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Connecting -- August 21, 2018

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Connecting

August 21, 2018

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Richard Pyle, RIP



The American flag is presented to Brenda Smiley at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday as her husband Richard Pyle was honored. From left: Brenda Smiley, Derek Johnson, a Pyle family friend, Edie Lederer, AP, and Charlie Hanley, AP. Photo/Hal Buell

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Friends and colleagues of **Richard Pyle** gathered Monday at Arlington National Cemetery and at a reception held afterward to honor one of the most distinguished journalists in the history of The Associated Press.

They joined his wife **Brenda Smiley** ([Email](#)) in bidding a final farewell to Richard as his ashes were placed in a memorial wall.

Richard, a U.S. Army veteran, began his AP career in Detroit and in the next half century reported from Saigon, where he was AP bureau chief, and Tokyo and the Middle East to Washington and New York. He died last September at the age of 83.



AP Photo/Cliff Owen

A military honor guard presented Brenda with a folded American flag before she placed her husband's ashes in the wall. Seven soldiers fired three volleys of rifle shots.

Today's issue of Connecting brings you word and photo coverage from several of his AP colleagues.

Late Monday night, **Brenda** marveled in a note to Connecting over "this collaborative effort in bringing together a super group of AP's finest - along with newshounds from other organizations, and neighborhood friends-to celebrate the life of a respected colleague, competitor and friend.

"When I walked into the family room, all I could think was how thrilled Richard would have been. This was a party not to be missed! And in an alternate universe, he would still be there deep in conversation."

This is our final salute to Richard, for an AP career well done and for a life well lived.

Paul

In life, he honored the flag.

'Today, in death, the flag will honor him'



AP Photo/Cliff Owen



Photo/Robert Reid



Brenda Smiley addresses the group. Photo/Claudia DiMartino

By Michael Putzel ([Email](#))

ARLINGTON, VA - AP veteran Richard Pyle reached his final resting place Monday at Arlington National Cemetery, where an Army chaplain declared that as a soldier he "earned an honored place in these hallowed grounds," then "embarked on a distinguished career in journalism," covering conflicts and events of national interest around the world.

"In life, he honored the flag," said Capt. and Roman Catholic priest Matthew Whitehead. "Today, in death, the flag will honor him."

A squad of six riflemen in dress uniform fired the three-gun salute accorded an enlisted man, followed by a bugler standing at a distance playing Taps and the crisp, ceremonial folding of the flag that a sergeant formally presented to the widow.



Photo/Robert Reid

She is Brenda Smiley, who was joined by about 45 of Pyle's longtime friends and colleagues for the entombment of his ashes in the cemetery's Niche Wall among thousands of other military veterans. The massive structure is surrounded by the graves of some 400,000 who fell in battle, served honorably in uniform or were married to those entitled to interment in the sloping, grassy fields across the Potomac River from the nation's capital.

As a Specialist 3, Pyle served in Japan in the 1950s, where he met another soldier, Hal Buell, who also joined The Associated Press after they were discharged. Pyle worked in bureaus from Detroit to Saigon, Tokyo, the Middle East, Washington and New York, where he retired from the Bureau Desk after

more than 49 years with AP. Buell, who headed AP Photos for decades, was among those present to say farewell at Arlington.

Four of the people who worked with him in the Saigon bureau, Lew Simons, Terry Wolkerstorfer, Edie Lederer and this reporter, were on hand as well. Lederer, who heads the United Nations bureau, is the only one still working for AP.

Other old Vietnam hands included Bernard Kalb, formerly of CBS, Don North of ABC and Arnold "Skip" Isaacs, then of the Baltimore Sun. Retired veterans of other AP foreign bureaus included Myron Belkind, Terry Anderson, Jim Abrams and Marcus Eliason. Former competitors who worked for UPI when it battled AP for headlines included Tom Foty, now with CBS, and Bill Reilly.



Charlie Hanley addresses guests during a post-ceremony reception at the Lebanese Taverna in MacLean, VA. Photo/Hal Buell

Charlie Hanley, who wrote the obit when Pyle died last Sept. 28 at 83, called him "a consummate reporter who relished the craft and the camaraderie of the news trade."

Pyle, Hanley noted, referred to himself as a "firehouse dog," always ready to dash off when the alarm sounded.

Ms. Smiley, an actress and writer who met him in Tokyo and married him in Cyprus, told a reception after the ceremony that "he was my compass, my support and my life.... I miss Richard with my whole being."

Although he covered the Gulf War, the "tanker war" from Bahrain and crises from Washington to wherever, Vietnam remained his passion and his greatest story.

The military has strict limits on what can be engraved on the stones that cover the individual niches in the wall, including a limit of 13 characters, including spaces, on each of two lines to describe the life of the remains placed inside.

Pyle's will read:

Loved Husband

War Reporter

[Click here](#) for the AP wire story on Monday's ceremony.

[Click here](#) for the AP wire obituary of Richard Pyle, written by Charles Hanley.

Connecting mailbox

Full Circle



Vicki Graham with Nate Polowetzky

Marty Thompson ([Email](#)) - Things can come full circle. Vicki Graham in her full-of-life Q&A Monday recalls after the Hearst kidnapping, she and Edie Lederer side-by-side in the San Francisco bureau writing AMs and PMs, with their news editor hovering "and helping us make it better."

Now it seems it is Vicki, hovering over the shoulders of staff at The Star in Nairobi and, I'm sure, making their work better.

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Hancock Event Center named for two brothers



Bill Hancock (AP Photo)

Lindel Hutson (Email) - The gymnasium at the public school in Hobart, OK is being named after Hancock brothers, Bill ([Email](#)), a Connecting colleague and the director of the NCAA's College Football Playoff, and his late brother, Joe, who was publisher of the local paper for 40 years.

Superintendent Cathy Hunt told The Oklahoma Publisher of the Oklahoma Press Association the school board received suggestions for the naming and the one that stuck was Hancock Event Center.

Bill Hancock grew up working for the newspaper and was sports editor for several years before taking a position with the Big Eight Conference. He went on to become executive director of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, and Bowl Championship Series before heading up the NCAA's playoff organization.

Bill Hancock is a member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

Joe Hancock was publisher of the Hobart Democrat-Chief for 40 years until his death in 2014.

He was a member of the school board for 10 years and was citizen of the year in Hobart in 1988. He is a member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame. He lived in Hobart for 78 of his 85 years.

The facility is expected to be finished Nov. 1.

Remembering the competition between AP, UPI

Henry Bradsher (Email) - The recent discussion of AP competition with UPI brings to mind what was happening in Montgomery, Alabama, during Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s bus boycott in 1956. At the time, it was just United Press, established in 1907 and becoming UPI in May 1958 when it absorbed the International News Service created in 1909 by William Randolph Hearst.

AP's Montgomery bureau, headed by the excellent old-school reporter Rex Thomas, was in a corner of the Montgomery Advertiser newsroom. Next to us was the desk where a relatively new reporter for the paper compiled news from stringers in nearby counties. I got to know him while working AP's 4 p.m. to sometime-well-after-midnight shift.

One night he scrambled some news, which came out in the next morning's Advertiser as being in the wrong county. And, lo and behold, that mistake was what people heard on morning radio newscasts.

The reason was that the one-man UP bureau operation consisted of its man coming in about 5:30 a.m. to a cubbyhole down the hall, grabbing an Advertiser, and rewriting its material for the UP radio wire - in violation of AP's exclusive right to local news of member newspapers.

We knew, of course, what he did, but so far as I knew we never made an issue of it.

(Incidentally, in checking out the UP-INS tieup, I stumbled across something interesting that I'd not known.

(During World War I, the reporting by INS was considered by the British and French to be favorable to the Central Powers (Germany and its allies), so they cut off its access to trans-Atlantic telegraph lines. Desperate, INS began taking material from AP bulletin boards (whatever those were) and early editions of AP papers, rewriting it, and distributing it to subscribers.

(AP sued. INS argued that facts were facts and could not be copyrighted. But AP won a 1918 decision by the Supreme Court that found that INS had misappropriated the product

of "sweat of the brow.")

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Ford Burkhart (Email) - Those AP/UPI battle stories recalled the morning I became a truly competitive AP editor.

At the Foreign Desk, at 50 Rock, in the '70s, we posted the exact time, to the second, of the AP bulletin and the UPI's on the Big Story.

One morning in 1973, the phone (the old dial-type) rang and it was our guy in Santiago, Chile, (Ackerman, I think), saying he was in a café having breakfast. "Take this down," he said. He was looking out the window at tanks moving in the street and military planes flying toward the Moneda Palace, where Salvador Allende, the elected Socialist president, was, it would turn out, about to issue a departure note and commit suicide. I typed the dateline and something about tanks and planes.

I recall Nate Polowetzky rising from the next desk, running over and snatching the sheet from my typewriter. He wrote BULLETIN and added "more" and ordered the operator to break into the AAA wire and ring the TTY bells across the U.S. and move it. Nate shouted for the next take saying, "Come on, this isn't a blanket tea party."

The bulletin moved on the AAA as I wrapped up the 1st add. We won the battle that day, in minutes. Had it not been for Nate, I would have been pondering my lede for 20 minutes. I was just 31 then, new to the desk, with a lot to learn. Nate became Foreign Editor that year, succeeding Ben Bassett. I never sat on a lede again.

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Peter Leabo (Email) - The Rangers were playing the Red Sox on a blistering Saturday night at Arlington Stadium in August of 1980. An east coast team on a Saturday night meant early deadlines...first person to the wire was the winner. I was with AP and standing shoulder to shoulder in the first base photo dugout with my competition, Layne Murdoch, shooting for UPI. The "new kids" in the business, we'd already become fast friends. The game was slow...like watching chrome on your car rust. A sweat was breaking out from the 100-degree heat as well as the pressure of a couple of innings of sheer boredom when deadlines were upon us. Finally, there was a double-play breakup attempt at second base. We both grabbed our gear and raced for the darkrooms, which were located next to each other in a hallway down from the press box. We could hear each other's film darkroom

doors slam shut. The next thing Layne would hear would be my scream as I realized that I had "miracle dunked" my film ... yup, I threw my film into the fix first. It was completely clear...no images, nothing. I hadn't checked the position of the developer/fixer tanks...careless mistake that cost me. A new sweat broke out. As I started gathering my gear to head back down to try to resurrect something from the game, I heard Layne's voice from the darkroom, "Hey wait. Come here...I think I got something for ya." He handed me a frame from his still wet film. "Here's one you can use." It wasn't the peak action, and he was clearly going to beat me...but he wasn't going to let me look bad. That's class. That was Layne.

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Carl Leubsdorf Sr. (Email) - Two reminiscences of AP-UPI rivalry from my years working for AP in New Orleans and Washington:

While we were always hotly competitive, sometimes we cooperated--after a fashion. While I was heading AP's Senate staff in the early 1970s, each Saturday morning Steve Gerstel, my UPI counterpart, and I would visit with Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield. We'd discuss the affairs of the Senate and of the world and would get material for a couple of weekend stories, which we then went back and wrote separately. Steve and I both covered a 33-day, round-the-world 1971 trip of then VP Spiro Agnew, keeping a wary eye on one another as the only two wire guys on the trip. In Saudi Arabia, the entire press party was invited for a day of swimming and snorkeling on the Red Sea, while Agnew conducted some private meetings. We both decided we'd better stay back, in case something happened. Bad call. Nothing did. And our colleagues said the trip was great. Later, in Algeciras, Spain, Steve found out late one night at the bar at about a change in Agnew's scheduled trip to Morocco, where the king had just survived an assassination attempt. I was fast asleep. The next morning, he kindly apprised me what had happened, so I could file the change, only about 10 hours behind Steve. He was a good friend and competitor.

My other memory stems from my days in New Orleans, which was the control point for the state capitals of Baton Rouge, La., and Jackson, Ms. We did fine in Louisiana, but not as well in Mississippi, where UPI's tandem of John Herbers, later with The New York Times, and Cliff Sessions beat us regularly, possibly because the correspondent there and the newspapers which formed the heart of the AP were too tied to the segregationist establishment to recognize the changes beginning there. When Ole Miss was desegregated in 1962, AP sent the First Team in from Washington and NY, and we did much better.

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John Gibbons (Email) - This is not about competition...During the late 60's and 70's when both UPI and AP used the "Lenkurt" Communications system, I often spoke with my

counterpart at UPI to "swap" filters. If we needed a Channel 10 filter (normally the AAA wire), I would give them a call and arrange an exchange. If they needed a certain channel filter, they called me.

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Greg Nokes (Email) - As an AP staffer who competed around the world with UPI, I can say UPI staffers always had my respect, but none more so than Helen Thomas. I recall on one overseas assignment covering a president (Carter in Italy) I was more than a little nervous about missing a big story. Our chief WHU correspondent, Frank Cormier, with whom I was splitting the cycles, told me to follow Helen Thomas, and I would never miss a story. Indeed, I latched onto Helen, following her everywhere she went, except to the ladies' restroom. It wasn't exactly creative journalism, but at the least I had what she had. Helen and I became good friends, as well as competitors on these overseas jaunts, and I have the fondest memories of her.

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Paul Stevens (Email) - As an AP newsman, I enjoyed the competition with UPI and I relished the attaboys from NY when I might have even a minute or two beat on a big story. Conversely, I hated getting the occasional what-happened? note when I got beat. Remember the competitive play logs that New York sent weekly, listing the major stories of the week and 20 or so newspapers with both wire services and which service they used on each story: AP, UPI or Combo? It was a must-read in the newsrooms where I worked, anyway.

As an AP bureau chief for 24 of my 36 AP years, I relished that same competition on the business side. We chiefs were always under the gun to show that our quality, reliability and breadth of coverage outweighed the almost-always cheaper pricing that UPI offered to lure away members and to keep newspapers it had in its fold. Those varying rates came back to haunt UPI sales people.

Besides pricing that could not support the product, what also badly damaged UPI was the growth of the supplemental news services (NYT, WaPo, KR, Scripps, etc.) that spotted opportunity to induce sales and serve as a supplement to the AP.

It was an era today's AP people never experienced. Too bad for that.

More of your favorite datelines

Glenn Adams (Email) - Been through Cowshit Corner ME (not too far from home in fact) as pointed out by my friend and former A.P. colleague Adolphe Bernotas in Aug. 15 Connecting. But I think my favorite dateline under my byline in 30-plus years with A.P. was Misery Gore, Maine, a dagger-shaped surveyor's mistake on the map that was along the Old Canada Trail from Quebec. Now it's a barely passable woods trail dotted with cellar holes of long-gone farm houses.

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Dave Tomlin (Email) - The late Bob Jarboe, dedicated and dearly beloved staff photographer in Des Moines during the 1980s, chortled aloud whenever he encountered the exit off I-80 for Beaver Crossing, Nebraska. He shared his mirth at least once with a young female photo stringer, telling her he always kept his eyes peeled hopefully when he passed the sign. Shortly before Bob retired, the stringer peeled her own eyes and everything else, and performed a flying leap in front of the sign while somebody took a picture. When she presented it to Bob at his raucous retirement party, I'm quite sure he blushed, but we were all pretty red-faced by then so I couldn't tell for sure.

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Jeffrey Ulbrich (Email) - How could any list of great names not include Toad Suck, Arkansas? I never covered anything in Arkansas, hence never had occasion to use it as a dateline. Drove past it once though. Didn't stop laughing til I got to Little Rock.

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Neal Ulevich (Email) - Crackpot, England. It's in North Yorkshire.

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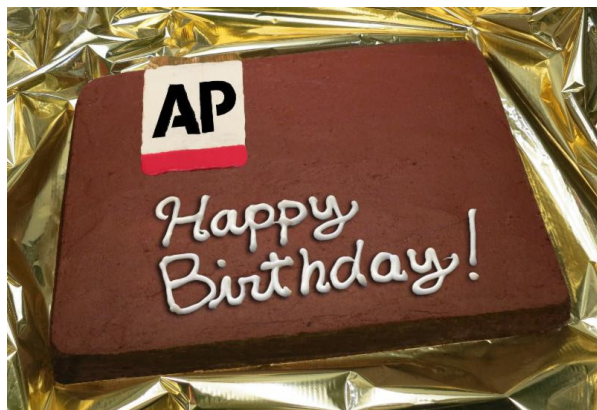
John Willis (Email) - Lest we forget Delight, AR, where the late Glen Campbell claimed he was from. He was actually born in nearby Billstown, but it's too close to Delight to really quibble. And as I rode the road selling AP Broadcast Services in the

early 90s, I encountered Evening Shade, AR, was well. Most folks might remember the 90s sitcom of the same name starring Burt Reynolds.

When I was the broadcast exec in Houston, I went through Muleshoe, TX, a few times, and Luckenbach, TX, isn't much more than a wide spot in the road between Austin and Fredericksburg, TX; the Hill Country. It did have a PO the last time I passed through and a general store, of sorts. Willie, Waylon and the boys were nowhere to be seen.

North of Knoxville, TN, on the interstate there is an exit for Stinking Creek Road. I've always gotten a kick out of that one. And what's not to like about What Cheer, Iowa?

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Jay Reeves - jreeves@ap.org

Kendal Weaver - kendalweaver45@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Judge grants time to weigh insanity plea in newspaper attack

By BRIAN WITTE

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) - The man charged with killing five people at a Maryland newspaper office will get more time for his lawyer to consider filing a plea of not criminally responsible by reason of insanity, a judge ruled Monday.

Anne Arundel Circuit Court Judge Laura Kiessling said she found good cause to give Jarrod Ramos' lawyer until Oct. 24 to consider entering a plea of not criminally responsible. William Davis, a public defender, requested more time last week to consider hundreds of pages of documents, review other material in the case and have discussions with his client. Ramos pleaded not guilty July 30.

After meeting with attorneys, Kiessling scheduled a jury trial for Jan. 15. During a court hearing afterward, Kiessling estimated the trial could last 10 days. She also scheduled hearings for Dec. 18 and 19 to discuss admissible evidence.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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How one journalist built a free resource that has coached hundreds of women in journalism

(Poynter)

BY REN LAFORME

Every now and then a good idea matches up with fresh tech and something wonderful comes out of it.

Katie Hawkins-Gaar, my friend and former colleague at Poynter, created a website that connects women in journalism through free coaching sessions. She used two useful and user-friendly tools to build it. Dozens of coaches have volunteered their time. And hundreds of women have benefitted. We caught up last week to talk about the site and why she is encouraging other people to "steal" this idea.

Ren LaForme: I don't think I've seen anything like this before. Not just in journalism but in any industry. Can you talk a little bit about what you're offering on digitalwomenleaders.com and how it came to be?

Katie Hawkins-Gaar: Digitalwomenleaders.com is a place that women in journalism can go to to find a coach on a variety of topics. All the coaches are women who have graduated from either Poynter's Leadership Academy for Women in Digital Media or ONA's Women's Leadership Accelerator. This idea came out of conversations that those women have had, where they're saying, "It's awesome that we got accepted in these programs, it's awesome that we had these really fulfilling experiences, it's awesome that we're connected with each other. How do we give back and spread some of that love and expertise and enthusiasm to other women in the journalism community?"

Read more [here](#).

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I'm Coping With Cancer by Reporting On It (Politico)

By ALEXANDRA GLORIOSO

It's Wednesday morning. My boyfriend's mom is walking around the house, humming to herself, and my puppy is waiting for her to leave, sitting patiently by the door.

I'm also waiting for her to leave, just like I waited for my own mother to leave three days ago. And, after she leaves, I'll wait for my boyfriend to leave for work so that I can finally sit in silence for the first time since Friday.

I'm a relatively solitary person. I normally live alone. I work from home most days. And before I adopted a border terrier from the Humane Society last Monday, I could go days in a row before touching another living, breathing thing.

But that's not my life now, because I have cancer. It's in my left breast and perhaps in other areas of my body too: my armpit, my shoulder, maybe even my femur.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

It's Time to End the 'Data Is' vs 'Data Are' Debate (Motherboard)

By **DANIEL OBERHAUS**

Last week I published a story with the headline "Either This Data is Incorrect, or These Physicists Just Changed the World." Shortly thereafter, my inbox was overrun with emails about the story that weren't about content of the article, but rather the grammatical error in its headline. As these irate grammarians went out of their way to remind me, "data" is a plural noun so the headline ought to read "Either These Data Are Incorrect, or These Physicists Just Changed the World."

They're not wrong. The problem is that the grammatically correct version of the headline sounds affected as hell because it isn't the way people actually speak. This is the reason my editors didn't change the headline before publishing and the reason we're not going to change it now. An informal Twitter poll suggests our intuition was correct:

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Shane. AP Stylebook: Usually a plural noun taking plural verbs and pronouns. But as a collective noun, it's singular: The data is sound. (A unit.) The data have been carefully collected. (Individual items.)

Today in History - August 21, 2018



By **The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 21, the 233rd day of 2018. There are 132 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 21, 1831, Nat Turner launched a violent slave rebellion in Virginia resulting in the deaths of at least 55 whites. (Turner was later executed.)

On this date:

In 1609, Galileo Galilei demonstrated his new telescope to a group of officials atop the Campanile (kahm-pah-NEE'-lay) in Venice.

In 1858, the first of seven debates between Illinois senatorial contenders Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas took place.

In 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris. (The painting was recovered two years later in Italy.)

In 1912, the Boy Scouts of America named its first Eagle Scout, Arthur Rose Eldred of Troop 1 in Rockville Centre, N.Y.

In 1940, exiled Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky died in a Mexican hospital from wounds inflicted by an assassin the day before.

In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an executive order making Hawaii the 50th state.

In 1961, country singer Patsy Cline recorded the Willie Nelson song "Crazy" in Nashville for Decca Records. (The recording was released in October 1961.)

In 1963, martial law was declared in South Vietnam as police and army troops began a violent crackdown on Buddhist anti-government protesters.

In 1983, Philippine opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino Jr., ending a self-imposed exile in the United States, was shot dead moments after stepping off a plane at

Manila International Airport. The musical play "La Cage Aux Folles" opened on Broadway.

In 1987, Sgt. Clayton Lonetree, the first Marine court-martialed for spying, was convicted in Quantico, Virginia, of passing secrets to the KGB. (Lonetree ended up serving eight years in a military prison.)

In 1991, the hard-line coup against Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev collapsed in the face of a popular uprising led by Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin.

In 1992, an 11-day siege began at the cabin of white separatist Randy Weaver in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, as government agents tried to arrest Weaver for failing to appear in court on charges of selling two illegal sawed-off shotguns; on the first day of the siege, Weaver's teenage son, Samuel, and Deputy U.S. Marshal William Degan were killed.

In 2000, rescue efforts to reach the sunken Russian nuclear submarine Kursk ended with divers announcing none of the 118 sailors had survived.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush issued a federal disaster declaration for parts of Florida affected by Tropical Storm Fay. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in Baghdad for discussions with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and other top Iraqi officials. Twin Taliban suicide bombings at Pakistan's largest weapons complex killed at least 67 people. At the Summer Olympics, Japan defeated the U.S. softball team, 3-1, to win the gold medal. Kerri Walsh and Misty May-Treanor won their second consecutive gold medal in beach volleyball, beating Wang Jie and Tian Jia of China. The U.S. women's soccer team won the gold medal by beating Brazil 1-0 in extra time.

Five years ago: Army Pfc. Bradley Manning was sentenced at Fort Meade, Maryland, to up to 35 years in prison for spilling an unprecedented trove of government secrets. (The former intelligence analyst, now known as Chelsea Manning, was later sentenced to up to 35 years in prison. The sentence was commuted by President Barack Obama in his final days in office.) The National Security Agency declassified three secret court opinions showing how in one of its surveillance programs, it scooped up as many as 56,000 emails and other communications by Americans not connected to terrorism annually over three years.

One year ago: Americans witnessed their first full-blown coast-to-coast solar eclipse since World War I, with eclipse-watchers gathering along a path of totality extending 2,600 miles across the continent from Oregon to South Carolina. In a national address, President Donald Trump reversed his past calls for a speedy exit from Afghanistan and recommitted the United States to the 16-year-old conflict, saying

U.S. troops must "fight to win." A collision between the destroyer USS John McCain and an oil tanker near Singapore left ten U.S. sailors dead. London's Big Ben bell atop Parliament's clock tower fell silent for four years of repair work that would keep it quiet on all but a few special occasions.

Today's Birthdays: Former NFL player and general manager Pete Retzlaff is 87. Actor-director Melvin Van Peebles is 86. Playwright Mart Crowley is 83. Singer Kenny Rogers is 80. Actor Clarence Williams III is 79. Rock-and-roll musician James Burton is 79. Singer Harold Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 79. Singer Jackie DeShannon is 77. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Willie Lanier is 73. Actress Patty McCormack is 73. Pop singer-musician Carl Giammarese (jee-ah mah-REE'-see) is 71. Actress Loretta Devine is 69. NBC newsman Harry Smith is 67. Singer Glenn Hughes is 66. Country musician Nick Kane is 64. Actress Kim Cattrall is 62. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim McMahon is 59. Actress Cleo King is 56. Retired MLB All-Star John Wetteland is 52. Rock singer Serj Tankian (TAN'-kee-ahn) (System of a Down) is 51. Figure skater Josee Chouinard is 49. Actress Carrie-Anne Moss is 48. MLB player-turned-manager Craig Counsell is 48. Rock musician Liam Howlett (Prodigy) is 47. Actress Alicia Witt is 43. Singer Kelis (kuh-LEES') is 39. Actor Diego Klattenhoff is 39. TV personality Brody Jenner is 35. Singer Melissa Schuman is 34. Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain (yoo-SAYN') Bolt is 32. Actor Carlos Pratts is 32. Actor-comedian Brooks Wheelan is 32. Actor Cody Kasch is 31. Country singer Kacey Musgraves is 30. Actress Hayden Panettiere (pan'-uh-tee-EHR') is 29. Actor RJ Mitte is 26. Actor Maxim Knight is 19.

Thought for Today: "Paradoxical as it may seem, to believe in youth is to look backward; to look forward we must believe in age." - Dorothy L. Sayers, English author (1893-1957).

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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