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Connecting - September 11, 2018

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Connecting

September 11, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Today marks the 17th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and as the lead story on the AP wire mentions, commemorations will take place at all three sites where

hijacked planes crashed on September 11, 2001.

Connecting believes it is worth reminding our readers how The Associated Press covered the events of that day - and we present you this recap from **Mark Mittelstadt** that appeared months after the attacks in the quarterly APME News magazine.

Read the behind-the-scenes account of AP's coverage [here](#).

Mark was asked by Executive Editor **Jon Wolman** to prepare a piece on how the worldwide news company covered one of the biggest, most horrific events in its (then) 155-year history. Based on interviews and accounts shared by AP news people and photographers who had rushed to the scene as well as with their editors, the company-wide roundup was updated for days and weeks later as more information and stories were contributed by staff around the country and the world.



Read the APME News account of AP's 9/11 coverage [here](#).

AP was headquartered at 50 Rockefeller Plaza at the time - 4.7 miles from the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Today, headquarters rests right next door to where the towers once stood.

Shana Tova - for a good year - to our Jewish readers of Connecting - as they celebrate Rosh Hashanah, one of the most important dates in the Jewish calendar. The date marks the first of the High Holidays, a 10-day period that ends with Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year. Rosh Hashanah began Sunday night and ends tonight.

Paul

US marks 9/11 anniversary; Trump to mark it at Pa. memorial



FILE - In this June 7, 2018 file photo, the World Trade Center site is seen from an upper floor of 3 World Trade Center in New York. The annual 9/11 commemorations are by now familiar rituals, centered on reading the names of the dead. But each year at ground zero, victims' relatives infuse the ceremony with personal messages of remembrance, concern and inspiration. And there building continues. A subway station destroyed on 9/11 finally reopened, as did the doors at the 80-story 3 World Trade Center, one of several rebuilt office towers that have been constructed or planned at the site. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

By JENNIFER PELTZ

NEW YORK (AP) - Americans are commemorating 9/11 with somber tributes, volunteer projects and a new monument to victims, after a year when two attacks demonstrated the enduring threat of terrorism in the nation's biggest city.

Thousands of 9/11 victims' relatives, survivors, rescuers and others are expected at Tuesday's anniversary ceremony at the World Trade Center, while President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence will head to the two other places where hijacked planes crashed on Sept. 11, 2001, in the deadliest terror attack on American soil.

The president and first lady Melania Trump plan to join an observance at the Sept. 11 memorial in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where a new "Tower of

Voices" was dedicated Saturday. Pence is attending a ceremony at the Pentagon. Trump, a Republican and native New Yorker, took the occasion of last year's anniversary to issue a stern warning to extremists that "America cannot be intimidated."

Nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks on 9/11, when international terrorism hit home in a way it previously hadn't for many Americans. Sept. 11 still shapes American policy, politics and everyday experiences in places from airports to office buildings, even if it's less of a constant presence in the public consciousness after 17 years.

Read more [here](#).

Kim Chon-kil - 'He was one of a kind'

Hal Buell (Email) - Kim Chon-kil is well remembered by anyone of a certain age that had the opportunity to meet him over the years covering the many stories from South Korea.

Kim caught on with AP during the Korean War and was well established in Seoul when I joined the AP contingent in Asia in 1959. Mentored by the likes of Max Desfor and George Sweers who preceded me in Japan, Kim quickly caught on to the nuances of new photography. If anything happened in Korea Kim was there, camera in hand making pictures. If he couldn't make the picture he knew where to get it.

I last saw Kim at Max Desfor's 100th birthday party at the National Press Club in Washington. Despite his years, he was as energetic as ever recalling the days when he was a key member of the news photography corps in Seoul, and other Korean cities.

Here is an excerpt from the Introduction I wrote for his book.

"It wasn't until the Korean Revolution of 1960 that I became personally aware of Kim's courage and bravery.

"Syngman Rhee clung tenaciously to the reins of power in his government house in Seoul as students in a truly spontaneous demonstration (unlike the street theater of the 1980s and 90s) shouted and screamed in the wide boulevards of the nation's capital.

"When I was on a plane from Tokyo to Seoul, the government troops opened fired on the students killing more than 100, and then waded into those who remained. As a journalist Kim was fair game and he fell before an onslaught of clubs, kicks and rifle butts.

"He graciously welcomed his fellow APers from Tokyo as our Japanese staff visited South Korea to help cover the ever-increasing story load. His work in that area was a testimony to his charm and skill with people. Memories of Japan's longtime colonial rule of Korea were still fresh. But you would never know it the way Kim work with our Tokyo staff. He was helpful, start to finish.

"There is a story that says a stone dropped from atop Seoul's South Mountain into the crowd below will probably hit a Kim in the head. Everyone in Korea, it seemed, is named Kim.

"The chances of hitting Kim Chon-kil in the head were next to impossible.

"He was one of kind."

A copy of his book, signed to me, has a special place in my photo book collection.

Scott Braut, former AP national photo desk supervisor, dies

Santiago Lyon ([Email](#)) - Scott Braut, former AP national photo desk supervisor from 1994-1999, died suddenly Friday, September 7. He was Adobe's Head of Content, Digital Media (and hired me as Director of Editorial Content at Adobe about a year ago).

He was a brilliant strategic thinker and was very well regarded and liked in the photo industry.

[Click here](#) for his obituary, which begins:

Scott Andrew Braut, of Montebello NY passed away on September 7, 2018. Known for his big smile and engaging stories, Scott touched everyone he met.



Scott attended Kings Park High School on Long Island and graduated with a BA in both Studio Art- Photography and English from the University at Buffalo. After his family, Scott's passion was photography. Known throughout the industry as a tireless advocate for photographers, Scott spoke around the world empowering individuals and businesses to create content. Scott was an accomplished photographer himself. His career in the field began at the Associated Press where he was the National Desk Photo Supervisor. Scott developed a passion for supporting photographers. As his career unfolded, his work included coordinating technology and logistics at

Corbis for conflict photographers in the Persian Gulf, becoming an independent specialist in photo licensing, launching an eCommerce marketplace for photographers to manage and sell their images at Digital Railroad, and taking on executive roles at both Shutterstock and Adobe Systems where he currently held the job of a lifetime. Not many people can say that their work is their passion, but Scott's work at Adobe was one that allowed him to bridge the relationships he had with artists and photographers worldwide with a company that enabled them to license their work and make a living doing so. Anyone who worked with Scott knew that he was truly committed to ensuring that the photography field would continue to thrive in a digital world.

Connecting mailbox

What they're worth: Getty, TASS, AP

Jim Hood ([Email](#)) - Dave Tomlin's ruminations on what AP would be worth on the open market (Connecting, Sept. 10) brought back memories of a venture I was embroiled in back in the 20th Century.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, its many state-owned enterprises were left up for grabs and one of the more interesting orphans was TASS and its accompanying photo library.

A group of New York investors headed by CNN founding editor (and burr in AP's saddle) Reese Schonfeld had acquired rights to the photo library. I had recently run out of American news agencies, having left AP and subsequently exited UPI, giving me more news service experience than 99.9% of the human race and was recruited by Reese and his group to help with business development efforts.

We had many interesting meetings with various Russian officials. There were never fewer than six and often an even 12 in attendance. Invariably, half were KGB and half were Kremlin (the primary power points in Russia at that time). Whatever one side said, the other opposed and "Nyet" frequently echoed through the hotel conference rooms.

At one point, one of the Russian delegates interrupted us to ask why we kept talking about our sales "assumptions."

"What is assumption? If told to buy, they will buy, nyet?" he demanded. I left it to Reese to try to explain the free market concept, which as I recall was not too well received.

We put together what we thought was an impressive package for newspapers, television and the reprint market. (The Internet was not yet a factor). We had bureaus still functioning around the world, had developed plans for a new delivery system and had license rights to the photo library, which was said to be in a state of disarray.

Obviously, the biggest weakness in our plan was that TASS was, to put it mildly, rather thin in the U.S. There would be no basketball photos from Topeka. Realistically, this meant we would be a supplemental service; newspapers would still need AP photos. UPI by this time was an afterthought.

We set bravely forth to test the marketing concept and made an appointment with the editor in chief of one of the nation's most respected newspaper chains. On the appointed day, we assembled in her office in the National Press Building and made our pitch.

"From Baku to you" stands out in my mind as a phrase uttered enthusiastically by one of us, as the editor sat silently through our presentation.

After our stirring conclusion, we paused expectantly.

"If any of my editors bought a service like that, they'd be fired on the spot," our host said.

We took this as a "no" and beat a rather hasty retreat. Things unraveled after that and we went on to other things. Reese, now in his 80s, continued his serial entrepreneurial ways and founded, among other things, the Food Network. He was

also an investor and valued partner in Zapnews, the fax-delivered news service that I developed a year or two later.

If things had worked out differently, TASS might well have been mentioned in the same breath (and with as many zeros after its valuation) as Getty.

Returning for a moment to the question of what AP might be worth, it's important to remember that a certain newspaper mogul known as Rupert Murdoch walked away with a very large chunk of cash when he was forced to sell some of his shares of Reuters after he added to his newspaper holdings and wound up owning more shares than any one individual was allowed to own under Reuters' charter.

The goal of the Reuters rule, of course, was to prevent any individual from gaining control of Reuters and possibly influencing its political coverage. Instead, it is widely thought, Murdoch used the cash from Reuters to finance his expansion into North America, where his Fox News, Wall Street Journal and other holdings have helped turn U.S politics sharply to starboard.

If a formula could be worked out that would allow AP to be sold or to go public, it would surely produce a major cash infusion for the nation's cash-starved newspapers. Would this be a good thing for the AP? Hard to say, but maybe we shouldn't suggest it too openly.

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Remembering the joys and pains of TI 700 portable computer

John Wylie ([Email](#)) - Have loved the odes to typewriters--my beloved was an Olympia--but does anyone else remember the joys and extreme pains of the TI 700 series of portable computers? They weighed at least three times any decent portable, but still required paper--and an incredibly laborious process to fix a simple typo by backspacing, inserting codes to remove it, codes to correct it and codes to retype the line to make sure it was right before continuing. I looked up a museum that has one on display and it refers to its convenient "luggage size case." Obviously one of them had had to mimic OJ Simpson in his glory days carrying one of the <expletive deleted> things as they raced through an airport trying to make



a plane. Thank Heavens Radio Shack invented the TRS 80 Model 100 (known, but with great love, as the Trash 80). It made no longer regretting my decision to let my much younger sister-in-law take my Olympia with her to college much easier. But I still have my late father's 1940s Royal and intend to have it completely refurbished soon - he wrote many scripts for major shows as network radio transitioned to network television.

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That high school French came in handy

Hal Bock (Email) - Early in my AP career, I was dispatched to the Montreal Forum for the Stanley Cup playoffs. This was one of the legendary buildings in the NHL, a sort of cathedral of hockey. I was excited to be working there.

I was flying solo, which meant running story, AMs lead, optional lead, a couple of sidebars and finally PMs wrapup. That's a lot of copy and when I was done, I discovered I was the last one in the press box. I made my way downstairs and discovered something else. The Forum doors were locked. I was tired and trapped. I wandered around a bit until I found the freight entrance. At the door was a French-Canadian watchman.

I took four years of French in high school and another year in college.

So here goes:

``S'il vous plait, ouvrez la porte."''

That translates to ``Please, open the door."''

The watchman smiled, took a puff on his pipe and sent me out on to Ste. Catherine Street.

Your memories of the Vietnam-era draft

Charles Hanley (Email) - Things were apparently a bit desperate in Vietnam when I showed up at Brooklyn's Fort Hamilton for my Army draft physical in April '69, having bid adieu, for the duration, to AP Albany. After we passed the physical, they lined us up 100 abreast in a big gym. And then they, mysteriously, started coming down the line counting heads. We craned our necks and ears. What's going on? As they neared, we could hear them.

"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, you're a Marine. One, two..." My young life must've passed before my eyes. "One, two, three..." In a panic, I tried to count ahead, but they were on me in a flash, and "I'm Number Three! Number Three!"

With all due respect to Terry Anderson and all other jarheads, that wasn't part of this 21-year-old's plans for securing a bright and happy future.

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Joe Edwards (Email) - During the Vietnam (AP style?) War, I was a student at Eastern Kentucky University with a draft deferment because I was in college.

In 1969-70, at the height of the war and campus protests, I was editor of the weekly campus paper, the Eastern Progress. We won an All-America award when I was editor, and it is still one of my proudest achievements.

I recently watched the PBS documentary on the war, and it stirred memories of my college days.

Eastern Kentucky was in a small county not far from Appalachia. There was a very strong ROTC presence on campus. Protests against the war were uncommon.

At that time, I did not feel the need to editorialize about the war. My editorial board did not press the issue.

Looking back now, I made a mistake. The paper was silent about the biggest issue of the time.

But I did receive a couple of notes from faculty members at the end of my senior year, thanking me for "keeping things peaceful."

In that spring, I got a high lottery number that pretty much meant I would not be drafted. I was hired by AP and began a 42-year career.

Today, at age 71, I live in a senior community in Nashville with several vets as neighbors. When they ask if I was in the service, I've learned to reply "I was never called."

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Jack Ronald (Email) - I attended a Quaker college - Earlham in Richmond, Indiana - but it's safe to say my opposition to the war in Vietnam began when I was still a high school student.

Somehow I had come across a copy of a small book entitled "Peace in Vietnam" published by the American Friends Service Committee. It was an eye-opener. I still have my copy.

At Earlham - from the fall of 1966 to graduation in the spring of 1970 - I engaged in countless and sometimes endless bull sessions about American policy in Southeast Asia with my fellow students.

Meanwhile, of course, I was benefitting from the 2-S status of a student deferment from the draft.

It's difficult to convey to young people (like my daughters) how unfair, corrupt, unbalanced, and essentially rotten the Selective Service system was.

Students who could get into college managed to avoid being cannon fodder for a few years.

But if you happened to attend a rural high school that didn't offer classes in chemistry, physics, or a foreign language, your chances of getting into college were somewhere between slim and none.

No 2-S for those guys. They graduated high school and were soon shipped out.

The 2-S deferment was - no surprise - abused. As I recall, it was possible to get a 2-S deferment for barber college, which bought a guy a few more months out of uniform.

It was so abused that in the fall of 1966, they required those of us already attending college to take one more SAT-like test to prove to the Selective Service that we actually belonged in higher education.

From its very design, the system guaranteed that most of those drafted were poor and less well educated. And a disproportionate share were black.

While they went off to Vietnam, those of us with 2-S deferments could agonize over the moral rights and wrongs of the war for four full years.

Unlike, say, the generation that enlisted for World War II in the wake of Pearl Harbor, we had time to think about it, to argue about it, to weigh the costs, and to witness its toll.

While I was in college, two of my high school classmates lost their lives in Vietnam. One was a very good friend.

Those friends who were drafted were one end of the spectrum. At a Quaker college in the 1960s, you also dealt with the other end: Friends who resisted the draft completely and went to prison.

My choice fell somewhere in between.

During my senior year at age 21, I applied for status as a conscientious objector, known in those Selective Service days as 1-0.

Like the rest of the draft system, the application itself was fundamentally flawed.

While it gave some legacy benefit to those who grew up Amish or Mennonite or Quaker, for the rest of us it came down to being able to write a good answer to an essay question. There were four questions as I recall.

The toughest one asked you to explain why you should be classified 1-0 instead of 1-A-0, which would have qualified you for non-combatant service in the military, most likely as a medic.

I couldn't answer that one convincingly, at least not to my satisfaction, and I fully expected to find myself as a combat medic simply because of one answer on an essay test.

Instead, on Aug. 26, 1970, I received my 1-O conscientious objector status from my local draft board. My lottery number was low enough that I was soon beginning my two years of alternative service.

I was what was known as a surgery attendant - an orderly - in the surgical unit of Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

As such, I did everything from mopping bloody floors to ferrying corpses to the morgue.

Fun? Not really. But it was exactly what I needed at the time.

Like most kids just out of college, I was completely full of shit.

It did me a world of good to be handed a mop and be informed that essentially every living human being in the hospital ranked higher than I did.

My education, my race, any status I might have had meant nothing. It was time to get to work.

And work I did for two years to the day, completing my alternative service to my country without participating in a war I viewed as wrong-headed and immoral.

That was the first big moral choice of my life. There have been dozens of others, but I still think that one helped me figure out the rest.

Welcome to Connecting



Lorraine Cichowski - lcichow@gmail.com

AP **BEAT OF THE WEEK**

AP team parlays Aretha Franklin pool coverage into exclusives



Legendary singer Aretha Franklin lies in state at Charles H. Wright Museum of African

American History during a public visitation in Detroit, Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2018. Photographer Paul Sancya diplomatically negotiated for a view of the casket, highlighting Franklin's distinctive red dress and heels. This pool photo helped open the door to exclusive AP coverage. AP Photo / Paul Sancya

The farewell to the Queen of Soul promised to be an extravaganza - days of tributes, musical performances and a marathon funeral.

The AP team diligently prepared for the events and when the time came, the combined efforts of Detroit-based photographer Paul Sancya and Miami-based visual journalist Josh Replogle turned a pair of pool opportunities into two exclusives during the week of mourning for Aretha Franklin in Detroit.

Among the highlights: Sancya's shot of Franklin lying in her casket with red heels clearly visible, video and photos of the singer in her final resting place and an exclusive interview with a controversial pastor.

Their work earns the Beat of the Week.

Global Entertainment Editor Nekesa Moody's relationship with Franklin's representative paved the way to make contact, earn trust and show respect during a somber, delicate time. The string of breaks began when Sancya, Replogle and Detroit text reporter Jeff Karoub documented the singer's first public viewing.

When Sancya met representatives for Franklin and the venue, he was initially told not to show the casket and was allowed to stay for a few minutes in only one spot. Thinking there would not be many images to shoot without showing the casket, he diplomatically negotiated to shoot more scenes, including a photo of Franklin's distinctive red high heels. A representative for Franklin liked the shot very much and it was sent out immediately.

Replogle and Sancya were also invited to document the movement of Franklin's casket from a Detroit museum in the middle of the week, giving AP exclusive images. That led to the pair being invited back to serve as pool shooters for Franklin's interment. Sancya again pressed for better access, allowing AP to get images inside the mausoleum, where lighting was better.

Replogle parlayed the access into an exclusive interview with the lead pastor who, by the end of Franklin's funeral, had become the center of a firestorm over touching pop star Ariana Grande during the service. Standing in the cemetery where Franklin had just been laid to rest, the pastor apologized to Grande in his interview with

Replogle, allowing AP to advance the story of one of the hottest trending topics to come out of the funeral.

The images Sancya and Replogle shot earned massive play, garnering more than 138,000 clicks on an initial tweet about the pastor's apology in its first 48 hours - the most of any AP story this year. Replogle's story was widely credited by outlets including The New York Times, NBC and CBS. In addition to their strong and compelling visuals, Sancya and Replogle's work greatly bolstered AP's text stories. For instance, AP was able to move a NewsAlert and updates on Franklin's interment, providing a beat on a capstone moment in the week.

The video coverage garnered more than 2,500 global broadcast hits, not including the many hours of AP live coverage outside the service. None of this would have been possible had the pair not gained the trust of Franklin's camp on the first pool assignment. Moody also heard often from Franklin's representatives about how happy and grateful they were for the coverage.

For their initiative and skill in navigating a delicate situation that put the AP ahead on this big story, Sancya and Replogle share Beat of the Week.



Making the signature photo, discreetly, as family mourns McCain



Cindy McCain, widow of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. lays her head on his casket during a memorial service at the Arizona Capitol in Phoenix, Aug. 29, 2018. AP Photo / Ross D. Franklin

Sometimes it takes a team. And a resourceful photographer.

Photographer Ross Franklin made a stunning image of Cindy McCain resting her head on the casket of her late husband Sen. John McCain during a family service in the Arizona state Capitol. Getting to this moment was a team effort, starting with great Washington contacts and relationships that gave the AP not one but two exclusive spots in the rotunda in Phoenix. The team on the ground, which included Franklin and fellow Phoenix photographer Matt York, as well as visiting California photographers Jae Hong and Chris Carlson, fended off multiple attempts by competitors to give up a spot or share the space.

Franklin worked with McCain's contacts to secure a prime position in the rotunda. But given the solemnity of the event, there was no way to shoot the private ceremony using a motor drive to take bursts of frames - it would have been too loud and would have echoed throughout the rotunda. So Franklin agreed to shoot the entire event balanced on a ladder overlooking the scene from the balcony, with his camera in a noise muffling blimp - basically operating a camera that is wrapped in a big pillow.

When Cindy McCain approached the casket, Franklin had just one or two frames to capture the moment. He nailed it, and the photo was used everywhere. A count of front pages the next day showed at least 39 uses of the picture, including a stunning display on the front of the Arizona Republic. The following day, as AP was trying to secure yet another unique angle at the church service, we were told by the McCain reps that the family was so impressed with our team and with that specific image that we could have any spot we needed at the church as well.

Reps for the McCain family were so impressed that they gave AP a choice of shooting positions for the church service.

The image was the signature moment of a comprehensive weeklong all-formats effort involving text, photo and video teams in Arizona. That coordinated coverage began with word of McCain's death, and extended through the private ceremony, a public viewing and memorial church service, all the way to Air Force Two, wheels up returning to Washington.

For his exceptional work, Ross Franklin wins this week's Best of the States award.

Stories of interest

Newsonomics: What the anonymous New York Times op-ed shows us about the press now
(Nieman Lab)



By KEN DOCTOR

In 1954, at the moment history tells us that Sen. Joe McCarthy's witch hunt had already lost some of its power, he still held a 35 percent approval rating among Americans, down only 10 points from four years earlier.

Twenty years later, after the Senate Watergate Committee opened its hearings and news accounts had pilloried Richard Nixon, he still held a 44 percent approval rating. Even about a year later, as he awaited his getaway helicopter, a quarter of Americans thought highly of him.

Now, 45 years later, the 45th president finds himself seemingly cornered by criminal convictions of his associates, the most unflattering of tell-all portraits, and one of his own anonymously belittling him in the pages of The New York Times, Trump tests the bottom of 40th percentile in recent polls.

This history matters, as we try to put into perspective the week's escalation in the unprecedented war between a presidency and the press. As the Financial Times put it in a headline Friday, "Media challenges Trump for control of the news cycle."

Is that what's going on? Is that our takeaway in this collision of this president, the press and polls?

Read more [here](#).

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Americans expect to get their news from social media, but they don't expect it to be accurate

(Nieman Lab)

By CHRISTINE SCHMIDT

Lots of news on social media? Yep. Lots of accurate news on social media? Nope: That's the mindset of the typical U.S. news consumer in 2018, according to a new Pew Research Center report on news use on social media platforms.

Around two-thirds of U.S. adults say they get news from social media. (That figure is just about flat compared with 2017.) But 57 percent say they expect the news on social media to be "largely inaccurate." (Pew interviewed 4,581 U.S. adults.)

Convenience (cited by 21 percent of respondents), interacting with other people, speed, and timeliness are the top reasons that news consumers like getting the news from social media. The top-cited reason to dislike news from social: Inaccuracy.

Silver lining? More respondents said accessing news on social media has helped them (36 percent) than that it has confused them (15 percent).

Read more [here](#).

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Adam Clymer, Political Reporter, Editor and Pollster, Dies at 81 (New York Times)

By Sam Roberts

Adam Clymer, who covered congressional intrigue, eight presidential campaigns and the downfall of both Nikita S. Khrushchev and Richard M. Nixon as a reporter and editor for The New York Times and other newspapers, died early Monday at his home in Washington. He was 81.



Adam Clymer in 1992

The cause was pancreatic cancer, which was diagnosed in March, said Dr. Michael A. Newman, who treated him. Mr. Clymer also had Parkinson's disease and Myasthenia gravis, a neuromuscular condition.

Mr. Clymer received unsought attention in 2000, when, during a presidential campaign rally, he became the target of a vulgarism by George W. Bush that was captured on a live microphone. It was not the first time he had been attacked.

Reporting from Russia for The Baltimore Sun during the Vietnam War, he was beaten at an anti-American demonstration, accused of assaulting a police officer and expelled from the Soviet Union as a "hooligan."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Feinsilber.

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Local News Is Dying, and It's Taking Small Town America With It (Bloomberg)

By RILEY GRIFFIN

America is overrun with "news deserts," cities and towns where local coverage is lacking or altogether absent. As newspaper circulation continues to decline along with ad revenue and newsroom employment, a common casualty is the expensive, time-consuming practice of original reporting.

Without journalists digging through property records or attending city council meetings, looking for official wrongdoing and revealing secret deals, local politicians

will operate unchecked-with predictable consequences. But the fallout is much bigger than just keeping municipal government honest.

Studies have shown that communities without quality local news coverage see lower rates of voter turnout. Cities where newspapers shut down have even seen their municipal bond costs rise, suggesting an increase in government expense due to a lack of transparency. More broadly, towns without serious local news coverage demonstrate less social cohesion, corroding any actual sense of community.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

Today in History - September 11, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 11, the 254th day of 2018. There are 111 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 11, 2001, on America's single-worst day of terrorism, nearly 3,000 people were killed as 19 al-Qaida members hijacked four passenger jetliners, sending two of the planes smashing into New York's World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon and the fourth into a field in western Pennsylvania.

On this date:

1297: Scottish rebels led by William Wallace and Andrew Moray defeated English troops in the Battle of Stirling Bridge during the First War of Scottish Independence.

1789: Alexander Hamilton was appointed the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

1814: An American fleet scored a decisive victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812.

1857: The Mountain Meadows Massacre took place in present-day southern Utah as a 120-member Arkansas immigrant party was slaughtered by Mormon militiamen aided by Paiute Indians.

1936: Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) began operation as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a key in Washington to signal the startup of the dam's first hydroelectric generator.

1941: Groundbreaking took place for the Pentagon. In a speech that drew accusations of anti-Semitism, Charles A. Lindbergh told an America First rally in Des Moines, Iowa, that "the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt administration" were pushing the United States toward war.

1954: The Miss America pageant made its network TV debut on ABC; Miss California, Lee Meriwether, was crowned the winner.

1967: The comedy-variety program "The Carol Burnett Show" premiered on CBS.

2003: Actor John Ritter died six days before his 55th birthday at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, California. - the same hospital where he was born in 1948.

2006: In a prime-time address, President George W. Bush invoked the memory of the victims of the 9/11 attacks as he staunchly defended the war in Iraq, though he acknowledged that Saddam Hussein was not responsible for the attacks.

2007: A new Osama bin Laden videotape was released on the sixth anniversary of 9/11; in it, the al-Qaida leader's voice is heard commemorating one of the suicide hijackers and calling on young Muslims to follow his example by martyring themselves in attacks.

2012: A mob armed with guns and grenades launched a fiery night-long attack on a U.S. diplomatic outpost and a CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya, killing U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

Ten years ago: Presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama put aside politics as they visited ground zero together on the anniversary of 9/11 to honor its victims. ABC News broadcast an interview with John McCain's running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who said she was ready to be president if called upon, but sidestepped questions on whether she had the national security credentials needed to be commander in chief.

Five years ago: A car bomb tore through a Libyan Foreign Ministry building in the eastern city of Benghazi on the anniversary of a deadly attack on the U.S. consulate there as well as the 2001 terror attacks in the United States. More than 1 million people showed their support for Catalan independence by joining hands to form a 250-mile human chain across the northeastern region of Spain.

One year ago: Authorities sent an aircraft carrier and other Navy ships to help with search-and-rescue operations in Florida, where a flyover of the Keys revealed what Gov. Rick Scott described as scenes of devastation from Hurricane Irma. Irma weakened to a tropical storm, and then a tropical depression, and finally left Florida after a run up the entire 400-mile length of the state. An estimated 13 million people in Florida remained without power.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Earl Holliman is 90. Comedian Tom Dreesen is 79. Movie director Brian De Palma is 78. Singer-actress-dancer Lola Falana is 76. Rock musician Mickey Hart (The Dead) is 75. Singer-musician Leo Kottke is 73. Actor Phillip Alford is 70. Actress Amy Madigan is 68. Rock singer-musician Tommy Shaw (Styx) is 65. Sports reporter Lesley Visser is 65. Actor Reed Birney is 64. Former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh (Jay) Johnson is 61. Musician Jon Moss (Culture Club) is 61. Actor Scott Patterson is 60. Rock musician Mick Talbot (The Style Council) is 60. Actress Roxann Dawson is 60. Actor John Hawkes is 59. Actress Anne Ramsay is 58. Actress Virginia Madsen is 57. Actress Kristy McNichol is 56. Musician-composer Moby is 53. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is 53. Business reporter Maria Bartiromo is 51. Singer Harry Connick Jr. is 51. Rock musician Bart Van Der Zeeuw is 50. Actress Taraji (tuh-RAH'-jee) P. Henson is 48. Actress Laura Wright is 48. Rock musician Jeremy Popoff (Lit) is 47. Blogger Markos Moulitsas is 47. Singer Brad Fischetti (LFO) is 43. Rapper Mr. Black is 41. Rock musician Jon Buckland (Coldplay) is 41. Rapper Ludacris is 41. Rock singer Ben Lee is 40. Actor Ryan Slattery is 40. Actress Ariana Richards is 39. Country singer Charles Kelley (Lady Antebellum) is 37. Actress Elizabeth Henstridge is 31. Actor Tyler Hoechlin (HEK'-lihn) is 31. Actress Mackenzie Aladjem is 17.

Thought for Today: "A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer." - Ralph Waldo Emerson, American poet and

essayist (1803-1882).

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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