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Connecting -- May 18, 2018

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# Connecting

May 18, 2018

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Colleagues,

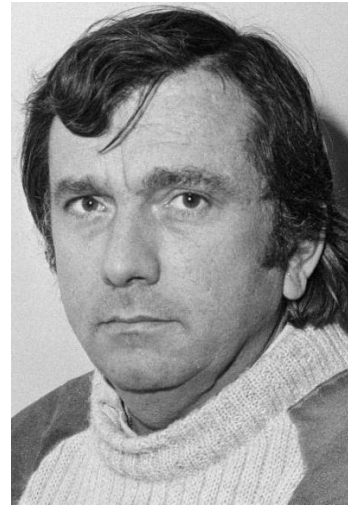
Good Friday morning!

Our Connecting colleague **Edie Lederer** attended memorial services for **Richard Blystone** held in London on Tuesday - and she filed an excellent report on the love and respect that poured out for the former AP and CNN newsman who died in April at the age of 81.

Edie is the AP's chief United Nations correspondent and worked in the AP's Saigon bureau with Blystone covering the Vietnam War.

We lead with her story.

Winner of Thursday's Connecting question of the day? **Cliff Schiappa**, longtime AP photojournalist in Kansas City.



**Richard Blystone**

He answered correctly that our Connecting tie to Kennett, Missouri, is **Sally Stapleton**, former AP photojournalist who is managing editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. She grew up in Kennett as the daughter of **Jack Stapleton**, who owned and published the Daily Dunklin Democrat. Like **Sheryl Crow**, Sally played on the Kennett high school team.

"What if the person who guesses correctly gets a picture of me on the high school tennis team?" she wrote. "I was terrifically bad but my best friend and I were # 7 and 8 on the team. Because we were so close, we could beat the 3rd and 4th seeds from Sikeston and other larger towns. You can imagine how much that angered our competitors. There was usually racket throwing across the net when we'd win."

So far, you're safe, no such picture, Sally.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## Remembering Richard Blystone: 'He taught a generation of us about the human condition'



By **EDIE LEDERER** ([Email](#))

Dick Blystone's family and far-flung fan club gathered to say farewell to a giant of the media who combined his talent as a master wordsmith with his creative vision and gave millions of people new insights into the world.

More than a hundred people gathered at St. Bride's Church on London's Fleet Street - the journalists' church - for a memorial service on Tuesday that mixed tears with laughter and mourning with celebration of Dick's amazing life.

The vast majority of the mourners were from CNN. Christian Amanpour came. So did CNN's former vice-president and head of international newsgathering Parisa Khosravi and London bureau chief Tommy Evans. Former CNN correspondent Mike Chinoy flew in from Hong Kong and senior cameraman Rich Brooks, who worked with Dick for 10 years, came from Atlanta and read the first lesson.

But there were also former CNN interns and engineers, and several fans of Dick's in the pews as well as Steven Hirsch, a classmate of Dick's from Amherst, and former Reuters Bangkok bureau chief John Rogers and his wife Fiona.

Dick's wife, Helle, read Byron's "So We'll Go No More a Roving." Son Daniel read Robert Frost's poem "Nature 's first green is gold" and son John read "Wordsworth's Ode: Intimations of Immortality."

In a very moving tribute, Dick's daughter Julia, better known as Titi, eulogized her father as "a giant among men."

"He showed us the meaning of honor and excellence, and he made those who knew him want to be better," she said. "He is, and always will be, my hero."

Titi recalled that her father's hands that typed in all caps "could also make anything."

"He was a magician who made children's beds into cars, built the cockpit of a spaceship from moving boxes and shaving cream caps, transformed tobacco tins into dollhouse furniture, and one Christmas, our vacuum cleaner into an elephant," she said. "Those square, capable hands could draw wicked cartoons, make terrifying Halloween masks, create tennis ball bazookas, whip up corn fritters for dinner, and once - with his co-conspirator Daniel - a chocolate chip cookie cake."

Over his 50-year career, Titi said, her father traveled the world interviewing leaders, royalty, rogues, despots, diplomats and even the Spice Girls - and he told the world "devastating truths about war and famine."

"But at home he told stories of a very different kind," she said. "At bedtime, my brothers and I were the stars of those tales, capers featuring the notorious Jim the Horse, Shoeshine Shorty and Fergus the Elf."

Titi said she measured her father's large circumference "in a million hugs."

"He smelled like cigarettes and sandalwood soap, and he always felt like the safest place on earth," she said.

Todd Baxter, a CNN London cameraman and editor, likened Dick to Mark Twain - "another great writer who would capture the world with compelling clarity, first for AP and then for CNN."

Baxter traveled with Dick quite a bit and said "he had a child-like wonder about the world that was infectious."

His favorite trip with Dick was revisiting the length of the Iron Curtain from the Baltic Sea to the Adriatic in 1999.

"Blazing a trail with humor and humanity, tracking in his gruff lovable voice, he often was at his most poetic while traversing the most miserable stories," Baxter said. "He took the same words we use and forged them into something else entirely. Shaping the kind of news pieces that made people stop. Watch. Listen. And think."

He recalled that when CNN moved from tapes to digital, Dick's master tapes were destined for the dustbin. But CNN's Jim Boulden said: "They should not throw away Blystone's tapes \_ those are masters in more ways than one."

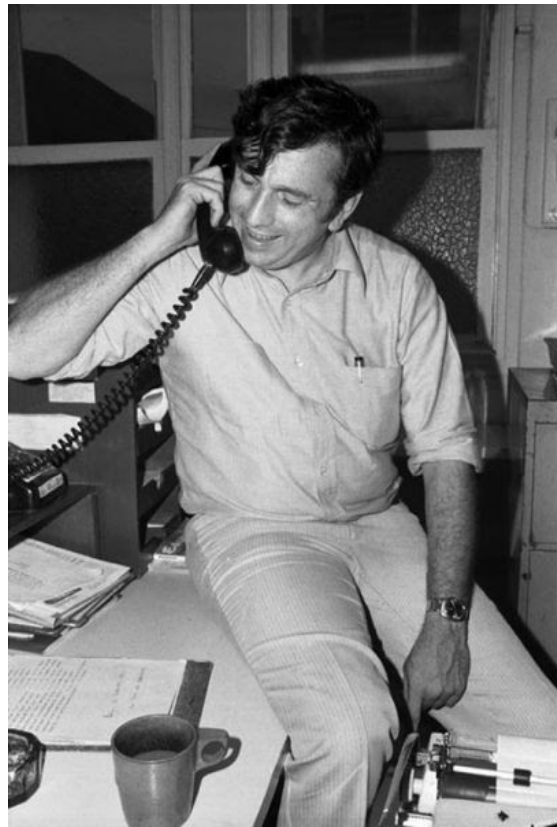
So Baxter stored them - and put highlights into a half-hour video shown at the reception after the service.

CNN International Executive Producer Ingrid Formanek wondered aloud how Dick would react to the gathering of those who came to honor his life.

"He'd say don't make me sound dour and boring ... bring out Bubba, Bly, Roy, Arfer and Buck" - his nicknames at CNN. "But we also call Dick `our poet laureate.'"

Ingrid recalled that over the years Dick gave many of his CNN colleagues a copy of Strunk and White's "Elements of Style."

"He was a big character, with a big presence, and big thoughts - even for the smallest things," she said. "He also had a big heart. When we won an award for the Iron Curtain odyssey, he, and Todd, donated the money to the education of a handicapped Rwandan boy my husband Brian and I support."



**In AP's Saigon bureau**

Ingrid also called Dick "a humble man, not a chest thumper," and self-deprecating - always calling himself a reporter, not a correspondent or journalist.

But she said "he did so much more than report."

"He taught a generation of us about the human condition, about seeing things that are in plain sight but often overlooked, about finding the truth and telling it, about defending those who need help and can't do it for themselves," Ingrid said. "How to be kind in an often unkind world. And how to laugh at yourself."

She called him "a bit of a moral compass for so many of his younger colleagues."

"His mind knew no boundaries. It soared and it found the words," Ingrid said.

She ended her eulogy saying "Dick just couldn't be fenced in" and said that should be his anthem.

And the congregation left the church to Cole Porter's "Don't Fence Me In."

Almost everyone walked to the nearby Humble Grape pub where Helle and Dick's children hosted a reception.

I delivered a tribute there from AP President Gary Pruitt.

"He said Dick Blystone helped write the first draft of history of one of the seminal events of the second half of the twentieth century - the Vietnam War. What he wrote not only showed his talent as a wordsmith but his deep insight into the war and its impact on people - and his words will live on"

I then said that in AP's Saigon bureau during the war my desk was across from Dick's, and I recounted how he risked his life and flew into Phnom Penh after it fell to the Khmer Rouge to bring AP's Cambodian newsman - Chaay-Born Lay - and his wife and two children to safety.

Several CNN colleagues who worked with Dick told me afterward that he rarely talked about himself and had never told them that story.

# Connecting mailbox

## *You can't spell 'therapy' without AP*



**Mark Mittelstadt** ([Email](#)) - Among the few AP artifacts I've kept over the years are this notebook cover and glass paperweight globe.

Looking to somewhat replicate an ankle roll device from physical therapy as I recover from a fractured ankle and fibula suffered in mid-March, I realized they might just do the trick. I center the notebook cover on the globe then roll my ankle forward and back, then side to side (10 reps, 3 sets). The goal is to restore flexibility. They work great!

Happened while refereeing an adult coed soccer game. Some words were being exchanged by a few players and I wanted to be close to be able to address any issues. Unfortunately, a very fast player was coming around a corner, got tripped and fell into the back of my legs. I went down hard face-first. Everyone at the field heard a loud "pop" (me, too!) I thought it was going to be my knee(s). Turned out it

was the smaller of the lower leg bones and the ankle of my right leg. Fortunately neither fracture required surgery. Was in a cast for a couple weeks, then a boot. Just got to walking (slowly) a couple weeks ago and starting physical therapy.

Lesson: it IS possible to get too close to play!

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## ***Believes election article is misleading***

**David Morris** ([Email](#)) - David Bauder's article (in Wednesday's Connecting) is misleading, especially in his references to face-to-face interviews on Election Day not accounting for the growing percentage of voters casting absentee or early votes. Exit polls for a number of years, including when I led AP's race calling efforts in the 1990s, have been supplemented by phone polls in key states with big numbers of absentees or early voting. Exit polls are not perfect, but the same can be said about regular polls as response rates plummet.

**David Bauder** responded: Perhaps that passage was poorly worded. The AP recognizes - and I'm aware of - the supplementary phone calls. Their point is there's not enough of them, and not a recognition of how fast voting is changing.

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## ***Parked inside the Indy 500 track, they left engine running and doors locked***

**Bruce Lowitt** ([Email](#)) - Mike Harris' extraordinary chronicle in the May 17 CONNECTING of the epic AP coverage of the Indianapolis 500 in the 1970s and '80s reminded me of one race-day moment.

Mike wrote that "Everyone breathed a sigh of relief when were safely parked inside the track oval."

Well, not everyone. Hal Bock and I parked our rental car and took a step away when we realized the engine was still running - and the doors were locked.



Hal began worrying that the tank would be empty by the time the race ended. I told him we couldn't have been the first morons in the history of the race to commit such stupidity.

I looked around for a track security person, found one and explained our situation. A quick call on a walkie-talkie and in less than a minute a police cruiser pulled up, an officer got out wielding a Slim Jim, unlocked the driver's side door in seconds, smiled and departed. So did we - for the press box, after turning off the engine, locking the door from the outside this time, and pocketing the keys.

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## ***Connecting sky shot - Cappadocia***



**Pam Seitter** - A balloon ride over the fairy chimneys of Cappadocia was one of our trip highlights to Turkey.

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## ***Life after death? Bloomberg calls on Charlotte Porter for Tom Wolfe obituary***

**Charlotte Porter** ([Email](#)) - Is there life after death? There is if you're an obit writer. I left Bloomberg a year ago but this just ran. Apologies to Hillel, but I'm proud of it.

Charlotte's lead for the Bloomberg wire: Tom Wolfe, the ice-cream-suited dandy and prose provocateur who took a new mixture of journalism and literary techniques to mind-bending heights in works such as "Radical Chic" and "The Right Stuff," has died. He was 88.

[Click here](#) to read more. Noting the age correction, Charlotte said Bloomberg picked up the Times bulletin, which was wrong.

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## ***A visit to Bob Thomas' Hollywood star***



Rachel Ambrose, left, and Sue Manning visit Bob Thomas' star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on May 15. Thomas covered the Hollywood entertainment business for 60 years for The AP. His star is strategically placed at [6879 Hollywood Blvd.](#), in front of the Dolby Theater, site of the annual Oscar presentations which he reported.



# Rave reviews



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Associated Press reporter** Bob Thomas, who has covered Hollywood for 45 years, got a star on the Walk of Fame Thursday. Thomas has written 25 books on stars.

Janet Thomas, Bob's daughter, offers this photo from when his star was placed, in 1988. Bob Thomas is in the Guinness Book of World Records for two achievements: longest career as an entertainment reporter (66 years) and most consecutive years of Oscars coverage by an entertainment reporter (66 years).

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## ***Hugh Mulligan stories continue***

**Marcus Eliason** ([Email](#)) - In 1967, I was the newly hired messenger and general dogsbody in the AP bureau in Tel Aviv, and Hugh was in the vanguard of an army of AP correspondents sent in to cover what would become known as the Six-Day War. My chores, in return for a tiny wage and the occasional opportunity to write some instantly forgettable stories, included fetching beer and sandwiches for the real journalists, such as Hugh.

Thirty years later, as deputy enterprise editor at 50 Rock, it fell to me to edit Mulligan copy (not that it needed much editing). One night I called him with a question, and we began chatting about those 1967 days. Then this:

Hugh: So how are you enjoying working at 50 Rock?

Me: Well, I tell people I started my AP life fetching beer and sandwiches for Hugh Mulligan, and now I edit him.

Hugh: Sounds like your career is stuck in a rut, kid.

## ***AND...***

**Michael Putzel** ([Email](#)) - At one of the first White House Correspondents Association dinners I attended, Hugh Mulligan and then-VP Stan Swinton were in the delegation sent down from 50 Rock in NY to hobnob with the president and 2,500 other attendees at the Washington Hilton.

As people were standing around their giant circular tables waiting to be seated, Swinton, who may have had a couple drinks during the cocktail hour, called across

the table to Hugh, whose prominent stutter was always ignored, and asked him loudly, point blank: "Mulligan, why do you always stutter so much?"

Others surrounding the table stood paralyzed, too aghast to react. But Mulligan didn't hesitate.

"S-s-s-s-stan," he replied, "Ih-ih-ih-ih-if I didn't s-s-s-s-stutter...I'd be unbearably glib."

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## ***The third generation of tennis-playing Seatons wins Kansas title***



**Edward Seaton** ([Email](#)) - On the topic of tennis (Thursday's Connecting), you may be interested in the coverage Sunday about Ned's son Brett, who plays for Olathe West. [Click here](#) for Kansas City Star story.

(Edward's son Ned - father of Brett - is editor-in-chief and publisher of The Manhattan (Kansas) Mercury and a former AP newsman in Kansas City; Edward is chairman. Brett is the third generation of Seatons to play tennis and last Saturday, the sophomore from Olathe West High School won the Kansas Class 5A state tennis title.

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## ***Never heard of Germond Rule but practiced it***

**Mark Duncan** ([Email](#)) - I had never heard the name, Germond Rule, until these past few editions of Connecting, but was part of its practice many times.

After the story of Fred Wright getting bit by the rule I recall another unwitting staffer going through the same thing.

I was part of the photo crew covering an NFL playoff game between the Buffalo Bills and Cincinnati Bengals in January 1982. Saturday night, before Sunday's game, photo editor Brian Horton led us - Ed Reinke, Gene Puskar, myself, and a few others I've forgotten to Walt's, a famous rib place in Kentucky.

All of us enjoyed a fabulous rib dinner, except for Puskar, who was a vegetarian at the time, and ordered a salad. When time came to split the tab, he was a bit miffed at subsidizing the rest of our meals. "Tough" said Horton, "that's the way it is at the AP.

After the Bengals win Sunday, we all returned for their AFC Championship game against the San Diego Chargers the following week.

Again, we went to Walt's but Gene had learned his lesson. While the rest of us enjoyed Walt's rib dinners, Gene again ordered a salad - after having two shrimp cocktail appetizers.

A side note: The previous week's game against Buffalo was played in beautiful 50 degree weather. The game against San Diego was the most miserable I have ever been a part of with the windchill at -59 degrees. The heating pipes burst in the press box and it was in the low 40s inside.

Film had to be loaded in the cameras with great care because it would shatter. The Bengals beat the So Cal team handily to advance to the Super Bowl against Joe Montana and the San Francisco 49ers.







# Russian hackers posed as Islamic State to harass US military wives



**Angela Ricketts poses with a screen shot of a message she received from a group claiming to be Islamic State supporters, at her home in Bloomington, Ind., April 9, 2018. Russian hackers masquerading as Islamic State supporters threatened spouses of U.S. military personnel, including Ricketts, The Associated Press discovered. AP PHOTO / MICHAEL CONROY**

The threat over her phone to Army wife Angela Ricketts was terrifying. "Dear Angela!" it said. "Bloody Valentine's Day!"

"We know everything about you, your husband and your children," it continued, claiming that Islamic State militants had penetrated her computer. "We're much closer than you can even imagine."

More than three years after Ricketts and four other military wives received this and other alarming messages, AP London-based cybersecurity reporter Raphael Satter has unraveled the secret behind it all. The threats were not from Middle Eastern terrorists at all, but hackers from the Russian group widely dubbed Fancy Bear - the same gang who later broke into the Democratic Party's emails and interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

For revealing the latest wrinkle in the Russian hacking story, Satter earns the Beat of the Week

An AP investigation has found that it wasn't the Islamic State that sent death threats to US military wives. It was the same Russian hackers who hacked the emails of Hillary Clinton's campaign .<https://t.co/6IHRGJRsto>

- The Associated Press (@AP) May 8, 2018

His story, accompanied by photos and video shot by Indianapolis-based AP photographer Michael Conroy, found its genesis in a massive hit list of Fancy Bear targets handed to Satter by cybersecurity company Secureworks last year. Satter and his colleague Jeff Donn have been mining the list for months, drawing out stories about how the Russian hacking group spent years targeting politicians, intelligence figures and journalists. This time, Satter focused on a group of five women whose names were clustered together on the list. None of the five knew much about Fancy Bear, but all reported having received death threats from another mysterious group calling itself CyberCaliphate back in 2015.

Ties between CyberCaliphate and Fancy Bear had already been documented publicly, but the women didn't know that and their story put a human face on what had up until then had largely been confined to dry industry reports. The AP's story - based on independently validated evidence - showed how one set of hackers had masqueraded as another in an apparent bid to hype up the threat of radical Islam to the U.S. homeland.

Specialty publication Cyberscoop said the AP's story "brings to life established links between the CyberCaliphate and APT28 (another name for Fancy Bear) in a way that no cybersecurity research did," adding that the story offered "a fresh reminder ... of the difficulties associated with assigning blame for hacking - and of the consequences when a case of mistaken identity takes hold."

Samantha Power, former U.S. national security adviser and U.N. ambassador, said the news was disgraceful. Left-wing campaign group VoteVets called it "disgusting, horrifying, and infuriating." Israeli newspaper Haaretz described it as a "horrifying effort from Russia to spread fear and hate of Muslims in the U.S."

The AP's reporting drew attention in Washington, where Rhode Island congressman and Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus co-founder Jim Langevin was quoted as saying that "we need to continue to do more until [the Russian government feels] the pain."

"Stunning reporting on a stunning operation."

- Professor Thomas Rid, cybersecurity authority, Johns Hopkins University

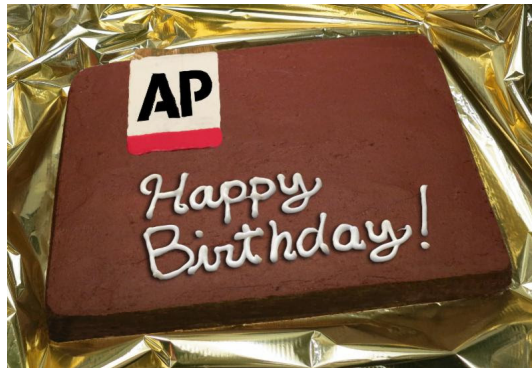
Even academics in cybersecurity were impressed.

"This blows my mind," said Jacquelyn Schneider, who teaches at the U.S. Naval War College. Johns Hopkins researcher Thomas Rid called the AP piece "stunning reporting on a stunning operation."

The story appeared on thousands of news websites and was widely retweeted. According to Teletrax, which monitors broadcasters, Voice of America used 2 minutes 35 second of the report. WCBS and TV3 Latvia also picked it up, and on AP News, the story was AP's No. 2 most popular story for the day on mobile with 16,232 clicks and No. 6 on the website with 3,119 clicks.

For unmasking and showing the maliciousness of Russian hackers apparently out to widen fears in the U.S. of Middle East extremism, Satter wins this week's \$500 prize.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

John Epperson - [jepperson191@gmail.com](mailto:jepperson191@gmail.com)

Kathryn Johnson - [kajie@aol.com](mailto:kajie@aol.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Carol Deegan - [cdeegan@ap.org](mailto:cdeegan@ap.org)

John Pye - [jpye@ap.org](mailto:jpye@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

### ***Reporting in a Machine Reality: Deepfakes, misinformation, and what journalists can do about them*** (CJR)

**By Nicholas Diakopoulos**

A few weeks ago BuzzFeed published a video of former President Barack Obama making some decidedly out-of-character quips. What's most noteworthy about the video, however, isn't that Obama made the remarks, but rather, that he didn't. Instead, a voice recording of actor Jordan Peele impersonating Obama was fed into a media synthesis algorithm that generated the video. The result appears astoundingly authentic. See for yourself:

VIDEO

Nothing online is quite as it appears, now less than ever. Thanks to a new breed of neural network machine-learning algorithms, compelling yet fictitious video, images, voice, and text can be synthesized whole cloth. Photos of imaginary faces can be

realistically fabricated by computers-their emotions, skin, age, and gender dialed in by a knob on a machine. Style transfer can change the environmental context of an image, portraying winter as summer, or what was sunny as rainy. Videos of politicians can be produced as you might control a puppet. And faces can be swapped from one body to another, creating what are popularly known as "deepfakes," opening up an array of threats to reputation, security, and privacy. Harrowing stuff.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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## ***FM Radio faces Government switch-off as Digital listening passes 50% milestone*** ([news.co.uk](#))

By ADAM SHERWIN

Analogue radios could be consigned to the dustbin of history after figures showed that the majority of all UK radio listening was via digital devices for the first time.

The radio industry passed a milestone, with digital listening reaching a new record share of 50.9%, up from 47.2% a year ago, according to Rajar.

The landmark will trigger a Government review into whether the analogue FM radio signal should be switched off altogether.

Last year Norway became the first country to end national radio broadcasts on FM.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Shane.

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## ***In Alaska, Watching Moose Commercials and the Rockets Stomp the Warriors*** (New York Times)





**Ryan Engebretsen, the basketball coach at Wasilla High School, the Alaska state champion, discussed emulating the Houston Rockets with his point guard Daniel Headdings. Credit Brian Adams for The New York Times**

**By Scott Cacciola**

WASILLA, Alaska - The Houston Rockets were in the process of shredding the Golden State Warriors on Wednesday night, and Ryan Engebretsen, a decorated high school coach from just outside Anchorage, could see the future of his own team taking shape.

"Just keep watching their spacing," Engebretsen told his junior point guard, Daniel Headdings. "It matches up perfectly in terms of what we want to do."

I had landed in Engebretsen's self-described man cave - a well-appointed loft in his garage - for Game 2 of the N.B.A.'s Western Conference finals in my effort to watch each game of the series with smart basketball people.

One of the great joys of watching the playoffs in Alaska is that you don't need to be nocturnal. The tipoff was at 5 p.m., rather than at 9 p.m. back home in New York. It was early enough for Headdings to return to the high school afterward to lift weights and play pickup basketball. Engebretsen went to get a burger.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - May 18, 2018



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, May 18, the 138th day of 2018. There are 227 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 18, 1953, Jacqueline Cochran, 47, became the first woman to break the sound barrier as she piloted a Canadair F-86 Sabre jet over Rogers Dry Lake, California.

### On this date:

In 1152, Eleanor, Duchess of Aquitaine, married Henry, Duke of Normandy (the future King Henry II), two months after her marriage to King Louis VII of France was annulled.

In 1642, the Canadian city of Montreal was founded by French colonists. (On this date in 1765, one-quarter of Montreal was destroyed by a fire.)

In 1652, Rhode Island became the first American colony to pass a law abolishing African slavery; however, the law was apparently never enforced.

In 1781, Peruvian revolutionary Tupac Amaru II, 43, was forced to witness the execution of his relatives by the Spanish in the main plaza of Cuzco before being beheaded.

In 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Plessy v. Ferguson, endorsed "separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept renounced 58 years later by Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka.

In 1926, evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson vanished while visiting a beach in Venice, California. (McPherson reappeared more than a month later, saying she'd escaped after being kidnapped and held for ransom, an account greeted with skepticism.)

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure creating the Tennessee Valley Authority.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces occupied Monte Cassino in Italy after a four-month struggle with Axis troops.

In 1967, Tennessee Gov. Buford Ellington signed a measure repealing the law against teaching evolution that was used to prosecute John T. Scopes in 1925.

In 1973, Harvard law professor Archibald Cox was appointed Watergate special prosecutor by U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson.

In 1980, the Mount St. Helens volcano in Washington state exploded, leaving 57 people dead or missing.

In 1998, the U.S. government filed an antitrust case against Microsoft, saying the powerful software company had a "choke hold" on competitors that was denying consumers important choices about how they bought and used computers. (The Justice Department and Microsoft reached a settlement in 2001.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush lectured the Arab world about everything from political repression to the denial of women's rights in a speech at the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheik. Kenny Chesney was named entertainer of the year by the Academy of Country Music for the fourth straight time. Russia won its first title at the world hockey championships since 1993 with a 5-4 win over Canada.



Five years ago: A car driven by an 87-year-old man plowed into dozens of hikers during a parade in Damascus, Virginia, injuring about 50 people. (The driver, who suffered from a medical condition, was not charged.) French President Francois Hollande (frahn-SWAH' oh-LAWND') signed a law authorizing same-sex marriages and adoption by gay couples. Oxbow, ridden by Hall of Fame jockey Gary Stevens, led from start to finish to win the Preakness; Kentucky Derby winner Orb came in fourth.

One year ago: President Donald Trump denounced the appointment of a special counsel to investigate his campaign's potential ties with Russia, repeatedly calling it an unprecedented "witch hunt" that "hurts our country terribly." A driver who told police he was high on drugs plowed through a pedestrian-packed sidewalk in New York's Times Square; a Michigan teen was killed, and 22 other people were injured. Roger Ailes, who created and ruled Fox News Channel for two decades before being ousted for alleged sexual harassment, died in Palm Beach, Florida, at age 77.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bill Macy is 96. Actress Priscilla Pointer is 94. Hall of Fame sportscaster Jack Whitaker is 94. Actor Robert Morse is 87. Actor Dwayne Hickman is 84. Baseball Hall of Famer Brooks Robinson is 81. Actress Candice Azzara is 77. Bluegrass singer-musician Rodney Dillard (The Dillards) is 76. Baseball Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson is 72. Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., is 70. Country singer Joe Bonsall (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 70. Rock musician Rick Wakeman (Yes) is 69. Rock singer Mark Mothersbaugh (Devo) is 68. Actor James Stephens is 67. Country singer George Strait is 66. Actor Chow Yun-Fat is 63. International Tennis Hall of Famer Yannick Noah is 58. Rock singer-musician Page Hamilton is 58. Contemporary Christian musician Barry Graul (MercyMe) is 57. Contemporary Christian singer Michael Tait is 52. Singer-actress Martika is 49. Comedian-writer Tina Fey is 48. Rapper Special Ed is 44. Rock singer Jack Johnson is 43. Country singer David Nail is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darryl Allen (Mista) is 38. Actor Matt Long is 38. Actor Allen Leech is 37. Christian-rock musician Kevin Huguley (Rush of Fools) is 36. Christian singer Francesca Battistelli is 33. Actor Spencer Breslin is 26. Actress Hala Finley is nine.

***Thought for Today: "People find life entirely too time-consuming." - Stanislaw J. Lec, Polish writer (1909-1966).***

## Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to

include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

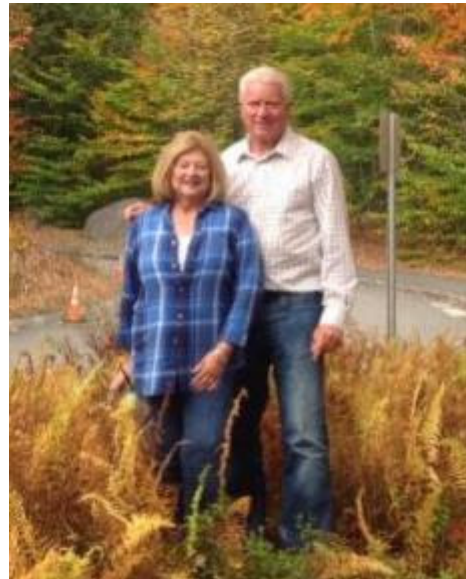
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.



**Paul Stevens**  
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