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# Connecting - November 16, 2018

1 message

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Fri, Nov 16, 2018 at 9:02 AM

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# Connecting

November 16, 2018

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AP Photos/Noah Berger



Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Our Connecting mailbox is full today - lots of responses to **Doug Richardson's** call for your favorite quotes - but the letter I like most is this one from **Michael Rubin** ([Email](#)) who writes:

*Just wanted to pass along major props to the AP folk covering the deadly wildfires in Butte County (Paradise) and Malibu. The reporting and writing have been exceptional, and consistently so. Our local papers have choices between AP, NYT and WP and the major primary stories, and most of the sidebars, have been AP.*

*We covered our share of fires in Los Angeles an eon ago, but never anything like this. If I wore a hat, I'd take it off and wave it.*

[Click here](#) for the latest AP roundup, which states that "at least 63 people are now dead from a Northern California wildfire, and officials say they have a missing persons list with 631 names on it in an ever-evolving accounting of the victims of the nation's deadliest wildfire in a century."

Connecting echoes his sentiments and extends thanks to all involved in this dangerous coverage.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

**Powerful AP images to go on view at UAE photo festival**



**This image of a missile streaking across the sky in Damascus, Syria, on April 14, 2018, is part of the AP exhibition at City Walk Dubai. (AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)**

Gripping AP photographs from major news events across the globe over the past year will be showcased next week in connection with the Xposure International Photography Festival in the United Arab Emirates.

Featuring impactful photos of key moments, people and places, the exhibition will be on display at City Walk Dubai from Nov. 21 to 25. Entrance is free and open to the public.

Images on view include a missile streaking across the sky in Damascus, Syria, as the U.S. attacked parts of the capital; the historic summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean Leader Kim Jong-Un; and the aftermath of the deadly earthquake and tsunami in Palu, Indonesia.

A selection of sports and entertainment photos will also be featured, such as highlights from the Pyeongchang Olympics and celebrity events including the British Academy Film Awards.

From the lighthearted to the momentous, the exhibition is intended to showcase world events that have shaped the last 12 months.

The Xposure International Photography Festival is an initiative of Sharjah Media Centre and will take place at Expo Centre Sharjah. AP is one of the event's strategic partners.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story.

## Quotes can make a story - some of your favorites from the reporting trail

**Michael Doan** ([Email](#)) - Sen. Barry Goldwater in 1968, still heady from a test ride of an F111 plane in Nevada, was critical of Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. I asked him why he didn't like McNamara. "McNamara is an ass," Goldwater said. The lead in the AP story referred to it as "a-."

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**Mike Harris** ([Email](#)) - From then Houston Oilers head coach Bum Phillips after his team won on a field goal in overtime during a Nor'easter at the old Cleveland Stadium - hard by Lake Erie. Insert Texas drawl: "You can't practice bein' miserable!" The quote was picked up for the next issue of Sports Illustrated.

After chasing actor Paul Newman for a one-on-one interview for several weeks while he was driving in the SCCA Trans-Am Series, I finally pinned him down in a motorhome during the Cleveland Grand Prix. He was hesitant at first, then warmed up as we talked. Although Newman rarely talked about acting or his family in public, he spoke about both during this interview. When I mentioned that there were people in racing who believed he could have been a very big star as a driver if he had started competing at a younger age, Newman grinned and said, "You know, I always wanted to be a great athlete. I hoped that I could be a great tennis player, but I'm too awkward. The only time I really feel like I'm graceful is when I'm dancing with (wife) Joanne. But that's because of her, not me."

Sitting at breakfast one morning with Mario Andretti at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, we had a very wide-ranging discussion about auto racing. He talked about his time in Formula One in the 70s when it seemed like drivers were getting killed just about every week. "During the pre-race drivers meeting I would look around the room and wonder who wasn't going to be around later that day." I asked him if he was every scared in a race car. "The only time I'm ever scared is when I lose control and the car is heading toward the wall and there's nothing I can do

about it," he said. ``At that point I think, `Man, this is going to hurt.' " Andretti only missed one race in his long career because of injury and that was in the 90s while driving in CART when he backed into the wall at Milwaukee and broke his collarbone. He missed one race.

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**Merrill Hartson (Email)** - There were a few outstanding quotes along the way as I traversed a host of beats in the 1980s. The one that sticks in my craw, and at the time also gave some superiors indigestion, came from then-United Mine Workers of America president Sam Church, a barrel-chested and portly labor leader known for, among other things, getting into a fistfight one time outside UMWA headquarters across from McPherson Square in Washington. It was 1982, and the union had been on strike for what seemed like forever against the Bituminous Coal Association. On a rainy Friday afternoon, and with reporters and television crews poised to pounce in a hallway at the Madison Hotel, Church burst from the behind-closed-doors negotiations to proclaim the UMWA had reached a settlement with the industry. "We kicked some damn ass," he exclaimed, to the consternation of management figures who had emerged at the same time. I put the quote in the second paragraph, but it caused a wrangle at the desk and with superiors over whether AP could say "ass" on the wire. In a fit of impatience over the delay in getting something out after the single-paragraph bulletin had moved, I somewhat sarcastically said to use it and that if anyone complained, "Just say the word 'ass' is a noun" in this case referring to a beast of burden. I can remember a time at AP where even the use of 'damn' might have caused oversight constipation.

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**Mike Holmes (Email)** - I started with the AP in Des Moines, where I was assigned to cover the Legislature alongside veteran AP statehouse reporter Bill Eberline. Bill taught me to keep a list of goofy quotes you'd hear but couldn't use during endless hours of House and Senate debates. We would save them for a Sunday story at the end of the annual legislative session. Out of context, they became even funnier, and the story always got great play from Iowa members.

My favorite, which led our roundup one year, came from a farmer-representative who had grown tired of a multi-day tax debate and chided his fellow lawmakers with this:

"There's been a lot of flannel-mouth smooth-talking going on here."

To this day, I have no idea what he meant.

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**Mark Huffman (Email)** - In the early 80s, I attended an AP Broadcasters meeting in Oklahoma City where John Henry Faulk was the featured speaker. Faulk had a show on WCBS radio in the 1950s but was blacklisted in the McCarthy era. He was a colorful character and I had a lively conversation with him at the pre-dinner cocktail party.

Fast forward to the late 1980s and I'm doing freelance newscasts on the Mutual network. The story crossed the wire that the infamous Roy Cohn, a McCarthy associate, had died. The desk had no idea who to call for reaction. I suggested Faulk and a young producer dutifully tracked him down at his home in Texas. When informed of Cohn's death and asked if he had any reaction, John Henry paused for a moment then said: "Roy Cohn was a son of a bitch and I'm glad he's dead!" We didn't use the quote but today I'm sure we would have.

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**Bruce Lowitt (Email)** - In November 1989 I interviewed Dock Ellis, the 44-year-old retired major-league pitcher who had been signed as pitching coach and occasional relief pitcher for the St. Petersburg Pelicans of the short-lived Senior Professional Baseball Association. The conversation turned to his well-known history of drug and alcohol addiction - and he said he would do it all again. As he began to talk about it, his eyes were wide, the excitement and passion dancing in them:

"If my life didn't go this way, I wouldn't be the person I am today. I don't regret nothin' I did. If I had to do it over, I'd do it the same damn way.

"I loved it. You don't understand what it's like.

"I loved it. I loved the feeling. The more I had, the more I wanted to do.

"I loved it. Some alcoholics say they didn't like the taste. I loved the taste of alcohol.

"I loved it. I loved the drip of cocaine down my nose. I loved it.

"I loved the way it tasted. I loved the way it made me feel. I loved the way it made me have dry mouth.

"I loved it. I loved to wake up in the morning and be dry-heaving over the toilet bowl, just hugging the bowl. I loved to be on the cold floor, naked. I loved the feeling.

"I loved it. I loved the feeling of being high. I loved the shakes. I knew if I did a lot of cocaine and Courvoisier that the next morning I could squat down like I never

squatted before and hug that toilet bowl and yellow s--- come out of my mouth. And lay down on the cold floor, get buck-naked, and feel that cold. I loved that."

Dock Ellis died of cirrhosis of the liver Dec. 19, 2008 at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center. He was 63.

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**Charles Richards** ([Email](#)) - In the "Best Quote I Ever Had" category, I was covering a Muhammad Ali press conference in New York City in 1969, when I was a 28-year-old UPI sports writer.

Ali was known for having a poem about his boxing opponents. I asked if he had a poem about then-heavyweight champion "Smoking" Joe Frazier.

A big smile crossed his face.

"Ol' Joe's gonna come out smokin', but I ain't gonna be jokin'," Ali said. "I'll be jabbin' and pokin', pourin' water on his smokin'. It will shock and amaze you, to see the destruction of poor Frazier!"

More than 49 years have passed, but Ali's answer remains as fresh in my memory as yesterday!

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**Mort Rosenblum** ([Email](#)) - Fidel Castro came to Burgundy in the '90s to visit a French poultry king who was doing a deal in Cuba. I figured it was because he loved Chablis. It was just when a wave of Cubans was heading for Florida on rafts. I waited for him to finish a three-hour lunch. When he staggered out, I yelled, "Comandante" over the heads of his Cuban and French security dudes. He bulled his way toward me, knocking aside the guard, and gave me a bear hug. I asked when he would visit the United States. He replied, "Mira, quizás voy en balsa." Listen, maybe I'll go on a raft.

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**Ed Tobias (Email)** - In July, 1986, after Ronald Reagan decided not to impose sanctions on South Africa for its apartheid policies, I reached Bishop Desmond Tutu on the telephone.

"Your president is the pits as far as blacks are concerned," Tutu told me as I recorded our conversation for AP Radio.

That quote was widely used, including by the NY Times, and the front page of the NY Daily News shouted "Tutu: Reagan's 'the pits!'"

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**Dave Tomlin (Email)** - KKK grand dragon in Ohio commenting on some cross burnings:

"We don't burn crosses," he said. "We illuminate them."

## More from the Connecting mailbox

### *It is Jim Acosta this time, but who will be next?*

**David Morris (Email)** - With respect, and from the perspective of a former White House reporter, I disagree with Joe McGowan's view that Jim Acosta deserved to lose his White House credentials. It's Jim Acosta this time, but who will be next if this action is allowed to stand?

Is Acosta a showboat? In my view, absolutely. Could he have handled the situation differently? Certainly. But that doesn't justify seizing his credentials.

While there was contact between Acosta and the intern, the undoctored video suggests it was inadvertent. And Acosta did immediately apologize.

I'm proud to stand with Jim Acosta on this. And I'm equally proud that the AP and others (including Fox News) are standing with him as well.

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## ***Bill Crider was a newsman's newsman***

**Gene Herrick** ([Email](#)) - Bill Crider, the newsman's newsman, was tall, handsome, and laid back about as far as one could be.

His writing spoke for itself. I guess he could write a typical newspaper lead, but without trying Bill could whip out a yarn that was different, and meaningful.

I first met Crider when I was transferred to Memphis in 1949. We covered many a story together, especially an ongoing one about a little girl, Mary Lou Marbary (spelling), who had cancer in her right hand. It was Christmas time, and the running story got a lot of use nation-wide, as did the pictures I took.

Things went well until Christmas-eve, when Crider's lead said something like, "All Betty Lou Marbary wants for Christmas is a good right hand." New York killed the lead, and had another sent in its place.

In August of 1950, I was covering a flood in eastern Arkansas. I was in a boat with rescuers, trying to save a family on a roof, plus their cow, when an elderly gentleman waved from the little dry road about 100-yards away. He asked if my name was Herrick, and when I said yes, he informed me I had a telephone call from my office (Memphis). I got back to shore and bummed a ride up to a tiny grocery store in the middle of sparsely settled Eastern Arkansas. Calling the office, Crider said, "Come on home. You are going to Korea as a war correspondent!" I said I had a flood to cover. Crider said get on back here right away.

Crider always had his tie loosened and askew, and smoking a cigarette. One night, returning from assignment, I jokingly, and without a smile, asked him how one spells cat. He answered, but I again questioned C-A-T.

We discussed this for a while - all straight faced because he thought I was serious, and then he looked it up in the dictionary! "SEE," he said.. Another story about Crider came from New Orleans, when New York questioned one of his leads about a baby having a look of apprehension. Bill responded that as a father of a lot of children, he knows about looks of apprehension.

There is, was, only one Bill Crider. I miss him.

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## ***The angst those CRTs caused***

**Hal Bock** ([Email](#)) - CRTs caused much angst in NY Sports where some of the company's best sportswriters labored.

Track writer Bert Rosenthal's solution to a stalled screen was to head-slap the console, as if he was a defensive lineman attacking a quarterback. Rarely worked but it relieved his tension for the moment.

I once lost a 2,000-word story when the screen helpfully reported ``file not found." Being calmer than my friend, Bert, I called the help desk and a bright young man arrived to attempt a rescue. After a minute or two he reported the bad news ``It's gone," he said. My calm nature began to evaporate and I started cursing the machine. The help desk helper tried to calm me.

``Look, look what it can do," he said in a high-pitched voice, pointing to the clock on the bottom of the screen.

``See that thing on the wall?" I replied. ``That's a clock. It tells me the time whenever I look at it. I don't need this piece of #\$\$%^ to do that." Now get the @\$%^ out of here."

And then I set about rewriting my story.

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## ***Did those story-zapping CRTs improve our writing?***

**Tom Kent** ([Email](#)) - Hal Spencer's painful tale of stories disappearing from Delta Data screens reminds me of the experience we had with them in the Moscow bureau. Ours didn't come with the "Mouse" mainframes that domestic Delta Datas were connected to. The output from our screens simply went to a teletype that punched paper tape.

With no Mouse, there was no computer memory to save our stories to in case of static disaster. All we could do was make backup printouts as we worked, and too often we forgot to do that.

Rewriting entire stories after they vanished was bad enough. Even worse was the realization that when we recreated zapped stories in a blaze of anger and panic, they were always shorter, and more to the point, than the originals we'd been so enraged to lose.

Perhaps the screens should have been programmed to wipe out every story upon completion. The report would have been slower, but better.

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***More on newspapers in art***



**Len Iwanski (Email)** - This is one of my favorite art works dealing with newspapering. I've used it as a cover photo for my Facebook profile page.

The young man in the center of a crowd in Richard Caton Woodville's "War News From Mexico" (1848) holds open a newspaper with his elbows up, but the paper is low enough that we can see the astonished look on his face. Judging from the ebullient posturing of the figures surrounding the young man, the news is good.

Richard Caton Woodville, "War News from Mexico," 1848, oil on canvas, 68.6 × 63.5 cm (Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas)

And...



I enjoyed Gary Gentile's contribution Thursday, a photo of the newsboy statue in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. I live in Helena, Montana, and our Downtown Walking Mall has its own newsboy statue. This description is from the Independent Record newspaper of July 30, 2014:

With his sleeves rolled up and his head topped with a classic newsboy cap, this Helena icon is frozen mid-shout, proclaiming the day's headline "Capital City Prospers" to passersby. Sculpted by Becky Eiker in 1998 and installed in July 1999, the bronze sculpture was created as "A tribute to the faithful newsboys who sold their papers on these street corners, bringing the latest news to the people of Helena," a commemorative plaque at his feet reads.

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**Bruce Buchanan (Email)** - This photo shows a statue in a commercial plaza in Sydney. I took the photos on a summer trip to Australia.

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## ***Remembering first job as 9-year-old news carrier***

**Jim Limbach (Email)** - I got my first job as a news carrier when I was 9 years old.

I delivered a tabloid called "The Spectator" out of Joliet, Ill., a rag with headlines that usually read, "Young Hoods Rape Woman," (What does rape mean, mom?) and delivered to every home whether the occupant paid the 25-cent monthly subscription price or not.

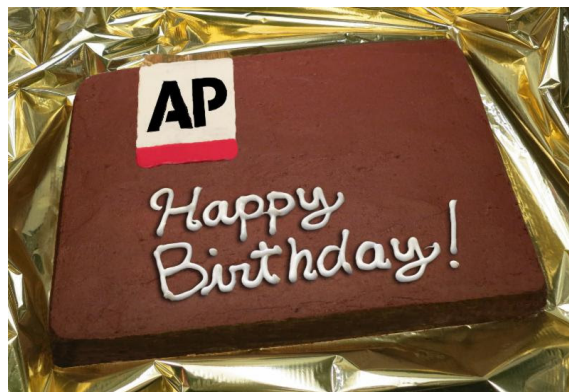
Next came the Chicago Herald-American and the Chicago Daily News in the afternoon, followed a few years later by morning routes for the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun-Times.

Papers were carried in cloth bags inserted into enormous metal baskets on the front of a bicycle and delivered no matter the weather. And God help the carrier who failed to hit the front stoop.

These days, papers that still have printed editions are delivered by adults in cars whose main objective seems to be placing the paper in the most obscure location.

Jim Limbach (geezeing for the good old days)

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



*On Saturday to...*

**Robert Dobkin - [robertd357@yahoo.com](mailto:robertd357@yahoo.com)**

*On Sunday to...*

**Dan Shelley - [dan\\_shelley@yahoo.com](mailto:dan_shelley@yahoo.com)**



# Stories of interest

## ***Broken trust at the Houston Chronicle*** (CJR)

By Alexandria Neason

IN SEPTEMBER, NANCY BARNES-THE OUTGOING executive editor of the Houston Chronicle, who is headed to NPR-informed readers of serious concerns regarding the work of a veteran statehouse reporter, Mike Ward, who arrived at the paper in 2014 from the Austin American-Statesman. Ward was flagged by a colleague over concerns about whether the sources quoted in his stories were real people. Barnes ordered a review. The researchers on the case couldn't find a number of people cited in Ward's recent stories; when Barnes asked Ward for his notes, he said they'd been destroyed. Barnes escalated the investigation, hiring David Wood, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 2012 as a correspondent for HuffPost, to conduct an independent search. The results of that examination, which lasted two-months, were published by the Chronicle on November 8. They were not pretty.

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

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## ***Opinion: 'Nationalist' Arises, With Myriad Connotations, As The Word Of 2018*** (NPR)

By GEOFF NUNBERG

President Trump has a penchant for breathing new life into expressions with troubled pasts, like "America first" and "enemy of the people." It's not likely his uses of those phrases will survive his presidency. But he may have altered the political lexicon more enduringly at a Houston rally two weeks before the elections, when he proclaimed himself a "nationalist" and urged his supporters to use the word.

Given Trump's policies on immigration, trade and foreign relations, future historians may very well label him a nationalist, like a number of presidents before him. But no sitting president before now has ever described himself with that term.

After he left office, Theodore Roosevelt did campaign briefly for strengthening the national government under what he called "the New Nationalism," with an eight-hour workday, an inheritance tax and a ban on the sale of public lands.

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

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## ***This Is the Time Vietnam Needs Committed, Ethical Journalists the Most*** (New America)

**By Hoa Nguyen**

Recently, as on most of my Sunday mornings, I reluctantly woke up to the buzzing of my phone. It was my mom. On the other side of the globe, in Hanoi, it was already Sunday evening. After our usual chit chat about work and weather, she revisited our standing conversation about my future, now that I'm fresh out of college and spending a year working in Washington, D.C.

"So, you're still applying to graduate school this year, right? To study ... what'd you call it ... investigative journalism?" she said to me in Vietnamese. "Yes, Mom," I responded, at this point in autopilot mode. Every time she calls, I know exactly why she has to hear me say over and over again that I still want to pursue journalism.

For aspiring writers in Vietnam, now is one of the worst times to become a journalist-our country virtually has no free press. And yet, with each of these conversations with my mom, it becomes increasingly clear that, as dangerous as it is to practice journalism, it's also detrimental to society as a whole if the public, rather than advocating for journalists, backs away from the conversation.

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

## **Today in History - November 16, 2018**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Nov. 16, the 320th day of 2018. There are 45 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 16, 1933, the United States and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations.

### On this date:

In 1776, British troops captured Fort Mifflin in New York during the American Revolution.

In 1907, Oklahoma became the 46th state of the union.

In 1914, the newly created Federal Reserve Banks opened in 12 cities.

In 1939, mob boss Al Capone, ill with syphilis, was released from prison after serving 7 1/2 years for tax evasion and failure to file tax returns.

In 1959, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The Sound of Music" opened on Broadway.

In 1961, House Speaker Samuel T. Rayburn died in Bonham, Texas, having served as speaker since 1940 except for two terms.

In 1966, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard was acquitted in Cleveland at his second trial of murdering his pregnant wife, Marilyn, in 1954.

In 1973, Skylab 4, carrying a crew of three astronauts, was launched from Cape Canaveral on an 84-day mission.

In 1981, actor William Holden was found dead in his apartment in Santa Monica, California; he was 63.

In 1982, an agreement was announced in the 57th day of a strike by National Football League players.

In 1997, China's most prominent pro-democracy campaigner, Wei Jingsheng (way jeeng-shuhng), arrived in the United States after being released following nearly 18 years of imprisonment in his country.

In 2006, Democrats embraced Nancy Pelosi as the first woman House speaker in history, but then selected Steny Hoyer as majority leader against her wishes.

Ten years ago: Iraq's Cabinet overwhelmingly approved a security pact with the United States calling for American forces to remain in the country until 2012. Space shuttle Endeavour linked up with the international space station. The Pittsburgh Steelers rallied to beat the San Diego Chargers 11-10, the first such final score in NFL history.

Five years ago: In his weekly Saturday radio and Internet address, President Barack Obama said improved energy efficiency and higher energy production in the United States were yielding environmental and economic benefits that were helping ensure cleaner air and a more competitive business landscape.

One year ago: Minnesota Democratic Sen. Al Franken became the first member of Congress to be caught up in a wave of allegations of sexual abuse and inappropriate behavior, after a Los Angeles radio anchor accused him of forcibly kissing her and groping her during a 2006 USO tour. The federal bribery trial of Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey ended with the jury hopelessly deadlocked on all charges. (Federal prosecutors decided in January not to retry him.) Jose Altuve of the World Champion Houston Astros won the American League Most Valuable Player award; Giancarlo Stanton of the Marlins was the winner in the

National League. At the Latin Grammy Awards in Las Vegas, several artists dedicated their performances and awards to Puerto Rico as the island struggled to recover from Hurricane Maria.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clu Gulager is 90. Journalist Elizabeth Drew is 83. Blues musician W.C. Clark is 79. Actress Joanna Pettet is 76. Actor Steve Railsback is 73. Actor David Leisure is 68. Actor Miguel Sandoval is 67. Actress Marg Helgenberger is 60. Rock musician Mani is 56. Country singer-musician Keith Burns (Trick Pony) is 55. Former pro tennis player Zina Garrison is 55. Former MLB All-Star pitcher Dwight Gooden is 54. Jazz singer Diana Krall is 54. Actor Harry Lennix is 54. Rock musician Dave Kushner (Velvet Revolver) is 52. Actress Lisa Bonet (boh-NAY') is 51. Actress Tammy Lauren is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bryan Abrams (Color Me Badd) is 49. Actress Martha Plimpton is 48. Actor Michael Irby is 46. Actress Missi Pyle is 46. Rock musician Corey McCormick (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 42. Olympic gold medal figure skater Oksana Baiul (ahk-SAH'-nah by-OOL') is 41. Actress Maggie Gyllenhaal (JIHL'-ehn-hahl) is 41. Pop singer Trevor Penick is 39. Former NBA player Amare Stoudemire is 36. Actress Kimberly J. Brown is 34. Rock singer Siva Kaneshwaran (The Wanted) is 30. Actor-comedian Pete Davidson (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 25. Actor Casey Moss is 25. Actor Noah Gray-Cabey is 23.

**Thought for Today: "History is a gallery of pictures in which there are few originals and many copies." - Alexis de Tocqueville, French historian (1805-1859).**

## 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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