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Connecting - November 12, 2018

1 message

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November 12, 2018

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Connecting Veterans Day Edition

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

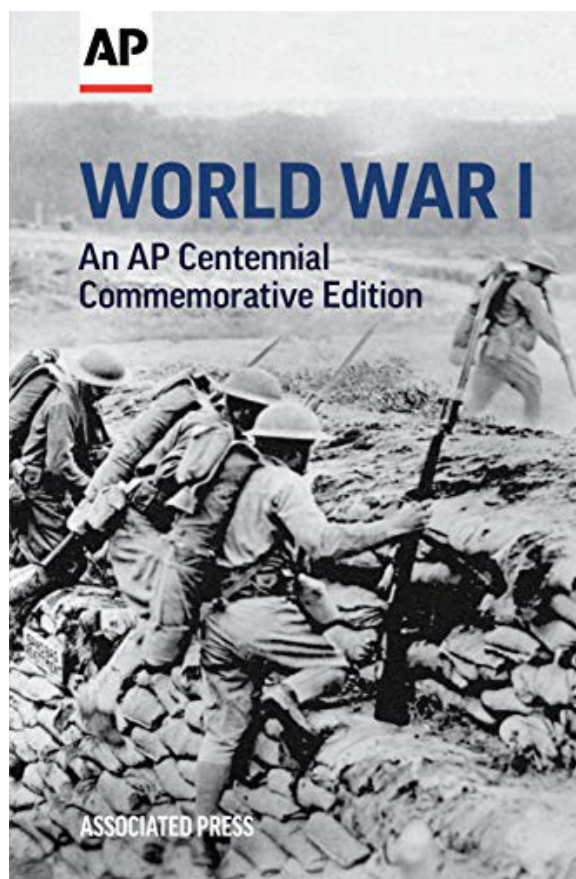
Connecting brings you our annual Veterans Day issue as a salute to all who - it is often said - "at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America, for an amount of 'up to and including their life.'"

Thanks to those of you who responded to the call of this U. S. Air Force veteran to write and tell your colleagues the role your military service played in your later lives as journalists. My four years of service - at a Strategic Air Command base in Arkansas and at Tactical Air Command headquarters in Virginia - exposed me to a world and to people far beyond where I grew up, taught discipline and professionalism (Peace is Our Profession was the SAC motto), and forged friendships that last to this day. I am proud to have served.

Sunday's Veterans Day coincided with the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I and our "AP was There" lead story was taken from this compilation of anniversary stories that can be found by [clicking here](#).

The AP just announced it has published "World War I: An AP Centennial Commemorative Edition" - a book that features more than 130 photographs from the AP Archives and serves as a must-have for anyone interested in the history of military conflicts. [Click here](#) for a link to buying the book on Amazon. A paperback edition will soon follow.

The new book collects a series of stories tracing the arc of the conflict, from Sarajevo where Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was slain, through the agony of trench warfare and America's entry, which turned the tide against Germany and its allies.



World War I began with stirring words of patriotism and ended with 14 million dead, empires destroyed and the social order torn asunder. It spurred revolutions and counter-revolutions across the world, paving the way for the tyranny of Hitler and Stalin and an even greater global slaughter, World War II, a generation later.

"This project looks back at how the first World War impacted international relations in the immediate aftermath but also the ripple effect it continues to have on the current political landscape 100 years later," said **Peter Costanzo**, AP digital

publishing specialist. "It is a powerful reminder of how one major incident can change the course of history forever."

Have a good day - and to all of our veterans, thank you for your service.

Paul

AP Was There: Armistice brings World War I to an end



FILE In this Nov. 11, 1918 file photo, American troops cheer after hearing the news that the Armistice had been signed, ending World War I. At 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month of 2018, scores of world leaders are gathering in Paris to mark 100 years since the armistice that ended World War I entered into force, and to celebrate peace. (AP Photo, File)

By The Associated Press

At 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month of 2018, dozens of world leaders gathered in Paris to mark 100 years since the armistice that ended World War I

entered into force, and to celebrate peace.

They represent countries that stood on opposite sides of the 1918 front line. As the French and American presidents joined the German chancellor, Sunday's ceremonies highlighted the reconciliation that has been achieved since those dark days of brutal fighting.

Here is a series of stories that The Associated Press published on Nov. 11, 1918, from Washington and from reporters embedded with American soldiers in France.

FLASH

Armistice signed.

BULLETIN

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, NOV. 11 (AP) - The Armistice between Germany, on the one hand, and the Allied governments and the United States, on the other, has been signed.

The State Department announced at 2:45 o'clock this morning that Germany had signed.

The world war will end at 6 o'clock this morning, Washington time, 11 o'clock Paris time.

WAR IS OVER

WASHINGTON, NOV. 11 (AP) - The greatest war in history ended Monday morning at 6 o'clock Washington time, after 1,567 days of horror, during which virtually the whole civilized world had been convulsed.

Announcement of the tremendous event was made at the State Department at the capital at 2:45 o'clock Monday morning and in a few seconds was flashed throughout the continent by the Associated Press.

The terse announcement at the State Department did not tell anything of the scene at Marshall Foch's headquarters at the time the Armistice was signed. It was stated, however, that at 6 o'clock Paris time, the signatures of Germany's delegates were fixed to the document which blasted forever the dreams which embroiled the world in a struggle which has cost, at the very lowest estimate, 10,000,000 lives.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting veterans tell how their service impacted their lives, careers



Jim Bagby (Email) - Army, 1969-1971, most of that at Fort Sill, Okla. For most of those two years I worked at least part time for the Lawton Constitution-Morning Press; with my discharge as a Spec. 5th Class, I returned fulltime to the paper and to college. Having come within a few weeks of being shipped to Vietnam, I never had anything but the highest respect and support for those who did serve. Two brothers in our family returned safely, but I lost more than one close friend. I never wrote or spoke loosely of Nam. Oh, and I still grimace involuntarily when I hear "Congressional" Medal of Honor.

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Brian Bland (Email) - Service: U.S. Army, 1964-1968, including Vietnam. My work in a Mobile TV Detachment that took me to Army bases around the country, and my year in charge of a team of combat photographers in Vietnam, helped me in my AP/AP Radio career by teaching me the value of teamwork and the ability to work on my own; to plan for and expect the unexpected; to improvise if the plan hit a snag -- and to go without rest for long periods of time! All the best to my fellow vets, as well as to the many of you who spent time with the troops.

-0-

Rick Cooper (Email) - I served in the Army, 1968 to 1972 active duty and four more years in the reserve. A graduate of Officer Candidate School, I was commissioned in the Military Intelligence branch as a Cryptoanalytic officer. I served a year in Vietnam in an Army Security Agency unit attached to the First Cavalry Division. As the son of a career Army Officer, I look at my service as a fulfillment of President John Kennedy's challenge. "Ask not what your country can do for you, rather what you can do for your country."

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John Epperson (Email) - A, a Cold War veteran, U. S. Air Force, 1966-70. I enlisted in August 1966, after two years of J-school in Indiana. After basic training in Texas, I served in a reconnaissance squadron, in the Strategic Air Command (SAC). I was assigned to a base in California which supported Cold War deterrence as part of the 15th Air Force, 22nd heavy bomb wing. I worked on recon projects with the squadron and served on the base honor guard. I finished my four-year tour in late summer of 1970, still in SAC, in time to return to Indiana for the fall term at Ball State University. The college gave me a year of electives credit for my several military schools and training. Thank you, USAF. This time thanks to the veterans benefits I had earned, the last time at J- school, went well, heading me into a 34-year career in the news media. I would add, the men and women of SAC were professionals in their mission of Cold War deterrence. The command's motto, "Peace is our Profession," was a total commitment. Best to all on this Veterans Day.

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Dodi Fromson (Email) - My late husband, Murray Fromson, who passed away 6/09/18, served for two years, Army Infantry, but was pulled out before arriving in Japan, assigned to Stars and Stripes. In Panmunjom he met many who became his future colleagues with all the various media, written and broadcasting. On separation, he was hired by AP (by Bob Eunson, then bureau chief in Tokyo I think, or already a VP?) where he returned to USA to get officially hired there (to get all US perks, per Eunson), worked briefly in Reno, then turned around and went to Seoul to open first AP bureau (he was the youngest bureau chief to date, at 24). Stayed with AP thru the '50s in Far East and Southeast Asia/roving, based in Tokyo, then Singapore, Bangkok. then switched to broadcasting in '60 (NBC News for 2.5 years) then CBS News for approximately 17 years, and later, academia/Professor of Journalism at Univ of So California for 24 years.

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Steve Graham (Email) - I forgot to mention my four years in the U.S. Marine Corps 1958-1961. I was trained as a reciprocating aircraft engine mechanic, which had no relationship whatsoever to journalism. In the event, however, if a story about a "torquemeter booster pump" had come across the desk, I was prepared to explain it fully.(wink)

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George Hanna (Email) - Fought the Korean War at a desk in the Public Information Office at Parris Island, S.C. I was drafted in 1951 and one-third of my group (12 of 36) was assigned to the Marine Corps, put on a C&O train and sent to Parris Island. After boot camp I stayed there for the next two years. Semper Fi.

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Mike Holmes (Email) - Navy, 1970-1972. Two tours in Vietnam aboard the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany, flagship of the Tonkin Gulf commander. As one of several Navy journalists aboard, I did all kinds of public affairs work, including publishing a daily newspaper and quarterly magazine, operating shipboard radio and TV stations, writing for Stars & Stripes, reporting fleet activity to the brass in Saigon, handling public relations and news media visits. The Navy gave me enough experience to land my first newspaper job after getting out, and I kept going for 40-plus years.

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Bill Kaczor (Email) - Air Force, three years, 10 months. The Air Force contributed to my journalism career by giving me lots of time to moonlight. I worked 6 a.m. until noon weekdays on flight simulators at Eglin AFB, Florida, 1970 through 1972. That left afternoons, evenings and weekends to ply my trade at the Playground Daily News (now Northwest Florida Daily News) and then the Pensacola News Journal. I avoided conflicts by leaving Air Force coverage to others while I focused on government, politics, crime and sports. I also came away with a good background for covering the Panhandle when I returned with the News Journal, Gannett News Service and then the AP in Tallahassee and Pensacola after getting master's at Northwestern on the G.I. Bill.

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Brent Kallestad (Email) - United States Navy (April 1966-May 1970) Boot camp in San Diego. (April-June 1966) Eleven weeks. Aboard USS Charles Berry (DE-1035) July 1966-January 1968) Based at Pearl Harbor. Department of Defense Information School at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind. (February 1968-July 1968). PIO at NAS Jacksonville for Adm. Robert J. Stroh (July, 1968- May 1970). Caught a huge break in Jax, landing what turned out to be a fulltime job in the Florida Times-Union's sports department during my off-duty hours, working usually from 1730 to midnight or later at the newspaper. My job at the base was a 730-1630 Monday-to-Friday gig. Began at the T-U taking prep football scores on Friday night, then it was Friday, Saturday and Tuesday nights for prep hoops and finally Sports Editor Bill Kastelz asked me if I'd consider fulltime to help out when others were on vacation. Making \$330 at month at the base as an JO3 and another \$500 a month at the T-U while living in the barracks. Life was good. Also, and importantly, Kastelz' recommendation two years later helped my case with Ben Brown, who hired me. Also met the mother of our children during that period in Jax.

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Jim Limbach (Email) - U.S. Army - 1965-1968. Significant assignment was AFKN (American Forces Korea Network), now known as AFN-Korea, 1965-66, followed by Dugway Proving Ground Utah, in the Classroom support division of the CBR Weapons Orientation Course, 1966-68.

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Larry Margasak (Email) - I spent six years in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. Until we switched from an air transport unit to one with a secret electronic warfare mission, I only had to say the magic words to get on a flight: "I'll do a story for your hometown papers." Once, we flew to Vietnam during the war. Our commander insisted we wear the combat ribbon they gave us. I didn't want to, because so many guys were dying in real combat. He insisted, I assume, so that everyone would recognize we were there.

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Bill McCloskey (Email) - When I graduated Villanova in 1966 my draft notice pretty much came with my diploma. Having worked in radio news while in school I almost got assigned to Armed Forces Radio in Saigon, but alas the 1st Signal Brigade -- the Army's phone company -- figured if someone else wanted me, they'd better keep me, so I ended up in their information office. After returning to radio stateside in 1968 I was hired by APRadio in 1975. I remember being in a newsroom when news of the My Lai massacre broke on the wire and thinking, "those boys are in a heap of trouble." After 11 years at AP I joined BellSouth as a flak, so again went into PR for a phone company.

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Joe McGowan (Email) - I joined the U.S. Naval Reserve while attending U. of Wyoming. The pay for attending weekly meetings and two weeks active duty in the summer helped the budget. After graduating, I served 1953-55 (Korean War) on a sub-chaser based in Milwaukee. (Rough duty!!) The USO had free refreshments and coeds from Marquette Univ. Three breweries let servicemen in uniform for free beer! Our ship provided color guard for Milwaukee Braves games. All in uniform got in to games free. Can't say what it did for my career except as ship's office Yeoman dealing with all types of men with different (or little) education, skills and long-range desires overall helped with journalism skills to be used later. By the way, I later was commissioned and rose to LTjg in the reserve.

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Joe McKnight (Email) - I am a World War II veteran of the old U. S. Army Air Corps, forerunner of today's U. S. Air Force, serving from April, 1943 until March, 1946. I was discharged and returned to my home in Selma, AL on March 28, 1946, my mother's 44th birthday. My military assignments were at Keesler Air Corps Base, Biloxi, MS; Michigan State College (now university), East Lansing, MI, two bases near San Antonio, TX a small pilot training field at Corsicana, TX; Scott Air Corps base, Belleville, IL., Sheppard Air Corps Base, Wichita Falls, TX; Ft. Douglas, Utah , some unnamed base near San Francisco, and Clark Air Corps, base on Luzon , Philippine Islands. After a year of trying to learn to be a pilot I was trained as a radio

operator at Scott Air Field. I worked as a radio operator on Luzon Island in the Philippine islands, Army Airways Communications Station WCCS, which was about a mile from the temporary landing strip and control tower constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Except for voice transmission of weather reports, we used Morse Code to record air traffic into and out of Clark field, requests from aircraft flying in the area and routine administrative business between Clark and two or three stations near Manilla. There was some communications with stations on other islands in the archipelago, and occasional radio traffic to a base in Australia and one of the Japanese islands. Around March 1, I transferred to Nichols Field near Manilla boarded another troop ship and sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco Harbor on March 15. We boarded a train that took a week to get to a separation Center in Mississippi. After being discharged I rode a bus back to Selma, arriving home on March 28, my mother's 44th birthday. In 1952, more than a year into the Korean war, there were reports of recalling military veterans to active duty and I enlisted in a reserve unit of the Army adjutant general's corp. Monthly meetings of that unit almost never agreed with my off nights in the Atlanta AP bureau so I attended few meetings. After almost two years I was discharged and returned to full-time civilian life. None of my military training fit into that became my professional career with the AP. I stumbled into journalism when I enrolled at the University of Alabama and an adviser asked me about a major field of study. After some discussion I told him I had worked at the Selma Times-Journal for several years so he put down Journalism as my major interest. It stuck.

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Robert O'Meara (Email) - I served in a branch of the Army Air Force during World War II that handled ground communications with aircraft. That included radio bases in North Africa and West Africa. After the war I returned to the University of Wisconsin journalism school and then joined the AP in Milwaukee.

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Robert Reid (Email) - I took ROTC in college to keep the draft at bay and ended up in the Army in Germany from 1970 until late 1973. The experience proved good training for future assignments in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Lebanon. At least I knew the difference between a tank and an APC. In 1970, however, I considered the military an unwanted diversion. I'd worked for a year for AP before entering the Army and after I returned, it took a year or more to catch up with contemporaries. Over time, I realized service had its benefits. When I told New York I was ready to return to AP, Keith Fuller, at the time the head of Personnel, advised me to try for the foreign service, never a career goal. Later, Nate Polowetzky said the bosses were interested in me because "you've been an officer. You know how to manage people."

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Mike Rouse (Email) - You asked about military service. I was working as a newsman in the Charlotte bureau when I was drafted into the Army in 1963. The sent me to Military Police school and then to the 728th MP Battalion in Seoul, South Korea where I revived a battalion newspaper. Didn't do any military policing. I returned to the AP upon my separation from the service. While I was in South Korea the North Koreans behaved. I am sure, however, that it wasn't altogether my presence that kept them in line.

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Bill Schiffmann (Email) - Late in 1965, I tried to enlist in the Air Force. Their quotas were full. I assumed I would be drafted by the end of the year, but fate had other plans. Early in December, the recruiter called to say he had an opening and it was mine if I wanted it. I loved my time in the AF, but I can't say my service had much to do with my career choice, because I hadn't made one yet. What it did do was help me grow up. I served until November of 1969, with a big chunk of that time in Central America. I was released a month early so I could return to college for the spring semester, having only finished a year of higher education before my enlistment. When I and my first wife arrived on the campus of Monterey Peninsula College, I started looking for something to do. I wound up at the student newspaper and the advisor urged me to join as a reporter. My second semester, I was named Editor. My course was set. When we moved on to a four-year school, I joined The Daily Collegian at Fresno State. My final year, I was picked to be News Editor. With a light course load, I also worked as Editor for two small weeklies in California's San Joaquin Valley. My last month, I heard the AP in Fresno was looking for help. I got the job and spent a few years there under Correspondent Joe Bigham before moving to San Francisco in 1976.

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Mike Short (Email) - Infantry officer, USMC 1961-64. Deployed during Cuban missile crisis, 1962. Discovered many years later how close those of us at Guantanamo or circling the island came to destruction. Memorable lesson during earlier training: Greeted by range master upon arriving for annual qualification with, "Good morning, gents, and welcome to the only rifle range in the Marine Corps where nobody has been killed. Let's keep it that way." Firearms are inherently dangerous, people.

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Mike Tharp (Email) - I was drafted into the Army in 1969. Served 13 months in Vietnam. Got out in 1970 with a Bronze Star and Good Conduct Medal. That

experience helped me cover the Persian Gulf War, Somalia, Bosnia and Albania/Kosovo for U.S. News & World Report. It also let me cover Iraq in two deployments for McClatchy Co. in 2008-09. When American military people learned I was a vet, they treated me better than non-vet reporters. In Kirkuk, when I was embedded with the 10th Mountain Division, I was able to do a unique story on how the unit dealt with PTSD among its soldiers while in an actual war zone. Without Nam in my background, I couldn't have done that story.

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Bud Weydert ([Email](#)) - US Navy, Oct. 17, 1965 to April 21, 1970. While serving onboard submarines, I was sent to teletype repair school. This training helped me secure employment with Territorial Electronics in Honolulu, HI after being discharged from the Navy. This was the company that provided and maintained all of the teletype equipment used in the local AP bureau and by its members. Because of this connection, I was subsequently offered an AP technician position.

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Jeff Williams ([Email](#)) - I was drafted in 1960 right out of J-school. After one year of training at Fort Riley, Kansas, we were shipped to South Korea and positioned just south of the DMZ. A 'blocking force.' I was a gunner on a jeep-mounted 106 mm recoilless rifle. Our Battle Group commander decided to have a unit newspaper and put me in charge. Soft new life. Then Park Chung Hee, who recently had staged a coup and taken over the government, came to visit. A big stage was built for the brass to review the passing troops. I noticed Park sitting alone on the stage so I approached and asked, through his interpreter, if I could interview him. Doing my journalism thing, right? Likely confused, Park agreed. Before I could get out a single question, a red-faced major about to blow his top appeared beside me. You, private, outta here now! Yessir. The next day I was back on the jeep.

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George Zucker ([Email](#)) - When I graduated from high school I worked in a steel mill until I had enough money for college. But after two years I left school broke to join the U.S. Air Force. The recruiting sergeant arranged for my meals and a hotel room until I could get a plane for Texas. At the end of boot camp, I was hugely disappointed that the Air Force wanted to make me a clerk typist at Biggs Air Force Base in El Paso Texas, in those days a remote desert outpost across the river from Mexico. Tests showed I was partially color blind, which made me ineligible for many Air Force jobs. At age 21 it looked like my early youth would be spent typing routine orderly room reports. On my last day of boot camp I volunteered for latrine duty at the base newspaper. It seemed like a strange move, but I loved newspapers and felt this might cheer me up. Little did I know the huge impact this lowly duty would have

on my life. When the editor heard I was a college English major who could type, he asked if I would like to work for the paper. Given my hearty response, he sat me at typewriter, gave me some crumpled notes and told me to write a story. After a quick look at what I wrote, he sent me to see the base information officer. The next day as I waited for the bus to El Paso, my name was called. Orders had been cut assigning me to the newspaper. I spent all of my entire four-year hitch editing base newspapers. This led to a long civilian career, including 35 years with *The Associated Press*. Asked how I got into journalism, I like to say: "By cleaning toilets!"

Today in History - November 12, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 12, the 316th day of 2018. There are 49 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 12, 1927, Josef Stalin became the undisputed ruler of the Soviet Union as Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party.

On this date:

In 1866, Chinese revolutionary Sun Yat-sen, the first provisional president of the Republic of China, was born.

In 1920, baseball got its first "czar" as Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis was elected commissioner of the American and National Leagues.

In 1936, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge opened as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a telegraph key in Washington, D.C., giving the green light to traffic.

In 1942, the World War II naval Battle of Guadalcanal began. (The Allies ended up winning a major victory over Japanese forces.)

In 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and several other World War II Japanese leaders were sentenced to death by a war crimes tribunal.

In 1970, the Bhola cyclone struck East Pakistan; it's believed half a million people, possibly more, were killed.

In 1977, the city of New Orleans elected its first black mayor, Ernest "Dutch" Morial, the winner of a runoff.

In 1984, space shuttle astronauts Dale Gardner and Joe Allen snared a wandering satellite in history's first space salvage; the Palapa B2 satellite was secured in Discovery's cargo bay for return to Earth.

In 1987, the American Medical Association issued a policy statement saying it was unethical for a doctor to refuse to treat someone solely because that person had AIDS or was HIV-positive.

In 1996, a Saudi Boeing 747 jetliner collided shortly after takeoff from New Delhi, India, with a Kazak Ilyushin-76 cargo plane, killing 349 people.

In 1998, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley filed a \$433 million-dollar lawsuit against the firearms industry, declaring that it had created a public nuisance by flooding the streets with weapons deliberately marketed to criminals. (A judge dismissed the lawsuit in 2000; an appeals court ruled in 2002 that the city of Chicago could proceed; but the Illinois Supreme Court dismissed the lawsuit in 2004.)

In 2001, American Airlines Flight 587, an Airbus A300 headed to the Dominican Republic, crashed after takeoff from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, killing all 260 people on board and five people on the ground.

Ten years ago: Same-sex marriages began in Connecticut, a month after the state Supreme Court ruled that gays had the right to wed. Kenny Chesney took home his fourth entertainer of the year trophy at the CMA Awards. Mitch Mitchell, the England-born drummer for the Jimi Hendrix Experience, was found dead in his hotel room in Portland, Ore.; he was 61.

Five years ago: An international panel of architects announced that the new World Trade Center tower in New York would replace Chicago's Willis Tower as the nation's tallest building upon its completion. Terry Francona of the Cleveland Indians won the AL Manager of the Year award in a close vote, and Clint Hurdle of the Pittsburgh Pirates was a runaway winner in the National League after both guided small-budget teams to the postseason. British composer John Tavener, 69, died in Child Okeford, England.

One year ago: President Donald Trump said he believed U.S. intelligence agencies, which concluded that Russia meddled in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, but that he also believed that Russia's Vladimir Putin felt that Russia did not interfere. Trump exchanged taunts with North Korea's leader, tweeting, "Why would Kim Jong-un insult me by calling me 'old,' when I would NEVER call him 'short and fat?'" A powerful earthquake shook the border between Iran and Iraq, killing more than 500 people. Syndicated gossip columnist Liz Smith died at the age of 94.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Brian Hyland is 75. Actor-playwright Wallace Shawn is 75. Rock musician Booker T. Jones (Booker T. & the MGs) is 74. Sportscaster Al Michaels is 74. Singer-songwriter Neil Young is 73. Rock musician Donald "Buck Dharma" Roeser (Blue Oyster Cult) is 71. Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., is 69. Country/gospel singer Barbara Fairchild is 68. Actress Megan Mullally is 60. Actor Vincent Irizarry is 59. Olympic gold medal gymnast Nadia Comaneci (koh-muh-NEECH') is 57. Actor Sam Lloyd is 55. Rock musician David Ellefson is 54. Retired MLB All-Star Sammy Sosa is 50. Figure skater Tonya Harding is 48. Actress Rebecca Wisocky is 47. Actress Radha Mitchell is 45. Actress Lourdes Benedicto is 44. Actress Tamala Jones is 44. Actress Angela Watson is 44. Singer Tevin Campbell is 42. Actress Ashley Williams is 40. Actress Cote de Pablo is 39. Actor Ryan Gosling is 38. Contemporary Christian musician Chris Huffman is 38. Actress Anne Hathaway is 36. Pop singer Omarion is 34. Folk-rock musician Griffin Goldsmith (Dawes) is 28. Actress Macey Cruthird is 26.

Thought for Today: "It's all right to have a train of thoughts, if you have a terminal." - Richard R. Bowker, American publisher (1848-1933).

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!

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