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Connecting -- May 30, 2018

1 message

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Wed, May 30, 2018 at 8:36 AM

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Connecting

May 30, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

We congratulate our Connecting colleague **Mike Graczyk** ([Email](#)) on news of his plans to retire July 31 after a 45-year career with The Associated Press.

Mike has been based in the Houston bureau and has witnessed more than 400 executions in Texas - giving "voice to both victims and the condemned and illuminated the legal twists and turns of death row cases and obligations of those who carry out the death penalty," said Dallas news editor Kim Johnson in announcing the news Tuesday.

Have a great day!

Paul

Houston's Mike Graczyk to retire after distinguished 45-year AP career



Associated Press reporter Michael Graczyk stands outside Huntsville penitentiary before the execution of confessed killer Elroy Chester. *Pat Sullivan/AP*

Houston-based Mike Graczyk, who has witnessed more than 400 executions in Texas since 1984, plans to retire from The Associated Press after 45 years of service to the AP and its members. His last day with the AP will be July 31.

The announcement was made Tuesday by Kim Johnson, Dallas-based news editor for Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

"Mike has distinguished himself with his comprehensive coverage of Texas death row," she wrote in a note to staff. "He has given voice to both victims and the condemned and illuminated the legal twists and turns of death row cases and obligations of those who carry out the death penalty. His bearing witness to executions over the decades is a legacy that is not likely to be matched."

"We will miss his quick wit and institutional knowledge of all things Texas. Some of his enterprise work has included the stories on the quirky, artistic community in Marfa, and more recently, the intricacies of Texas' liquor distribution laws."

The most recent execution he witnessed in Huntsville was two weeks ago -a Texas inmate who insisted he wasn't involved in a San Antonio "lovers' lane" killing more than 14 years ago.

Coverage of the executions, Graczyk told Connecting, "has made me acutely aware of the sanctity of life, how so many work frantically to save one in the courts, and how quickly a life can be taken. Writing about all these murder cases also is a reminder to me about man's ability to be horribly inhuman."

Graczyk was in graduate school at Wayne State University in Detroit, his hometown, and was working part time at a classical radio station in Detroit when he answered an ad in Broadcasting Magazine to do news at a radio station in Escanaba in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

"I lasted there about eight months - just long enough to meet my wife Mary - and got hired by CoB Clem Brossier as a broadcast writer in the Detroit bureau," he said, starting there in September 1972. "A couple years later CoB Rich Oppel went out on a limb and made me news editor for Michigan, succeeding Jon Wolman. I learned a whole lot more subsequently from CoB Jim Wilson, turned down a couple AP opportunities elsewhere before accepting a move to Houston in 1983. Been here since."

He recalled his first AP assignment in the Detroit bureau: "I took a member call in Detroit wondering what we knew about Jimmy Hoffa being missing. I was the only one available with the end of my broadcast shift and got sent to his house north of the city. It was the first big story I staffed and I wound up spending days there. And Jimmy's still missing."

Tom Berman, Central Region editor based in Chicago, said "Mike has had a truly extraordinary career. And while I may be forgetting someone, he is the only AP reporter I can think of who has been profiled in The New York Times. (And on P1, no less.)" [Click here](#) for a link to the Times' 2009 story.

"Mike was always the consummate professional," said former Dallas bureau chief Dale Leach. "There is a reason the Bush family contacted Mike at the time of an event, happy or sad. There is a reason prison officials and prison inmates respected his coverage. It's because he was a true journalist - relating information in a human way to a human audience."

Connecting mailbox

Ruth Gersh - she was my clone

Joni Beall ([Email](#)) - I loved Ruth Gersh's Q-and-A (Tuesday's Connecting). I was Ruth's numerical replacement in Richmond. But before that, I was working at WINC in Winchester, VA, feeding her stories - including the US Senate candidate who died in a plane crash. While I was working in Winchester, every time AP Tech Bob Knox would visit, he would call me Ruth's clone. I had never met Ruth, but Bob said we were both short and talked too much. Not too long after, I went to an AP conference. There was a woman across the hotel mezzanine and the guy I was with said, "That's Ruth Gersh." I pointed out he didn't know Ruth, and he said, "She's short. She's talking and she's flinging her hands around, just like you do." It was my clone, Ruth Gersh. Bob was right.

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Ruth Gersh's accomplishments the life's blood of a great wire service and a rich life

Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) - Couldn't end the evening without telling you how much I enjoyed Tuesday's "Connecting." Every one of your editions has something special but this one was so packed with wonderful, readable stories I couldn't stop reading.

I knew Ruth Gersh long ago and found her Q&A an absolute delight. This should be published somewhere in the outside world as a portrait of a woman journalist whose accomplishments were not world shaking but were the life's blood of a great wire service and a rich life. The stories of the tuxedo rental and the dumpster dive are classic.

The estimable Adolph Bernotas provided information not included in Dan Neary's obit which was actually one of the most important accomplishments in his life, fighting the practice of forced transfers. Adolph, as a union stalwart, would know this story. He's a treasure of AP history.

The beat of the week out of China was breathtaking and so many of us would not have known about it without "Connecting." Traveling 2,000 miles for an interview? Wow!

I'm not a great baseball fan but John Willis' story of listening to a famous no-hitter on a radio was riveting.

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Sy Hersh's sense of outrage hasn't tempered with age

Sandy Johnson ([Email](#)) - Thanks for passing along the review of Sy Hersh's just-published memoirs (Tuesday's Connecting). I just missed him when he was with UPI in Pierre, and again when he was with AP in Washington. Now he works two doors down the hallway from my office at the National Press Foundation. What a character -- most days he looks like an unmade bed, uses our wi-fi when he can't remember his own password, and is flummoxed by our digital copier. But man, he can recall with minute detail every big story he covered! His sense of outrage hasn't tempered with age.

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Thinking of yourselves as sherpas

Steve Hendren ([Email](#)) - Seeing the anniversary of the Mt. Everest ascent reminded me of the CEO at my last company. He had the inspired idea of trying to convince our employees that they should think of themselves as sherpas like Norgay - working selflessly behind the scenes to make our customers successful. This went well until several sherpas died a few years ago and others went on strike, prompting an employee response of "We are loyal sherpas who work our tails off and are then left for dead". Oops.

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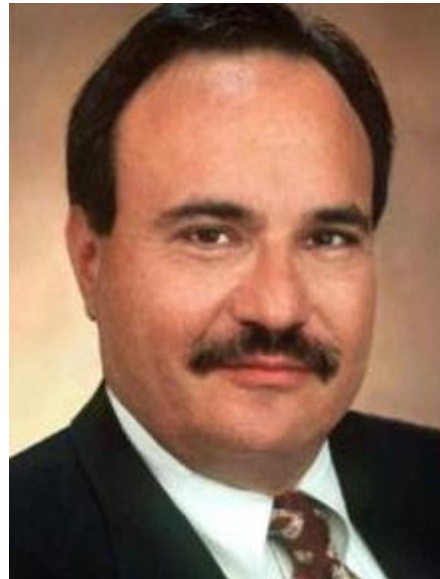
Remembering Bob Fuss, long-time Washington broadcast correspondent

Ed Tobias ([Email](#)) - While not an APer, Bob Fuss was a friend to many of us and, as you'll see when you read his obit, quite a man...professionally and personally.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story by CBS News, which begins:

Robert J. "Bob" Fuss, a veteran radio journalist, died Sunday at his Falls Church, Virginia, home. He was 64. The cause was a rare form of leukemia, his close friend Peter Maer said.

Fuss served as a CBS News congressional correspondent from 1998 until his retirement in 2014. His first major assignment for CBS News was coverage of the impeachment of former President Bill Clinton. Prior to joining CBS News, Fuss covered Congress for Mutual and NBC Radio for seven years. He previously worked as Los Angeles bureau chief for UPI Radio. He began his professional radio career as a freelance reporter for UPI covering the 1974 Patty Hearst case. He originally aspired to be an attorney but he was attracted to broadcasting at Stanford University's campus radio station KZSU.



AND...

Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) - All of us who knew Bob Fuss as a beloved friend and colleague are mourning his loss. He was someone who left an impression on everyone who ever worked with him. He was small in stature and walked with crutches all his life but never let that stop him from covering stories, traveling the world, rafting and scuba diving. He was the brightest light of optimism in any group. He started young as a radio reporter and his big break came when the great reporter Theo Wilson saw him covering the Patty Hearst trial as a free lancer. She called a friend at UPI and said, "There's an amazing kid here that you should hire." They did and he wound up as the UPI Radio bureau chief in Los Angeles. He later moved on to CBS in Washington covering Capitol Hill. Those of us who knew him in L.A. never

forgot him. When Bob and I were out of town on a story with other reporters he always insisted we pile into his specially equipped car and he would drive us to dinner at some splendid restaurant he had discovered. He said that he never considered himself disabled. Neither did we. Godspeed old friend. You brought joy to our lives and inspired so many in our profession.

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A rest stop reunion



Here's a photo of a "rest stop reunion" on I-95 at the NC-SC border. Retired Raleigh photographer Bob Jordan (left) and retired Raleigh reporter and former Raleigh news editor and Roanoke correspondent Estes Thompson ran into each other 5-22-18 as both were traveling southward. Bob was on his way home to Vero Beach after shooting NASCAR at Charlotte and visiting NC friends. Estes was on his way to Charleston to see his four grandchildren, daughter and son-in-law. Estes's wife Mary Duncan Thompson put it together when she saw Bob and pointed out Estes.

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Albert Habhab is Veteran of the Year



Photo by Tom Tierney

Connecting colleague **Albert Habhab** ([Email](#)) was recognized on Memorial Day as Veteran of the Year in his hometown of Fort Dodge, Iowa.

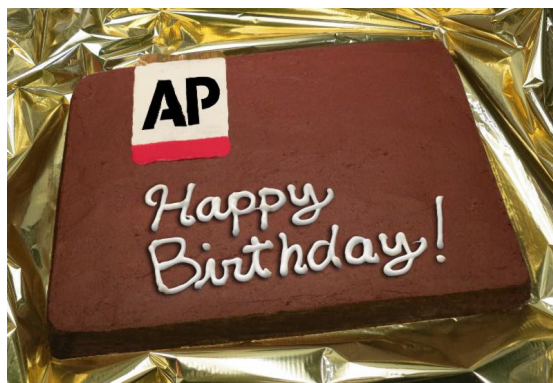
[Click here](#) for a story in The Messenger of Fort Dodge by Peter Kaspari that begins:

A retired judge who served in World War II was honored Monday during Fort Dodge's Memorial Day service at Veterans Memorial Park. Albert Habhab, of Fort Dodge, was recognized as the Veteran of the Year from the VFW Post 1856, also of Fort Dodge.

Habhab, a former Fort Dodge mayor who also served as the chief justice on the Iowa Court of Appeals, was recognized for his service in Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army, where he served in the 87th Infantry Division's 346th Infantry Regiment.

During his service, he saved the life of another soldier who was lying injured on the battlefield during the Battle of Metz.

Welcome to Connecting



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Charlotte Louise - starchar@earthlink.net

Stories of interest

Russian journalist shot and killed in Ukrainian capital

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) - A Russian journalist harshly critical of the Kremlin was shot and killed in the Ukrainian capital Tuesday, and the national police said they are assuming he was targeted because of his work.

Ukrainian police said Arkady Babchenko's wife found him bleeding at their apartment building in Kiev and called an ambulance, but Babchenko died on the

way to a hospital.

Police said he had multiple gunshot wounds on his back.

"The first and the most obvious version is his professional activities," Kiev Police Chief Andriy Krivchenko said in televised comments.



Harlem Desir, the media freedom representative at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said he was "horrified" by Babchenko's death.

Read more [here](#).

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Why Every Media Company Fears Richard Liebowitz (Slate)

By JUSTIN PETERS

Our story starts with Geno Smith getting punched in the jaw by a teammate, as most good stories about copyright law do. It was August 2015, and the then-quarterback for the New York Jets got clocked in a practice altercation that sent him into surgery and sidelined him for the start of the NFL season. Two days after Smith's surgery, a photojournalist named Angel Chevrestit spotted the shirtless, puffy-cheeked quarterback standing outside his apartment, tossing a football to a friend. Chevrestit took some pictures and licensed them to the New York Post, where they ran alongside an article titled "Big Mouth! Geno Emerges for First Time Post-Sucker Punch Surgery."

Later that day, a CBS website ran its own story about Smith's emergence and used Chevrestit's photographs as accompanying art. The problem, according to Chevrestit, was that CBS had neither licensed his pictures, obtained his permission to display them, nor credited him as the photographer. CBS television also briefly used Chevrestit's photos of Smith during its broadcast of a Jets preseason football game later that month, again without credit or explicit permission. Smith, it seems, wasn't the only one who got sucker-punched.

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

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Advantages of printed newspapers will never disappear (Press of Atlantic)

By KEVIN POST

Since the advent of the internet more than two decades ago, plenty of people have predicted the days of the printed newspaper are numbered. Many are still doing so, just admitting that it's going to take a lot longer than they thought.

But this isn't the usual kind of forecast error of failing to guess the arrival date of something almost certain to happen. This is a failure to understand people, markets and the unique product advantages of the printed newspaper - and imagining a false future for all three.

Many phone calls to The Press from subscribers ring on my desk simply because my phone number on the Opinion page is easy to find. In those conversations, many people want me to know that they like the printed paper and want it to continue. They often describe where and how they read it - with their morning coffee or tea, or while eating breakfast, usually in the same place every day.

My favorite place is the front porch on sunny days. I'll take a hot beverage or even breakfast out there and read two newspapers while hearing and seeing the life in the garden and neighborhood (much of it wild).

Read more [here](#). Shared by Jim Robertson.

The Final Word

9 People Reveal a Time They Racially Stereotyped a Stranger (New York Times)

Compiled by Nicole Phillip

In the social media era, stereotyping can lead to fraught encounters that go viral: In recent weeks, people have called the police on innocent black people for doing nothing more than waiting at a Starbucks cafe or napping in a dorm.

The social psychologist Claude Steele's 2010 book "Whistling Vivaldi" examines stereotype threats - predicaments in which people worry that others are judging them solely because of their race or gender or age. He found that racial stereotypes hindered the academic performance of black children and contributed to persistent segregation.

We wanted to understand more about these encounters.

We asked readers to share stories - often, painful ones - of times that they have made unjust assumptions about others. We asked readers to tell us what role race played in their thinking, how their thoughts affected their behavior, and what they would do differently.

We received nearly 200 responses - many of which described times in which racial stereotypes led to mistakes, misunderstanding and on some occasions, false police reports. Here are a few, condensed and edited for clarity.

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

Today in History - May 30, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 30, the 150th day of 2018. There are 215 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 30, 1958, unidentified American service members killed in World War II and the Korean War were interred in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

On this date:

In 1381, the Peasants' Revolt against economic injustice erupted in England during the reign of King Richard II; the king and his men, initially caught off-guard, were able to crush the rebellion several weeks later.

In 1431, Joan of Arc, condemned as a heretic, was burned at the stake in Rouen (roo-AHN'), France.

In 1536, England's King Henry VIII married his third wife, Jane Seymour, 11 days after the king's second wife, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded for treason and adultery.

In 1883, 12 people were trampled to death in a stampede sparked by a rumor that the recently opened Brooklyn Bridge was in danger of collapsing.

In 1911, the first Indy 500 took place at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway; the winner was Ray Harroun, who drove a Marmon Wasp for more than 6 1/2 hours at an average speed of 74.6 mph and collected a prize of \$10,000.

In 1922, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. was dedicated in a ceremony attended by President Warren G. Harding, Chief Justice William Howard Taft and Robert Todd Lincoln.

In 1937, ten people were killed when police fired on steelworkers demonstrating near the Republic Steel plant in South Chicago.

In 1943, during World War II, American troops secured the Aleutian island of Attu from Japanese forces.

In 1968, the Beatles began recording their "White Album" at EMI Recording Studios in London, starting with the original version of "Revolution 1."

In 1971, the American space probe Mariner 9 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a journey to Mars.

In 1982, Spain became NATO's 16th member.

In 1996, Britain's Prince Andrew and the former Sarah Ferguson were granted an uncontested decree ending their 10-year marriage.

Ten years ago: A construction crane snapped and smashed into an apartment building on Manhattan's Upper West Side, killing two workers in New York City's second such tragedy in 2 1/2 months. Diplomats from 111 nations meeting in Dublin, Ireland, formally adopted a landmark treaty banning cluster bombs. (The United States and other leading cluster bomb makers - Russia, China, Israel, India and Pakistan - boycotted the talks.) Lorenzo Odone (oh-DOH'-nay), whose parents' battle to save him from the rare nerve disease ALD inspired "Lorenzo's Oil," died in Fairfax, Virginia, a day after his 30th birthday.

Five years ago: Syria's President Bashar Assad said in an interview with Lebanese television that he was "confident of victory" in his country's civil war, and he warned Damascus would retaliate for any future Israeli airstrike on his territory. Arvind Mahankali (AHR'-vihnd MAH'-hahn-KAHL'-ee), a 13-year-old from Bayside Hills,

New York, won the Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling "knaidel," a small mass of leavened dough, to win the 86th version of the competition.

One year ago: The Pentagon scored an important success in a test of its oft-criticized missile defense program, destroying a mock warhead over the Pacific Ocean with an interceptor. Michael Dubke (DUHB'-kee), a top communications aide to President Donald Trump, announced his resignation. Kathy Griffin appeared in a brief video holding what looked like President Trump's bloody, severed head; the comic ended up apologizing, saying she had gone way too far.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Ruta Lee is 83. Actor Keir Dullea is 82. Actor Michael J. Pollard is 79. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Gale Sayers is 75. Rock musician Lenny Davidson (The Dave Clark Five) is 74. Actor Stephen Tobolowsky is 67. Actor Colm Meaney is 65. Actor Ted McGinley is 60. Actor Ralph Carter is 57. Actress Tonya Pinkins is 56. Country singer Wynonna Judd is 54. Rock musician Tom Morello (Audioslave; Rage Against The Machine) is 54. Actor Mark Sheppard is 54. Movie director Antoine Fuqua is 53. Actor John Ross Bowie is 47. Rock musician Patrick Dahlheimer (Live) is 47. Actress Idina Menzel is 47. Actor Trey Parker is 46. Rapper Cee Lo Green is 43. Rapper Remy Ma is 38. Actor Blake Bashoff is 37. Christian rock musician James Smith (Underoath) is 36. Actor Jake Short is 21. Actor Sean Giambrone is 19. Actor Jared Gilmore is 18.

Thought for Today: "There is a Law that man should love his neighbor as himself. In a few hundred years it should be as natural to mankind as breathing or the upright gait; but if he does not learn it he must perish." - Alfred Adler, Austrian psychoanalyst (1870-1937).

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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