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Connecting -- May 15, 2018

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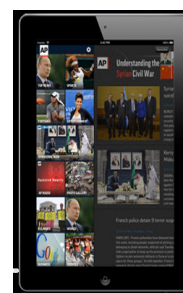
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Connecting

May 15, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

We are sad to report the death of longtime AP Sydney bureau chief **Peter O'Loughlin**, who covered the final days of the Vietnam War for The Associated Press. He died at the age of 78 after a long illness.

Connecting would welcome your memories of Peter.

Leave it to our colleague **Myron Belkind** to take the Connecting theme of sharing memories of AP special correspondent Hugh Mulligan and tie it to the current headlines of the day.

Myron, former AP London bureau chief, recalls the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981, when AP was allotted one seat at the wedding and he asked that Mulligan be the reporter to fill it.

On Saturday, the royal wedding of Diana's son Prince Harry to his American princess, Meghan Markle, will be held in London. While Hugh has departed our world, it gives us yet another occasion to remember him.

Connecting also features an article from Deadspin on how Washington journalists covering President Trump's White House are hot commodities as guests in the competitive world of political television. Reporters from The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Associated Press are among the most frequent guests.

Have a great day!

Paul

Longtime AP Sydney bureau chief Peter O'Loughlin dies at 78

By JOHN PYE

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) - Peter O'Loughlin, who helped cover the closing days of the Vietnam War for The Associated Press and was founding president of the Foreign Correspondents' Association of Australia, has died after a long illness. He was 78.

O'Loughlin was an experienced foreign correspondent who worked across Southeast Asia before going on to document the historic days when South Vietnam's cities fell to communist forces. In his home country of Australia, he commanded respect for his push to give the world press greater access to

government leaders.

On April 1, 1975, as South Vietnam's Da Nang was falling to the North Vietnamese, O'Loughlin was aboard a chartered merchant ship off the coast and reported and photographed the desperate scenes as 6,000 refugees boarded in eight hours



"Years later, he never failed to choke up recalling that dreadful story," former AP and Newsweek correspondent Carl Robinson said.



In this April 1, 1975, photo taken by Peter O'Loughlin, a cargo net lifts refugees from a barge onto the SS Pioneer Contender for evacuation from the fallen city of Da Nang. Freighter took eight hours to load some 6,000 refugees.

Just days later in Saigon, later renamed Ho Chi Minh City, O'Loughlin covered the crash of a flight carrying orphaned babies as part of "Operation Babylift," the name given to the mass evacuation of children from South Vietnam in the final days of the war.

When Saigon finally fell to the North Vietnamese on April 30, 1975, O'Loughlin was at the U.S. air base in the Philippines, where the last helicopters out of the city landed, Robinson said.

Read more [here](#).

Hugh Mulligan: The AP's Royal Correspondent Extraordinaire!



AP Special Correspondent Hugh Mulligan at the 1981 wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales, and the Lady Diana Spencer. (AP Photo/Corporate Archives)

Myron Belkind ([Email](#)) - The Associated Press was allocated one seat at the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana at St. Paul's Cathedral on July 29, 1981. As the London bureau chief, I asked foreign editor Nate Polowitzky to send us Hugh Mulligan from New York.

Nate agreed - and Hugh did not disappoint!

He rented the obligatory top hat and morning suit from Moss Bros, the legendary supplier of royal attire, and walked into St. Paul's to join the other 2,500 invited guests.

Hugh provided immense color from inside the cathedral and returned to the AP bureau near Ludgate Circus, three blocks from St. Paul's.

And then came a phone call from Nate.

"Have Hugh do a story on how so many persons are lining up at Moss Bros to return their rented outfits."

Again, Hugh did not disappoint!

While many of the wedding guests had their chauffeurs return their attire, Hugh went on foot on his own to hand back his suit and top hat and gather material for the story Nate had requested.

And, of course, he did a typical Mulligan feature that provided a perspective about the royal wedding that no other journalist captured the way he did.

This week, as the world prepares to watch another royal wedding, of Prince Harry to his American princess, Meghan Markle, we have another occasion to remember Hugh for all his very special contributions to The Associated Press for a half century.

And another Hugh Mulligan memory...

Brendan Riley ([Email](#)) - Re Andy Lippman's comments about Hugh Mulligan's visit to Nevada, checked in with Andy and Dan Day and here's the update: In 1994, Andy and Dan had brought Hugh Mulligan to the small eastern Nevada town of Ely to speak at the annual Nevada Press Association meeting. Dan recalls that Hugh's golf game that weekend included a 30-foot putt. As for the drive around town, yes, we primly outvoted Hugh on the brothel stop. However, Hugh later said that after our return to the hotel he walked over all of two or three blocks to say hi to the hookers anyway. May have just been joshing us, Dan says. Prostitution is allowed on a local-option basis in Nevada, and the houses are plainly visible - in Ely's case a block off the main street. We even have a brothel owner running for the state Assembly this

year. Dennis Hof lost in 2016 but the race is a toss-up this year. Attaching an only-in-Nevada billboard his opponents put up in 2016.

It's A Good Time To Be A Reporter Covering Trump If You Like Money And Going On TV

By STEVEN PERLBERG

Deadspin

A whirlwind Washington era has vaulted White House reporters into a charmed, somewhat awkward, but characteristically Trumpian reality: fame and fortune.

Since the 2016 election, the nation's leading political reporters are flourishing. A media renaissance has juiced salaries for those who can break news about characters in the Trump orbit, thanks to their sourcing on the most intensely followed beat in the world. Blessed with a TV news presidency, CNN and MSNBC are entrenched in an arms race to land "contributors" exclusive to their airwaves. Book publishers and agents are searching for the next Fire and Fury. And print reporters - used to a workmanlike life behind the scenes even on a high-profile beat - have been cast as celebrities of #TheResistance or visible villains trafficking in Fake News.

Reporters' windfall has stemmed, in part, from a shift in strategy by CNN President Jeff Zucker and NBC News chair Andy Lack, two old-school executives leading the major networks that supplement reporters' income. (The contributor well for Fox News tends to differ from its rivals.) Dinged by critics for featuring roundtables of talking heads, Zucker and Lack have been on a buying spree to sign reporters who break news to paid contributor contracts. That way, when the Washington Post or New York Times breaks a big Russia-Trump story - and they often do - their network will have exclusive access to the bylined reporter. In the hyper-competitive world of political television, the coin of the realm has become five magic words: "The author joins us now."

"With the sheer amount of breaking news now, you really are trying to differentiate yourself, and the way to do that is to have all the news breakers if you are a network," said one CNN source.

CNN contributors include the New York Times' Maggie Haberman, Jonathan Martin, and Julie Hirschfeld Davis, the Washington Post's Josh Dawsey and Josh Rogin, Politico's Rachael Bade, Time's Molly Ball, Bloomberg's Margaret Talev, and AP's Julie Pace. NBC News and MSNBC have signed on contributors such as Philip Rucker, Robert Costa, David Fahrenthold, and Ashley Parker from the Washington Post, the Daily Beast's Betsy Woodruff, Gabe Sherman and Emily Jane Fox from Vanity Fair, and Peter Baker, Matt Apuzzo, Jeremy Peters, Charlie Savage, and Michael Schmidt at the New York Times.

Compensation ranges widely, but it has risen in recent years, according to reporters, agents, and network sources. Starting contributor rates for political reporters fall between about \$30,000 and \$50,000 a year. Top reporters can earn between \$50,000 and \$90,000 for their TV side-hustles, and some seasoned pros - boosted by loyalty and multi-year arrangements - make as much as \$250,000.

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

Connecting mailbox

Hawaii volcanic eruption harkens memories of Mount St. Helens

Steve Graham ([Email](#)) - The ongoing flow of both news and molten rock from Hawaii's Mount Kilauea bring to mind the cataclysmic blast from the Northwest's Mount St. Helens 38 years ago this coming Friday. (May 18, 1980)

What had been an item of curiosity since activity began the previous March became deadly, snuffing (literally) out the lives of about 57 people, including 83-year-old old Harry R. Truman, who had become something of a folk hero by proclaiming that he knew more about the mountain than the geologists who had kept up a steady stream of warnings to get out.

Harry's remains are still somewhere beneath the megatons of volcanic rubble that cover the lodge he ran at once-idyllic Spirit Lake.

Proving that Mother Nature cares not for political boundaries, the mountain is in Washington, just across the Columbia River, in full view of Portland, Ore. but within the editorial purview of AP's Seattle bureau, 170 miles to the north.

As I remember things, we in Portland worked seamlessly with our friends and colleagues in Seattle, especially staffing the multitude of news conferences in Vancouver, Wash., at the foot of the bridge connecting Oregon and Washington.

The event blew the budgets of both bureaus about as high as the May 18 Mount St. Helens blast into the stratosphere, but as news editor, I didn't pay much attention to those details.

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Lee Hughes enjoying retirement in Milwaukee



George Stanley (left) and Lee Hughes

George Stanley (Email) - editor, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - Had great lunch with Lee Hughes on Friday. He is fit and trim, reading three newspapers a day (including the Journal Sentinel), enjoying life 11 years into retirement including train travel out West. We're going to try and get our old Wisconsin AP Editors gang together this summer. (Lee is former Milwaukee chief of bureau and also served as Chicago assistant chief of bureau during a distinguished AP career.)

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News as Art



Brendan Riley (Email) - Maggie and I were at the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco on Sunday, and ran across this piece, called "News." It's supposed to represent today's nonstop flood of news, among other things. To me, it represented the huge mess behind the Model 20 printers in my Carson City office when I came in on Monday to find I had left them on all weekend.

[Click here](#) for a story on "News as Art in 2018" by Sophie Haigney in The Paris Review.

It begins:

On the top floor of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, a printer is printing the news.

As the printer groans and stutters, long loops of paper gather on the gallery floor. It prints slowly, pausing every few minutes, as the paper grows into an endless ribbon over the course of a day. From a distance, it looks like a recycling heap. Close up, it looks like a Tara Donovan sculpture or the graceful curls of intricate origami.

There are RSS feeds coming in from all over the world, in English: Reuters, the Guardian, Al Jazeera, the New York Times, Haaretz, Der Spiegel, Fox News, the Times of India, others.

You're invited to pick it up and read it.
 "Legendary Milwaukee Brewers broadcaster Bob Uecker, 84, reveals he survived bite from poisonous spider."
 "Anthea Hamilton review-gourds move in mysterious ways at Tate Britain."

"Detroit-area girl, 3, wounded after AK-47 accidentally fires." "Lindsay Lohan named the new face of Lawyer.com."

This presentation of *News* features the following English-language media outlets:

ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)
 The Afghanistan Express
 Al Jazeera
 allAfrica
 CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation)
 CNN (Cable News Network)
 Fox News
 The Guardian
 Haaretz
 The Local France
 The New York Times
 Reuters
 Russia Insider
 Der Spiegel
 teleSUR
 The Times of India
 The Washington Post
 Xinhua

The APME AWARDS for 2018 - Honoring excellence and innovation in journalism

NEW YORK - Journalism that exposed abuse of the public trust and shed light on the human condition earned top honors in The APME Awards for 2018.

The Houston Chronicle led the way with two first place awards and an honorable mention. Public radio stations - in Boston, Milwaukee and Missoula - won three first place awards, including two in the storytelling category. And in keeping with APME's tradition of recognizing work from news organizations of all sizes, winners ranged from the Los Angeles Times to the Bristol Herald Courier in Virginia.

"The winning entries reflect a few common themes: a continued commitment to pursue strong watchdog reporting, experiment with innovative storytelling and find new, creative ways to directly engage audiences," said APME President Jim Simon. "As many of my fellow judges noted, the list of winners shows the spirit of public interest journalism remains strong even in many financially strapped newsrooms with diminished resources."

The Star Tribune of Minneapolis won the grand prize in the Public Service category for uncovering flaws and incompetence in the handling of elder abuse cases. "It's so well done in every aspect: The beauty of the prose and the photos, the shocking findings themselves, the tremendous governmental reaction and response," judges said.

The Kansas City Star won the grand prize in the First Amendment category for exposing the culture of secrecy in Kansas state government, and showing how it undermines the democratic process. "The impact of the Star's work was swift," judges said. "In a 12-week span, 32 transparency measures were proposed, and the speaker of the House ended the practice of allowing bills to be introduced anonymously."

The Houston Chronicle won the grand prize for News Reporting for its coverage of Hurricane Harvey. "The Houston Chronicle gave readers everything they needed to know, and then some. Exceptional multi-platform work from beginning to end," judges said.

Read more [here](#).



Yemen's Dirty War: Starving moms skip meals to feed their starving

children



Hagar Yahia holds her 5-year-old daughter Awsaf, who suffers from malnourishment from living mainly on bread and tea, in Abyan, Yemen, Feb. 9, 2018. Yahia, her husband and eight children fled from their hometown on Yemen's western Red Sea coast to escape the war, eventually ending up more than 200 miles away in the village of Red Star in the south. Ever since, they've struggled to find enough food. AP PHOTO / NARIMAN EL-MOFTY

The civil war gripping Yemen for the last three years has created one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters as millions of people face starvation. In an effort to understand the scope of the crisis, The Associated Press launched a one-year project with the Pulitzer Center, a non-profit news organization that helps cover underreported stories internationally. AP Cairo-based reporter Maggie Michael, one of the few journalists who has followed the unfolding tragedy in Yemen from the beginning, often at great risk, used the Pulitzer grant for an extended reporting trip across Yemen with Cairo photographer Nariman el-Mofty and Yemen-based videographer Maad al-Zekri.

Three years into Yemen's civil war, and the results are disastrous: The people are starving. Explore AP's coverage of the war's impact: <https://t.co/Jbta1k4eONpic>. twitter.com/rjlTU2rQZv

- The Associated Press (@AP) May 3, 2018

In all, they drove more than 400 miles through five governorates, including one harrowing drive near an active front line outside of Khoukha, from their base in

Aden. They interviewed mothers and families affected, plus food experts, doctors and volunteers, and they found that more than 8.4 million of the nation's 29 million people rely almost completely on food aid.

The team's courageous efforts to tell this story win the Beat of the Week.

Rising each day at 5 a.m. and working past dark on the weeklong journey, the AP team also found a story hidden underneath the abayas that shroud Yemeni women: Mothers were skipping meals to feed their children, serving in some cases as the last defense against the hunger that has killed thousands. The package included moving photos by el-Mofty and videos from al-Zekri showing the shrunken rib cages of children barely clinging to life and other horrifying images from the famine.

"Abyan's Hagar story was the one that touched us the most," recalled Michael. The stoical, hard-working woman, who lives in a rude hut with her husband and hungry children, "broke into tears while telling us about her conditions. She served us bread and tea and opened her heart to us."

Using el-Mofty's photos and al-Zekri's footage, digital storytelling producer Nat Castaneda created a video that brought viewers into the mother's home. Meanwhile, Michael and Middle East enterprise editor Lee Keath collaborated on a piece that captured the scope of the team's journey across the country.

The May 3 story of people living on one meal a day drew more than 1:30 minutes of reader engagement, a level considered very high, more than 3,000 hits on the AP app, 192 hits on Newswhip and hundreds of shares on Twitter.

For empathetic work and persistent dedication in chronicling the desperate state of Yemen, a crisis much of the world is ignoring, Michael, el-Mofty and al-Zekri share this week's \$500 Beat of the Week award.



Illinois coroner to poor: Pay \$1000 or county keeps remains



Nicholas Weible offers his mom, Wendy Smith, a tissue during the memorial service for his father, Christopher Weible, in Quincy, Ill., April 20, 2018. The family held the memorial service with just a photograph and an empty container because when families can't afford funeral arrangements, Adams County Coroner James Keller has them sign over their rights to the deceased, leaving them without the death certificate, then cremates the body and keeps the ashes until the family pays \$1,000. Smith and her ex-husband Weible were both on disability and she didn't have the money. "I just think they pick on the people that are poor," she told the AP. STEVE BOHNSTEDT VIA AP

The tip that led to an exclusive by Chicago reporter Sara Burnett came from a caller with a claim that seemed outlandish: A western Illinois coroner was having poor

people who can't afford to bury their loved ones sign over their rights to the deceased to him, leaving them without the death certificate. He then cremated the body and kept the ashes until the family paid \$1,000. He's continued the policy even though the state has resumed a program to pay for the funerals.

Burnett's pursuit of the story exposed a practice that was causing controversy in a small Illinois county and illustrated how the state's budget crisis continues to cause pain nearly a year after a two-year stalemate between the governor and the legislature ended.

After getting details via email, Burnett interviewed a former photo editor at the Quincy newspaper who learned about the coroner's practice while shooting photos for a documentary about poverty in Quincy. He put Burnett in touch with a woman who detailed her experience when her ex-husband and father of their three children died. They were both on disability and she couldn't come up with the money, leaving the family to hold a memorial service at a Quincy church with just a photograph and an empty container. Wendy Smith told Burnett she eventually raised the money through donations, but felt the policy was unfair. "I just think they pick on the people that are poor."

"He could've died in prison and been better off." Illinois coroner's demand for \$1,000 before turning over poor people's ashes infuriates some relatives.

<https://t.co/ru3PEdMHDF>

- AP Central U.S. (@APCentralRegion) May 4, 2018

Adams County Coroner James Keller was initially reluctant to talk to Burnett but also wanted to explain why he was doing this: The policy started after the state, which for years has faced billion-dollar deficits and unpaid bills, announced it was too broke to pay for indigent funerals and burials - shifting the cost to funeral homes and county coroners. The staff at a funeral home originally told Burnett they'd only talk off the record, but the boss got on the phone and eventually agreed to go on the record to defend the coroner.

Burnett tracked down other families. This was key, as the coroner claimed only the one woman was unhappy. Burnett also had back-and-forth with the state about how much money was appropriated for the burial program, and the backlog. She determined the state program is up and running again - but also that many funeral homes apparently have given up on it.

The coroner claimed only one woman was unhappy with the practice. Burnett tracked down other families.

Through reporting, Burnett learned that Illinois wasn't alone. More than a dozen states provide money to cover such costs, though several - from Indiana to West Virginia - said their funds haven't been enough to meet demand.

The story got widespread play online, including the Chicago Tribune and the New York Times, as well as front pages in Peoria, Carbondale and the Quad Cities in Illinois, and across the border at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Burnett has fielded calls from readers who want to help the group that is trying to end the policy and/or pursue legal action.

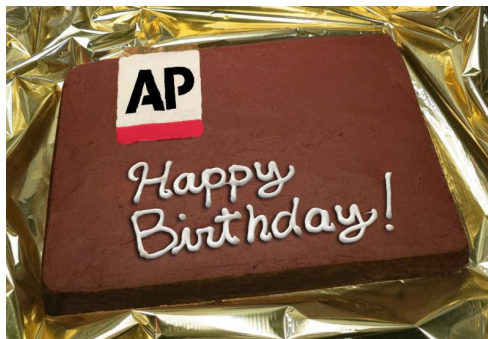
Illinois Comptroller wants more burial-funding notice after AP report on coroner holding remains of poor residents (from @AP) #twill@APOConnor<https://t.co/6qQqoafAmH>

- Sara Burnett (@sara_burnett) May 9, 2018

By Tuesday, state Comptroller Susana Mendoza, citing The Associated Press story, weighed in that the coroner's practice was "disgusting behavior" and called for a ramped-up campaign to alert local officials that state-funded burial is again available.

For illuminating a questionable practice and how the state's budget crisis continues to cause pain for the poor and vulnerable, Burnett earns this week's Best of the States award.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Chris Clark - cclark6000@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Congratulations, sports media: You just got a big business-model subsidy from the Supreme Court (Nieman)

By JOSHUA BENTON

In his 1957 classic *An Economic Theory of Democracy*, Anthony Downs wrote that there were only four types of information: production information, consumption information, entertainment information, and political information. Production information helps you make smarter business decisions; if you're a stockbroker, *The Wall Street Journal* is production information for you. Consumption information makes you a better consumer; if you're going to a movie this weekend, *Rotten Tomatoes* is consumption information for you. Entertainment information is self-explanatory - anything you consume primarily to be entertained, whether high culture (a great novel) or low (a *Kardashian*). And political information is anything that makes you a more informed voter. (That's the toughest one to sell, as Jay Hamilton wrote about smartly.)

A key thing to remember about journalism is that the same piece of information can serve different information needs for different people. If you're trying to decide who to vote for in November, a story in *Politico* might be political information. If you're a political junkie who just loves reading about D.C. drama, that *Politico* story might be entertainment information. And if you're a lobbyist hoping to get a bill tweaked, it might be production information.

Read more [here](#).

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Reacting to plunging revenues, Salt Lake Tribune lays off a third of its newsroom, cuts back print offerings (Salt Lake Tribune)

In a radical restructuring of Utah's largest newspaper, owner Paul Huntsman proceeded Monday with cutting 34 Salt Lake Tribune employees from a newsroom staff of 90, along with the elimination of key print sections and some well-known writers who were read for generations.

After sounding the alarm last Tuesday, Huntsman - whose wealthy father, philanthropist and Tribune champion Jon Huntsman Sr., died Feb. 2 - enacted a drastic reduction in costs at The Tribune in light of what he said were unexpectedly sharp declines in print circulation and advertising revenues since he bought the Salt Lake City-based publication in 2016.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill Beecham, Doug Pizac.

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Priddy speaks on adventure of life at MU commencement (Columbia Daily Tribune)

By PAT PRATT

Veteran newscaster Bob Priddy in delivering his commencement speech Saturday donned his travelers hat and walking stick, using the garb of his adventures as a metaphor for the journey the graduating students will soon face as they depart the University of Missouri Columbia.

He spoke at commencement for the College of Arts and Sciences, the midpoint of a three-day campus-wide event where the university awarded 6,105 degrees. Each school at MU holds separate ceremonies and invites notable speakers, this year including Brady and Anne Deaton Institute co-founder Anne Deaton and Bass Pro Shops founder and CEO Johnny Morris.

Priddy was the news director at MissouriNet for 40 years until his retirement in 2014, and was acclaimed for his commitment to open government. He is also a noted historian, currently serving as the president of State Historical Society of Missouri Board of Trustees, and author of several books.

But speaking to the graduates and thousands of family members in the audience, he assumed the role of the wanderer. Shortly into his speech, Priddy removed the MU mortarboard from his head, replacing it with a Boonie hat festooned with pins

collected from a lifetime of travel, and in doing so garnering a round of laughter and applause.

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

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Ruby Bailey will become Columbia Missourian's executive editor

A journalist whose reporting has ranged from hyperlocal coverage of Michigan suburbs to the Iraq War and whose editing has spanned the evolution of print and digital editions has been named executive editor of the Columbia Missourian.



Ruby L. Bailey, a local news editor at the Sacramento Bee, will begin her new role on July 1. She will be the first woman to lead the Missourian's coverage in the newspaper's 109 years.

"I'm very excited to be a part of the Columbia community but also the Mizzou community," said Bailey.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Where the Rich Are in the U.S. Northeast: 50 Richest Zip Codes (Bloomberg)

By Alexandre Tanzi and Wei Lu

Wall Street pays dividends for the New York metropolitan area, which dominates the list of 50 wealthiest zip codes in the northeastern U.S. compiled by Bloomberg.

New York area wealth represents about a quarter of the top 1 percent of households nationwide, but New York City wealth flows into surrounding suburbs to take the vast majority of the top 50 richest zip codes in the region.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - May 15, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 15, the 135th day of 2018. There are 230 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 15, 1968, two days of tornado outbreaks began in 10 Midwestern and Southern states; twisters were blamed for 72 deaths, including 45 in Arkansas and 18 in Iowa.

On this date:

In 1567, Mary, Queen of Scots, married her third husband, James Hepburn, the Earl of Bothwell, who had been implicated in (but acquitted of) the death of Mary's second husband, Lord Darnley.

In 1776, Virginia authorized its delegation to the Continental Congress to support independence from Britain.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed an act establishing the Department of Agriculture.

In 1918, U.S. airmail began service between Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and New York.

In 1928, the Walt Disney cartoon character Mickey Mouse made his debut in the silent animated short "Plane Crazy."

In 1930, registered nurse Ellen Church, the first airline stewardess, went on duty aboard an Oakland-to-Chicago flight operated by Boeing Air Transport, a forerunner of United Airlines.

In 1948, hours after declaring its independence, the new state of Israel was attacked by Transjordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

In 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon received a hero's welcome from President Dwight D. Eisenhower and other well-wishers on his return to Washington from a violence-marred tour of Latin America. The MGM movie musical "Gigi," starring Leslie Caron as a young French courtesan-in-training, was released.

In 1972, Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace was shot and left paralyzed while campaigning for president in Laurel, Maryland, by Arthur H. Bremer, who served 35 years for attempted murder.

In 1975, U.S. forces invaded the Cambodian island of Koh Tang and captured the American merchant ship Mayaguez, which had been seized by the Khmer Rouge. (All 39 crew members had already been released safely by Cambodia; some 40 U.S. servicemen were killed in connection with the operation.)

In 1988, the Soviet Union began the process of withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan, more than eight years after Soviet forces entered the country.

In 1998, hundreds of looters died inside a burning shopping mall in rioting that laid smoking waste to Indonesia's capital, Jakarta.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, addressing the Israeli Knesset, gently urged Mideast leaders to "make the hard choices necessary for peace" and condemned what he called "the false comfort of appeasement." California's Supreme Court declared same-sex couples in the state could marry - a victory for the gay rights movement that was overturned the following November by the passage of Proposition 8, which was ultimately struck down by the courts. Emmy-winning composer Alexander "Sandy" Courage, who created the otherworldly theme for the original "Star Trek" TV series, died in Pacific Palisades, California, at age 88.

Five years ago: Under mounting pressure, President Barack Obama released a trove of documents related to the Benghazi attack and forced out the top official at the Internal Revenue Service following revelations the agency had targeted conservative political groups.

One year ago: The United States accused Syria of executing thousands of imprisoned political opponents and burning their bodies in a crematorium to hide the evidence. The Supreme Court shut the door on North Carolina Republicans' effort to revive a state law that mandated voter identification and scaled back early voting, provisions that a lower court said improperly targeted minority voters.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Anna Maria Alberghetti is 82. Counterculture icon Wavy Gravy is 82. Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is 81. Singer Trini Lopez is 81. Singer Lenny Welch is 80. Actress-singer Lainie Kazan is 76. Actress Gunilla Hutton is 76. Country singer K.T. Oslin is 76. Actor Chazz Palminteri is 72. Former Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius is 70. Singer-songwriter Brian Eno is 70. Actor Nicholas Hammond (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 68. Baseball Hall of Famer George Brett is 65. Musician-composer Mike Oldfield is 65. Actor Lee Horsley is 63. TV personality Giselle Fernandez is 57. Actress Brenda Bakke is 55. Football Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith is 49. Actor Brad Rowe is 48. Actor David Charvet (shahr-VAY') is 46. Actor Russell Hornsby is 44. Rock musician Ahmet Zappa is 44. Olympic gold medal gymnast Amy Chow is 40. Actor David Krumholtz is 40. Rock musician David Hartley (The War on Drugs) is 38. Actress Jamie-Lynn Sigler is 37. Actress Alexandra Breckenridge is 36. Rock musician Brad Shultz (Cage the Elephant) is 36. Rock musician Nick Perri is 34. Tennis player Andy Murray is 31.

Thought for Today: "History is a better guide than good intentions." - Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations (1926-2006).

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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