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Connecting - November 13, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

We lead today's issue with a Connecting Profile of **Rich Oppel**, editor-in-chief of Texas Monthly, who launched his AP career as a 21-year-old AP newsman in Tallahassee.

That was in 1965, and Rich rose to become AP's Detroit chief of bureau before he left AP for The Detroit Free Press, the beginning of a distinguished career in newspapering. During his tenure as editor of The Charlotte Observer, the newspaper won two Pulitzer Prizes.

At the time he joined the Tallahassee bureau, he said in his profile, "working for AP in the state capital was my life's highest aspiration. From those first days, the importance AP placed on accuracy and fairness was burned into my consciousness."

We also bring you sad news of the deaths of AP Helena and Charlotte bureau chief **Paul Freeman** - eulogized in a story by our colleague **Norm Clarke** - and of **Marian Torchia**, whose son **Chris** is AP's chief of bureau for southern Africa in Johannesburg and whose husband **Andrew** was a longtime AP foreign correspondent, much of it in Africa.

We congratulate our colleague **Jerry Cipriano** - who retired from CBS News last Friday after a 34-year career as a writer and editor. Jerry began his journalism career with AP Broadcast in New York and joined CBS 10 years later. He is one of at least three former AP journalists with CBS - the others being **Pat Milton** and **John Filo** - and at the network, he was known for his love of puns. That came through in a vimeo CBS produced for his retirement party. [Click here](#) to view. He reveals that his punster years actually began with the AP:

"My favorite pun was one I wrote at The AP. It was in a story about people getting sick after eating pumpernickel bread purchased at a particular bakery. (As I recall, the bakery had put too much niacin into the dough.) The line was, "When they were making the pumpernickel, something went awry."

Have a great day!

Paul

Connecting profile
Rich Oppel



Rich and his wife Carol on Lake Travis, Texas, in 2018

What are you doing these days?

I am serving as editor-in-chief of Texas Monthly. At age 75, I came off the bench at the request of owner Paul Hobby to serve on an interim basis until I permanent editor can be recruited. This is a magazine that covers government and politics, culture, crime, music and entertainment, education, the environment and leisure and lifestyle. We have a circulation of 270,000 and an editorial and art staff of 44. We specialize in long form journalism and have adopted the slogan of "the national magazine of Texas" because we feel we compete with the big guys. And we do.

How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?

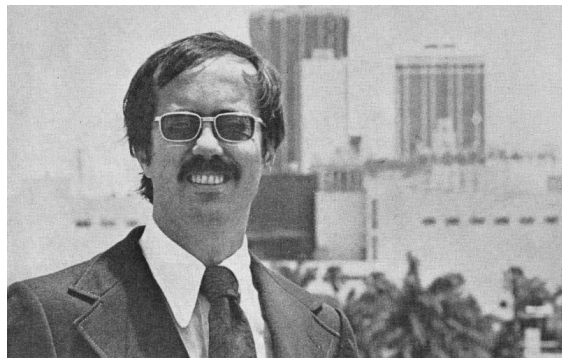
Miami Chief of Bureau Paul Hansell reached out to me in 1965, when I was 21 and working as a night cops reporter at The Tampa Tribune. However, he withdrew the offer when Tribune editor Virgil "Red" Newton strenuously objected. That did force Red to give me a raise from \$75 to \$100, considered huge pay at the time. Several months later, Hansell came back to me and I accepted a job as a newsman in Tallahassee. At the time, working for AP in the state capital was my life's highest aspiration. From those first days, the importance AP placed on accuracy and fairness was burned into my consciousness.



Gathered in 1973 at New York Headquarters to tape an AP World piece on states news are, from left: Jake Booher (Salt Lake City news editor), Jim Wilson (Minneapolis news editor), Jack Cappon (AP general news editor), Rich Oppel (Detroit bureau chief) and Craig Ammerman (former Boston news editor, then on General Desk). (Photo courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each?

After two years in Tallahassee mostly covering the House and state agencies, I was assigned to Tampa as correspondent. Coverage included hurricanes, citrus, tourism, crime and the Trafficante crime family that led the Mafia in Central Florida. After 18 months there, I became night editor in Miami, and airplane hijackings to Cuba dominated the news for those six months. Then I returned to Tallahassee as correspondent in 1969-72, when Claude Kirk became the first Republican governor since Reconstruction, and what a raucous time it was. In 1972-73 I returned to Miami as news editor, and supervised outside-the-hall coverage of the 1972 GOP convention, highlighted by protests against the Vietnam War. From 1973 until I left AP in early 1976, I was chief of bureau in Detroit, a time of massive layoffs in the auto industry and a few in AP. One person I had to lay off was Terry Anderson, who thankfully returned to AP.



After two years in Tallahassee mostly covering the House and state agencies, I was assigned to Tampa as correspondent. Coverage included hurricanes, citrus, tourism, crime and the Trafficante crime family that led the Mafia in Central Florida. After 18 months there, I became night editor in Miami, and airplane hijackings to Cuba dominated the news for those six months. Then I returned to Tallahassee as correspondent in 1969-72, when Claude Kirk became the first Republican governor since Reconstruction, and what a raucous time it was. In 1972-73 I returned to Miami as news editor, and supervised outside-the-hall coverage of the 1972 GOP convention, highlighted by protests against the Vietnam War. From 1973 until I left AP in early 1976, I was chief of bureau in Detroit, a time of massive layoffs in the auto industry and a few in AP. One person I had to lay off was Terry Anderson, who thankfully returned to AP.

Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

Paul Hansell and his successor Reid Miller helped form my sense of news. I also had great respect for Wes Gallagher, Keith Fuller, Conrad Fink and Ed Dennehy of the general desk. After AP, my mentors were Knight Ridder CEO Jim Batten, Charlotte Observer publisher Rolfe Neill and Cox Newspapers president Jay Smith.

Would you do it all over again- or what would you change?

Absolutely. If I had to do it all over again, I'd take my AP work far more seriously from an earlier age. Sometimes I was having too much fun to appreciate the importance of AP's central role in the world and the nation. And I might have accepted an offer from Ray Stephens to join AP's investigative team in Washington instead of going into editing and management.

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

I read history and contemporary public affairs, and I fish for trout and redfish in Laguna Madre.

What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?

Tianjin and Beijing, China in 1984.

Names of your family members and what they do?

For 52 years I've been married to Carol, who is a licensed lay Episcopal preacher. Son Rich Jr., 49, is a New York-based correspondent for The New York Times National Desk, specializing in domestic terrorism and military stories. Daughter Shelby Wood, 45, is a senior writer for a Portland OR advertising and PR agency and a former columnist for the Oregonian.

What jobs have you held since leaving the AP?

I was associate editor of The Detroit Free Press in 1976, executive editor of The Tallahassee Democrat in 1977-78, and editor of The Charlotte Observer in 1978-93, a period during which the Observer won two Pulitzer gold medals (brown lung, 1981; and the PTL scandal, 1988).

I then became Knight Ridder's Washington bureau chief (1993-95) before leaving KR to join



Rich with Texas Monthly senior executive editor Mimi Swartz

Cox as editor of the Austin American-Statesman from 1995 until my retirement in 2008.

After retiring, I served three years as SVP/media for Hill & Knowlton Strategies and later one year as SVP of a small black university, Huston-Tillotson in Austin.

I am now serving a one-year stint as interim EIC of Texas Monthly.

Rich Oppel's email address is - Roppel@texasmonthly.com

Paul Freeman dies - served as AP chief of bureau, broadcast executive

EDITOR'S NOTE: Born in Cameron, Texas on August 31, 1939, Paul Freeman attended Southwestern University in Georgetown for a year before moving to Austin to major in journalism at the University of Texas. He started his career at the Temple (Tex.) Daily Telegram while serving in the Army from 1963 to 1966. He joined The Associated Press in 1966 as a staff writer in Dallas after a brief stint with United Press International. From there, he went to San Antonio as the AP's correspondent (1966-1968), to Albany as the upstate New York news editor and to Helena as chief of bureau from 1970 to 1976. He was a broadcast sales executive for the AP in Jackson, Miss., for two years before being named COB in Raleigh. He left the AP in 1980 and joined the Fort Worth Star-Telegram as city editor.

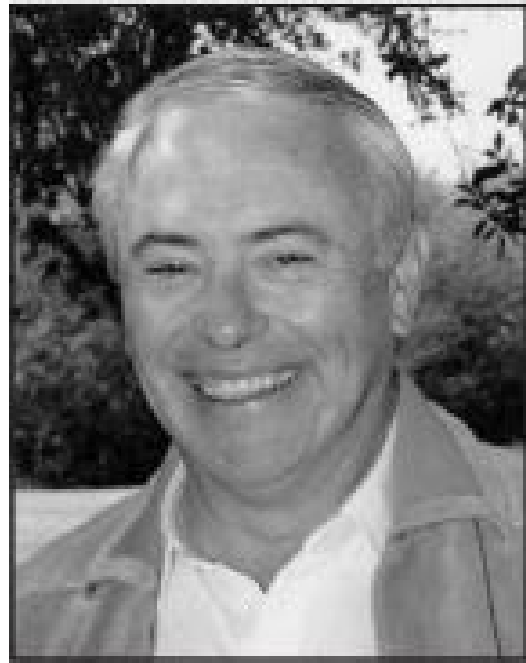
Norm Clarke (Email) - We've all had mentors or someone who went to bat for us in our lives. I owe much to many.

But no one put more on the line for me than Paul Freeman.

He died Friday at St. David's Hospital in Austin, Texas, his wife of 57 years, Carole, confirmed. His health began declining in October following years of dialysis. He was 79.

Our friendship began in the early 1970s when he was assigned to Helena as chief of bureau of the Associated Press. I was sports editor of the Billings Gazette, creeping up on age 30 and growing restless.

I don't recall the first time we met, but I'm certain adult beverages were involved. He had hired my friend Bill Winter, sports editor of the Bozeman Chronicle, and that worked out well for all parties. Bill went on to an exemplary career with The AP and served as the president and executive director of the American Press Institute for 16 years.



Paul Freeman

I was envious every time I saw Bill seated at the media bench on a nationally televised basketball game in Louisville or Cincinnati or his byline on an AP story.

Paul didn't need to give me the recruiting hard sell. AP legend Wick Temple had made a big impression on me during his COB stint in the mid-1960s. I wanted to be part of Team AP.

But a few weeks before my move to Helena, I changed my mind. I decided to put in one more year in Billings to determine whether I was making the right decision. In March of 1972 I went another direction: I gave in to the allure of back-packing through Europe with the idea I would figure out what I wanted to do next.

Last week, while working on my autobiography, I found an entry in my European diary dated Dec. 8, 1972. It was the last day of my 74 in Europe. I was doing a lot of soul-searching and had written Paul a letter, asking if the employment offer still stood. I hoped he had forgiven me for backing out the previous year.

Not long after I arrived back in Montana, I was in Helena, taking the test to join The AP.

While waiting to hear about my formal hiring by The AP, I took a temporary job of putting out the front page of the Helena Independent-Record. Days later, Paul came up to my desk and invited me to lunch. He informed me I had been accepted into The AP family. I was over the moon and called family and friends.

A week later, he was back at my desk and said, "Let's have lunch today." He didn't seem to be his usual jovial self.

During lunch on Helena's Main Street, Last Chance Gulch, he broke the news: The AP was rescinding the offer to hire me. I was devastated. Then he added another gut punch, "I've submitted my resignation." Why, I inquired. I wondered if a former employer had raised a red flag. He would fill me in in a few days, he said. He had been summoned to Denver to meet with a top AP executive Bob Johnson, who was going there on business and wanted to know what was behind the resignation.

Upon Paul's return from Denver, another lunch was set up. I expected to hear the revocation was final. Paul cleared his throat and said, "Well, I met with Bob Johnson and you have been rehired. And he told me to tear up my letter of resignation."

Paul never shared with me what was behind The AP's change of heart. Several weeks later, I was on my way to Cincinnati-AP, obsessed with proving to The AP they would not regret hiring me.

A couple years passed and an old friend with AP ties came to Cincinnati. I shared the story about the mystery of nearly having my AP career end before it started. Shocked, he said, "You were never told why?" No, I said. The story he heard was that the AP Personnel Department in New York had made the decision. Someone noticed on my job application that I was blind in one eye and raised reservations about liability issues. To this day, I'm not sure if Paul knew those details, but he didn't agree with the decision, and submitted his resignation on principle.

I'll never know what happened. What I do know is that by standing up for me Paul Freeman gave an aspiring journalist with a perceived disability a second chance to prove himself. I never forgot it. How could I? For someone to go to that length to support me, when I had no formal journalism training, was life changing.

I spent 12 years with The AP, working in Cincinnati (with Winter, who recommended me to Burl Osborne, COB at Columbus), San Diego and Los Angeles. I finished my AP career as coordinator of coverage of the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics.

I wasn't the only one Paul inspired.

Fellow Montanan Ellen Miller wrote on her Facebook page, "He hired me also back before the AP hired many women. Tough newsman with a marvelous sense of amusement about the scheme of things."

John Kuglin and I started at the Independent-Record around the same time. He was a political animal and I was into sports.

"I first met Paul when he was Helena COB and I was a copy editor for the Helena Independent Record," Kuglin said via email. "The IR was an afternoon newspaper. Before the paper went to bed, I had to go across the hall and get the 1 p.m. Helena temperature from the weather wire. I'd usually say hello to Paul, who would be in his small office. I always thought how great it would be to be Helena COB, the most important news job in the state. As they say: 'Be careful what you wish for.'"

Kuglin served 21 years as the COB of Helena-AP.

Remembering Paul Freeman - and a cannibalism trial

Bill Winter (Email) - As AP bureau chief in Helena, Montana, Paul Freeman gave me the most unusual assignment of my reporting career. That assignment involved coverage of the 1970 criminal proceedings against a charismatic but troubled young man named Stanley Dean Baker, a Wyoming native who had been charged with the slaying, decapitation, and dismemberment of a Montana social worker named Michael Dean Schlosser.

Baker and a friend of his, Harry Allen Stroup, had hitched a ride with Schlosser on a Friday afternoon in July, and the trio eventually camped along the Yellowstone River, just north of the entrance to Yellowstone Park. During the night Baker was awakened by a thunderous storm and, high on drugs, killed Schlosser, cut his heart out, and ate it. He also cut off one or more of his victim's fingers and carried them with him as he and Stroup headed for the West Coast in Schlosser's car. Shortly after arriving in California, Baker and Stroup were involved in a minor traffic accident in the Big Sur area. When a highway patrolman arrived to check out the accident, Baker approached him and calmly said, "I have a problem. I'm a cannibal."

Months later, after pleading guilty and being sentenced to life in prison, Baker testified at Stroup's murder trial in a courtroom in Livingston, Montana. I covered both Baker's pleading and the sensational Stroup trial that followed, and used a pay phone in the dimly lit courthouse safe to dictate my stories to Paul Freeman each day.

I recall Paul's unending enthusiasm for the coverage, and, in particular, his inability to restrain himself from inserting the phrase "Montana's cannibalism-tinged crime of the century" high in each story about the legal proceedings.

A couple of decades ago, I got a call from Paul, then living in Texas. "I was at a party the other night," he reported, "and a guy approached me and asked whether, in my time in Montana, I'd heard anything about a cannibalism trial there some years ago. I told him that, yes, I had. And the guy said, 'Well, I see that that cannibal guy was released from prison and now lives in, I think, Minnesota.'

"Bill," Paul said to me, "when I heard that, I headed straight for the finger foods. And I thought of you."

Paul was a terrific newsman, a collaborative and understanding boss, a loving family man. And he made many friends with that impish sense of humor.

As for Stanley Dean Baker? He died of cancer in Bemidji, Minnesota, in 1994.

I thought maybe you'd like to see this! Jerry had a great career at the AP before leaving for Cbs news when the AP Broadcast division moved to Washington DC. He worked for Roy and Jim Hood. A great writer. Poet. Humble, caring person..And great colleague and friend. He retired yesterday from cbs after 32 years.

Newly retired from CBS News, Jerry Cipriano recalls career at CBS, AP Broadcast



Jerry Cipriano honored during final segment of CBS broadcast Friday.

Jerry Cipriano ([Email](#)) - I retired Friday after 34 and a half years as a writer and editor at CBS News.

My journalism career began at The Associated Press in 1973. I was hired as a copyboy while studying journalism at Fordham University.

In my senior year, I passed the broadcast news writing test, and started filling in as a writer in the National Broadcast News department while still working as a copyboy. When I graduated, I was very fortunate to be hired as a fulltime writer.

In 1981, I was named day supervisor and was in charge of the national broadcast wire when President Reagan was shot. I put out the first F coded advisory saying, "We have a report from Washington (our AP Radio bureau) that shots have been fired at the President."

After the broadcast department moved to Washington in 1983, I was recruited by CBS News in New York to be a newswriter for network radio. I wrote hourly newscasts for such CBS News legends as Douglas Edwards, Charles Osgood and Richard C. Hottelet, the last of the Murrow Boys.



AP alums Pat Milton and Jerry Cipriano

November 1, 2000. It was the 200th anniversary of the opening of the White House, and CBS News was privileged to be allowed to anchor the Evening News from the White House. For a presidential history buff, it was an amazing experience.

The move to television came in 1986. I was writing for Osgood again, but this time his weekly television broadcast, the CBS Sunday Night News. Later that year, I began writing for the CBS Evening News with Dan Rather, and in 1981, I became the news editor of the broadcast.

The most memorable day was, of course, September 11, 2001. We were on the air continuously from 9 a.m. until 2 a.m. the next morning. I and my team of writers pumped out copy, non-stop for 17 hours. It was a similar schedule for the next three days.

My favorite day on the broadcast was November 1, 2000.

Over the years, I have written for seven Evening News anchors; Rather, Connie Chung, Bob Schieffer, Katie Couric, Scott Pelley, Anthony Mason and Jeff Glor. I have been on the broadcast longer than any of the anchors, including Walter Cronkite.

I have covered every presidential nominating convention since 1988, as well as every inauguration, election night, State of the Union Address and many presidential and vice presidential debates.

I have traveled with the broadcast to Cuba, Syria, Jordan and Iraq, where we did a week of programs from Baghdad at the height of the war in 2007. I covered the wedding of Prince William and Kate in London and was in St. Peter's Square when Pope Francis was elected.

I am most proud of a series called Fallen Heroes. I wrote more than 500 30-second profiles of U.S. service members killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each one ran at the end of the first section of a broadcast and the reaction from the audience and the families of those heroes was very gratifying.

One of those profiles led to an amazing outpouring of offers of help for the son of a fallen soldier. He and his father had been restoring a Camaro as a father and son project. Volunteers helped the young man finish the project in his father's honor, and that led to two followup stories on the Evening News.

I have been honored with a number of awards, including two Associated Press Broadcasters awards. One of them was for our national broadcast report on the 1981 inauguration of President Reagan and the release of the hostages held by Iran. In addition, I have received four Emmy Awards and a dozen Writers Guild of America Awards.

I was humbled to be honored by my CBS News colleagues Friday as they celebrated my career and said farewell. Putting on the CBS Evening News is a team effort, and it has been a privilege to work with so many talented and courageous journalists.

The Tiffany Network Loses Its Gemstone



Dan Rather takes a last-minute glance at his copy as Jerry Cipriano hovers. (CBS Photo)

Jim Hood ([Email](#)) - Great writing is great writing, whether it's a novel, newspaper story or broadcast copy. And no one I know is better at it than Jerry Cipriano, who retired last week after 25 or so years of making splendidly paid CBS News anchors sound like they were worth the money.

When the Broadcast News Desk set sail from New York to Washington in 1983, we sadly left Jerry behind. He and I shared an antipathy for D.C. but he had the temerity to act on his feelings and hung around 50 Rock doing this and that until he was taken aboard the much grander CBS News a short time later.

There he remained, moving the lips of such famous figures as Dan Rather, Bob Schieffer, and Katie Couric. But, not to stretch the metaphor unduly, the seas are rough everywhere these days and Jerry reluctantly decided that at age 64, it was time to go ashore for good. His mates gathered last Friday for a send-off dampened by the knowledge that Jerry would not be at his keyboard come Monday.

"Stakes are high and blows are low," Connie Chung intoned in an old political story, part of a video collection his CBS colleagues prepared.

"Anchors come and go but Jerry Cipriano endures," intoned Scott Pelley, one of the anchors hoisted and stowed on Jerry's tour as editor and chief writer of the CBS Evening News.

"The Mighty Mississippi, there isn't a dry eye in the word," was the lead in a story about disastrous Midwest flooding. "Charges of sexual harassment -- the judge pleads not guilty," said Rather as he mouthed Jerry's text about Senate hearings into the Supreme Court nomination of Clarence Thomas.

Then there was the one about a 16-story building felled for one reason or another. "Sixteen stories -- all with the same ending." A two-word opener the night violence broke out in Central America: "Panamanian pandemonium." The world chess championship? "Men over board."

Flipping the usual platitude about a picture being worth a thousand words, Pelley said, "It's the words that make the pictures come alive" as he extolled Jerry's wordsmithing abilities.

"His longevity was his as legendary as his skill," was how Bob Schieffer summed it up, while a senior producer chimed in to add that over the years Jerry had acquired his own acronym -- HWJWT. Translation: "How would Jerry write that?"

In between all the clever turns of phrase, the allusions, puns and pithy twists, of course, was the recognition that Jerry Cipriano was a rock-solid journalist and unshakeable editor who had remained calm and in charge during the many cataclysms, tragedies and outrages of the last quarter century, often updating and polishing the "newscast of record" until the last second.

As his onetime editor, I would of course like to take credit for all this but as the CBS farewell video documents, Jerry began applying to CBS News long before he came to work for the AP and it was always at the top of his navigation chart.

I'm glad we had the benefit of his talents as long as we did and am honored to have worked with him. He is the Bill Crider of broadcasting. And if you don't know who Bill

Crider was, you should.

Skeptics who think I have over-gilded the lily can view the CBS tribute by [clicking here](#).

Jerry Cipriano 'all about telling the truth'

Susan Zirinsky, senior executive editor, CBS News - The world of journalism is in a major shift. There are forces at play to derail the pursuit of truth. Jerry Cipriano is a silent warrior.

He doesn't call attention to himself - he doesn't seek the limelight - he is pure and honest and all about telling the truth. He understands the forces at play, and he totally understands that we have to hang onto the principals that have always guided us. Democracy can't survive without a free press.

Jerry's ability to cut thru the b.s. and tell people what they need to know is stunning. Jerry has held us our hand when we as a country found ourselves at the gates of hell. His prose comforted us as a nation when we needed it. He has survived many anchor men and women - and maintains the core goodness that makes journalists a breed unto themselves.

He will be missed. I'm missing him already."

Marian Torchia dies - never a staffer, but a big part of the AP and journalism



Marian Torchia and son Chris at the pyramids in 1974.

Chris Torchia (Email) - Marian Torchia, who died on Nov. 1 in Larnaca, Cyprus at the age of 87, was part of The Associated Press and journalism even if she didn't file or figure in a company headcount. My mother was married to former AP foreign correspondent Andrew Torchia, who retired in 1994 in Stockholm, a posting that

followed many years in Africa. I'm AP's bureau chief for southern Africa, based in Johannesburg. For a competitive touch, my brother Andrew (Jr.) is based in Dubai as a regional writer and editor for Reuters.

I wanted to mention my mother's death in this forum as a tribute to spouses, partners, family members and others who have put up with, and shared in the rewards of, and contributed to an often all-consuming career in the AP and journalism.

Here are a few anecdotes, the first two from my childhood and the last two from my mother's last days:



Over Christmas 2013, Marian poses outside a Johannesburg hospital, newspaper in hand.

My father, who turned 82 on Nov. 7, wrote a decade ago: "When I was in jail in Uganda in the mid-1970s, accused of being a spy, Marian telephoned the presidential palace and asked to speak to Idi Amin. 'You have my husband and I want him back.' The presidential spokesman said, 'Be patient.' A few days later, I was released and put on a plane to London."

In 1980, my family was watching a Superman movie in a downtown Nairobi cinema when we heard a boom or my father got a message on his beeper, or maybe both (my memory is hazy). A bomb had exploded at the Norfolk Hotel. We drove there. I remember fire, smoke, sirens, ambulances and shouting. A burly Kenyan policeman tried to push my father away from the chaotic scene as he talked to a witness. My mother, slender and a lot shorter than the officer, blocked the policeman's path and remonstrated with him, allowing my father to complete the interview.

On Oct. 17, my mother, my most unrelenting editor, sent me an email in which she questioned the style I had used for the name of a person in an AP story that I had written. One day later, she was in a hospital.

My mother, who was a big fan of the Connecting newsletter, was with her family of journalists at the end.

(Chris Torchia, AP's bureau chief for southern Africa, based in Johannesburg, has worked for AP since 1989, including postings in Albany, N.Y.; Boston; New York's international desk; Bogota, Colombia; Jakarta, Indonesia; Seoul, South Korea; Singapore; Istanbul; and Johannesburg. His mother was cremated in keeping with her wishes and a memorial will be held at a later date.)

The importance of trust in polling

By **LAUREN EASTON**

Speaking to technology industry executives at the Web Summit conference in Lisbon, Portugal, on Wednesday (November 7), Executive Editor Sally Buzbee addressed AP's election coverage, trust around polling and the accuracy of AP's new voter survey in telling the story of the U.S. midterm elections.



Sally Buzbee

Buzbee joined the conference remotely from Washington, the epicenter of AP's elections operations.

She made clear the need for accurate, fact-based journalism and political polling, especially in the aftermath of the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

"Journalists need to be driven by facts and data, not by their own sort of pre-assumptions of what's going to happen," she told the audience. "To me, that is one of the biggest challenges facing not just journalism, but certainly polling within the environment of journalism."

AP debuted its new VoteCast survey in Tuesday's midterms, surveying approximately 140,000 registered voters to deliver a broad and accurate picture of the American electorate. VoteCast is an alternative to the traditional, in-person exit poll, a method that no longer matches how Americans vote today.

"We threw research, we threw innovation, we threw the best statistical minds that we could find at this problem, figuring out a way to create a more accurate sort of Election Day polling, an alternative to exit polling, that will last for the next 20 or 30 years," Buzbee said. "And we're pretty happy with the results so far."

AP race callers declared winners in more than 6,000 races in Tuesday's elections. AP election coverage is available here.

[Click here](#) to view this story and to watch a replay of Buzbee's remarks.

Best of the Week

'They are human beings': AP produces deep worldwide count of missing, dead migrants



In the town of Ras Jabal, Bizerte, Tunisia, the father of Majdi Barhoumi holds photos of his son, April 12, 2018. Majdi left Ras Jebel in 2011, headed for Europe in a small boat with a dozen other migrants. The boat sank and Majdi Barhoumi hasn't been heard from since. As global migration has soared to record highs, far less visible has been its toll: The tens of thousands of people who die or simply disappear during their journeys, never to be seen again. AP Photo / Nariman El-Mofty

The idea was bold from its inception: Attempting to count dead and missing migrants worldwide. Paris enterprise writer Lori Hinnant noticed a lack of data after covering the outflow of refugees from the Islamic State takeover in parts of Iraq last year, and set off on a mission to count the uncountable.

AP's resulting team effort found 56,800 dead and missing migrants since 2014, almost double the number currently put out by the United Nations, which focuses heavily on Europe and nearly excludes several other areas of the world.

The yearlong effort to document lives that would otherwise go unnoticed proved extremely challenging, precisely because it was plowing such new ground. An AP team of more than a dozen people painstakingly compiled information that had never been put together before from international groups, forensic records, missing persons reports and death records, and went through data from thousands of interviews with migrants. Hinnant developed a database with advice from Angel Kastanis from the data team, going through entries individually to prevent double-counting as far as possible. The first few months of the project were spent finding gaps in the data and trying to think creatively about how to fill them accurately. The methodology evolved with an eye toward generating a real count of lives cut short or disappeared, rather than less ambitious estimates of the cost of migration.

The data came alive with individual stories of migrants, a challenge in itself. The team focused on stories from Tunisia, South Africa, Mexico, France and Colombia, and produced separate stories for four different regions - Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe - to give AP's clients flexibility. Istanbul visual journalist Bram Janssen and Cairo photographer Nariman El-Mofty did separate photo essays to capture different perspectives on the story, Janssen out of South Africa and El-Mofty out of Tunisia. Janssen also put together a separate video piece just on South Africa, where he found records for more than 4,300 migrants from 2014 to 2017 whose bodies lay unnamed in one province alone.

Anonymous migrants buried in South Africa from AP Enterprise and Investigations on Vimeo.

Digital producer Nat Castañeda organized presentations of the story both on APNews.com and the AP Images blog and built several video vignettes featuring Janssen's drone footage that allowed readers to dive deeper into the individual regions. Meanwhile, Global News and Enterprise Editor Raghu Vadarev, organized the work into a hub on APNews.

The project, relying on the breadth of the AP, also saw significant contributions from Jim Gomez, Mehdi El Arem, Niniek Karmini, Christine Armario, Peter Hamlin, Maria Verza, Ariana Cubillos, Kristen Gelineau, Lotfi Bouchouchi, Angeliki Kastanis and more. International Enterprise Editor Mary Rajkumar coordinated the project.

The project drew significant interest, despite the fact that it ran six days before the U.S. midterm elections. The International Organization for Migration called to find out more about how AP put together the database, and will use our information to update the UN numbers for missing and dead migrants. Poynter called the story "an audacious idea" with "a devastating result," while Hinnant did interviews with European media. On APNews, the story made the top 10 with nearly two minutes of reader engagement.

Brian Carovillano said the project combined "strong investigative reporting that breaks news with compelling characters, human drama and great visual elements. This is the kind of journalism that stands apart from the noise of the daily news cycle and gets people talking, and thinking."

For their ambitious project that established AP as a global authority on this issue, Hinnant, Janssen and El-Mofty share the Best of the Week award.

Best of the States

APNewsBreak: Iowa diocese covered up priest's abuse of 50 boys



Retired Catholic priest Jerome Coyle is shown in Albuquerque, N.M., Aug. 2010, in a photo provided by Reuben Ortiz. Ortiz had been housing Coyle, unaware that the priest had acknowledged in 1986 that he sexually abused some 50 Iowa boys over a 20-year period, a story recently revealed by The AP. Reuben Ortiz via AP

A source called Iowa City correspondent Ryan J. Foley with a tip: He had a shocking letter that he couldn't share in which the Catholic Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa, acknowledged a priest admitted in 1986 that he had abused 50 boys in Iowa over 20

years. The diocese acknowledged in the letter it was still trying to keep the matter secret.

The source gave Foley the name of a New Mexico attorney who might be able to help, and after several phone calls and emails, Foley persuaded the attorney to provide a copy of the letter.

The letter - addressed to a couple with young children who had taken the priest into their home after he was in a car accident - certainly was stunning, as the diocese admitted the Rev. Jerome Coyle reported his pedophilia in 1986 but was simply shuffled to New Mexico for treatment. The diocese also offered to pay Coyle \$600 more per month to keep him in New Mexico, warning that his desired return to Iowa would retraumatize his victims, now men aged 45 to 70.

Yet sources said he returned to Fort Dodge, Iowa, anyway and was being placed in a Catholic retirement home next to a K-12 school. Court records showed a search warrant had been served there days earlier.

Foley traveled to Fort Dodge with photographer Charlie Neibergall and, sure enough, found him there. The priest wouldn't talk, but the trip nevertheless proved worthwhile, providing confirmation of his whereabouts.

Besides Neibergall's photos of the retirement home, Foley obtained photos of the priest and an exclusive interview with the New Mexico father who had housed Coyle for months - unwittingly putting his own children at risk due to the church's secrecy.

The diocese confirmed Foley's story and acknowledged two adult victims had come forward in recent weeks with allegations against Coyle that would now be turned over to police. The 32-year coverup was over.

The reaction to Foley's story was quick, with Coyle removed from the home. Foley's report, used as the lead story by newspapers across the state, also led the Iowa attorney general's office to launch an inquiry into the matter, and it led the diocese to not only apologize for its errors in dealing with Coyle but to promise to identify all priests who have faced credible allegations.

In a statement, the diocese said it was taking this action due to the continuing investigations of "the AP reporter."

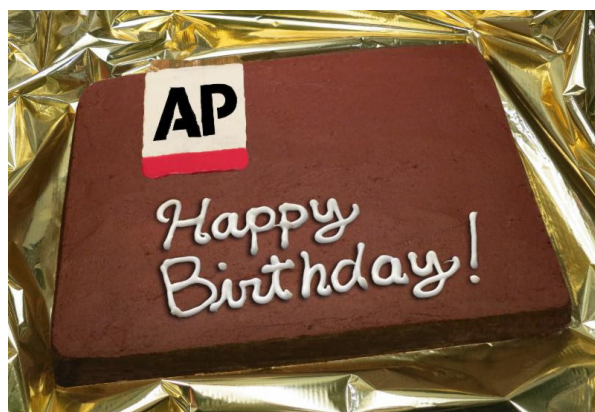
For breaking a story in vivid detail that had been kept hidden for decades, Foley wins this week's Best of the States award.

AP Photo of the Day



A firefighter battles a fire along the Ronald Reagan Freeway in Simi Valley, Calif., on Monday. Ringo H.W. Chiu/AP Photo

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Joe Galloway - jlgalloway2@yahoo.com

And a day late to...

Ray Bolch - wrbolch@verizon.net

John Milburn - John.Milburn@da.ks.gov

Lee Mitgang - mitgangl@msn.com

Stories of interest

Should the Press Boycott Trump? Political Strategists Weigh In (New York Times)

By Jim Rutenberg

The CNN chief Jeff Zucker gave his troops unexpected orders the day after President Trump snatched the press credential away from Jim Acosta, one of the network's White House correspondents.

The temptation to play it big was strong. Here was a CNN star in the middle of the action, and television news is nothing if not self-promotional. But at the regular morning meeting on Thursday, Mr. Zucker told his producers to stand down.

This time, CNN would not be led by the nose into giving significant airtime to another Trump attack on the news media, especially when Democrats were preparing to take over the House and Jeff Sessions was being forced out of the attorney general's office.

It was a first step toward a revised approach in dealing with the president's anti-media antics, which reached a new level last week when Mr. Trump went beyond mere rhetoric by taking away Mr. Acosta's White House press pass and threatening to do the same for anyone else who failed to show "respect."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

-0-

Bob Stinnett, photographer who captured 'The Play' at Cal in 1982, dies (San Francisco Chronicle)





By **SAM WHITING**

When the craziest finish in the history of college football unspooled at California Memorial Stadium in the fading light of Nov. 20, 1982, photographer Bob Stinnett was standing right where he needed to be, in the south end zone, as if he somehow knew what was coming.

Five laterals later, with the Stanford band on the field, Stinnett was able to distill the chaos into the single image that would define "The Play," as it came to be known. He snapped the instant Cal player Kevin Moen, after scoring the game-winning touchdown, raised the ball high over his head before bringing it down in a cluster of fleeing Stanford band members.

Picked up by the Associated Press and published in newspapers and magazines, it became the lasting image in the long career of Stinnett, who died Tuesday at a senior living facility in San Jose. The cause of death was the infirmity of old age, said his son, Jim Stinnett of San Francisco. He was 94.

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

-0-

Asking hard questions? It's what the press has always done (Nprth Port Sun)

'The fact that a man is a newspaper reporter is evidence of some flaw in character.'
- Lyndon Johnson "They are a sort of assassins ..." - John Quincy Adams "I look forward to these confrontations with the press to kind of balance up the nice and pleasant things that come to me as president." - Jimmy Carter "The president of the United States will not stand and be questioned like a chicken thief by men whose names he does not even know." - Herbert Hoover "I rarely think them worth reading, and almost never worth notice." - Thomas Jefferson "Those villainous reporters ..." - Abraham Lincoln "To hell with them." - Harry S. Truman Our topic du jour: What Journalists Do.

Consider it a public service for the benefit of Failed President Trump.

As he reminded us Wednesday in a characteristically bizarre news conference, he has not a clue.

First, CNN reporter Jim Acosta tried - Trump kept interrupting him - to ask about the propriety of designating a caravan of refugees an "invasion." But the rude president called Acosta rude for the questions he asked. Of course, the questions were tough, but entirely fair.

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

-0-

Marie Colvin dedicated her extraordinary life to describing 'What really happens in wars' (Intercept)

By CHARLES GLASS

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE of war reporter Marie Colvin would have merited a biography even if she had survived the Syrian army's bombardment of Homs in February 2012. Long before her fatal

trip into the city's rebel-held Baba Amr quarter, producers had proposed turning her life into an action-packed movie. It was only after her death that two films, a documentary and a drama, appeared. Now, Lindsey Hilsum has written the book "In Extremis: The Life and Death of the War Correspondent Marie Colvin," and it is one of the best biographies I have read about any journalist. Colvin's trajectory, personal as much as professional, was fascinating by any standard for the passion and turmoil that shadowed her from birth to untimely death. This is a great story, well told.



2008 photo/Bryan Adams

The controversy surrounding Colvin's death partially overshadowed her achievements in life. Her family, friends, and Syrian opposition believe that the Syrian government assassinated her by targeting the Homs Media Center, where she and other correspondents were sending vivid reports of civilian suffering. Yet countervailing narratives persist. One is that the insurgents put journalists in harm's way to create Western martyrs for their cause. Another is that Colvin and 28-year-old French photographer Rémi Ochlik were unlucky casualties of a military campaign that took thousands of civilian lives.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

Today in History - November 13, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 13, the 317th day of 2018. There are 48 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 13, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure lowering the minimum draft age from 21 to 18.

On this date:

In 1775, during the American Revolution, the Continental Army captured Montreal.

In 1789, Benjamin Franklin wrote in a letter to a friend, Jean-Baptiste Leroy: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

In 1909, 259 men and boys were killed when fire erupted inside a coal mine in Cherry, Illinois.

In 1956, the Supreme Court struck down laws calling for racial segregation on public buses.

In 1969, speaking in Des Moines, Iowa, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew accused network television news departments of bias and distortion, and urged viewers to lodge complaints.

In 1974, Karen Silkwood, a 28-year-old technician and union activist at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron plutonium plant near Crescent, Oklahoma, died in a car crash while on her way to meet a reporter.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

In 1985, some 23,000 residents of Armero, Colombia, died when a volcanic mudslide buried the city.

In 1994, Sweden voted in a non-binding referendum to join the European Union, which it did the following year.

In 2000, lawyers for George W. Bush failed to win a court order barring manual recounts of ballots in Florida. Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris announced she would end the recounting at 5 p.m. Eastern time the next day -- prompting an immediate appeal by lawyers for Al Gore.

In 2001, President George W. Bush approved the use of a special military tribunal that could put accused terrorists on trial faster and in greater secrecy than an ordinary criminal court. President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin met at the White House, where they pledged to slash Cold War-era nuclear arsenals by two-thirds.

In 2015, Islamic State militants carried out a set of coordinated attacks in Paris on the national stadium, restaurants and streets, and a crowded concert hall, killing 130 people in the worst attack on French soil since World War II.

Ten years ago: A wind-driven fire erupted in Southern California; the blaze destroyed more than 200 homes in Santa Barbara and neighboring Montecito. Investors did an abrupt turnaround on Wall Street, muscling the Dow Jones industrial average up more than 550 points after three straight days of selling. Colombian rocker Juanes (WAH'-neh-s) won five awards, including record of the year and album of the year, at the Latin Grammys in Houston. Cleveland's Cliff Lee won the American League Cy Young Award.

Five years ago: The Obama administration revealed that just 26,794 people had enrolled for health insurance during the first, flawed month of operations for the federal "Obamacare" website. (More than 79,000 others had signed up in the 14 states with their own websites.) Toronto Mayor Rob Ford admitted during a heated City Council meeting that he'd bought illegal drugs while in office, but he adamantly refused calls from councilors to step down and seek help. Clayton Kershaw of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Max Scherzer of the Detroit Tigers won baseball's Cy Young Awards. Former Raiders tight end Todd Christensen died during liver transplant surgery in Utah; he was 57.

One year ago: A second woman accused Alabama Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore of sexually assaulting her as a teenager in the late 1970s; Moore described the charge as "absolutely false" and a "political maneuver." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Moore should drop out of the race. (Moore went on to lose a special election to Democrat Doug Jones.) A North Korean soldier was shot several times by his comrades as he fled over the border to the South; he underwent surgery and recovered at a South Korean hospital. The Oakland Raiders broke ground on a 65,000-seat domed stadium in Las Vegas. The Food and Drug Administration approved the first drug with a sensor that alerts doctors when the medication has been taken. President Donald Trump picked former pharmaceutical executive Alex Azar to be his health secretary.

Today's Birthdays: Journalist-author Peter Arnett is 84. Actor Jimmy Hawkins is 77. Country singer-songwriter Ray Wylie Hubbard is 72. Actor Joe Mantegna is 71. Actress Sheila Frazier is 70. Musician Andrew Ranken (The Pogues) is 65. Actress Tracy Scoggins is 65. Actor Chris Noth (nonth) is 64. Actress-comedian Whoopi Goldberg is 63. Actor Rex Linn is 62. Actress Caroline Goodall is 59. Actor Neil Flynn is 58. Former NFL quarterback and College Football Hall of Famer Vinny Testaverde is 55. Rock musician Walter Kibby (Fishbone) is 54. Comedian and talk show host Jimmy Kimmel is 51. Actor Steve Zahn is 51. Actor Gerard Butler is 49. Writer-activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali is 49. Actor Jordan Bridges is 45. Actress Aisha Hinds is 43. Rock musician Nikolai Fraiture is 40. Former NBA All-Star Metta World Peace (formerly Ron Artest) is 39. Actress Monique Coleman is 38. Actor Rahul Kohli is 33. Actor Devon Bostick is 27.

Thought for Today: "If we like a man's dream, we call him a reformer; if we don't like his dream, we call him a crank." - William Dean Howells, American author (1837-1920).

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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