

Connecting -- May 11, 2018

1 message

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Fri, May 11, 2018 at 8:52 AM





May 11, 2018



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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Services are scheduled today for **Carl Craft**, a retired Associated Press reporter and editor who worked in the Washington bureau for 24 of his 30 years with the AP. He died May 5 at the age of 79.

Carl wrote his own obituary and it can be found by **clicking here**. His services will be held at 1 p.m. at Stegall-Berheide-Orr Funeral Home in Richmond, Indiana, with burial in St. Mary's Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.stegallberheideorr.com

In today's issue, my longtime friend and Connecting colleague **Kathy Kozdemba** writes about the 100th birthday party for **Phil Coyne**, an usher at PNC Park in Pittsburgh for 81 years. The AP was on hand to cover the story for the wire and Kathy provides us with the inside family scoop.

Got a favorite **Hugh Mulligan** story? **Andy Lippman** poses that question to his Connecting colleagues after I mentioned the late AP special correspondent in a story about the Indy 500 in Thursday's edition. Send your Hugh memories along to Connecting.

Finally, the AP's annual 25-Year Club celebration was held last night at New York headquarters. Connecting will bring you coverage on Monday.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

Longtime AP journalist Carl Craft, a Washington bureau vet, dies at age 79

WASHINGTON (AP) - Carl C. Craft, a retired Associated Press reporter and editor who covered government and politics in Washington for more than two decades, died recently after suffering head injuries in a fall. He was 79.

Craft, who died May 5 at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia, worked for the AP for more than 30 years, starting in 1963 in Louisville, Kentucky, before moving on to be correspondent in Concord, New Hampshire, and then joining the staff of Washington AP in 1969. He worked in the Washington bureau until 1993, when he retired.

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Before the days of the internet and Google, Craft was known for collecting extensive files and background on all types of government and political stories, and would keep them in big cases he would carry to and from work in his car for safekeeping. Once, when there was a fire alarm in the office, he recruited several co-workers to get his files to his car, said Bob Furlow, a Washington AP colleague.

He wrote a weekly "Status of Legislation" column on bills working their way through Congress. "He was surprised and pleased to find one week that a Tennessee paper had led its Sunday edition with his compilation," Furlow recalled.

On big election nights, he would track which states were won by each candidate on tote boards to keep the newsroom informed.

Read more here. Shared by Will Lester.

A 100th birthday party for Phil Coyne at the ballpark he has called home since 1936



AP Photos/Keith Srakocic

Editor's Note: Connecting colleague Kathy Kozdemba was a Gannett editor, publisher and corporate staffer before retiring in 2003, as well as a board member of APME. She now works part-time as special counsel to the president for strategic initiatives at La Roche College in suburban Pittsburgh, where she lives. Her longtime companion was the late Congressman Bill Coyne, which is how she came to be front and center in this photo, taken at a Pittsburgh Pirates game last month, when Bill's brother, Phil Coyne, an usher at PNC Park for 81 years, was honored on his 100th birthday. In the photo below, Kathy is surrounded by Phil's relatives, including Will Coyne of Pittsburgh (on her right), the grandson of Phil's first cousin.

Your Connecting editor asked her to write about the special celebration.



Kathy Kozdemba (Email) - Phil Coyne, believed to be Major League Baseball's oldest usher, turned 100 on Friday, April 27. And it just so happened that his beloved Pittsburgh Pirates were playing the St. Louis Cardinals that night at PNC Park.

What better place for his birthday party than the ballpark he called home, working for the team he has called his own since he first showed up to work with his brand new Social Security card. At Forbes Field, in 1936.

Yes, that's right. Since 1936, except for a few years in the Army in World War II, Phil Coyne has been wiping down seats for Pittsburgh baseball fans before every home game. First at Forbes Field, just a few blocks from his home in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh. Then at Three Rivers Stadium, and since 2001 at PNC Park, which has required him to hop a bus into downtown and then a subway under the Allegheny River before he could punch in. But after the nearly hour-long commute, he was always eager to welcome his guests to Section 26 - with that big friendly smile of his and very often, a hug.

Late last summer, the City of Pittsburgh declared "Phil Coyne Day," and Pirates President Frank Coonelly and other front office staff showed up for the ceremony at City Hall, showering Phil with gifts. "I don't know what this fuss is all about," Phil said. "I just have a job, and I show up to do it." That day, Coonelly told me plans already were in the works to celebrate his 100th birthday at the ballpark. (I was designated the family point person to provide Chris Serkoch, Pirates director of special events and game presentation, any information and photos she would need for the pre-game ceremony and the media.)

But just before the start of the 2018 season, after the harsh winter and a fall that sent him off to physical therapy - "balancing school," as he calls it - Phil told his family that he didn't think he could go back to work. However, he never got around to telling the Pirates that he was retiring. And so, he remains atop the ushers' seniority list, with everyone hoping he'll be back in Section 26 as summer goes on.



When he does go back, either to work or enjoy a game, he'll no doubt stop to marvel at the special bronze plaque saying the section was dedicated to him on his 100th birthday - just one of the honors the Pirates bestowed on him and his family that night.

For the birthday celebration, the Pirates reserved a section for Phil's family and friends - covered, just in case of rain - and then comped all 180 of our seats. With our tickets at VIP Will Call (of course!) was the following note from Pirates Owner and Chairman Bob Nutting (perhaps better know to Connecting readers as CEO of Ogden Newspapers):

Family and Friends of our beloved Phil Coyne,

On behalf of the entire Pirates Family, it is my pleasure to be able to honor Phil tonight at the ballpark on his 100th birthday. It's my further pleasure to host all of his family and friends as part of this celebration. THANK YOU for being here this evening. Enjoy the celebration and Lets Go Bucs!

The grounds crew sprayed "Phil 100" in front of his section along the third base line. And then distributed t-shirts with that logo to everyone seated in his section and the family section. (Phil's family and friends had ordered special shirts for the night, with "Philly" and a green shamrock on the front, and "Coyne 100" on the back).

The Pirates organization donated \$5,000 in Phil's name to this favorite local charity, Children's Hospital of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

But best of all, Coonelly announced that Phil's usher's uniform (khaki slacks, polo shirt, hat and identification badge) is destined for permanent display at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Somehow, I think there soon will be a Coyne Family pilgrimage to Cooperstown soon, and we'll all be decked out in our "Coyne 100" shirts.

After the Pirates beat the Cardinals 6-5 in the 11th inning, Phil declared that night his best ever at the ballpark. Better than the famed Mazeroski World Series win. Better than the final game at Forbes Field. For that was the night he officially became a Hall of Famer - to all of baseball, not only the fans in Section 26.

Click here for a video.

My memories of Russ McPhedran - a journalistic legend in Australia



Brian Horton (Email) - I was saddened to learn of the death of former Sydney photo editor Russell McPhedran. Russ and I had an AP friendship for many years - we saw each other at the summer Olympics every four years and kept in touch with notes and messages in the intervening years.

Russ was a legend in Australian media circles and had been inducted into the Australian Media Hall of Fame this past November.

I knew Russ as an enterprising photographer who always did a super job at swimming at the Olympics. He had spent much of his career covering the standout Aussie Olympic swimmers and loved to be part of that coverage.



Olympics photo by Russell McPhedran

When the Olympics came to Sydney in 2000, Russ was a great source of information and contacts during the two-year run-up to the games and also during the games themselves. I walk through Olympic Park's media area took forever with Russ because he knew everyone and everyone knew him.

While my experience with Russ was in-person on many Olympic assignments, it was by phone or message on the annual Australian Open tennis tournament. Russ had a great operation there, leading a team of freelancers and turning out great coverage each year. I'd be in touch if the day's play was in our favor, which was often, or if the opposition had something we had missed. Russ always wanted the feedback.

A lot has been written about Russ' photo of the Munich terrorist from the 1972 Olympics while he was with the Sydney Morning Herald. Several photographers, including Russ and the AP's Kurt Strumpf, found a good vantage point that day and were rewarded with a shot of one of the terrorists, hooded and menacing, on a balcony in the athletes' village.

Russ sent his back to Sydney for the next edition of the paper and Strumpf's version was transmitted quickly around the world. It had nothing to do with how good either image was, it was more about the distribution channels involved. Readers around the world got to see Strumpf's, which was hailed as an iconic image of the opening salvo in terrorism, while Australian readers saw Russ' version. Russ was very proud of his picture, and should have been.

The sports website, Deadspin, interviewed Russ about the photo - https://deadspin.com/the-story-behind-the-masked-horror-of-the-munich-olympi-1792823912 - and it is an interesting read.



Russell McPhedran (left) who is 5 feet, 6 inches, uses a stepladder to get a headshot of former Brigham Young University basketball player Shawn Bradley, who is 7 feet, 6 inches tall. 1993. (AP Photo/Corporate Archives) At the end of the day, I admired that Russ could sit down with other photographers, AP and competitors alike, and enjoy the friendship of a couple of pints at the bar. He was competitive as hell during working hours but everyone was a friend when the work was done for the day.

Our friendship extended to Russ' love of golf, too. I don't play but for several years I edited the AP report at the Masters from Augusta National. Russ loved going out for a round of golf but was also a big fan of watching the pros and studying how they played the game.

In the media building at Augusta, there is a stack of course guides for the taking each year. It includes a hole-by-hole description of the fabled course with comments from the late Bobby Jones, one of the most famous American golfers and co-founder of the course and the tourney.

One year, I got a handful of the guides, some Augusta National ball markers, a hat and a few other items and sent them off to Russ. When the Masters rolled around the next year, he treated his "mates" at the local golf course with his Masters swag and they were in awe.

He was like a kid at Christmas with the stuff. It

was a lot of fun to do that. I replenished his supply each year until my tenure in Photos ended and I was going to Augusta anymore. Glad I could do it for him.

Sending my condolences out to Shirley and all of his "mates." You will be missed, Russ.

That old AP rule - senior correspondent picks up the tab



AP Travel editor Beth Harpaz and retired Montgomery, Alabama newsman Kendal Weaver at Vintage Year restaurant in Montgomery. (Photo credit: Penny Weaver)

Beth Harpaz (Email) - I was in Montgomery, Alabama, at the end of April to help the bureau cover the opening of the new lynching memorial and museum. I had connected with AP's retired newsman there, Kendal Weaver, and his wife Penny, before my trip, and we got together for dinner while I was there. My husband joined us too. Had a wonderful meal at the Vintage Year restaurant. Kendal would not hear of splitting the check with us; he insisted there is an old AP rule that the senior correspondent picks up the tab! I have just marked 30 years at AP myself so I guess I better step up next time I'm out with younger colleagues ... and I can think of a few old-timers in my younger days who apparently were not aware of that rule, LOL! But I'm not revealing any names - you know who you are! It was such a wonderful evening spent with the Weavers and I highly recommend a visit to Montgomery. The new memorial and museum are overwhelming emotionally in a lot of ways, but this is also the city where a 24-year-old minister named Martin Luther King Jr. became the leader of the civil rights movement virtually overnight after Rosa Parks was arrested. There is a lot to be proud of here and a lot to take inspiration from in this city, along with the reckoning that is taking place of past wrongs unacknowledged.

Your memories of covering Indy 500



When the pace car crashed into the photographer stands

Joe McGowan (Email) - When the Peruvian military government threw me out in 1970, AP sent me to Indianapolis as news editor. COB Tom Dygard shortly was transferred to Chicago as COB and I took over the Indianapolis AP bureau.

My first Indy 500 race was May 29, 1971. We were up high in the stands in the press boxes. AP had its own section and we had two writers -one for writing late PMS leads and one for working on the AMS leads. Each writer typed his story and handed it to Teletype operators to send to the members.

The race started and the pace car was a Dodge Challenger driven by dealer Eldon Palmer. The race sped around the 2.5 mile track and as it neared the start line, the race drivers got the green flag for "Go!" The pace car sped left into the pits and the driver kept looking over his right shoulder to see the start of the race. He didn't slow down and at the end of the pits, he crashed into the photographer stands. Several photogs were injured, but fortunately, none fatally as I recall. After that, experienced professional race drivers were used to drive the pace car.

While the PMS and AMS writers were rushing out their leads for the sports wire, I had gotten on the phone and was dictating leads for the AAA wire!

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A myriad of memories from covering 31 Indy 500s

Bruce Lowitt (Email) - I have myriad memories of Indianapolis 500s. I covered 31 of them, 15 for The AP, the rest for the St. Petersburg Times. It would have been 32 but the 1986 race was rained out on May 25-26 and when it was run on May 31 I was listening to portions of it (and that was both bizarre and frustrating) while driving down Interstate 95 to start working the next day for the Times.

Four of my Indy 500s stand out - one of which actually had to do with the race itself.

My second one was in 1972 - I'd worked the pits in '71 - and for some reason I was assigned to write the tech story, namely the details about the winning car. My knowledge of automobiles consisted of this: if I turned the key and it started I drove it. If it didn't I called AAA. This did not bode well. So what I did in the days leading up to the race was visit half a dozen or so of the drivers' garages, meet their crew chiefs, explain what I would have to write and ask if they would take me step by step through what I needed when the race ended, and promised that it wouldn't take long. They were uniformly polite, understanding, and agreeable.

When Mark Donohue won, the first of 16 Indianapolis 500 victories for Roger Penske's team, I went to his garage, waited until Karl Kainhofer, his crew chief, could spare a few minutes, then reintroduced myself and basically said, "Tell me about the car, the important stuff first, things readers will want to know about it," turned on my tape recorder and listened. I doubt that I asked any questions. I wouldn't have known what to ask.

Then I returned to my typewriter and transcribed what he'd said. Some of it was in quotes attributed to him, some was not in quotes, but virtually all of it was Kainhofer.

When I returned to NY Sports, Murray Rose, the assistant sports editor, said, "Hey, Lowitt, how'd you know so much about cars?" Not willing (then) to admit my ignorance, I just gave him a knowing smile, said, "Well, y'know ..." and walked away. Now, of course, my knowledge of automobiles consists of this: if I push the button and the car starts I drive it. If it doesn't I call AAA.

When I reminded Mike Harris, my good friend and colleague and the best autoracing writer I've ever known, about some of what he called, in the May 9 edition of CONNECTING, "the more sordid parts" of the Indy 500, I also thought of one Indy tradition, so to speak, that thankfully has gone the way of race-day carburetors, turbines, and "Gentlemen, start your engines."

The AP photo booth sat between the track and garages, in an area where fans and other spectators would wander and congregate. At some point, probably at least a few years before I began covering the race, an enterprising photographer (one would assume) put a sign in the windows for passers-by to read.

SHOW US YOUR TITS

And they did. Annually the interior walls were festooned with pictures of unabashed women.

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The routine, as I remember it, was that by Friday evening all the pre-race stories and agate were done and filed. With no on-track activity scheduled Saturday it was, for some of the AP staff, golf day. I do not play golf; it's been decades since I even tried to putt a ball into a clown's mouth. But one year, Sports Editor Darryl Christian persuaded me to join the group despite my protestations that I would slow the game down considerably.

After taking a 12 (or probably more) on the first hole and an even higher score on the second, I teed off yet again. Despite my best efforts to hit the ball toward the No. 3 flag, it went 90 degrees to the right and barely missed hitting a guy on the 16th green. At that point I put the club in the bag, the bag and my body in the cart, and I drove my companions the rest of the afternoon.

I'd like to expand on what Hal Bock, also a good friend and AP colleague and multitalented columnist, wrote in the May 10 edition of CONNECTING. It was about the lead for the last AP story I wrote from Indy, for May 25, 1986, the setup to the rained-out Sunday race I never covered:

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Michael Andretti and Al Unser Jr., seemingly emerged from the womb with a vroom, with a gearshift for a rattle and a helmet for a bonnet, driving before they could walk.

Hal, was looking over my shoulder. Assistant Sports Editor Terry Taylor sat a couple of computers to my left. She would be editing my copy.

"No way!" Hal said.

"Five bucks," I said.

"Deal."

When it was finished, Terry opened it on her screen.

"Oh!" she exclaimed.

Hal held out his hand, palm up, waiting for the payoff.

"I like that!" Terry added.

The funnel cake was delicious.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



То

Hal Bock - hbock@optonline.net

Craig Klugman - cklugman2@comcast.net

On Saturday to ...

Kristen Hare - khare@poynter.org

On Sunday to ...

Tricia English - triciaenglish3@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Google's news chief Richard Gingras: "We need to rethink journalism at every dimension" (Nieman)



By DAVID SKOK

In the shadows of the Cambridge Analytica scandal, the public's trust in news, and the platforms that distribute it, is at an all-time low. As big tech seemingly scrambles to restore users' confidence in their platforms, Google is introducing new ways to streamline the subscription process for digital news-readers. I sat down last week with Richard Gingras, the longtime vice president of news at Google, to discuss the company's new Subscribe with Google feature, the open web, data privacy, and the search giant's role in the future of news. What follows is a lightly edited transcript of our conversation.

DAVID SKOK: Can you give us a quick introduction to what Subscribe with Google is trying to achieve?

RICHARD GINGRAS: A huge focus of our efforts is trying to enable a sustainable ecosystem of quality journalism going forward, something I'm more optimistic about today than ever before. I think if we can look through the smoke of disruption, we're beginning to see seedlings of success, of new approaches to journalism at the local level, at the national level, in terms of content and issues, that is extraordinarily exhilarating and inspiring.

Read more here.

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Salem executives pressured radio hosts to cover Trump more positively, emails show (CNN)

By Hadas Gold and Oliver Darcy

Executives at Salem Media Group, a conservative media company that syndicates some of the country's most recognized talk radio hosts and operates a batch of popular commentary websites, pressured some of their radio talent to cover Donald Trump more favorably during the 2016 presidential campaign, emails obtained by CNNMoney show.

One former radio host employed by Salem is now speaking out on the record, claiming the company fired her because of her refusal to play along.

It might not be unusual that a conservative-minded media organization would aim to support the Republican nominee. But the former host, Elisha Krauss, said she feels it's disingenuous to ostensibly hire hosts to be open about their views, only to pressure them behind the scenes to change.

Read more here.

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"People get subpoenas, shit gets real": What John Edwards should teach the media about covering Trump (Vanity Fair)

By PETER HAMBY

When BuzzFeed News published the Steele dossier, in January of 2017, much of the media universe rushed to condemn the release of an unverified document that made a series of explosive accusations about Donald Trump and his campaign's dealings with Russia. Never mind that the claims included in the dossier are a key piece of the special counsel's investigation into Trump, or that the dossier was being circulated around the highest levels of American government on the cusp of a new presidency. There was a righteous journalism debate to be had! Brian Stelter of CNN compared BuzzFeed to WikiLeaks. NBC's Chuck Todd told BuzzFeed editor-in-chief Ben Smith: "You just published fake news." Even Bob Woodward, the high priest of investigative journalism, lashed the dossier, calling it "a garbage document."

It was a weird look for the news media: opting to give Trump-a man with a decadeslong record of telling mistruths, double-dealing, obscuring facts, dodging responsibility, and trashing journalists-the benefit of the doubt over a news organization working in the public's interest to keep powerful people accountable. The journalistic tut-tutting feels even weirder in hindsight, now that we are in the midst of a near-daily firehose of lies and leaks emanating from an administration with a demonstrated contempt for the truth and a flagrant disregard for the traditional ways of doing business in Washington. Trump should never get the benefit of the doubt. Yes, that's partly because he's Trump, a guy who admitted to a biographer a few years ago that he still has the temperament of a first-grader. But it's also because Trump is a politician, and even the most well-intentioned politicians deserve the suspicion of the press, not our good faith.

Read more here.

Today in History - May 11, 2018

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By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 11, the 131st day of 2018. There are 234 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 11, 1943, during World War II, U.S. forces landed on the Aleutian island of Attu, which was held by the Japanese; the Americans took the island 19 days later.

On this date:

In 1502, Christopher Columbus left Cadiz, Spain, on his fourth and final trip to the Western Hemisphere.

In 1647, Peter Stuyvesant arrived in New Amsterdam to become governor of New Netherland.

In 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state of the Union.

In 1888, songwriter Irving Berlin was born Israel Baline in Temun, Russia.

In 1927, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was founded during a banquet at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

In 1935, the Rural Electrification Administration was created as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

In 1953, a tornado devastated Waco, Texas, claiming 114 lives.

In 1960, Israeli agents captured Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In 1973, the espionage trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo in the "Pentagon Papers" case came to an end as Judge William M. Byrne dismissed all charges, citing government misconduct.

In 1988, master spy Harold "Kim" Philby, the notorious "third man" of a British espionage ring, died in the Soviet Union at age 76.

In 1996, an Atlanta-bound ValuJet DC-9 caught fire shortly after takeoff from Miami and crashed into the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people on board.

In 1998, India set off three underground atomic blasts, its first nuclear tests in 24 years. A French mint produced the first coins of Europe's single currency, the euro.

Ten years ago: Serbia's pro-Western president, Boris Tadic (boo-RIHS' TAH'-dich), declared victory in parliamentary elections in a stunning upset over ultranationalists. Parvati Shallow was the last woman standing on CBS' "Survivor: Micronesia - Fans vs. Favorites." (Shallow had previously come in sixth place on "Survivor: Cook Islands.")

Five years ago: Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (nah-WAHZ' shah-REEF') declared victory following a historic election marred by violence. A pair of car bomb attacks in Turkey killed 52 people near the Syrian border.

One year ago: President Donald Trump signed an executive order launching a commission to review alleged voter fraud and voter suppression, building upon his unsubstantiated claims that millions of people voted illegally in the 2016 election. The Senate confirmed President Trump's nominee for U.S. trade representative, Robert Lighthizer (LYT'-hy-zur), by a vote of 82-14 despite complaints from some Republicans.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Mort Sahl is 91. Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan is 85. Jazz keyboardist Carla Bley is 82. Rock singer Eric Burdon (The Animals; War) is 77. Actress Pam Ferris is 70. White House chief of staff John F. Kelly is 68. Actress Shohreh Aghdashloo (SHOH'-reh ahg-DAHSH'-loo) is 66. Actress Frances Fisher is 66. Sports columnist Mike Lupica is 66. Actor Boyd Gaines is 65. Country musician Mark Herndon (Alabama) is 63. Actress Martha Quinn is 59. Country singer-musician Tim Raybon (The Raybon Brothers) is 55. Actor Tim Blake Nelson is 54. Actor Jeffrey Donovan is 50. Country musician Keith West (Heartland) is 50. Actor Nicky Katt is 48. Actor Coby Bell is 43. Cellist Perttu Kivilaakso (PER'tuh KEE'-wee-lahk-soh) is 40. Actor Austin O'Brien is 37. Actor-singer Jonathan Jackson is 36. Rapper Ace Hood is 30. Latin singer Prince Royce is 29. Actress Annabelle Attanasio (TV: "Bull") is 25. Musician Howard Lawrence (Disclosure) is 24.

Thought for Today: "The worst-tempered people I've ever met were people who knew they were wrong." - Wilson Mizner, American playwright (1876-1933).

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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