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Connecting - May 04, 2018

1 message

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Connecting

May 04, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

In my years with the AP, I knew of no better mentor of young reporter talent than **Law Ferguson**, the veteran AP correspondent in Topeka, Kansas - whether they were full-timers on his staff or legislative relief staffers.

One of his very best was **Libby Quaid**, a University of Missouri graduate who I had hired to be a legislative relief newswoman in the Kansas Capitol. It aches me to tell you she is leaving the AP next week after a 24-year career that included her involvement in coverage of some of the biggest stories of our generation including the Oklahoma City bombing and the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

One of Libby's predecessors in the Topeka legislative relief position was **Sally Streff Buzbee**, who moved on to become AP's Washington bureau chief and now is executive editor.

I asked Libby if she would recap her career for her Connecting colleagues - and she delivered quite well - providing our lead story for today's issue. Lew, who died a year ago, would be most proud.

How about you - any mentors who contributed to the success of your career you'd like to recognize? Or were you one of those mentors? Send along your story.

We continue in today's issue with your stories of covering one of the biggest sporting events in the world, the Indianapolis 500. And there are more to come next week.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

Lessons learned in Topeka bureau paid off during Libby Quaid's 24-year AP career

Libby Quaid ([Email](#)) - When I started my AP career in Topeka, in Lew Ferguson's Finishing School for Boy and Girl Reporters, I had no idea what Lew was helping to prepare me for - a horrific bombing that killed 168 people, a senator losing his race for re-election to a dead opponent, the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

That run comes to an end May 11, after 24 years with the company. The AP is ending job shares, and I had to choose between returning full-time or leaving. It was a tough choice, but my life has been moving toward a second act in recent years, and it feels right now to move on.

While it feels good, it's impossible not to feel nostalgia for the stories I've covered and the people I've worked with.

I was incredibly fortunate when Kansas City COB Paul Stevens hired me in 1994 as legislative relief in Topeka, known to many of us as Lew Ferguson's Finishing School for Boy and Girl Reporters. Fresh out of the University of Missouri, I learned to file fast and clean, to bird dog a story before and after the desk filed it. Lew helped me look for what might make the aaa, like the idea that a piece of Einstein's brain might be in Kansas, stored in jars and on slides at a retired pathologist's home. Lew was willing to give me significant stories to follow, like the enactment of Kansas' violent sex predator law. (Lew, as he edited my first bylined story: "Are you sure you don't want to use Elizabeth? It's a nice name." I think he worried "Libby" had less gravitas.)



Libby Quaid

It was Lew who insisted that, while visiting family in California that summer, I rent a car and drive to San Diego to meet rising star Sally Buzbee, the then-correspondent who had also started in Topeka. Sally had to cover news but breezily suggested I venture into Tijuana. She said it was safe, so off I went! Fortunately, I made it home in one piece.

Paul helped me get a permanent job in Oklahoma City, my hometown, after a vacation relief stint in Kansas City. Months later, the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building became what would be the biggest story of my career. We were a tiny staff, but we were dogged. News Editor Linda Franklin sent me that morning to a hospital about half a mile from the bomb site, where medical personnel waited outside by the dozen for a second wave of survivors that never arrived.

Authorities set up a center across the street where families could wait for word about their loved ones. I remember interviewing a woman who later learned that her child had died, and a federal worker who lost so many colleagues, he later took his own life. Still, the magnitude of the story didn't sink in until sometime after 10 p.m., when my dear friend Paul Queary looked out the blinds inside the bureau and said, "Silverman's here." Then-Managing Editor Mike Silverman was among dozens of APers who came to help Linda and COB Lindel Hutson manage our coverage. I also met AP Vietnam correspondent George Esper and Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Nick Ut.

I worked alongside dozens of reporters from other newspapers across the U.S. at the command center near the Murrah building. And I remember that, even from that parking lot a couple of blocks away, we could smell the bodies still trapped in the rubble.

My experience covering the bombing made the Sept. 11 terror attacks seem less surprising. I had moved to Washington to work for the Kansas City bureau again as the regional reporter replacing Curt Anderson. I drove my car to the bureau that morning, hitting "redial" repeatedly until I reached day supe Chris Clark in Kansas City. "I'm OK!" I told him. Chris was puzzled and said things were busy there. I asked to speak to News Editor Kent Zimmerman, who agreed right away to call my mom to let her know I was OK, and parked my car in a garage where the attendant warned me it would be locked for several days.

I joined the dozen AP regional reporters in the Solarium, and we worked our congressional delegations to get whatever we could to help cover the story. Being a regional reporter was by far my favorite job. I believe we covered something like 40 states. I shared a desk with David Pace, the Georgia-Alabama regional and the longtime dean of the Solarium, so-called because of our wall of windows, even after the windows, depressingly, were bricked over by a new, taller building next door. This crew was an absolutely stellar group of journalists ("As good as we need to be," was one self-deprecating motto.) If someone found a good database story for a state, he or she would make sure we all had what we needed to do the same for our own states.

On the day in late 1998 that the House voted to impeach Bill Clinton and GOP Rep. Bob Livingston of Louisiana resigned as speaker-designate, a half-dozen of us who had been at the Capitol encountered each other in a rush to get back to the bureau. We crammed into a cab, inside of which the driver's body odor was an assault on the senses, but someone made the driver pull over to let us out when it became clear the car's muffler had fallen off. I cannot remember how we made it back to the bureau that day. I do recall that I got the only balancing comment to be had about soon-to-be Speaker Dennis Hastert: GOP Kansas Rep. Todd Tiahrt hadn't gotten the memo and told me on the record that Hastert just didn't have the charisma or experience to do the job.



The stories I got to cover ran the gamut. Then-Sen. Sam Brownback cancelled a glamorous fundraiser in Aspen, Colo., after a staffer in another office had faxed me the invitation. Brownback, ever careful, returned my call for an interview to say he'd cancelled the event because my call made him see it in a new light.

The biggest story while I had that beat was the Missouri Senate race in 2000, when, three weeks after his death in a plane crash, the late Democratic Gov. Mel Carnahan defeated GOP Sen. John Ashcroft. And the biggest story in the race till then had been when 1960s-era photos emerged of Carnahan performing in blackface at a Rotary Club show, a story I broke and that prompted the genteel governor to come across a table at me, shouting, "You've never given me a fair shake!"

David Scott was working in the St. Louis bureau and woke me with a phone call the night of the crash, saying that Carnahan's plane had gone missing. Ashcroft's staff was expert at dirty tricks and I barked that it had to be, in today's parlance, fake news. But it wasn't. After George W. Bush nominated Ashcroft to serve as attorney general, I covered his confirmation hearings with my good friend Mike Sniffen, our longtime Justice Department reporter.

Later, I moved onto the national staff to cover the food and farm beat, which was dominated for a time by discoveries of mad cow disease (those discoveries are now very rare because USDA decided to stop looking for it, another good story). Matt Yancey and John Henry were my editors; Matt helped me bedevil the George W. Bush in its push for subsidy reform. Ag Secretary Mike Johanns once tried to ban me from a pen-and-pad briefing in his office because of a "sensationalist" lede that Matt and I wrote saying he'd decided to "throw in the towel" on subsidy reform. Thankfully, Reuters and Dow Jones refused to attend if AP was excluded, and Johanns relented (an aide of his called years later, out of the blue, to offer me a job as Johanns' spokeswoman). John once sent me to a ranch near Dallas to write about beef from exotic Japanese wagyu cattle. There was also a rather intimidating grocery shopping trip I took with Washington COB Sandy Johnson to an upscale market in Old Town Alexandria so she could show me what she wanted on the beat.



Libby Quaid poses question to John McCain during 2008 presidential campaign.

I joined David Pace's team of election analysts helping to call the presidential and statewide races, and sometime after Sandy heard me barking at a bureau chief that it was time to call a Senate race, she put me on the 2008 presidential campaign. You might think it would be a yawn to cover GOP also-rans, but I wound up on Mike Huckabee's campaign in the weeks before evangelical Christians swept

him to victory in the Iowa caucuses. Later I was on the McCain campaign. For a time, the AP's presidential campaign coverage was run by women: Sandy, news editor Donna Cassata and reporters Nedra Pickler, Liz Sidoti, Beth Fouhy and me.

From the campaign, I moved onto the education beat and covered the heady days of the new Obama administration and its efforts, along with the Gates Foundation's, that paved the way for the much-debated Common Core standards.

After I had my daughter, Anne, I asked to return to AP in a job share with my friend Anne Flaherty. I wanted to work the desk, where the hours were very regular, and Sally agreed. I had no idea how much I would enjoy the job! I honestly haven't missed reporting during my time on the desk in Washington. I've spent the past three years or so as day supe on Thursdays and Fridays, the days when the excellent Eileen Putman isn't working. Those three years have been a roller coaster, with the rise of Donald Trump and his Twitter feed and, during the campaigns, his call-ins to the morning news shows.

And, as a member of Pace's team of election analysts, I was in the bureau on Election Night 2016, helping to call the presidential race. My toughest state this time was Iowa, and Trump's lead there widened in the month before the election.

It will be difficult to leave my friends on the desk. Merrill Hartson, who retired in January, and Tom Strong are unfailingly patient and generous with their advice. Working with Anne Flaherty or Jennifer Kerr is like a Vulcan mind meld. Lou Kesten is as steady and as effective as they come, and his impeccable taste in TV shows has governed my viewing for years. Lynn Berry was a godsend when she came to us from Moscow. I'll miss Doug Daniel and Will Lester and the times we worked together, rare as they were. And Bob Furlow - I'm glad I'm leaving before Furlow resigns, because I don't want to work at AP without him.



With daughter Anne, husband Dan.

I'm looking forward to my next chapter, though I'll take a little before I begin to write it. I expect to look for freelance or part-time editing and writing work. I'll also keep making music; I love the Music Together classes I teach with toddlers and preschoolers. And I love the time I have with my husband (Dan Hubbard) and daughter. Anne's school and her interests in musical theater (I'm not pushing! I'm not pushing!), ice skating and ballet keep me busy, and happy.

Connecting mailbox

48 years ago today: 'Four dead in Ohio'



John Filo ([Email](#)) shared in a Facebook post: "I owe a great deal to the photographers who trained me and to others who willingly shared with me the "mistakes" they made. I make hundreds of my own, and they do teach you well. One of the lessons was "mind your exposures in relation to the frames left on your roll". I knew on that bulk loaded roll I was very close to the end.... about a frame and a half away... Remember MAY 4, 1970.

Fortunately, he had enough film left to take one of the most iconic photographs in history - a Kent State student killed by National Guardsman bullets.

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Remembering Steve Komarow

Bob Seavey ([Email](#)) - Steve Komarow (who died on April 29) was a very welcome addition to the International Desk when he rejoined the AP around 2005 or so. As a deputy editor, Steve played an important role in many of the major breaking stories and he did it with calmness, intelligence and breezy sense of humor that made him easy to work with. His expertise in dealing with stories out of the world's trouble spots was especially obvious and he readily passed on his knowledge to staffers. I enjoyed working with Steve the few years he was there and I'm certain many of my colleagues felt the same.

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Quite a retirement party for Sandy Colton



Mark Duncan (Email) - I found this photo from the retirement in 1984 of Sandy Colton. Harry Cabluck, left, and Brian Horton, center, test Bob Daugherty's chili at the Colton cabin in upstate New York. Looks like Daugherty's is holding one of his perfect Manhattans.

It was a huge retirement party for Sandy. longtime AP chief photographer. It was held in the fall of 1984 at the retirement home he had built in the Adirondacks near Bleecker, NY, and was attended by about 100 AP staffers and industry friends past and present.

I believe the AP chartered a bus to bring a bunch from NYC to the shindig...I had flown to NY and rode up with Brian Horton and his wife, Marilyn.

Bob Daugherty made the big pot of chili, Harry Cabluck smoked brisket over a wood fire outside the cabin (I believe he even brought Mesquite from Texas up for the process) and there was a lot of other of food (and drink) for the party.

We pretty much took up an entire motel in Johnstown, NY to overnight afterwards.

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AP International alums out for dinner



AP international service alums at a Washington restaurant Thursday. Left to right Elizabeth Kennedy, Lynn Berry, Toulou Vlahou, Bob Reid, Brian Murphy, Deb Riechmann, Ellen Knickmeyer. (Photo submitted by Bob Reid)



Your memories of the Indy 500



AP sports writer Karol Stonger interviews a member of Mario Andretti's crew under the rear wing of the car in pit lane at the 1973 Indy 500. (AP Photo)

Karol Stonger (Email) - I have many memories covering the Indy 500. One of the earliest: Shortly after the track opened for practice in the spring of 1964, Indiana state editor Dale Burgess and I were there. While kicking around the grounds, we came upon a fence separating us from a pile of bricks. We scrambled to the other side, snatched a couple and, well, we left. The bricks were among the original pavers of the 1.5-mile oval still known as the "brickyard," and a wide strip remains embedded at the finish line. My single trophy remained with me only until I was transferred to NY in 1967. AP paid for my move, and I tried to keep it light.

I was back at the track on race day, reporting from the field hospital when both Eddie Sachs and Dave MacDonald were brought by ambulance from the crash

scene. It was protocol for anyone wounded, spectators and crew alike, no matter the severity, to be checked in before being treated or removed to area hospitals. Sachs would be DOA at Methodist, and MacDonald died a few hours later. I recall Eddie's wife arriving at the field hospital awaiting news of her husband. She was sitting in the back of an open ambulance, chewing her nails and sobbing.

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Dave Lubeski (Email) - My first and only coverage of the Indy 500 took place in 1981 just a few months after my promotion to sports director at the radio network. My predecessor handled coverage of the race until then. When I arrived at the speedway there was already a plan in place from previous races for delivering live updates during our sportsline broadcasts. Racetrack media relations frowned upon radio (or TV) in the section reserved for the written press. A lot of AP teamwork went into the process. When it was time for a live update one person in the booth assumed the position at the door as a lookout while the 30-second report was delivered over the airwaves to AP member stations. Broadcast equipment was stored under the table in between reports.

My recollection is that the rule then was that only one reporter per news organization was allowed in the post-race news conference. Radio's recording equipment had to be trusted to the wire-side reporter chosen to attend. We read Hal Bock's account of his Indy coverage in a recent edition of Connecting. I remember when he was the chosen one and was given a quick lesson on where to place the microphone and how to operate the recorder. I didn't recall who took the recorder in to get the reaction of the winner when I covered the race... until a few years later when I was introduced to my new boss, the new head of the radio network - John Reid, who later retired from the AP as the executive vice president for technology. I thought he looked familiar and then he reminded me that he was the reporter who took my recorder when he was covering the post-race newser in 1981.

That was also the year of a controversial ruling. Bobby Unser took the checkered flag. I was on a plane back to Washington the next morning when it was announced that Unser passed cars illegally coming out of the pit under a caution flag and was bumped to second place. Mario Andretti was declared the winner. Protests and appeals followed and Unser was restored as the winner in October. It was his third Indy 500 victory and his last Indy race.

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Jeff Williams (Email) - The great photographer and writer Gene Herrick, reminiscing about the Indy 500, wrote: "Covering this race is a most exciting time for a journalist." To that I say, "To each his own."

For me it was a big noisy yawner, and I was right in the pits (in more ways than one). I was an AP correspondent for many years, but was hired by CBS News in Asia and eventually was assigned to Chicago, the Midwest bureau. And one day in 1972 the powers that be said - go cover the Indy 500.

You have to understand I never liked cars. I still don't. They turn surly and uncooperative at the worst times. As a kid in Port Angeles, Washington, I could never understand why some of my buddies loved being in the garage on cold rainy nights working on their car engines, mashing knuckles when the greasy wrench slipped. Why not sit inside, warm, reading a book?

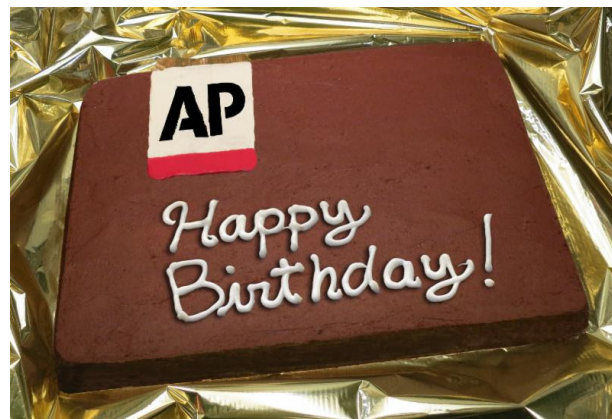
Anyway, ABC News had the overall contract to provide race coverage. My crew and I were there in case (and hopefully) there was a big crash. There was none. Hours of cars going round and round and round. This story is much better when I tell it with sound effects and a couple beers. Feel free to add your own (sound and beer).

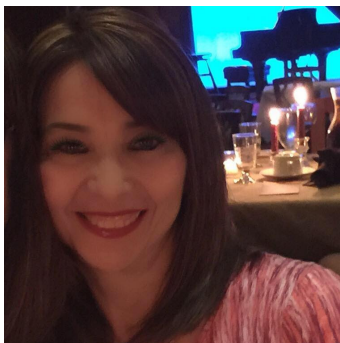
So that's it, tha-tha-tha's all, folks. Some rave about the smell of napalm in the morning. I still smell high octane gas fumes in the afternoon, and I'm a long way from Indianapolis. Thankfully.

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Bob Seavey ([Email](#)) - My experience helping to cover the Indianapolis 500 was the pits - literally. During a race in the early 1990s when I was working in the Indianapolis bureau, I was dispatched to the pits in a fire suit with the order to get details on any unexpected driver stops or anything unusual. I'd like to say that my reporting made the difference in the story that year. But nothing much occurred in my area other than cars whizzing a few feet away at more than 200 mph. Ah, but what a ringside seat to one of the world's great sporting events.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To**Patricia Casillo - pcasillo@ap.org*****On Sunday...*****Greg Nokes - g_nokes@yahoo.com**

Stories of interest

NBC News corrects story on monitoring Cohen's phones

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - NBC News corrected a story Thursday that said federal investigators had placed a wiretap on the phone lines of President Trump's attorney, Michael Cohen, saying it subsequently learned that the feds were only monitoring the source of calls and weren't listening in.

The correction gives ammunition to the nation's highest-ranked media critic. Trump has frequently criticized the media for "fake news" involving stories he doesn't like.

NBC moved its original story online shortly after 1 p.m. on Thursday, and it became immediate fodder on MSNBC and other cable networks. The correction was issued online at 5:27 p.m. with an editor's note to the rewritten story, and was discussed on MSNBC's "Meet the Press Daily."

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

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Denver Post editor resigns after fiery editorial calling out owner (The Hill)

By **BRETT SAMUELS**

The editorial page editor at The Denver Post resigned on Thursday, a few weeks after he wrote a column criticizing the paper's owners.

The Denver Post reporters and local news outlet Denverite reported that Charles Plunkett resigned from his post, the latest casualty at a paper that has been ravaged by layoffs in recent years.

"It's a tragedy what Alden Global Capital is doing to its newsrooms and what it's doing to The Denver Post," Plunkett told Denverite. "It's an act of apostasy to our profession and I could no longer abide it."

Colleagues praised Plunkett for his work and fearless attitude.

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

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Lose Newspapers and You Lose Your Democracy (The Nation)

By **ERIC ALTERMAN**

I had a different column when I woke up on deadline day, but I wrote this one, not because any major news had broken—yes, the FBI raided the office of President Trump's personal lawyer—but because our country and our democracy are in the midst of an ongoing emergency, and our embattled media is unable or unwilling to explain it.

What inspired my switch was Politico's publication of the results of a study that demonstrated "a clear correlation between low [newspaper] subscription rates and Trump's success in the 2016 election, both against Hillary Clinton and when compared to Romney in 2012. Those links were statistically significant even when accounting for other factors that likely influenced voter choices, such as college education and employment, suggesting that the decline of local media sources by itself may have played a role in the election results." It's an enormously detailed study, and the data confirm what newspaper reporters and editors have been trying to tell a complacent public for years: "Lose us and you lose your democracy." Walter Lippmann explained the problem in *The Atlantic Monthly* back in 1919: "The quack, the charlatan, the jingo, and the terrorist, can flourish only where the audience is deprived of independent access to information."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Cindy Saul.

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Mark Zuckerberg Doesn't Understand Journalism (Atlantic)

By **ADRIENNE LAFRANCE**

Mark Zuckerberg wants you to know that he cares, really cares, about journalism.

"I view our responsibility in news as two things," he said in a wide-ranging conversation with a small group of news editors and executives assembled in Palo Alto for a journalism gathering known as Off the Record on Tuesday afternoon. "One is making sure people can get trustworthy news."

The other, he said, "is building common ground in society." It turns out that "common ground" is suddenly Zuckerberg's preferred euphemism. (That, and "community.")

"You're not going to be able to bridge common ground," he said, unless you have a "common set of facts so that you can at least have a coherent debate."

And here's where the contradictions flood in.

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

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Air Force Once and other White House typos (BBC News)

The White House has blamed a "clerical error" for a typo in a news release stating that Iran "has" an ongoing nuclear weapons programme.

It should actually have read "had" - in the past tense - administration officials say.

That's a big difference.

It's no secret that President Donald Trump himself frequently hits "send" on his tweets before editing them for spelling errors.

But ever since winning the election, his White House has been plagued with typos and misspelled words - including on official documents and press releases referring to sensitive diplomatic matters such as US national security.

As long as there is human error, every organisation is prone to an embarrassing gaffe in its written communications. But the Trump presidency seems particularly prone to orthographical mishaps.

Here are some notable examples, with input from the BBC's White House reporter.

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

Today in History - May 4, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 4, the 124th day of 2018. There are 241 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 4, 1968, the Oroville Dam in Northern California was dedicated by Gov. Ronald Reagan; the 770-foot-tall earth-filled structure, a pet project of Reagan's predecessor, Pat Brown, remains the tallest dam in the United States, but was also the scene of a near disaster in February 2017 when two spillways collapsed, threatening for a time to flood parts of three counties in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

On this date:

In 1626, Dutch explorer Peter Minuit landed on present-day Manhattan Island.

In 1776, Rhode Island declared its freedom from England, two months before the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

In 1830, the Edward Bulwer-Lytton novel "Paul Clifford," with its famous opening, "It was a dark and stormy night...", was first published in London.

In 1886, at Haymarket Square in Chicago, a labor demonstration for an 8-hour work day turned into a deadly riot when a bomb exploded.

In 1919, the comic strip character Harold Teen made his debut in the Sunday edition of the Chicago Tribune in "The Love Life of Harold Teen" by Carl Ed (eed).

In 1932, mobster Al Capone, convicted of income-tax evasion, entered the federal penitentiary in Atlanta. (Capone was later transferred to Alcatraz Island.)

In 1942, the Battle of the Coral Sea, the first naval clash fought entirely with carrier aircraft, began in the Pacific during World War II. (The outcome was considered a tactical victory for Japan, but ultimately a strategic one for the Allies.)

In 1959, the first Grammy Awards ceremony was held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Domenico Modugno won Record of the Year and Song of the Year for "Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu (Volare)"; Henry Mancini won Album of the Year for "The Music from Peter Gunn."

In 1961, the first group of "Freedom Riders" left Washington, D.C. to challenge racial segregation on interstate buses and in bus terminals.

In 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen opened fire during an anti-war protest at Kent State University, killing four students and wounding nine others.

In 1980, Marshal Josip Broz Tito, president of Yugoslavia, died three days before his 88th birthday.

In 1998, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee) was given four life sentences plus 30 years by a federal judge in Sacramento, California, under a plea agreement that spared him the death penalty.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush visited Greensburg, Kansas, where he hailed the resilience of the town and its tiny high school graduating class, one year after a tornado barreled through with astonishing fury. A river boat sank in a remote Amazon region in northern Brazil, killing at least 48 people. Iraq's first lady (Hiro Ibrahim Ahmed) escaped unharmed from a bomb attack in downtown Baghdad that struck her motorcade.

Five years ago: National Rifle Association leaders told members during a meeting in Houston that the fight against gun control legislation was far from over, and vowed that none in the organization would ever have to surrender their weapons. A limousine taking nine women to a bachelorette party erupted in flames on the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge over San Francisco Bay, killing five of the passengers, including the bride-to-be. Orb powered to a 2 1/2-length victory on a sloppy track to win the Kentucky Derby. Floyd Mayweather came back from a year's absence to win a unanimous 12-round decision over Robert Guerrero in their welterweight title fight in Las Vegas.

One year ago: President Donald Trump met with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull aboard the USS Intrepid, a decommissioned aircraft carrier in New York, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the World War II Battle of the Coral Sea, which reinforced the ties between the U.S. and Australia. A U.S. service member was killed in Somalia during an operation against the extremist group al-Shabab, the first American

combat death there in more than two decades. Buckingham Palace announced that Queen Elizabeth II's 95-year-old husband, Prince Philip, was retiring from royal duties.

Today's Birthdays: The former president of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, is 90. Katherine Jackson, matriarch of the Jackson musical family, is 88. Jazz musician Ron Carter is 81. Rock musician Dick Dale is 81. Pulitzer Prize-winning political commentator George Will is 77. Pop singer Peggy Santiglia Davison (The Angels) is 74. Actor Richard Jenkins is 71. Country singer Stella Parton is 69. Actor-turned-clergyman Hilly Hicks is 68. Irish musician Darryl Hunt (The Pogues) is 68. Singer Jackie Jackson (The Jacksons) is 67. Singer-actress Pia Zadora is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer Oleta Adams is 65. Sen. Doug Jones, D-Ala., is 64. Violinist Soozie Tyrell (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 61. Country singer Randy Travis is 59. Actress Mary McDonough is 57. Comedian Ana Gasteyer is 51. Actor Will Arnett is 48. Rock musician Mike Dirnt (Green Day) is 46. Contemporary Christian singer Chris Tomlin is 46. TV personality and fashion designer Kimora Lee Simmons is 43. Rock musician Jose Castellanos is 41. Sports reporter Erin Andrews is 40. Singer Lance Bass ('N Sync) is 39. Actress Ruth Negga is 37. Rapper/singer Jidenna is 33. Actor Alexander Gould is 24. Country singer RaeLynn is 24. Actress Amara (uh-MAH'-ruh) Miller is 18. Actress Brooklynn Prince (Film: "The Florida Project") is eight.

Thought for Today: "The greater the number of laws and enactments, the more thieves and robbers there will be." - Lao-tzu (low dzu), Chinese philosopher (c.604-531 B.C.).

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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