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Connecting -- August 31, 2018

1 message

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Robert Barr in AP's London bureau, 1990. (AP Photo/Dave Caulkin)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

We bring you the sad news of the death of AP London newsman **Robert Barr**.

"One of the longest-serving AP staffers of his generation, Bob's elegant writing and careful editing touched virtually every major news story in the British Isles for three decades," said AP Deputy Europe News Director **Niko Price** in announcing the news Thursday. "In all, his taciturn manner and wicked wit graced the organization's news bureaus for 46 years."

Barr, who covered the United Kingdom from the Lockerbie bombing in 1988 to the death of Stephen Hawking earlier this year, died after a brief battle with cancer. He was 71.

Former longtime AP London bureau chief **Myron Belkind** ([Email](#)) said, "We all were blessed to know - and to learn from - Bob Barr, the ultimate professional craftsman who always set the highest standards as a reporter, writer, editor and leader through his many years as London news editor in the 1990s and beyond ... More than his

professionalism, he also set the standards for the best personal attributes, always caring and helpful and happy and never ever showing anger."

Connecting colleague **Marcus Eliason** ([Email](#)) said Barr was one of the best AP writers he ever worked with. "Bob and I worked together in London in the late 1980s," he said, "and when I was reassigned he took over from me as news editor. He was the kind of reporter that news editors dream of - long-form, short-form, political analysis, Oscar Wilde's schooldays or a mercifully cliché-free report on the British eccentricity du jour. Whether covering Pan Am 103 at Lockerbie or the death of the Berlin Wall, Bob always delivered."

Connecting would welcome your memories of Barr, "respected and much loved by his colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic," said AP Standards editor **John Daniszewski**.

In follow-up to the 50th anniversary earlier this week of the Chicago rioting during the 1968 Democratic convention, our colleague **Mark Thayer** presents an outstanding recount of how the AP covered one of the stories of the century.

Have a good weekend!

Paul

Veteran AP reporter, editor Robert Barr dies at age 71



In this Oct. 1976 file photo, Honolulu newsman Bob Barr sets up shop on the porch of his hotel room on the island of Ponape in Micronesia. (AP Photo, courtesy Corporate Archives)

By DANICA KIRKA

LONDON (AP) - Robert Barr, a longtime reporter and editor for The Associated Press in London who covered major news events ranging from the Lockerbie bombing in 1988 to the death of Stephen Hawking this year, has died after a brief battle with cancer. He was 71.

One of the longest-serving AP staffers of his generation, Barr spent 46 years with the news organization.

His elegant writing and careful editing touched virtually every major news story in the British Isles for three decades, while his memorable deskside manner, deep knowledge of movies and music, and love of journalism, trains and his family left an imprint on AP colleagues.

"He was a lanky, droll, dry-witted part of a wonderful team in London and earlier as news editor at AP's New York headquarters," AP Standards editor John Daniszewski said. "His true affection for his adopted country shone through in the many stories under his byline about life and culture in Britain."

Barr joined the London bureau in 1988 from New York. One of his first assignments was covering the crash of Pan Am Flight 103 in Lockerbie, Scotland. Two years later, he became news editor, earning the respect of colleagues for his precise, yet graceful way with words and effective oversight, said Myron Belkind, who served as London bureau chief from 1980 to 2001.

Barr oversaw the AP's coverage of British politics during a turbulent period that encompassed the last days of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government to the heyday of Tony Blair; Princess Diana's divorce from heir to the throne Prince Charles in 1996 and her death the following year; and the long-running conflict in Northern Ireland.

It was in Belfast where photographer Dave Caulkin first met Barr - a "giant American ambling along" - through the airport. On visits there, Barr revealed a love of old churches and the odd glass of Guinness, as well as his skill as a journalist, Caulkin said.

"He was a decent, honest gentleman," Caulkin said. "He loved England, and the quirkiness of the English made him often smile."

He also had a sharp eye for features and the "slice-of-life" stories that enriched the AP report, according to Belkind, his former boss.

Read more [here](#).

50 years ago:

Remembering the time when there were riots in the streets of Chicago



A National Guardsman stands beside a machine gun as others form a barrier against demonstrators in Chicago's Grant Park on August 28, 1968. (AP Photo)

By Mark Thayer ([Email](#))

A few weeks ago I turned on the TV and there was Donald Trump saying that if he shows up in Cleveland with "almost" enough votes to secure the Republican presidential nomination, they better give it to him. Or quote: "There will be riots in the streets. I'm telling you it's rigged-there will be riots." So spoke The Donald.

Thar comment caused me flash back to 1968 and Chicago where there really were riots in the streets-this time at a Democratic National Convention.

It all started, for the Democrats, when Lyndon Johnson stayed on the sidelines for the first few presidential primaries. The New Hampshire primary was March 12 and the only name on the democratic side was Gene McCarthy, the anti-war senator from Minnesota. LBJ's supporters urged a write-in vote which he won by 49% to 42%. But that seemed small for a sitting President.

And Walter Cronkite, the anchor of the CBS Evening News and "Most Trusted Man in America" in some surveys had just returned from Vietnam. His reports denouncing the way the war was going shook the Johnson White house to the core.

Johnson requested time for a nationally-televised speech on March 31st. It was broadcast as the National Association of Broadcasters was meeting in Chicago. As his remarks came to a close, Johnson rocked the nation by saying:

"I shall not seek, and I will not accept the nomination of my party for another term as your president."

The Associated Press hospitality suite was packed as broadcasters from across the country stood silent to hear the president speak. And watch the performance of AP journalists as the story cleared the clattering Teletype machine.

The broadcasters would be back in the summer to cover the convention. But before that, bells would ring on clattering TeleType machines in the nations's newsrooms:

Bulletin - AP - The Reverend Martin Luther King has been shot in Memphis.
Bulletin - AP - Senator Robert Kennedy has been shot in Los Angeles after claiming victory in California's presidential primary.

And yet to come were the political conventions.

Almost 50 years ago. It seems like only yesterday. But it was a different era for news delivery.

No Smart Phones. No Flip Phones. No CB Radios. Few Walkie-talkies.

Reporters were tied to phones wired into a wall to call their story to the newsroom. Pay phones were everywhere and we always carried a supply of nickels and dimes to reach the newsroom from a disaster site or news conference. Sometimes we could prevail on a store owner or neighbor to use their phone to get the word out.

For special events, we'd call the phone company and order a phone installed at the ballpark, convention hall or wherever a circuit was needed.

But 1968 was different. Demonstrators across the country were protesting the Vietnam War and the failure to equally honor civil rights of all citizens.

The Democratic National Convention was headed to Chicago. The National Stockyards was the site - right in the neighborhood of long-time mayor Richard J.

Daley.

Daley ran his town with an iron grip and was determined that Chicago look good as it hosted the convention.

In April, the Communications Workers of America went on strike. The convention was several months away and we weren't worried. The AP mostly needed service installed in a portable newsroom set up at the Stockyards to meet the needs of dozens of reporters, photographers and editors assigned to the convention.

That meant dozens of telephones just off the convention floor for newsmen and trunk circuits for Teletype operators to file stories direct to the world.

The problem was greater for television. They needed cable installed throughout the city: Hotels, possible demonstration sites, candidate headquarters and more. With the Communications Workers on strike, there would be no video from the Stockyards or anyplace else.

As the work stoppage dragged on, Mayor Daley stepped in to arrange for work to go forward inside the convention hall. But how would we report from elsewhere in the city?

As Broadcast Editor for Illinois, I was responsible for the news that went to our member radio and television stations.

Given the climate in the country, it was early agreed that the Chicago Bureau would cover any possible civil disruptions and the Washington Bureau would cover the convention.

But how to get reporter notes from the scene back to the bureau without telephone access?

Assistant Chief of Bureau Joe Dill and I spent nearly a week tracking down pay phones in Mayor Daley's Back of the Yards neighborhood and near the key convention hotels downtown.

The mayor lived in what today we would call a transitioning neighborhood that was headed down. Joe and I spotted a café near the Stockyards with a payphone in a vestibule. Outer doors led to a six-foot entry way with another set of doors into the café. Right there in the vestibule was a pay phone.

We arranged with the owner to have access to the phone during the convention week. We paid for two sets of locks so our reporters would have access only

through the outer door to the phone. We gave the guy \$100 and started a map to be distributed with the key to any reporter who might be covering a demonstration outside the convention hall. Oh, Yes. Convention credentials were tightly limited and closely inspected so we couldn't simply run inside the hall to file our story.

A waitress at the café overheard our discussion and decided to get in on the AP bounty. For another \$100 we had 24-hour access to the phone at her apartment nearby.

Our last score was a flop house or bunk house. Joe and I climbed the stairs to the second floor of an older building and rounding a corner entered a room with at least 50 cots: all lined up in military order. On the wall we spotted a single pay phone.

The manager quickly agreed that any time an AP employee appeared, the phone would be immediately available and pocketed our \$100.

As it turned out, the demonstrations stayed downtown and we never used any of the three pay phones for news coverage.

Downtown was a bit easier with lots of hotel phone banks, restaurants and other possible communication points. But we did scour stair wells and other out of the way spots. On the 14th floor of the north tower of the Conrad Hilton we found a pay phone in a stair well. That was added to the list for our reporters.

Although Chicago was one of AP's larger bureaus, we asked for some help from other bureaus. Jim Piepert and Lawrence L. (Larry) Knudson had recently transferred from Chicago and they came back to help.



Illinois National Guardsmen are stationed at the end of a bridge in Chicago's Grant Park on August 28, 1968, as police try to cope with an estimated 9,000 anti-war demonstrators. They were under orders to help police prevent the demonstrators from marching on the International Amphitheater where Democrats were holding their presidential nominating session tonight. (AP Photo)

One night during demonstrations across the street in Grant Park one of our reporters made his way to that phone. It was blocked by the Secret Service. It seems the news media weren't the only ones having phone troubles before the convention opened.

With Lyndon Johnson's withdrawal, the field became wide open for Robert F. Kennedy, Eugene McCarthy and Hubert Humphrey.

It was a hard-fought battle until Kennedy was shot to death at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

Along with the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, and demonstrations around the country, the city fathers in Chicago were justifiably worried that something horrible would happen during the convention to make Chicago look bad. Due to the Communication Worker strike it would be really difficult to see any demonstrations live on television.

Lincoln Park is on Lake Michigan a bit north of downtown. Chicago in the 1960s was not an air-conditioned city. It was customary for residents to sleep in the parks on

warm nights. That was banned in early June, well before the convention, to prevent any possible demonstrators from sleeping in parks.

The night before the convention opened, AP's William J. Conway was in Lincoln Park - scene of a large demonstration. Bill Conway was near the end of a distinguished AP career. As a young reporter working the night shift, Bill had been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news on a story he wrote in the 30s.

Chicago - AP - Dillinger is dead.

That was the lead paragraph. It's all the country needed to know.

That warm summer night in 1968 in Lincoln Park, Bill ran across an old friend, a Captain on the Chicago police force. His captain friend said: "Bill, what are you doing here? The word is out. Get the press." The two agreed they both were too old for this sort of thing.

When Bill notified the office we all went on special alert to be aware not only of the demonstrators, but the Chicago Police.

In addition to our pre-selected pay phones, we got hold of a bunch of low power walkie talkies and a car with a higher power transmitter that could be used to relay reporter notes from the field to the writing staff in the bureau. Otto Kreisher staffed the car with the more powerful transmitter, relaying the reporter notes to the bureau for story updates.

That worked well despite a complaint from Katherine Graham, publisher of the Washington Post. It seems the Chicago Sun-Times was on the same frequency the AP was using and had loaned walkie-talkies to Washington Post reporters. The AP reporters - in the view of Kay Graham - were hogging the air waves to the detriment of the Post.

Both Katherine Graham and Wes Gallagher, the crusty General Manager of The Associated Press, had coveted seats at the convention center. Kay Graham, who also had served as an AP Board Member, stormed up to Gallagher and demanded that the AP reporters stop clogging the walkie-talkies. We were later told Gallagher suggested that the Washington Post editors, comfortably sitting in the Sun-Times building, simply monitor the AP transmissions as their source material. After all, the Washington Post was one of the 1,300 member newspapers that owned the AP.

Kay Graham stormed off and that was the end of that.



Jeers greet Chicago Police Aug. 29, 1968 as they attempt to disperse demonstrators outside the Conrad Hilton, Democratic National Convention headquarters in Chicago. Some police struggle with several demonstrators on the sidewalk. (AP Photo/Michael Boyer)

At one point during the convention it became necessary for AP to send a reporter down to Police Headquarters. We had one guy, Mike Waters, who was tall, skinny, with short blond hair and looked very military. We gave him his assignment and a red armband with AP in white. Mike waded through a mob to the front door of police headquarters. A gruff sergeant took one look at this clean-cut young reporter and said, "Let him in. He's Air Police."

As the convention wound down, we got a press release saying that the Communications Workers had settled their strike with the phone company and phone installations soon would return to normal.

As the week came to an end, the delegates, demonstrators and beefed-up news staff left town and the Chicago bureau of the AP came back to normal -- until election night.

It was a cliff-hanger. It came down to Illinois and as the sun rose over Lake Michigan, the AP still had not declared a victor for the state. The vote total was just too close. AP's Charles Whelan had been covering state government in Illinois for 35 years and was the dean of the Springfield press corps. It was his job to analyze the county by county tables and choose a winner. On election night he was in the Chicago office.

In those days, the AP did not project. We let the numbers tell the story. The numbers came from the News Election Service which organized an army across the country

to visit every precinct and call in the totals as they were posted. 1968 was only the second national election for News Election Service, a cooperative of AP, UPI, ABC, CBS and NBC sharing the cost to quickly get vote totals.

About 9:30 in the morning, after being up all night, Charley Whelan called for one more county by county table. We hovered over the TeleType machine as the numbers came spewing out. About half way through it stopped. What the heck was going on? We called NES and asked why the transmission failed.

It seems NES had rented the computer from a St. Louis bank. It was time for the bank to open and they reclaimed their equipment to serve their customers. Charley took what he had and reluctantly declared Illinois won by Richard Nixon.

It wasn't perfect. Anything can happen and usually does. And still today when covering a live story, reporters expect the unexpected. The one motto used then still works today. "Get it first. But first get it right."

Thank you for letting me reminisce about a time when there were four TV stations, no 24-hour news channels and we lived in a more civil society where candidates talked about issues instead of body parts.

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Note: Joe Dill went on to become CoB in Baltimore, Nashville and Minneapolis before leaving AP to become editor of the Fargo (ND) Forum. Jim Piepert had a distinguished career in the foreign service, reporting from Moscow in the 1970s where he was beaten by some government thugs. He later became foreign editor of the Fort Worth paper. And Larry Knudson covered the State Department for many years.

Connecting mailbox

The BISMARCK TRIBUNE—Monday, October 2, 1978—Page 35

Broadcasters Select Officers

By The Associated Press

Len Iwanski, news director at radio station KNOX in Grand Forks, has assumed the presidency of the North Dakota Associated Press Broadcasters Association.

Norm Schrader, news director at WDAY in Fargo, was chosen president elect Sunday at the group's annual meeting in Mandan.

The association also approved a resolution in support of a petition to the North Dakota Supreme Court for an order to permit television and radio coverage of proceedings in the high court. The order was requested by the Meyer Broadcasting Co. and WDAY Inc.

Four awards were given to AP broadcast members.

Nancy Benson, KFJM Grand Forks, was cited in the Best Enterprise category for her coverage of the hockey coach controversy at the University of North Dakota.

The award for the best weekend or holiday protection went to Jon Kent, KBMR Bismarck, for his tip on the Elgin tornado early on the Fourth of July.

Bill Lewis, KKOA Minot, was recognized for Best Cooperation for frequent news contributions.

Don Haney, KXPO Grafton, received the award for Best Spot Reporting for his flood coverage.

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Spending by the investor-owned utilities for new plant and equipment reached a record \$22.5 billion in 1977, up 17 percent from 1976, The Conference Board reports.

Len Iwanski ([Email](#)) - The names of a couple of my journalism colleagues and Facebook friends, Nancy Benson and Don Haney, appear in this Bismarck Tribune clip from 1978. Uff da! That was 40 years ago. Don Haney is doing radio news in Fargo, N.D., at KFGO-AM, and Nancy Benson is a journalism professor and interim head of the department at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

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On wishing Happy Birthday to friends who passed away

John Wylie ([Email](#)) - in response to Thursday's apology for including two deceased men in Today in History's birthdays section - I regularly get notes from Facebook telling me to be sure to wish "Happy Birthday" to dear friends who passed away years ago, so don't feel bad. And it can work for the good--one, who died five years ago, had her family keep her site alive so those who hadn't gotten word would find out on her birthday. I hadn't checked before, but decided this year to check the site before reporting it to Facebook and wound up making contact with two family members I'd heard about but never met. We exchanged some great stories about the legendary HK, discovered mutual friends outside the basic circle any of us would have expected, and spent several weeks exchanging tales about

this wonderful journalist--which I'm sure she was watching somehow, somewhere and thoroughly enjoying finding the nit-picking errors in our versions of the stories.

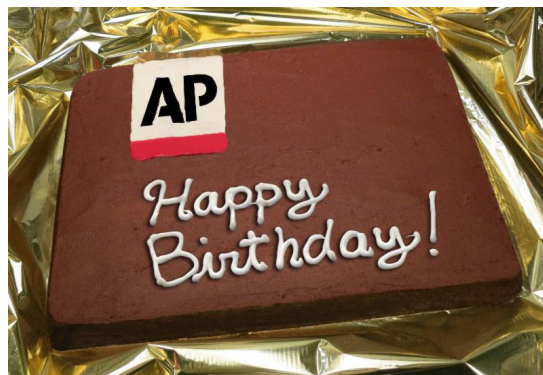
So don't feel bad--I'll bet every Connecting reader can tell at least one story on themselves that's much worse. Flying solo, you do an amazing job! One good thing about retirement--it lets me put the important email first, my daily Connecting fix!

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More on that Montana dateline, Two Dot

John Kuglin ([Email](#)) - I enjoyed my friend Steve Graham's inclusion of Two Dot, Montana -- also spelled Twodot -- in the list of exotic place names. The last time I drove through Two Dot there was a large, dead rattlesnake in the middle the main street, in front of the leading (and only) bar. The snake was still there when I drove back four days later. A sign for the Two Dot Bar says it is ``Easy to find, but hard to leave." Two Dot, is named after a rancher's brand.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

John Dowling - jdowlingchicago@gmail.com

Dana Fields - farceide@aol.com

Jeff Ulbrich - jeulbrich@hotmail.com

On Saturday to...

Bill Chevalier - billc164@comcast.net

Welcome to Connecting



Robert Bukaty - rbukaty@ap.org

Stories of interest

Newsonomics: The tariffs are gone, but the burden of print weighs heavier and heavier
(Nieman)

By KEN DOCTOR

The newspaper tariffs are dead. How big a difference will that make to those whose businesses still depends on dead trees?

On Wednesday, the International Trade Commission -like numerous judicial or regulatory bodies before it in the Trump era - reversed the tariffs that the Commerce

Department had placed on Canadian newsprint.

The unanimous 5-0 decision surprised many, even though the ill-considered tariffs were silly, ignoring the actual way the newsprint trade has long been structured. The whole effort symbolized the times: a private equity company, recently buying into an established industry, looking for a quick buck, and using the politicized trade environment to do it. Even as the tariffs go away, it's essential to understand that they represent only a small part of the problem that daily newspaper publishers now face. Though that black swan of tariff doom has flown away - an appeal of the decision by NORPAC, which brought the case, is possible, but seems unlikely - other troublesome threats remain aloft.

Read more [here](#).

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Man charged with making death threats over Trump editorials



FBI agent leaves the home of Robert Chain in the Encino section of Los Angeles on Thursday, Aug. 30, 2018. Chain who was upset about The Boston Globe's coordinated editorial response to President Donald Trump's attacks on the news media, was arrested Thursday for threatening to travel to the newspaper's offices and kill journalists, whom

he called the "enemy of the people," federal prosecutors said. (David Crane/Los Angeles Daily News via AP)

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and BRIAN MELLEY

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A Los Angeles man upset about The Boston Globe's coordinated editorial response to President Donald Trump's attacks on the news media was arrested Thursday on charges he threatened to kill the newspaper's journalists, who he called an "enemy of the people," federal prosecutors said.

Robert Chain's phone calls to the Boston newsroom started immediately after the Globe appealed to newspapers across the country to condemn what it called a "dirty war against the free press," prosecutors said. He is accused of making 14 calls between Aug. 10 and Aug. 22.

On Aug. 16, the day scores of editorials were published, Chain, 68, of the Encino section of Los Angeles, told a Globe staffer that he was going to shoot employees in the head at 4 o'clock, according to court documents. That threat from a blocked phone number prompted a police response and increased security at the newspaper's offices.

Chain said he would continue threatening the Globe until it stops its "treasonous and seditious" attacks on Trump, according to a court complaint.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - August 31, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Aug. 31, the 243rd day of 2018. There are 122 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 31, 1972, at the Munich Summer Olympics, American swimmer Mark Spitz won his fourth and fifth gold medals in the 100-meter butterfly and 800-meter freestyle relay; Soviet gymnast Olga Korbut won gold medals in floor exercise and the balance beam.

On this date:

In 1886, an earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 7.3 devastated Charleston, South Carolina, killing at least 60 people, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1939, the first issue of Marvel Comics, featuring the Human Torch, was published by Timely Publications in New York.

In 1954, Hurricane Carol hit the northeastern Atlantic states; Connecticut, Rhode Island and part of Massachusetts bore the brunt of the storm, which resulted in some 70 deaths.

In 1965, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the Senate in voting to establish the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In 1969, boxer Rocky Marciano died in a light airplane crash in Iowa, a day before his 46th birthday.

In 1980, Poland's Solidarity labor movement was born with an agreement signed in Gdansk (guh-DANSK') that ended a 17-day-old strike.

In 1986, 82 people were killed when an Aeromexico jetliner and a small private plane collided over Cerritos, California. The Soviet passenger ship Admiral Nakhimov collided with a merchant vessel in the Black Sea, causing both to sink; up to 448 people reportedly died.

In 1987, the Michael Jackson album "Bad" was released by Epic Records.

In 1991, Uzbekistan (ooz-bek-ih-STAHN') and Kyrgyzstan (keer-gih-STAHN') declared their independence, raising to ten the number of republics seeking to secede from the Soviet Union.

In 1992, white separatist Randy Weaver surrendered to authorities in Naples, Idaho, ending an 11-day siege by federal agents that had claimed the lives of Weaver's wife, son and a deputy U.S. marshal. (Weaver was acquitted of murder and all other charges in connection with the confrontation; he was convicted of failing to appear for trial on firearms charges and was sentenced to 18 months in prison but given credit for 14 months he'd already served.)

In 1994, the Irish Republican Army declared a cease-fire. Russia officially ended its military presence in the former East Germany and the Baltics after half a century.

In 1997, Prince Charles brought Princess Diana home for the last time, escorting the body of his former wife to a Britain that was shocked, grief-stricken and angered by her death in a Paris traffic accident earlier that day.

Ten years ago: With Hurricane Gustav approaching New Orleans, Mayor Ray Nagin (NAY'-gin) pleaded with the last of its residents to get out, imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on those who were staying and warned looters they would be sent directly to prison.

Five years ago: Short of support at home and allies abroad, President Barack Obama stepped back from a missile strike against Syria and instead asked Congress to support a strike against President Bashar Assad's regime for suspected use of chemical weapons. British television interviewer David Frost, 74, died aboard a cruise ship bound for the Mediterranean.

One year ago: Rescuers began a block-by-block search of tens of thousands of Houston homes, looking for anyone who might have been left behind in the floodwaters from Hurricane Harvey. The Trump administration ordered Russia to close its consulate in San Francisco and offices in Washington and New York, intensifying tensions between Washington and Moscow; Russia was given 48 hours to comply. Iraq's prime minister said the northern town of Tal Afar had been "fully liberated" from the Islamic State group after a nearly two-week operation. The scope of the fake accounts scandal at Wells Fargo expanded, with the bank now saying 3.5 million accounts may have been opened without customers' permission.

Today's Birthdays: Japanese monster movie actor Katsumi Tezuka ("Godzilla") is 106. Baseball Hall of Famer Frank Robinson is 83. Actor Warren Berlinger is 81. Rock musician Jerry Allison (Buddy Holly and the Crickets) is 79. Actor Jack Thompson is 78. Violinist Itzhak Perlman is 73. Singer Van Morrison is 73. Rock musician Rudolf Schenker (The Scorpions) is 70. Actor Richard Gere is 69. Actor Stephen Henderson is 69. Olympic gold medal track and field athlete Edwin Moses is 63. Rock singer Glenn Tilbrook (Squeeze) is 61. Rock musician Gina Schock (The Go-Go's) is 61. Singer Tony DeFranco (The DeFranco Family) is 59. Rhythm-and-blues musician Larry Waddell (Mint Condition) is 55. Actor Jaime P. Gomez is 53. Former baseball pitcher Hideo Nomo is 50. Rock musician Jeff Russo (Tonic) is 49. Singer-composer Deborah Gibson is 48. Rock musician Greg Richling (Wallflowers) is 48. Actor Zack Ward is 48. Golfer Pádraig Harrington is 47. Actor Chris Tucker is 46. Actress Sara Ramirez is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamara (Trina & Tamara) is 41.

Thought for Today: "Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure. We get very little wisdom from success, you know." - William Saroyan, American author and playwright (born this date in 1908, died 1981).

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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