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Connecting - December 03, 2018

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Connecting

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In this Nov. 10, 2007, file photo provided by the U.S. Army Golden Knights, former President George H.W. Bush free falls with Golden Knights parachute team member Sgt. 1st Class Mike Elliott, as he makes a dramatic entrance to his presidential museum during a rededication ceremony in College Station, Texas. Bush died at the age of 94 on Friday, Nov. 30, 2018, about eight months after the death of his wife, Barbara Bush. U.S. ARMY VIA AP, FILE SGT. 1ST CLASS KEVIN MCDANIEL

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning - and Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish colleagues!

Some of you covered **George H.W. Bush** before, during and after his four years as the nation's 41st president.

We share our colleagues' memories of Bush, who died Friday, in today's edition of Connecting and encourage you to send along your own memories if you wish.

I should note that the breaking lead story on Bush's death carried the byline of recently retired AP Houston journalist **Mike Graczyk** - who covered Bush for years. Graczyk, a Connecting colleague, retired from the AP in July 2018 after a 45-year career.

We lead today's issue with a Connecting Profile of **Larry Laughlin**, who retired from the AP in 2009 after a 33-year career highlighted by chief of bureau duties in Concord, New Hampshire.

After retirement, he continued his work with the 1st Amendment Coalition. He acted as founder, director, and NEFAC Report Editor from 2006-2013. He also worked as a tutor and special needs assistant at Concord High School.

Larry, a friend to many of us, was diagnosed in 2013 with Parkinson's Disease. Since that time he has been finding ways to stay active and continue doing the things he enjoys. Lately he has been spending time at home with family and friends. He still reads, of course, and is involved with a book club. He has recently taken up boxing.

Our condolences go out to colleague **Mark Mittelstadt** on the loss of his father. Mark, a frequent contributor to Connecting, shares thoughts of his dad in today's issue.

Finally, what better way to start the week than knowing that one of our colleagues is praying for us.

Sister Donalda Kehoe ([Email](#)), a member of the Sisters of St. Francis in Dubuque, Iowa, wrote last week to say:

"You, Paul, came to mind during morning prayer! We, as Women of the Church, known as women religious, take on a welcome obligation to pray FOR the church and IN THE NAME of the church, both. This morning during morning prayer, these were among the Intercessory prayers being prayed by Franciscan Sisters:

For poets - may they help us see the beauty all around us.

For those who work in media and for all publishers - may they understand their responsibility to be committed to truth and to the well-being of the people.

For cooks and dietitians - may they delight in bringing the fruits of the earth to our tables.

Just thought you might like to know where you stand in the eyes of those who create our prayers and that you reporters are remembered in prayer.

Have a great week!

Paul

Connecting profile

Larry Laughlin



Larry Laughlin with his wife Cheryl in Philadelphia in 2017

Q: How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you?

A: One thing led to another and I had a job offer [from Joe McGowan] which I gladly took and went from the [Taunton] Gazette to the AP in Boston. Somehow we began a conversation of would you like to come work for me and I did and I went to work for him for a couple of years.

**Q: What were your first days like?**

A: You were always in a position of learning something new. Whether how the equipment worked or what your relations were with the members of the newspapers and television newsmen and everybody that worked for the AP. Everybody worked from the same basic playbook. I made a lot of good friends there.

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

A: First I was a staffer in the Boston bureau. Boston was the parent bureau over most of the bureaus in New England. When you got in there most of it was mundane stuff. You made up work schedules for people so you always had the bureau covered perfectly. Then I was moved up to a correspondence (in Providence). I remained in Road Island for five or six years and went through a lot of interesting things. In the Richmond bureau, I was the news editor. It was the same kind of work that you were doing. You had to make the decisions in the right way. The next step was I became a bureau chief in Concord, New Hampshire.

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

A: There's several people. I wouldn't want to leave them out. Those that offered me full time staffer jobs, like Joe McGowan. I cite him as the biggest figure in the past. Too many to mention because there's so many people. Several people demonstrated by their actions what you had to do to be successful. A lot of it just sounds like obvious stuff. You had to show up for work. You had to bring intelligence to your job. You have to bring some ability to change your mind if you found out you were wrong. And you had to have a strong relationship with other people in the bureau. Everybody seemed to be working toward the same goal so it wasn't too hard to do the right thing. I had several people that were really crucial to my career and obviously felt I could do more than I was doing when I was doing it and brought me up to another step and then another step. More to do and more authority and

more need to do things correctly and to be reasonably smart about dealing with people.



With Concord bureau staff in 2013: Left to right: Joe Magruder, Norma Love, Jim Cole, Rik Stevens, Larry Laughlin, Michele Mitchell, Kathy McCormack, David Tirrell-Wysocki. I'm not sure of the year.

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

A: You couldn't do it all over again because you wouldn't know if you were making the right moves or making mistakes when you were doing these things. No regrets.

Q: What's your favorite hobby or activity?

A: Reading.

Q: What is your favorite city?

A: Probably Boston. It's a great city. Lots of history. Great heritage. It's where this country was born really. You get a lot for your money in Boston.

Q: What was the most interesting story you covered?

A: I guess the Claus von Bülow trial. Claus von Bülow was a guy who was convicted of killing his wife. The trial of that was in Newport, Road Island. It was all I did for three weeks or so with other people coming in and helping too. Claus von Bülow had a German accent. He was a very aristocratic sort of guy. It was nationally entertaining and it was on for three or four weeks. I covered every day for a long time. It was while I was a correspondent in Providence.



Larry (left) with colleagues Joe Magruder and David Tirrell-Wysocki in 2009.

Q: What advice would you give a journalist just starting out?

A: All the things we've been talking about with me and my friends and people I've worked with. I'd want to get that across to people and how serious it is to get it right and get the right people and get what they're saying right. Because you could be sending someone away to prison for years if you're not careful. Because everybody says they're innocent and sometimes they are and it's a heavy load on you if somebody's sitting in a prison cell because of what you tell the world about them. So if you're in the AP, like a lot of other organizations, you're very careful about what you're doing because you don't want to screw it up. It's a heavy responsibility when you sit down and start to think about it.

Q: Any other thoughts?

A: The AP is a great organization. It really is playing no games trying to get the news out as fast as we can get it out and being honest and correct. Almost like a religious organization, it was interested in doing things right, not hurting people.



With family at Red Sox game. Left to right: Travis, Cheryl, Larry, Jason, Matthew. 2008

On Larry's family:

Cheryl, his wife, teaches piano. Jason, his oldest son, is a reporter for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Matthew, his second oldest, is a professional cellist and caretaker in Iowa City. Travis, his youngest son, is a violinist and actor in Los Angeles.)

Larry Laughlin's email is - lmlaughlin@gmail.com

George H.W. Bush: Remembered by those who covered him

Walter Mears ([Email](#)) - I personally liked and often admired (George H.W.) Bush. But he had a tendency to overstate and to go too far in trying to please and placate rivals and opponents, especially those on the right, who never forgave him for not being Ronald Reagan. That trait led him from practical and pragmatic to the read my lips kind of bluster for which he paid in his last, losing campaign. It also led him to reversing positions on too many issues in an era when that was damaging. Today's politicians do it all the time and don't pay much of a political price. Bush never had the built-in base of some other candidates - and nothing to remotely compare with

the Donald Trump cadre. Or for that matter the Ronald Reagan fans who still regard him as the great tax cutter although on balance, his governments raised more than they cut.

I thought one of George W's mistakes was when he made a point of announcing that he didn't go to his father for advice. Especially on foreign policy, which was George H.W.'s strength

George H.W. Bush was a good man, well-motivated, generous and above all patriotic, I wish we had people like him in political leadership now.

[Click here](#) for a story Walter Mears wrote for the AP wire, headlined: "George H.W. Bush: Great on experience, not as communicator", which led:

WASHINGTON (AP) - George Bush was a man with a matchless resume - combat pilot, diplomat, vice president, then president of the United States - but great communicator was not on the list. That was Ronald Reagan.

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Rita Beamish ([Email](#)) - George H.W. Bush, a humble leader who understood what patriotism and service meant, and lived those values. All of us who covered him saw his humanity, including his celebration of volunteerism, and the way he treated regular folk: in the photo at right, he is absolutely thrilling my dad on meeting him and conversing, like an old pal, at a White House Christmas party. RIP.

From a reporter's standpoint, Bush knew that we had a job to do and even when he disdained some of the coverage, especially on things like Iran Contra or the faltering re-election campaign that ended with his defeat, he was respectful of our role. He liked to laugh and joke around, and was comfortable revealing himself and his goofy humor. One of the things I noticed early on was that you could never ask a question about a situation in another country without him being able to come up with the name of the foreign minister or head of state in that nation, with full knowledge of its geopolitics - that particular trait was in dramatic contrast to others who would seek the office, not least his son George W.





[Click here](#) for a story Rita Beamish wrote for the San Francisco Chronicle, where she works, that was headlined: "George H.W. Bush: What we've lost with the 41st president's passing." It begins:

George H.W. Bush was not a made-for-TV president, especially alongside his predecessor, professional actor Ronald Reagan. He could seem stern, finger-wagging, tinny. So I was surprised when I first met him - as an Associated Press reporter on the tarmac boarding his campaign plane - that in person he was gregarious and approachable. Thoughtful, energetic and genial, he brimmed with the drive that had propelled him through numerous leadership roles, positioning him as Day-One-ready for the White House.

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Chris Connell ([Email](#)) - When George Herbert Walker Bush took the oath of office at noon on a cloudy Jan. 20, 1989, I stood 125 feet away and 10 rows up, scribbling notes on a legal pad as the sole print pool reporter on the U.S. Capitol balcony. Four years to the day later, I rode in the press van in President Bush's final White House motorcade as he and Bill Clinton drove to the Capitol for his successor's swearing-in. That was my last day, too, in the White House press corps for the Associated Press.

Every one of us has indelible memories of those years and our encounters with a remarkable man. His successes and failures are well chronicled. What I wish to share are lighter memories that speak to the man.

All the music at the White House echoes in my ears a quarter century later. This son of a Whiffenpoof couldn't carry a tune in a bucket - if a mike was inadvertently open, it was painful to hear him croon the Star Spangled Banner - but he loved his music, country most of all, including Randy Travis, the Oak Ridge Boys and George Strait. Gloria Estefan, Harry Connick Jr., and Johnny Mathis all performed in the East Room after state dinners, as well as Leontyne Price, Itzhak Perlman and the Boys Choir of Harlem. They loved Broadway musicals, too, and had the cast of *Forever Plaid*, the preppy musical show, perform twice, once at the White House and again under a tent in Kennebunkport for Britain's prime minister.

George wasn't a dancer, either. The Andover senior and 16-year-old Barbara Pierce sat out most of the dances at the country club Christmas dance in Greenwich, Connecticut, where they met. That didn't deter the first couple from taking a twirl at every inaugural ball that night, she in her blue gown and he in his tux. There were at least eight balls and maybe more, and remarkably, speaking off the cuff, he never said exactly the same words twice, but personalized it for each audience. By night's end, everybody in his retinue - aides, agents, the press poolers - was dragging, but George seemed ready for more.

And there was one more the next night: an all-star rhythm and blues concert that his campaign strategist and bluesman himself Lee Atwater pulled together for a throng of young Republicans. The lineup featured Bo Diddley, Etta James, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Joe Cocker (!) and Sam Moore as well as Atwater and Bush, who pretended to trade licks on a white, electric guitar emblazoned THE PREZ that Moore (half of Sam and Dave) gave him. The first couple stayed for 20 minutes.

He loved the Marine Band, the presentation of colors, the panoply and parties, especially the Christmas parties that fill almost half the December nights at the winter wonderland White House.

Like Bill Clinton, he had a Rolodex of a mind, remembering every face and name. There's always a receiving line on the floor below where the hundreds upon hundreds of guests troop through for their prized photo with the president and first lady. At one of these my wife and I were back upstairs standing outside the Blue Room next to Ken Walsh, a U.S. News & World Report correspondent for whom these parties were old hat, when the Bushes made their way through the crowd in the Grand Foyer at the end of the night. Bush looked our way, spotted Walsh and said, "You skipped the receiving line."

And then there was the annual end-of-summer picnic at Walker's Point for the press corps and families who followed him to Kennebunkport each August, with hot dogs and ice cream sandwiches on the lawn and rides on Fidelity, his 28-foot cigarette boat, piloted by the speed demon commander-in-chief or an aide de camp. It was a taste of the same hospitality that heads of state received when they were guests at Walker's Point, although presumably there was lobster on the menu at those cookouts.

On Sundays when he wasn't at Camp David or out of town, the president and Mrs. Bush would hop into the limousine for the short motorcade around Lafayette Square to attend the early morning service at the "Church of the Presidents," St. John's Episcopal. It was his own denomination, but also a favorite for the swiftness of the communion service. He liked to worship and play golf fast.

I wrote to him just once over the years and, naturally, received a warm letter back. But my thoughts have turned to him frequently over the years, far more than anyone else on the national stage I got to know. Many times have I begun composing in my mind other letters to him that never made it onto paper or into a mailbox. Actually, I started "writing" a Christmas note to him Friday evening while grocery shopping hours before the news bulletin from Houston.

I see no reason to stop now.

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Dan Sewell ([Email](#)) - R.I.P. George H.W. Bush. Another trip in the time machine: I was lead AP reporter covering him twice. First, in mid-October 1983, when he visited Jamaica. Prime Minister Edward Seaga's press secretary, Jane Levinson, told me he was trying to come up with some funny lines for his dinner toast to Bush. I suggested something about Bush's "Voodoo economics" line about Reagan's economic plan (before he became Reagan's running mate). I doubt Seaga was interested in saying

anything Reagan might not like. But I also noted that Bush was a star baseball player at Yale, while cricket, not baseball, was the big sport in the West Indies. The Harvard-educated Seaga settled on doing a riff on the Yale-Harvard rivalry, which didn't resonate in the room. The Grenada crisis was unfolding, and I asked Bush about it in press conferences in both Kingston and San Juan. Gary Williams and I flew on Air Force 2 to San Juan. Bush told me as we shook hands: "We had you at both places." The other was in March 1988, when Washington Bureau Chief Sandy Johnson threw me a bone and let me cover the presidential race front-runner for once (she usually gave me the ones who were one more primary loss away from dropping out). The efficiency of AF 2 and a big travel staff made it easy to travel to five cities in four states (Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and South Carolina) in one day. In Pascagoula, he came up with one of those odd-sounding George Bush lines: "I am so glad that this whole post-Vietnam thing is over with." Huh? Dana Carvey built up his career doing Bush impressions, and it said something about George HW that he invited Carvey to the White House to laugh at himself.



1983 in San Juan

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Paul Albright (Email) - I was on a quasi-leave-of-absence from the AP's Albuquerque, NM, bureau in 1967 to fulfill a three-month fellowship at the Washington Journalism Center in DC. As a part-time assignment, I was tabbed to cover the congressional delegations of Texas and Arizona. When Congress took its annual Thanksgiving break, one source in the Republican caucus told me that then-Rep. George H.W. Bush would be conferring in Texas to determine if he should make another run for the U.S. Senate, a position he had failed to win in 1964. I wrote a brief piece, which was published in Texas. If there was any local follow-up in Texas, however, the word never reached me.

When Congress resumed, I received a message (perhaps relayed by Carl Leubsdorf) that Bush wanted to see me in the cloakroom of the House chambers. Accompanied by a member of his staff, Bush startled me by vehemently denying that he had met with fund-raisers or others in Houston to talk about a future senatorial campaign. Although denying the accuracy of my AP report and admonishing me, he did not request a retraction and, of course, none was made. That ended the episode. Bush went on to win re-election to the House in 1968, but he made another unsuccessful race for the Senate in 1970.

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Paul Stevens (Email) - A treasured photo of my dad, Walter B. Stevens, interviewing George H.W. Bush in a campaign appearance in Fort Dodge during the 1980 Iowa caucuses which he won, over frontrunner Ronald Reagan. Dad was

longtime editor of The Fort Dodge Messenger and like Bush, a World War II veteran. Both members of the Greatest Generation. RIP, President Bush.

The AP deletes insulting tweet about George H. W. Bush after major backlash

By CALEB HOWE, The Blaze

On Saturday, as the world found out about the passing of former President George H. W. Bush and news orgs were breaking the story and posting obituaries and summaries, the Associated Press generated a great deal of outrage over an insulting tweet. Today, the AP deleted that tweet and put up a note on Twitter.

We've deleted a tweet and revised a story on the death of President George H.W. Bush because the tweet and the opening of the story referenced his 1992 electoral defeat and omitted his WWII service. 8:54 AM - 2 Dec 2018

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt, Bill Schiffmann.

His dad died doing what he loved to do - in Iowa right next to his beloved Storm Lake

Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - We said farewell Friday night to my father, Ray Mittelstadt. He was 94.

He died doing what he loved to do -- feed birds and squirrels at their lakeside home in Storm Lake, Iowa. He was putting a cob of corn on a spike for the squirrels when he apparently collapsed, yards from the lake where as a child he loved to play with his brother and sisters. He was taken to the Storm Lake hospital and passed peacefully hours later.



Mark and his dad in October 2018 when Mark was honored by Iowa Central Community College

After serving in the U.S. Army from 1943-46, Dad attended Iowa State University, graduated and was hired as an engineer by a local utility company in Fort Dodge, Iowa. The young receptionist who called to let him know a manager wanted to speak to him about a job was Marilyn Tunwall, who he later married in 1952. They remained together until his death.

They lived for many years in Fort Dodge, then moved to Bettendorf as a result of a job transfer in the 1980s. He retired in 1987 and they moved to Dad's hometown, Storm Lake, where for nearly 30 years they turned a drab, run-down former nightclub-turned-house into an updated, attractive home on the west end of the lake. It was there that their youngest son, Chad, finished high school and enjoyed many of the same activities as our father did decades ago. Their home, with a large beach frontage, has been popular with children and grandchildren.

Dad loved wood-carving, working with stained glass, fishing, canoeing, archaeology, camping and the outdoors.

Despite his long career as an engineer, I am most proud of Dad's volunteer service to many organizations. He sang in the congregational choirs at their churches in Fort Dodge, Davenport and Storm Lake; he was a member of the Men's Civic Glee Club and Quartet, which once performed at the Kennedy Center; he was president of the Fort Dodge Sertoma Club; he served on the boards of directors of the Camp Fire Girls camp near Coalville and Camp Okoboji in Iowa's Lakes Region. He also served on committees with the Chamber of Commerce and was active in the Buena Vista County Historical Society. Mom, an active volunteer in her own right, joined him working with many of those groups.

As World War II was winding down, the Army kept Dad state-side, assigned to various bases and efforts. At one point he trained as a pilot of light wood gliders designed to drop quietly behind enemy lines with heavy equipment and troops. The program, ill-conceived from the outset, suffered numerous accidents and casualties. As a subsequent member of his family, I am glad he never achieved pilot status.

Later assignments involved training troops in anti-tank weaponry and heavy artillery, service that cost him a significant part of his hearing. Dad never liked to discuss his military service, disliking war and weapons, and feeling many others had sacrificed much more. I once pointed out to him that he had indeed sacrificed as a result of the war -- the ability to clearly hear the words spoken by his wife, children, grandchildren

and others. Other than at the funeral for his own mother, it was the only time I saw tears come to his eyes.

He was a decent and honest man, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, worker, volunteer and member of the community. In his prime he also had a deadly two-handed set shot, draining most of them from "downtown."

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, his two sons, their wives and children, my sister, Sara Messerly, and her husband and son. The youngest of eight children (actually nine counting a brother who died shortly after birth), Dad is survived by one remaining sibling, a sister, Doris, living in Chandler, Ariz.

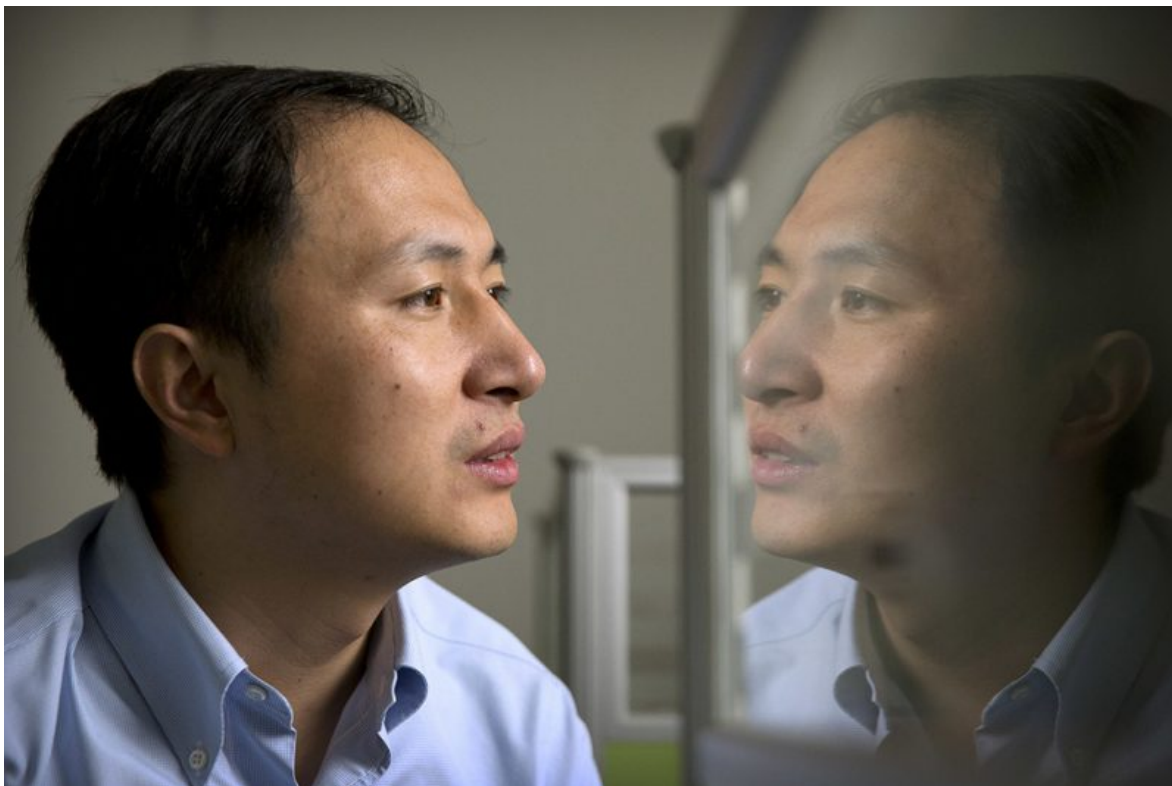
Time and life took a toll on his body, including hip replacements, blood imbalances, further declines in hearing and other ailments. Yet I never heard him complain. Asked how he was, his typical reply was "I'm in pretty good shape for the shape I'm in."

I have no doubt that he is looking down now with no pain, no aches, no need for a walker, no need for scores of daily pills. I'm pretty sure he is in great shape for the shape he's in.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Funeral for Raymond Mittelstadt will be at 10:30 a.m. CST Tuesday at St. John Lutheran Church, [402 Lake Ave N., Storm Lake, Iowa](#). Lunch at the church will follow. An interment service and burial will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at North Lawn Cemetery, [2201 N 15th St., Fort Dodge](#). Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. Monday at Sliefert Funeral Home, [212 W 3rd St, Storm Lake](#). In lieu of flowers the family suggests making a donation to St. John Lutheran Church (712 732-2400) or to Camp Okoboji LC-MS (712 337-3325), Milford, Iowa.)

Best of the Week

AP Exclusive: Chinese researcher claims first gene-edited babies



Chinese scientist He Jiankui is reflected in a glass panel as he works at a laboratory in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong province, Oct. 10, 2018. The researcher claims he helped make world's first genetically edited babies: twin girls whose DNA he said he altered, a claim first reported by the AP. AP Photo / Mark Schiefelbein

When a source told AP's chief medical reporter Marilyn Marchione that a Chinese researcher had edited the DNA of several human embryos and implanted two into a woman, their conversation launched an aggressive but delicate reporting effort by AP journalists in the U.S. and China. That reporting led to the AP's exclusive coverage of one of the most important and controversial claims in medical and science history. It was nothing less than an attempt to alter the trajectory of human heredity.

Over the next three weeks, Washington-based science writer Christina Larson and Beijing staffers - videographer Emily Wang, researcher Fu Ting and photographer Mark Schiefelbein - set out to interview the researcher and his colleagues in Shenzhen and Beijing, while Marchione and New York videographer Kathy Young worked the story from the U.S., including convincing the researcher, He Jiankui of Shenzhen University, to share his data so it could be vetted with independent experts. Without that data, AP was unwilling to publish the story.

He's claim raised a laundry list of concerns: Could it be a hoax? Did he accomplish what he said he did? Why would he choose to try to edit a resistance to the HIV virus, when there are far less risky ways to prevent transmission? Did the

participants know what they were getting into? Had he sought approval from ethics boards?

After talking with current and former colleagues and outside scientists, it became clear that his claim, while unverifiable, was plausible given He's training, prior work, stated ambitions and that the science of editing embryos had been already proven. AP knew it would be worthwhile reporting the claim, because the claim itself would be major scientific news.

Just days before the start of an international gene editing conference in Hong Kong, news of the project was starting to leak out. The MIT Technology Review reported that a trial on humans might be underway in China, based on an entry in a registry of trials. That prompted calls from other media to He. Knowing that the story was unlikely to hold, the AP moved to publish the package on Sunday night of the week of the conference opening. He's claim of the world's first gene-edited babies made headlines worldwide.

In the AP story, He sought to explain his experimentation:

"I feel a strong responsibility that it's not just to make a first, but also make it an example," said He, who studied at Rice and Stanford universities in the United States before launching his project secretly in China. "Society will decide what to do next" in terms of allowing or forbidding such science, He told the AP.

Many scientists, including the inventors of the gene-editing technology He used, were astounded to hear of the claim from the AP and strongly condemned it. Both Rice and the Chinese university that He was affiliated with launched investigations. A group of more than 100 Chinese scientists called for a ban on further work of this kind in China.

It's "unconscionable ... an experiment on human beings that is not morally or ethically defensible," said Dr. Kiran Musunuru, a University of Pennsylvania gene editing expert and editor of a genetics journal.

The story elicited a similarly strong response from customers and readers. AP's reporting was credited or linked to by at least 44 media outlets, including the New York Times, Washington Post, BBC News, Bloomberg, Reuters and BuzzFeed. Axios led its "Monday Top 10" with the story, and it spawned more than a dozen Reddit conversations.

It was by far the most read story on APNews over the week, at more than half a million page views. AP's video received 248 downloads including by the NYT, Al

Jazeera Plus, Bloomberg Television, Australian Broadcasting Corp., and ABC News. The story spawned requests from outside media for interviews, including BBC World Service, Slate, and even from a popular sports podcast on ESPN, which highlights the story's broad appeal.

For responsibly breaking a story in all formats of a major scientific claim while exploring the ethical quandaries that He's research has raised, Marchione, Larson, Wang, Young, Ting and Schiefelbein earn AP's Best of the Week.

Best of the States

Exclusive: AP obtains cellphone photo, interview at Chicago hospital shooting



At left, Juan Lopez stands over the body of his ex-fiancee, emergency room Dr. Tamara O'Neal, after gunning her down in a parking lot near Mercy Hospital in Chicago, Nov. 19, 2018. Lopez later fatally shot two people inside the hospital before taking his own life. A deliveryman at the hospital shot this cellphone photo obtained by the AP. Sam Akkadian via AP

As video journalist Carrie Antfingher awaited a news conference outside a Chicago hospital where a gunman had killed three people a day earlier, a deliveryman waiting for the emergency room to reopen showed her a photo he had taken.

The cellphone photo captured a pivotal moment in the story - the shooter standing next to his first victim, his former fiancée, whom he had shot in front of the hospital.

Antfingher, who had been dispatched from Milwaukee to cover the breaking story, immediately recognized the value of the image and the man's firsthand account. While the deliveryman was at first reluctant, Antfingher was able to persuade him not only to provide the AP with the photo but to go on camera for an interview describing what he saw: the gunman standing over the body with a handgun in his hand, police pulling up to the scene and the gunman shooting at police.

The video received strong online play and use by customers, including by USA Today and Yahoo News. The photo was downloaded more than 350 times by customers. And Antfingher's material proved central to the AP's second-day coverage of the story, with the exclusive photo leading the story, which included an embedded version of the video.

Antfingher's scoop was part of an aggressive cross-format effort by AP staff to cover all aspects of the story from day one.

Amanda Seitz, the AP's Fact Check reporter based in Chicago, was dispatched after the initial reports of the shooting, following police cars to the hospital, where she gathered color and quotes in addition to using her iPhone to shoot the AP's first photos and video. Michael Tarm joined Seitz at the scene, while colleague Don Babwin worked police sources. And soon after the news broke, Chicago-based video producer Bob Eller persuaded television station WLS to share its material, allowing the AP to offer customers strong video coverage from the start.

For recognizing a critical way to advance the AP's reporting and then negotiating exclusive access to the photo and interview, Antfingher wins this week's Best of the States.

Today in History - December 3, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 3, the 337th day of 2018. There are 28 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Dec. 3, 1984, thousands of people died after a cloud of methyl isocyanate gas escaped from a pesticide plant operated by a Union Carbide subsidiary in Bhopal, India.

On this date:

In 1818, Illinois was admitted as the 21st state.

In 1828, Andrew Jackson was elected president of the United States by the Electoral College.

In 1833, Oberlin College in Ohio - the first truly coeducational school of higher learning in the United States - began holding classes.

In 1926, English mystery writer Agatha Christie, 36, disappeared after driving away from her home in Sunningdale, Berkshire. (Christie turned up 11 days later at a hotel in Harrogate, Yorkshire.)

In 1947, the Tennessee Williams play "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened on Broadway.

In 1964, police arrested some 800 students at the University of California at Berkeley, one day after the students stormed the administration building and staged a massive sit-in.

In 1967, a surgical team in Cape Town, South Africa, led by Dr. Christiaan Barnard (BAHR'-nard) performed the first human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky, who lived 18 days with the donor organ, which came from Denise Darvall, a 25-year-old bank clerk who had died in a traffic accident.

In 1979, 11 people were killed in a crush of fans at Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum, where the British rock group The Who was performing.

In 1980, Bernadine Dohrn, a former leader of the radical Weather Underground, surrendered to authorities in Chicago after more than a decade as a fugitive.

In 1991, radicals in Lebanon released American hostage Alann (cq) Steen, who'd been held captive nearly five years.

In 1992, the first telephone text message was sent by British engineer Neil Papworth, who transmitted the greeting "Merry Christmas" from his work computer in Newbury, Berkshire, to Vodafone executive Richard Jarvis' mobile phone. The Greek tanker Aegean Sea spilled more than 21 million gallons of crude oil when it ran aground off northwestern Spain.

In 1999, Tori Murden of the United States became the first woman to row across the Atlantic Ocean alone as she arrived at the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, 81 days after leaving the Canary Islands near the coast of Africa.

Ten years ago: President-elect Barack Obama selected New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson as his commerce secretary. (However, Richardson withdrew a month later when it appeared his confirmation hearings would be complicated by a grand jury investigation over how state contracts were issued to political donors; Gary Locke ended up being appointed.) Theological conservatives upset by liberal views of U.S. Episcopalians and Canadian Anglicans formed a rival North American province.

Five years ago: Seeking to regroup from his health care law's disastrous rollout, President Barack Obama insisted the sweeping overhaul was working and warned

Republican critics that he would fight any efforts to strip away its protections. A federal judge ruled Detroit could use bankruptcy to cut employee pensions and relieve itself of other crushing debts, handing a defeat to the city's unions and retirees and shifting the case into a delicate new phase. The Illinois Legislature approved a historic plan to eliminate the state's \$100 billion pension shortfall.

One year ago: The second-largest U.S. drugstore chain, CVS, announced that it was buying Aetna, the third-largest health insurer, in order to push much deeper into customer care. Former longtime Illinois congressman John Anderson, who ran for president as an independent in 1980, died in Washington at the age of 95. A partial implosion of the Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan, failed to bring down the upper section of the Detroit Lions' former home; the demolition company handling the project was successful the following day.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Jean-Luc Godard is 88. Singer Jaye P. Morgan is 87. Actor Nicolas Coster is 85. Actress Mary Alice is 77. Rock singer Ozzy Osbourne is 70. Rock singer Mickey Thomas is 69. Country musician Paul Gregg (Restless Heart) is 64. Actor Steven Culp is 63. Actress Daryl Hannah is 58. Actress Julianne Moore is 58. Olympic gold medal figure skater Katarina Witt is 53. Actor Brendan Fraser is 50. Singer Montell Jordan is 50. Actor Royale Watkins is 49. Actor Bruno Campos is 45. Actress Holly Marie Combs is 45. Actress Liza Lapira is 43. Actress Lauren Roman is 43. Pop-rock singer Daniel Bedingfield is 39. Actress/comedian Tiffany Haddish is 39. Actress Anna Chlumsky (KLUHM'-skee) is 38. Actress Jenna Dewan is 38. Actor Brian Bonsall is 37. Actress Dascha Polanco is 36. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Andy Grammer is 35. Americana musician Michael Calabrese (Lake Street Dive) is 34. Actress Amanda Seyfried is 33. Actor Michael Angarano is 31. Actor Jake T. Austin is 24.

Thought for Today: "The well of Providence is deep. It's the buckets we bring to it that are small." - Mary Webb, Scottish religious leader (c.1881-1927).

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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