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## Connecting -- June 07, 2018

1 message

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Thu, Jun 7, 2018 at 9:13 AM

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# Connecting

June 07, 2018

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## A farewell to another member of AP's 'Mod Squad'



**Mod Squad members in Central Park: from left, Jurate Kazickas, Ann Blackman, Dee Wedemeyer, Ann Hencken, Dick Blystone and Lynn Sherr. Photo taken in 1970.**

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

With sadness, Connecting shares the news that **Ann Garcelon Hencken** - one of the original members of a 1970's AP reporting team known as "The Mod Squad" - died on Tuesday in California at the age of 75.

Her close friend and fellow member of the squad, **Jurate Kazickas**, shares the news with Connecting colleagues. Ann's death follows that of the first Mod Squad member to pass away, **Richard Blystone**, who died in April at 81.

We also bring you news of the death of a Connecting colleague, **Dick Buzbee**, a Kansas newspaperman whose daughter in law is AP Executive Editor **Sally Buzbee**. Dick was a friend of mine since we met in 1984 when I became Kansas City chief of bureau and he was editor and publisher of The Hutchinson News.

He was a fine journalist and an even finer man. He was a rock for Sally and her daughters in 2016 when she lost her husband John - the second of two sons of Dick and his wife Marie to die of cancer. Funeral services are pending.

And today's issue features a report by colleague **Michael Putzel** from the Newseum in Washington on a family's farewell to an unheralded soldier-photographer killed in the Vietnam War.

**Tu Vu** was a photographer with the Vietnamese army and an occasional contributor to The Associated Press whose duties included escorting foreign correspondents to the scenes of fighting in Vietnam. He perished in a helicopter crash in 1971 over Laos that also killed AP photographer Henri Huet, Larry Burrows of Life magazine, Kent Potter of UPI and Keizaburo Shimamoto, working for Newsweek.

Tu's daughter, Thuy Vu, was an infant when he was killed, and neither she nor her mother, Tin Vu, knew what had happened to him until years later, when a former AP Saigon Bureau Chief, Richard Pyle, tracked them down in Vietnam and told them of the crash.

Putzel, a former AP reporter in Vietnam, helped the two obtain U.S. visas to be at the journalists' ceremony, their first time in the United States. Also attending was Burrows' son, Russell, who was 22 when his father died.

Remains from the crash site, located years later by Pyle and the late AP chief Vietnam photographer Horst Faas, have been interred behind the memorial wall in the Newseum. Pyle himself died in September.

Paul

## **Ann Garcelon Hencken, one of original members of AP's 'Mod Squad,' dies at 75**

**By Jurate Kazickas** ([Email](#))

Ann Garcelon, one of the original members of AP's Living Today department, aka "the Mod Squad," died on June 5, 2018, in Santa Barbara, California. She was 75.

Garcelon, then reporting under her married name, Ann Hencken, joined the AP in the late 1960s, where she first worked with Lynn Sherr producing educational film strips for high school students. "Her soothing Tennessee accent belied a piercing



curiosity and wicked humor," Sherr recalls. "She saw the absurd in the everyday."

When the Mod Squad was launched in 1970, Ann posed for the group photo wearing a blanket as a skirt and clunky (but trendy) Doc Martens boots on her feet. She would become the group's fashion reporter, a free-spirited southerner who tracked everything from love beads to midi-skirts, and wore them all.

I was also an original Mod Squadder, and I remember Ann hitting the typewriters for a noon deadline after yet another runway show, muttering, "I have no idea what the hell I am doing..." yet still producing a masterful piece of reporting about dolman sleeves and shortened hemlines.

In one 1972 piece about the new season's evening clothes, Ann wrote, "For [Donald] Brooks, the knock'em dead look means a crystal chemise dress, just a cut of silver light that couldn't be ignored at a party, unless everyone put on blinders."

For another detailing the new bare midriff and shoulder styles, she wrote, "Whether a woman has a nice throat, a great back or a terrific set of ribs, she'll have a chance to show it off this summer. Since long evening skirts threaten to obscure tanned legs, designers are busy drumming up interest elsewhere."

And her lede when ladies' hats appeared to be making a comeback read: "Holly Halsey, 15. wore a smashing pink fedora with her teenybopper slacks and shirt as she pawed through clothes at Saks Fifth Avenue. 'I've gone crazy over hats.' said Holly. 'Every time I make money baby-siting, I go out and buy a hat.'

Ann also captured the quirkiness of fashion designer Edith Head when the Hollywood icon debuted her travel collection in 1970 - her first line for non-movie stars-wearing a skirt some 3" above her ankle. From the interview:

"Is it a midi?" she was asked

"I can't make up its mind," she answered, holding on to her purse, an old hand

warmer, once filled with coals on winter nights.



Of course Ann also chronicled the death of that deadly mid-calf skirt, with the short and perfect lede: "The midi is a flop-America isn't buying it."

Other articles included a 1973 piece about the Alice Cooper band, then making a comeback tour. She described Alice as "more spectre than superstar in Ming the Merciless makeup on pale skin, experiencing a mock decapitation after singing 'I love the Dead.' Or slashing a sword at golden torsos, mistreating baby dolls, submitting to a 'dentist' with a vicious-looking drill."

But the two articles I most remember Ann laboring over were a feature about AJ Weberman, the guy known as Bob Dylan's "garbologist" and one about Bobby Fischer, the chess genius.

"Bobby Fisher slams his chessmen across a plastic foldup board with the intensity of a boxer training on the heavy bag," she wrote in September 1971.

Because we had the luxury of time to write a feature, Ann really engaged with her subjects. She played a fierce game of chess with Bobby and went through garbage with AJ.

Ann left the AP in the early 1970s and worked as an editor at the New York Times, then Variety magazine in Los Angeles. She moved there in the 1980s when she decided to try her hand at screen writing and was accepted into the American Film Institute graduate program.

She eventually settled in Santa Barbara doing some freelance writing.

On a personal note, while Ann leaves no family behind, she was an intimate friend until the end. She was the only bridesmaid at my 1981 wedding; we talked almost every day and even tried our hand at writing screenplays together. One, called "Will you Marry Me?" actually got us a fancy agent at CAA in Hollywood but never made it to the silver screen.

At one meeting, in the early 1970s, producer David Brown asked us what the script was about. Annie and I were 30, single at the time and had based the characters more or less on ourselves. So we told him, "Well, it's about two women in their 30s who really want to get married and in the end, they do!"

"To each other??!!!" Brown gasped.

We would have been WAY WAY ahead of our time had that movie been made!

Annie had been quite weak and bed-ridden the last few months in an assisted living facility. I was changing planes en route to visit her on Tuesday when I received the shocking news that she'd passed away that morning. When I spoke with her just days before, she had said she was comfortable and happy and really looking forward to my visit. Those words, along with the funny and evocative writing she left us, will sustain my memory.

## At the Newseum, saying farewell to unheralded soldier-photographer killed in Vietnam War



Widow Pham Thi Tin and daughter Vu Thuy at memorial (Photo by Michael Putzel)

By MICHAEL PUTZEL ([Email](#))

WASHINGTON--After the ceremony ended and the crowd was gone, two women, dressed in black and facing each other, knelt in silence and bowed their heads at a plaque embedded in the polished stone floor of the Newseum's Journalists Memorial in Washington. They were there to say farewell at last to an unheralded soldier-photographer killed in war almost a half century ago.

Vu Thuy, the younger woman, could not remember her father, a South Vietnamese combat photographer who saw her only twice, once soon after she was born and for the last time when she was 5 months old. He was on a helicopter flying over Laos on February 10, 1971, when the aircraft was shot down by North Vietnamese gunners, killing all 11 aboard, including four celebrated war photographers working for Western news organizations. The other woman on her knees was Thuy's mother, Pham Thi Tin, a war widow who waited 37 years before learning what had happened to her husband.

He simply never came home after the war, which ended in South Vietnam's defeat four years after the downing of his helicopter.

Thuy's father, known as Tu Vu, was a sergeant in the South Vietnamese army assigned to the commander of his country's northern, and most dangerous, region. When he took pictures he thought the outside world should see, he sent his film to the Saigon bureau of The Associated Press, which maintained a network of part-time "stringers" like Tu Vu. No one at the AP knew he left a young widow and infant daughter behind. In 2009, the AP learned from a Vietnamese friend of the Vu family living in the United States that Tu Vu had a wife and daughter still living near Ho Chi Minh City. The late Richard Pyle, a former AP bureau chief in Vietnam who participated in a successful mission to locate the crash site and recover a few remains years after the war, contacted Tin and Thuy and sent them a book entitled *Lost Over Laos* that he wrote about the lost photographers and the search for their crash site. The few human remains recovered were not traceable to individuals but were commingled and interred in the Newseum when it opened its Journalists Memorial in 2008. The plaque names the four news photographers and refers to seven other victims but doesn't name Tu Vu or the two senior military officers and four crew members who died with them.

Upon learning her father's remains were in the Newseum, Thuy quickly launched an effort to visit the site, but she was repeatedly denied a visa by the U.S. Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City. Earlier this year, the Newseum formally invited her and her immediate family to attend the June 4 rededication of the Journalists Memorial, when the names of journalists killed on assignment the previous year are added to the frosted glass panels of the soaring wall rising high above the floor. In early May, she and her mother received the long-sought travel documents and quickly arranged to travel halfway around the world to fulfill their mission.



**Vu family members with AP's John Daniszewski (top right) (Photo by Michael Putzel)**

There to meet them on Monday were John Daniszewski, AP's vice president of standards; Russell Burrows, son of LIFE photographer Larry Burrows, who was aboard the doomed aircraft with Tu Vu; Richard Darnell of Edmond, Oklahoma, who was a U.S. Army captain assigned to the same headquarters as Tu Vu and a friend of the photographer; Patty Rhule, the Newseum exhibitions director who invited the family to attend; and several members of the Vu family who resettled in the United States after the war.

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[Click here](#) for an AP story by John Daniszewski on the Monday ceremony at the Journalists Memorial in Washington.

## **Kansas newspaper editor, publisher Dick Buzbee dies at 86**

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) - Dick Buzbee, former editor and publisher of The Hutchinson News and Olathe Daily News in Kansas, has died from brain cancer. He was 86.



Buzbee's family said he died Wednesday morning in a Wichita hospital. He began a 35-year career in journalism with the Harris Enterprises newspaper group after leaving the Navy and worked in Chanute, Kansas; Burlington, Iowa, and then in Olathe and Hutchinson.



He was the father-in-law of Sally Buzbee, The Associated Press' executive editor. Her husband, John, a veteran Foreign Service officer who served across the Middle East, died in 2016.

Richard Edgar "Dick" Buzbee was born Aug. 16, 1931, in Fordyce, Arkansas. He attended the University of Arkansas and the University of Missouri, where he received degrees in journalism and political science and a naval commission.

He served as a midshipman and officer aboard a battleship, a cruiser, an attack transport and a tank-landing ship.

He received a Department of the Army citation during the Vietnam War for patriotic civilian service. He was the chairman of four campaigns in Olathe to bring service members home for the Christmas holidays during that war.

Buzbee also served as the chairman of both the Olathe and Hutchinson chambers of commerce and as president of the Johnson County Red Cross and the Hutchinson Symphony.

He married his wife, Marie, in 1955, in Waverly, Missouri, and they had four sons. He is survived by his wife, a brother, two sisters, two of his sons and 10 grandchildren.

[Click here](#) for link to this story.

## Connecting mailbox

## ***A Wide World assignment and a train***

**Paul Shane** ([Email](#)) - I clearly recall a Wide World Photos assignment near Milwaukee. It had something to do with scrap metal being transported by train.

I found the train of three locomotives and 60 open topped coal cars filled to the heaping with crushed cars and whatnot in a switching yard. After a considerable walk, I climbed on top of a car near the back end of the train and made shots with various lenses.

I remarked, shouted actually, to the conductor and the WWP client's man that the view of the straight train was kind of boring and would look more interesting if the train was on a curve. The conductor said something into a handheld radio and darned if, with me still on top, they backed the long train a couple miles out of town to a curve even with a slight incline.

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## ***A Wide World assignment and a boy born with three legs***

**Neal Ulevich** ([Email](#)) - Gene Herrick's reflections on Wide World Photos assignments brought back a memory of one which turned out interesting indeed.

A boy in the Chinese provinces born with three legs and, at age two, had one removed by Beijing surgeons. It made for a brief nightly TV news story. The area was closed to foreign press, so the bureau thought a wire story would be the end of it.

But WWP asked for a photo layout, and to my surprise the Chinese assented. WWP was coy about the client, which turned out to be a tabloid scandal sheet.

In 1984 the boy's village was straight from the previous century, the tot terrified by visiting strangers (which included my handlers from no fewer than four administrative levels). The hospitality was simple but warm, the village a window on rural China.

Delicately, I asked if there was a strong temptation to let the afflicted three-legged baby die. I was told the decision was left to Grandpa. His verdict: A son is a son, and we don't get rid of sons.

Beyond the story in question, the village in Hubei province was fascinating. The harvest that year was of record proportions. Local peasants were flummoxed as to where to store the grain and worried the government would shy away from buying it (the government kept to its commitment to purchase the harvest). The village sideline was making firecrackers, a cottage craft families were eager to show off. The three-legged boy's much older sibling, who arranged for the operation, told me village fireworks production was a mixed blessing. It brought in cash, but sometimes there were accidents. "People go up in the air," he said.

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## ***A favorite story from volunteering - and a lady who knew her sports***

**Bruce Lowitt** ([Email](#)) - For roughly 10 years I have been a volunteer aide on vans that take people from their home to local hospitals or doctors' offices and back again. The rides are free, the fuel and maintenance paid for in part by donations from the riders, about 30 percent of whom contribute a few dollars.

Most of the riders are elderly and my favorite of all time was a woman in her 70s, perhaps her 80s, with a rich Texas accent. It was 2011, the Dallas Mavericks had just won the NBA title and she was going on and on about how great the Mavs were.

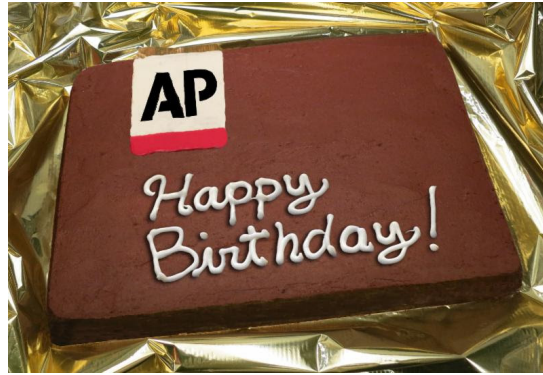
"You're a real fan," I said. "How about the Texas Rangers? They made it to the World Series. Didn't win but they came close."

She started telling me what manager Ron Washington had done wrong - bringing in the wrong relief pitchers, sending up the wrong pinch-hitters.

"Wow!" I said. "You really know your stuff. How about the Dallas Cowboys?"

"F--k the Cowboys," she said.

# Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Sally Buzbee - [sbuzbee@ap.org](mailto:sbuzbee@ap.org)

Hank Waters - [hjwatersiii@gmail.com](mailto:hjwatersiii@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***Almost seven-in-ten Americans have news fatigue, more among Republicans*** (Pew)

BY JEFFREY GOTTFRIED AND MICHAEL BARTHEL

If you feel like there is too much news and you can't keep up, you are not alone. A sizable portion of Americans are feeling overwhelmed by the amount of news there is, though the sentiment is more common on the right side of the political spectrum, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted from Feb. 22 to March 4, 2018.

Almost seven-in-ten Americans (68%) feel worn out by the amount of news there is these days, compared with only three-in-ten who say they like the amount of news they get. The portion expressing feelings of information overload is in line with how Americans felt during the 2016 presidential election, when a majority expressed feelings of exhaustion from election coverage.

While majorities of both Republicans and Democrats express news fatigue, Republicans are feeling it more. Roughly three-quarters (77%) of Republicans and

Republican-leaning independents feel worn out over how much news there is, compared with about six-in-ten Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents (61%). This elevated fatigue among Republicans tracks with them having less enthusiasm than Democrats for the 2018 elections.

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

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## ***Seymour Hersh on spies, state secrets, and the stories he doesn't tell*** (CJR)



Illustration by Anje Jager

**By ELON GREEN**

When a reporter has covered 50 years of American foreign policy disasters, the last great untold story may be his own.

That, more or less, is the premise behind a new memoir by Seymour Hersh, the investigative journalist who has been revealing secrets and atrocities-and often secret atrocities-to great acclaim since he exposed the My Lai Massacre in 1969.

Hersh's book, economically titled *Reporter*, is focused on the work. "I don't want anybody reporting about my private life," he once said, and Hersh abides by his own request. In lieu of the personal, we're treated to the professional: Hersh's rise from the City News Bureau of Chicago to the United Press International to the Associated Press.

His breakthrough, however, was as a freelancer: Hersh, famously, received a tip about William Calley, a court-martialed Army lieutenant accused of killing 109 unarmed South Vietnamese civilians in a village nicknamed "Pinkville."

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

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## ***Charting the rise of three women in journalism***

(Poynter)

**By MEL GRAU**

Swati Sharma landed her dream job as deputy editor of Atlantic.com. Megan Greenwell is now editor-in-chief of Deadspin. Dhiya Kuriakose designed her own job-twice-and is now senior director of development strategy and syndication at Condé Nast Entertainment.

All three women participated in Poynter's Leadership Academy for Women in Digital Media, and they credit much of their success to the lessons they learned from their cohort. Here are their tips for jumping ahead, giving back and making magic along the way.

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History - June 7, 2018**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, June 7, the 158th day of 2018. There are 207 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia offered a resolution to the Continental Congress stating "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

### On this date:

In 1099, the First Crusade began besieging Jerusalem, which was captured the following month.

In 1654, King Louis XIV, age 15, was crowned in Rheims (rams), 11 years after the start of his reign.

In 1769, frontiersman Daniel Boone first began to explore present-day Kentucky.

In 1892, Homer Plessy, a "Creole of color," was arrested for refusing to leave a whites-only car of the East Louisiana Railroad. (Ruling on his case, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld "separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept it renounced in 1954.)

In 1929, the sovereign state of Vatican City came into existence as copies of the Lateran Treaty were exchanged in Rome.

In 1948, the Communists completed their takeover of Czechoslovakia with the resignation of President Edvard Benes (BEH'-nesh).

In 1958, singer-songwriter Prince was born Prince Rogers Nelson in Minneapolis.

In 1965, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, struck down, 7-2, a Connecticut law used to prosecute a Planned Parenthood clinic in New Haven for providing contraceptives to married couples.

In 1977, Britons thronged London to celebrate the silver jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, who was marking the 25th year of her reign.

In 1981, Israeli military planes destroyed a nuclear power plant in Iraq, a facility the Israelis charged could have been used to make nuclear weapons.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that religious groups could sometimes meet on school property after hours. Ground was broken for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

In 1998, in a crime that shocked the nation, James Byrd Jr., a 49-year-old black man, was hooked by a chain to a pickup truck and dragged to his death in Jasper, Texas. (Two white men were later sentenced to death; one of them, Lawrence Russell Brewer, was executed in 2011. A third defendant received life with the possibility of parole.)

Ten years ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton suspended her pioneering campaign for the presidency and endorsed fellow Democrat Barack Obama. Longshot Da' Tara spoiled Big Brown's bid for a Triple Crown by winning the Belmont Stakes. Ana Ivanovic (ee-VAH'-noh-vich) won her first Grand Slam title by beating Dinara Safina 6-4, 6-3 in the French Open. Veteran sportscaster Jim McKay, 86, died in Monkton, Maryland.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama vigorously defended the government's just-disclosed collection of massive amounts of information from phone and Internet records as a necessary defense against terrorism, and assured Americans, "Nobody is listening to your telephone calls." President Obama opened a two-day summit



with Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) in Rancho Mirage, California. A gunman went on a chaotic rampage, killing his father and brother and three other people before being fatally shot by police at Santa Monica College in California. Former French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, 84, died in suburban Paris. Death row inmate Richard Ramirez, 53, the serial killer known as California's "Night Stalker," died in a hospital.

One year ago: President Donald Trump announced his choice to replace James Comey a day ahead of the ousted FBI director's congressional testimony, tapping Christopher Wray, a white-collar defense lawyer with a strong law enforcement background. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a stunning pair of deadly attacks on Iran's parliament and the tomb of its revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Keith Urban picked up four CMT Music Awards in Nashville, including video of the year.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director James Ivory is 90. Former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner is 89. Actress Virginia McKenna is 87. Singer Tom Jones is 78. Actor Ronald Pickup is 78. Poet Nikki Giovanni is 75. Actor Ken Osmond (TV: "Leave It to Beaver") is 75. Former talk show host Jenny Jones is 72. Americana singer-songwriter Willie Nile is 70. Actress Anne Twomey is 67. Actor Liam Neeson is 66. Actress Colleen Camp is 65. Singer-songwriter Johnny Clegg is 65. Author Louise Erdrich (UR'-drihk) is 64. Actor William Forsythe is 63. Record producer L.A. Reid is 62. Latin pop singer Juan Luis Guerra is 61. Vice President Mike Pence is 59. Rock singer-musician Gordon Gano (The Violent Femmes) is 55. Rapper Ecstasy (Whodini) is 54. Rock musician Eric Kretz (Stone Temple Pilots) is 52. Rock musician Dave Navarro is 51. Actress Helen Baxendale is 48. Actor Karl Urban is 46. TV personality Bear Grylls is 44. Rock musician Eric Johnson (The Shins) is 42. Actress Adrienne Frantz is 40. Actor-comedian Bill Hader is 40. Actress Anna Torv is 39. Actress Larisa Oleynik (oh-LAY'-nihk) is 37. Tennis player Anna Kournikova is 37. Actor Michael Cera is 30. Actress Shelley Buckner is 29. Rapper Iggy Azalea is 28. Actress-model Emily Ratajowski is 27. Rapper Fetty Wap is 27.

**Thought for Today: "The history of the world shows that when a mean thing was done, man did it; when a good thing was done, man did it." - Robert G. Ingersoll, American lawyer and statesman (1833-1899).**

## 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.

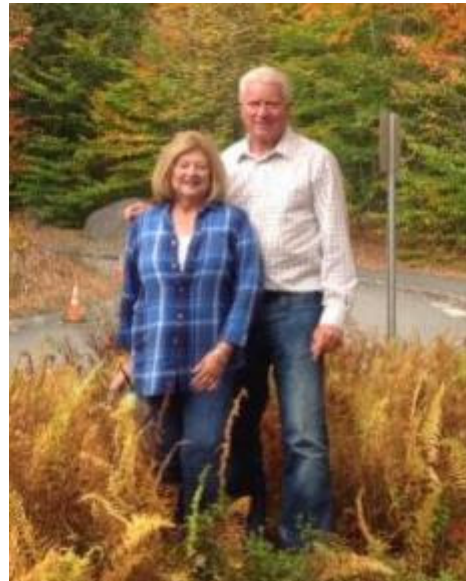
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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