on women running for office this year already has produced a handful of stories, but its most important feature is the painstaking process to compile a comprehensive list of all women who have declared their candidacies for state or federal office. Cassidy and Linke have been leading this ongoing effort. As they began building out their spreadsheet, it became clear that the number of women formally declaring candidacies for the House would cross a historic threshold at some point in the spring, a sign that the movements had spawned real political action. The question was when that would happen and which state filing deadlines would be decisive.

Based on her state-by-state research and review of the filing calendar, Cassidy determined that the threshold would likely be crossed the first week of April - when she was on vacation. She prepared background for a story and handed off to Linke and Mulvihill. They focused on getting data from Virginia and Tennessee, the two states likely to provide the new record. It was Mulvihill's job to bird-dog both states, calling their election officials to find out when the final candidate lists would be posted and then working to confirm the number of women on each.

Tennessee was expected to come first. Virginia was a more difficult case: The candidate filing deadline had passed, but the state had a tradition of not posting the final list of names until weeks later. Mulvihill persisted, strategically calling the elections office and refreshing its web page throughout the day. On a Thursday morning, Tennessee posted its final list, bringing the total to within one of the record. In a surprise, Virginia posted its list shortly after. Mulvihill knew this only because he had been paying such close attention. The record would be set, but by how much?

In the meantime, Linke was working on the data component that was essential to making the eventual call. Using a list of candidates from the Center for American Women and Politics as a starting point, she wrote a scraper to draw the data from the group's website into a Google spreadsheet the team could access. She then added new candidates and updated filing statuses for existing candidates based on the filings Mulvihill shared. That allowed AP to quickly come up with a tally of 309 and break the news ahead of the Rutgers-based center by a full day. Because filing remains open in roughly half the states, that meant the old record of 298 would be shattered by the time the races in all states had been set.

The ongoing effort is ambitious: Track every woman running for Congress, statewide office and state legislature in the country through Election Day.

But the story was more than about just a number. Pre-reporting by Cassidy and Mulvihill provided fresh quotes from some of the women who had decided to run, from both major parties. They discussed why they decided to become candidates and their priorities if elected. Linke used the data to create two charts that became part of an APNews stack.

The play underscored how this topic has become a key undercurrent of the midterms. In the hours after it was filed, it was No. 1 for customer downloads and tops on NewsWhip, and was the No. 4 story on APNews with more than 2,300 screen views (even then, it was the top non-Washington-dated story). It also had 2,600 Facebook interactions, made the top 10 in Axios over two cycles, was a top story on NPR and landed on two dozen front pages, including the Orange County Register.

For breaking significant news on one of the most dominant political trends of the year, Cassidy, Linke and Mulvihill share this week's \$300 Best of the States award.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Ted Anthony - tanthony@ap.org

Stories of interest

The staggering body count as California newspapers founder, and democracy loses (Los

Angeles Times)

By **STEVE LOPEZ**

The body count is staggering.

In my 43 years as a journalist, armies of trained bloodhounds have been run out of newsrooms where I've worked, victims of layoffs, and buyouts, and battle fatigue. I've lost so many hundreds of colleagues, I can't keep track of where they ended up.

These were smart, curious reporters, photographers and editors who told stories that defined place and time and made us all know each other a little better. They covered the arts and the local sports teams. They bird-dogged city councils, courts, law enforcement, school districts and other agencies that spend our tax dollars, bearing witness, asking questions and rooting out corruption.

There is less watching today, even though California's population has nearly doubled since I began my career, and we are all poorer for it.

It might seem like the opposite is true - that there's more information available than ever, because of incessant chirping on cable news, nightly car chases on local outlets, digital news sites and social media news feeds.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

-0-

TARGET: JOURNALIST How the Assad Regime Tracked and Killed Marie Colvin for Reporting on War Crimes in Syria (The Intercept)

By Johnny Dwyer, Ryan Gallagher

IT IS A horrifying artifact of our digital era: a jumpy 18-minute-and-49-second cellphone video of a Skype call. Glimpses of an Arabic-language keyboard and

laptop screen can be seen as the audio plays through tinny speakers. We hear panicked shouts in Arabic, the crack of explosions finding their way closer, a woman's voice shouting. A man yells in English: "I'm hit! I need a tourniquet on my leg. I can't move."

The video captures the frantic final moments of journalists Marie Colvin and Rémi Ochlik. The two were struck by a rocket on the morning of February 22, 2012, in the neighborhood of Baba Amr in Homs, Syria. It was the beginning of that country's civil war, which has now stretched into seven years of devastating violence. In federal court in Washington, D.C., on Monday, the video was submitted as a key piece of evidence in a lawsuit accusing the Syrian government of targeting and murdering Colvin, a U.S. citizen raised on Long Island, as she sought to cover the war.

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

-0-

Art Bell, mysterious narrator of the American nightscape, is dead at 72 (Washington Post)



Art Bell in 1998. (Lee Zaichick/For The Washington Post)

By Marc Fisher

In the small of the night, when the mind is open and the defenses are eased, mysteries blossom and conspiracies run wild. In the darkest of hours, Art Bell was a light left on for the lonely, the insomniacs, the Americans searching for answers in a society they believed was spinning out of control.

For more than two decades, Mr. Bell, who was 72 when he died April 13 at his home in Pahrump, Nev., stayed up all night talking to those people on the radio, patiently encouraging them to tell their stories about alien abductions, crop circles, anthrax scares and, as he put it, all things "seen at the edge of vision." The Nye County, Nev., sheriff's office said an autopsy will be conducted to determine the cause of death.

At Mr. Bell's peak in the 1990s, his show, "Coast to Coast AM," was on more than 400 radio stations. He took calls all night long, alone in the studio he built on his isolated homestead in Pahrump, in the Nevada desert. He punched up the callers himself, unscreened, keeping one line just for those who wanted to talk about what really happened at Area 51, the U.S. government reserve that for decades has been a locus of UFO sightings and purported encounters with alien beings.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

-0-

World Press Photo: Photograph of a man on fire wins top photo prize (Washington Post)



José Víctor Salazar Balza caught fire after a motorcycle exploded in a clash with riot police during a protest of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro in Caracas on May 3, 2017. (Ronaldo Schemidt/AFP/Getty Images)

By Olivier Laurent

Venezuelan photographer Ronaldo Schemidt won the World Press Photo of 2017 title for an image of a demonstrator engulfed in fire at a protest of the country's president, Nicolás Maduro.

"It's a classical photo, but it has an instantaneous energy and dynamic," said Magdalena Herrera, director of photography at Geo France and the chair of this year's jury. "The colors, the movement, and it's very well composed, it has strength. I got an instantaneous emotion."

José Víctor Salazar Balza, the demonstrator depicted in the winning photo, was standing near a motorcycle on fire when it exploded, engulfing him in flames.

"It's quite symbolic, actually," said National Geographic's Whitney Johnson, another member of the jury. "The man, he has a mask on his face. He's come to sort of represent not just himself and himself on fire, but sort of this idea of Venezuela burning."

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

Today in History - April 16, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 16, the 106th day of 2018. There are 259 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 16, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in which the civil rights activist responded to a group of local clergymen who had criticized him for leading street protests; King defended his tactics, writing, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

On this date:

In 1789, President-elect George Washington left Mount Vernon, Virginia, for his inauguration in New York.

In 1818, the U.S. Senate ratified the Rush-Bagot Treaty severely limiting the number of American and British military vessels on the Great Lakes.

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill ending slavery in the District of Columbia. The Confederacy conscripted all white men between the ages of 18 to 35.

In 1912, American aviator Harriet Quimby became the first woman to fly across the English Channel, leaving Dover, England, and arriving near Calais, France, in 59 minutes.

In 1935, the radio comedy program "Fibber McGee and Molly" premiered on the NBC Blue Network.

In 1945, during World War II, a Soviet submarine in the Baltic Sea torpedoed and sank the MV Goya, which Germany was using to transport civilian refugees and wounded soldiers; it's estimated that up to 7,000 people died.

In 1947, the cargo ship Grandcamp, carrying ammonium nitrate, blew up in the harbor in Texas City, Texas; a nearby ship, the High Flyer, which was carrying ammonium nitrate and sulfur, caught fire and exploded the following day; the blasts and fires killed nearly 600 people. At the South Carolina statehouse, financier Bernard M. Baruch declared: "Let us not be deceived - we are today in the midst of a cold war."

In 1968, American author Edna Ferber, whose novels included "So Big," "Show Boat" and "Giant," and who collaborated with George S. Kaufman on such plays as "Stage Door" and "Dinner at Eight," died in New York at age 82.

In 1972, Apollo 16 blasted off on a voyage to the moon with astronauts John W. Young, Charles M. Duke Jr. and Ken Mattingly on board.

In 1986, dispelling rumors he was dead, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi (MOO'-ah-mar gah-DAH'-fee) appeared on television to condemn the U.S. raid on his country and to say that Libyans were "ready to die" defending their nation.

In 1996, Britain's Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah, the Duchess of York, announced they were in the process of divorcing.

In 2007, in one of America's worst school attacks, a Korean-born college senior killed 32 people on the campus of Virginia Tech before taking his own life.

Ten years ago: The Supreme Court upheld, 7-2, the most widely used method of lethal injection, allowing states to resume executions after a seven-month halt. Pope Benedict XVI was welcomed by President George W. Bush as only the second pontiff to visit the White House (after John Paul II) and the first in 29 years.

Mathematician-meteorologist Edward Lorenz, the father of "chaos theory," died in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at age 90.

Five years ago: Federal agents zeroed in on how the Boston Marathon bombing the day before was carried out - with kitchen pressure cookers packed with explosives, nails and other lethal shrapnel - but said they didn't know yet who had done it, or why. An envelope addressed to Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., tested positive for ricin (RY'-sin), a potentially fatal poison. (A Mississippi man later pleaded guilty to sending letters dusted with ricin to Wicker, President Barack Obama and a judge.) NFL player-turned-broadcaster Pat Summerall, 82, died in Dallas.

One year ago: Robert Godwin Sr., a 74-year-old retiree, was shot to death along a Cleveland street; authorities said his random killing was posted on Facebook by the gunman who killed himself during a police chase in Erie, Pennsylvania, two days later. U.S. officials said a North Korean medium-range missile exploded seconds after launch, a high-profile failure that came hours before U.S. Vice President Mike Pence arrived in South Korea for a visit at the start of a 10-day trip to Asia. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (REH'-jehp TY'-ihp UR'-doh-wahn) won a historic referendum greatly expanding the powers of his office, although opposition parties questioned the outcome.

Today's Birthdays: Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI is 91. Actor Peter Mark Richman is 91. Singer Bobby Vinton is 83. Denmark's Queen Margrethe II is 78. Basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is 71. Former Massachusetts first lady Ann Romney is 69. Alaska Gov. Bill Walker is 67. NFL coach Bill Belichick is 66. Rock singer and former politician Peter Garrett is 65. Actress Ellen Barkin is 64. Actor Michel Gill is 58. Rock musician Jason Scheff (Chicago) is 56. Singer Jimmy Osmond is 55. Rock singer David Pirner (Soul Asylum) is 54. Actor-comedian Martin Lawrence is 53. Actor Jon Cryer is 53. Rock musician Dan Rieser is 52. Actor Peter Billingsley is 47. Actor Lukas Haas is 42. Actress-singer Kelli O'Hara is 42. Actress Claire Foy (TV: "The Crown") is 34. Figure skater Mirai Nagasu is 25. Actress Sadie Sink is 16.

Thought for Today: "A closed country is a dying country... A closed mind is a dying mind." - Edna Ferber (1887-1968).

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.

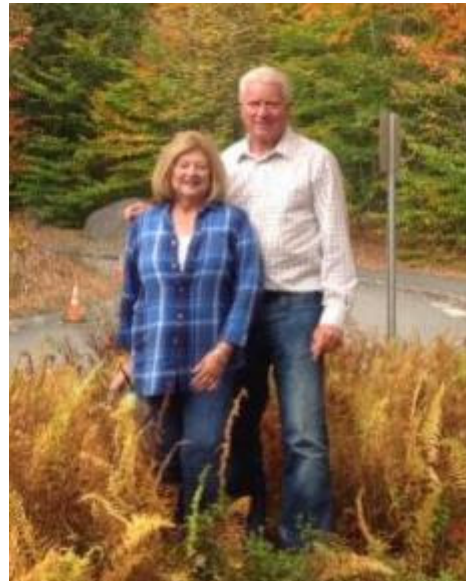
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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.



Paul Stevens
 Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

Connecting newsletter, 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

SafeUnsubscribe™ pjshane@gmail.com

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

Try it free today