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# Connecting - January 10, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

January 10, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Today's Connecting is again highlighted by more of your memories of the Wire Service Guild strike against the AP, 50 years ago this week - the only strike in AP history. If you have yet to share your memories, come ahead with them today.



The NFL Playoffs are down to the Elite Eight teams this weekend and our Kansas City Chiefs are one of them, playing host to the Indianapolis Colts on Saturday afternoon.

**Ollie**, who is Ye Olde Connecting Editor's handler, is still looking for an invite to Arrowhead Stadium to take part in its famous BBQ tailgating activities. To sample the wares, of course. Beef brisket, ribs, ham. Doesn't matter! He will WOOF it down.

Thirty-five years ago at about this time of year, I was Indianapolis bureau chief when the Colts stole out of Baltimore in the middle of the night and landed the next morning in Indianapolis, where a shiny new Hoosier Dome awaited them. It was one of the most intriguing sports stories I remember and kept our sports writers **Steve Herman** and **Hank Lowenkron** busy for the rest of the year.

I look forward to your submissions to the newsletter.

Have a great day!

Paul

## More memories of 1969 Guild strike against AP

### *Strike duty on truck entrance to 50 Rock*

**Hal Bock** ([Email](#)) - Charlie Monzella's strike memory reminded me of my strike duty. Like Charlie, I was assigned picket duty outside the 49th street truck entrance at 50 Rockefeller Center. And because I worked nights, I picketed at night. Late at night. Like 2 a.m. at night. It was lonesome, cold duty but I did what had to be done.

To make ends meet, a lot of us did freelance writing. My wonderful friend Marv Schneider invited me to do some writing for a publication called The Taxi News. It was distributed to drivers and carried restaurant reviews, places to see for

passengers, etc. It wasn't great journalism but I made \$200 that week, which was more than what I was making at The AP.

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**Tuesday's 50th anniversary of the AP strike prompted a reunion in Santa Monica for four AP veterans of the Los Angeles bureau. From left, Lee Margulies, Linda Deutsch, Steve Fox and Lyle Price. Linda noted that the four agreed that "whether we stayed a few years or many, AP united us forever."**

## ***Strike a turning point for AP employee rights***

**Linda Deutsch (Email)** - It must be said that dedicated reporters had a hard time walking off their beats. I had been in the LA bureau just two years and was covering the biggest story of my career up to then, the trial of Sirhan Sirhan in the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy. Harry Rosenthal and Art Everett had come from New York to cover the story with me. The three of us abandoned the courthouse and walked the picket line in the rain. Also there was a plane crash in LA that week and no one went to the airport to cover it. AP was hurt badly. We also had support from UPI staffers who came and picketed with us.

It is worth noting that a few staffers broke the strike, walked through the picket line and worked to the dismay (and catcalls) of their colleagues. Friendships were irretrievably broken and a few staffers had to be transferred out of the bureau later because of the bad feelings on both sides. Some found it impossible to work with the strike breakers.

Every day after picketing we would meet at the strike headquarters to share information. We kept our spirits up by posting signs around the room advocating for our action. I remember the one I posted was the much-quoted wisdom of Rabbi Hillel: "If I am not for myself, who will be? But if I am for myself alone, what am I? If not now, when?"

I stayed a lifelong union member and many of my colleagues became union officials. It was a turning point in employee rights at AP that would be matched later by the consent decree that resulted from the Guild's federal lawsuit seeking equal rights and salaries for all employees including women. After that, I was never again known as a "newsman." It may seem minor, but not at the time. We were now "Newswomen" at last. #

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## ***A few memories of the strike***

**Carl P. Leubsdorf** ([Email](#)) - I remember several things about the strike. I somehow became a spokesman for AP Washington strikers and my name appeared as such in The New York Times, for perhaps the only time it was there other than my marriage announcement.

At one strike meeting, several of us got up and said the AP would really suffer from the absence of the Washington bureau's famed byliners, most of whom were on strike. I said I didn't believe that, that only a few staffers had truly significant bylines and one of those, Walter Mears, was working. As I recall, he single-handedly put out the overnight, and I suspect it may have been better than the regular staffers' output.

The third is that the strike was totally dependent on the teletype operators respecting our picket line, and, when after a week they decided to go back to work, that was pretty much the end of our strike.

Oh yes, a fourth thing happened. According to word of mouth, Washington COB Bill Beale got on the phone and told Wes Gallagher or whoever was at the New York end that his Washington strikers were worth everything they were seeking.

Coincidentally or not, Beale retired soon after the strike ended and was replaced by Marv Arrowsmith. But to show there were no ill feelings against strikers, John McClain, who had been on strike, was promoted to (I think) news editor.

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## ***Called from Puerto Rico to cover Washington***

**Greg Nokes (Email)** - I was in Puerto Rico as Chief of Caribbean Services when the strike broke out. Even though I was Guild, I was administrative and ordered to report to Washington, D.C. forthwith to help keep The AP running.

My assignment was to cover the newly released federal budget. You can imagine I was at sea on this assignment, and I don't mean the Caribbean Sea. I hated to cross the picket line, but I did. That part was not fun, but being in D.C. for the first time was an adventure. I recall some of us called in from around the country worked up a nightly poker game.

In later years, as my career evolved, I was for a time the AP economics correspondent in D.C. One of my responsibilities was to cover the federal budget. Still at sea.

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## ***AP strike experience: dark, wet, cold, alone***

**Michael Rubin (Email)** - I can sum up my AP strike experience in four words: Dark, wet, cold, alone.

As a junior member of the AP/LA crew with just over a year on the job I won the contest for overnight picket at the LA bureau, which had been moved from the Herald Examiner Annex to the Petroleum Building near the corner of Figueroa and Olympic due to the lengthy and nasty Herex strike.

It was raining, cold and I spent most of the time by myself trying to stay warm and keep my picket sign dry. A thermos of coffee kept me company. (Glad I wasn't in colder climes.)

The one positive - we were across the street from the famed 24-hour spot The Pantry, so I could have a good hot breakfast before heading home at dawn to try to sleep.

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## ***Buffalo not a good place to walk picket line in January***

**Don Waters** ([Email](#)) - During the strike, Buffalo showed its reputation as a staunch union town, if not a good place to walk a picket line in January.

The most heartfelt support we three strikers received came from our small team of Teletype "punchers" and field technicians, some of whom gave up a day or more in pay and provided food.

Early in the walkout we three received an offer by Teamsters to bolster our line. We declined with thanks, but there was a feeling that the United Steelworkers and United Auto Workers would give support if asked.

Assistance also came from managers of The Buffalo News, whose wire room housed the AP bureau. They designated a rear door usually used by production workers, but those employees refused to cross any line and used another entrance. The News let us inside to warm up with coffee and stop by our friendly and competitive UPI rivals at their space in the building.

### ***From Politico Morning Media:***

## **AP's Bothsidesism**

AP'S BOTHSIDESISM: "Political editors, beware: If ever you wish to blame both sides of this country's political divide, please come equipped with strong evidence, documents, dates, emails, Freedom of Information Act records and even more," The Washington Post's Erik Wemple writes on the AP's widely mocked Tuesday night tweet on blame for the shutdown. "News consumers these days despise nothing so much as the assertion of false equivalence."

- The AP walked back the tweet Wednesday evening: "The tweet was intended to make clear that both Trump and Democrats have failed to find common ground in their disagreements, but it could have done a better job of explaining the dynamics that have led to the shutdown. The complete AP Fact Check was robust and focused almost exclusively on Trump's comments."

### **The tweet in question:**

AP FACT CHECK: Democrats put the blame for the shutdown on Trump. But it takes two to tango. Trump's demand for \$ 5.7billion for his border wall is one reason for the budget impasse. The Democrats refusal to approve the money is another.

## **Update: AP walks back tweet that blamed both sides for government shutdown**

**By ERIK WEMPLE**

**The Washington Post**

UPDATE 6:16 p.m.: The Associated Press has issued a second statement on the tweet: "The tweet was intended to make clear that both Trump and Democrats have failed to find common ground in their disagreements, but it could have done a better job of explaining the dynamics that have led to the shutdown. The complete AP Fact Check was robust and focused almost exclusively on Trump's comments."

Original story:

Political editors, beware: If ever you wish to blame both sides of this country's political divide, please come equipped with strong evidence, documents, dates, emails, Freedom of Information Act records and even more. News consumers these days despise nothing so much as the assertion of false equivalence.

That sensibility descended late Tuesday night on the Associated Press, which tweeted out this pitch for a fact-checking story on Trump's Tuesday night speech on the "crisis" at the southwestern border. The piece faults Trump for the same false and misleading statements - about the trade deal with Mexico paying for the border wall; violence by immigrants; and others - that other fact-checking operations have cited. Pretty good stuff.

Yet the tweet stirred a life of its own on Twitter:

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting mailbox

### ***Covering Exxon Valdez trial with Linda Deutsch***

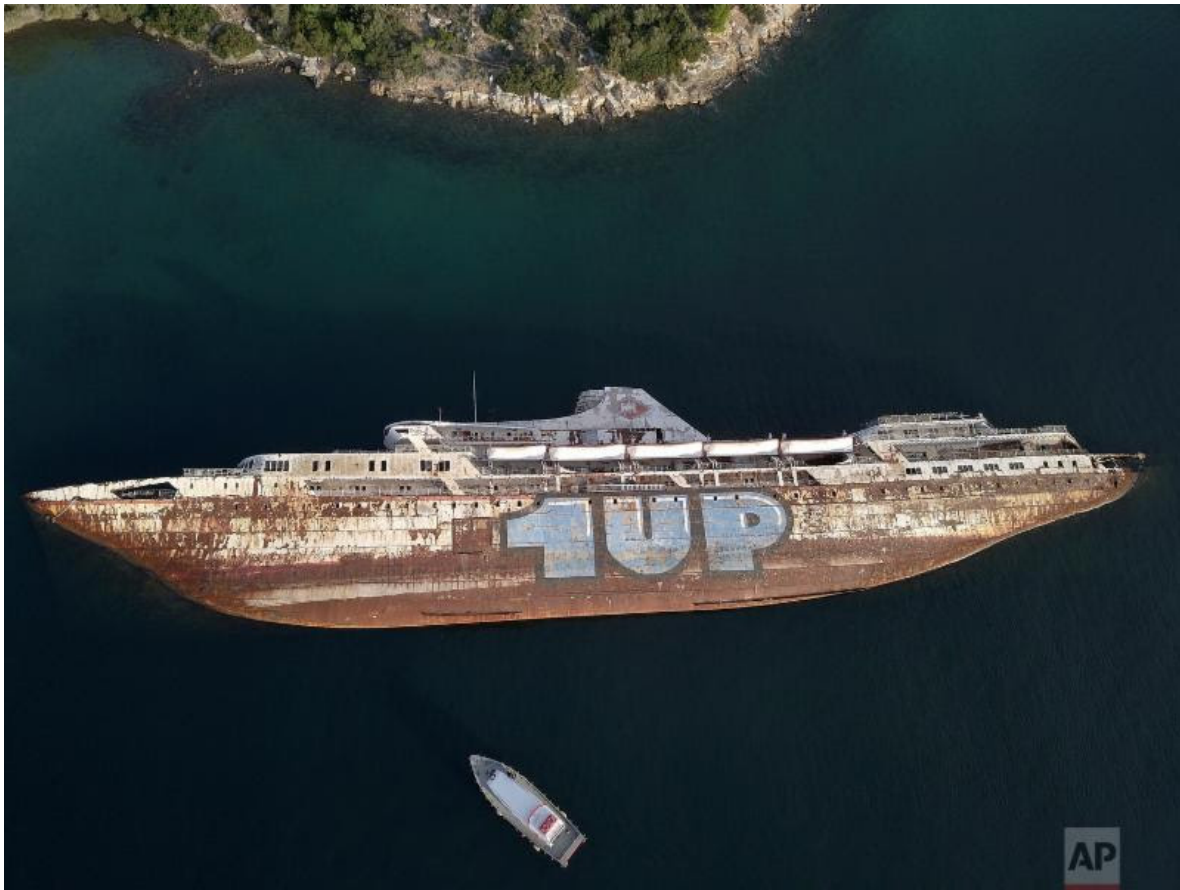
**Jeff Barnard** ([Email](#)) - I worked with Linda (Deutsch) in Anchorage during the trial of Joe Hazelwood, captain of the Exxon Valdez. Two staffers had quit for new jobs, leaving the bureau very shorthanded, so I flew up from Oregon to provide an extra body. It was a busy time. The Iditarod sled dog race was taking off at the same time and a former AP staffer at one of the Anchorage dailies was very demanding for pickups from the other, which had outed them, meaning what would normally be a job of a few minutes turned into hours because it had to be originally reported. I got in at 5 a.m., did broadcast and TTS, and a couple times a day took dictation from Linda at the courthouse. It was a moment of calm in a very stressful day. Her dictation was always clean, something I could not always manage myself when I was on the other end. Lucky for me, by that time we were starting to use portable units that could be plugged into a pay phone. Even with those, we had to dictate the broadcast story first.

It was February, with snow-covered sidewalks and temperatures below zero. Linda was very happy with her white insulated winter boots with furry tops. They were Sorels, a venerable brand used by mushers, hunters and fishermen as well as court reporters. I had a pair myself, though not white. Being from Oregon, I had learned to pronounce it SOR-el, like the horse coloration, but Linda pronounced it sor-EL, like the character Buddy Sorrel in the Dick Van Dyke show. We all got a laugh out of it.

***AP Images Blog:***

## **Greece hauls abandoned, half-sunken ships out of the sea**





**In this Friday, Dec. 4, 2018 photo, a half sunken cruise ship lays on its side, in the Gulf of Elefsina, west of Athens. (AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis)**

The hulking remains of a cargo ship rise up through the water, listing to one side with a rusting hull exposed, its glory days of sailing the world's seas and oceans long gone.

This is just one of dozens of abandoned cargo and passenger ships that lie semi-submerged or completely sunken in and near the Gulf of Elefsina, an industrial area of shipyards and factories near Greece's major port of Piraeus.

Now Greek authorities have begun to remove the ships, some of which have been there for decades, saying they are both an environmental hazard and a danger to modern shipping.

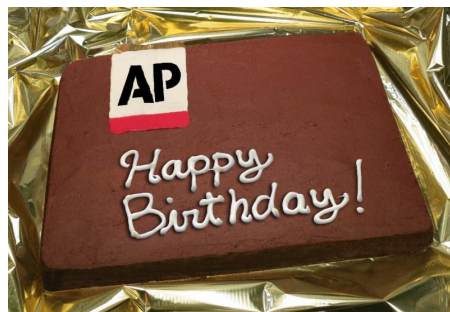
Read more [here](#).

## AP Photo of the Day



Residents of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo celebrate on Thursday after opposition presidential candidate Felix Tshisekedi was declared the winner of the elections. | Jerome Delay/AP Photo

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Robert Burns - [roburns22@gmail.com](mailto:roburns22@gmail.com)

# Stories of interest

## ***Hollywood Foreign Press Association Gives \$2 Million In Grants At The Golden Globes*** (Forbes)



**Meher Tatna is president of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which created the Golden Globe Awards in 1944. The HPFA recently expanded its philanthropy work to support organizations championing a free and robust press. During the 2019 Golden Globe Awards, it awarded InsideClimate News a \$1 million grant as part of this effort. Credit: Daniele Venturelli/WireImage via Getty Images**

**By Sarah Aswell**

Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) President Meher Tatna announced at the Golden Globes Awards that the group would donate \$2 million in grants to two non-profit, non-partisan organizations. The HFPA will give \$1 million each to the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and InsideClimate News (ICN).

While announcing the grants, Tatna stressed the strong connection between the free press and the creative arts-and why they depend on each other for protection and survival during troubling political times.

"The freedom of expression that makes possible your work as creators and our work as journalists is under siege, which is why our mission to establish cultural ties has never been more important," she said.

Tatna also shared that the members of HFPA unanimously voted to expand their mandate to support journalists around the globe.

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press provides free legal assistance to journalists around the country. The group said that it would use the grant to educate the public about the importance of a free press, and to continue their mission of providing legal help to journalists, especially those who wouldn't be able to pursue important stories without legal assistance.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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***Trump's Oval Office address was a pure propaganda opportunity. Networks shouldn't allow it next time.*** (Washington Post)

By **MARGARET SULLIVAN**

After Tuesday night's debacle in the Oval Office, television network executives should be spending the day in their spacious offices practicing a simple word: No.

No, Mr. President, you may not break into prime-time programming to fundraise and mislead.

They'll need to practice because you can be sure that the request will come again. And again.

Let's be clear: There was no - zero - news in President Trump's address to the nation last night.

There were high-drama quotes: "crisis of the soul." There was fearmongering: "I've met with dozens of families whose loved ones were stolen by illegal immigration."

But there wasn't anything of substance that we haven't heard many times before.

And all the fact-checking in the world - worthy as it is - can't make a dent in the spread of misinformation that such an opportunity gives the president.

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

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## ***Mapping the future of local news, together***

(Poynter)

**By KRISTEN HARE**

Hi and welcome to 2019.

I came back to work on Monday after two news-free weeks at home with my family to word of more layoffs in local. It's not "Groundhog Day" yet; it's just journalism, and it's demoralizing (even if it's not happening to you).

I don't have resolutions to share for this first Local Edition of the new year. But I do have some perspectives from layoffs to share. In the five years I've been at Poynter, that topic has been a routine one, and the experiences of people who've come through them are worth sharing again.

### **Be upset**

Mathew Ingram lost his job at Gigaom in 2015 when that site shut down. That year, after he started a job at Fortune, he talked to Poynter about letting yourself grieve after a layoff.

"You join these things because you're committed to them as an idea, not just oh, hey, this would be a cool paycheck and maybe I'll get some equity out of it," Ingram said. "It is a lot more like a relationship than a job."

He now covers media at the Columbia Journalism Review. I checked back in to see if he has any more advice.

"Maybe be prepared," he said, "because it could happen at any time."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Nieman Foundation announces the 2019 Knight Visiting Nieman Fellows***

The Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard will host a group of nine reporters, editors, media entrepreneurs and academics as Knight Visiting Nieman Fellows during the 2019 calendar year. Each will spend time at Harvard University to work on a project designed to advance journalism in some innovative way.

Announcing the new fellows, Nieman foundation curator Ann Marie Lipinski said: "We're excited about this group and look forward to learning from them and working with them to advance their ideas. The visiting fellows have been a great addition to our academic-year fellowship and continue to enrich journalism through their innovative projects."

The 2019 Knight Visiting Nieman Fellows:

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History - January 10, 2019**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 10, the 10th day of 2019. There are 355 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 10, 1863, the London Underground had its beginnings as the Metropolitan, the world's first underground passenger railway, opened to the public with service between Paddington and Farringdon Street.

### On this date:

In 1776, Thomas Paine anonymously published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense," which argued for American independence from British rule.

In 1860, the Pemberton Mill in Lawrence, Mass., collapsed and caught fire, killing up to 145 people, mostly female workers from Scotland and Ireland.

In 1861, Florida became the third state to secede from the Union.

In 1870, John D. Rockefeller incorporated Standard Oil.

In 1920, the League of Nations was established as the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') went into effect.

In 1946, the first General Assembly of the United Nations convened in London. The first manmade contact with the moon was made as radar signals transmitted by the U.S. Army Signal Corps were bounced off the lunar surface.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, asked Congress to impose a surcharge on both corporate and individual income taxes to help pay for his "Great Society" programs as well as the war in Vietnam. That same day, Massachusetts Republican Edward W. Brooke, the first black person elected to the U.S. Senate by popular vote, took his seat.

In 1984, the United States and the Vatican established full diplomatic relations for the first time in more than a century.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton, attending a NATO summit meeting in Brussels, Belgium, announced completion of an agreement to remove all long-range nuclear missiles from the former Soviet republic of Ukraine.

In 2000, America Online announced it was buying Time Warner for \$162 billion (the merger, which proved disastrous, ended in December 2009).

In 2002, Marines began flying hundreds of al-Qaida prisoners in Afghanistan to a U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In 2006, Iran resumed nuclear research two years after halting the work to avoid possible U.N. economic sanctions.

Ten years ago: Vice President-elect Joe Biden arrived in Afghanistan, where he pledged long-term American support. Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in cities across Europe and in Lebanon against the Israeli offensive in Gaza. The aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush was commissioned with its namesake, the 41st president, and other members of the Bush family on hand for the ceremonies at Naval Station Norfolk.

Five years ago: The Labor Department reported that U.S. employers added just 74,000 jobs in December 2013. Larry Speakes, who'd spent six years as acting press secretary for President Ronald Reagan, died in Cleveland, Mississippi, at age 74.



One year ago: Immigration agents descended on dozens of 7-Eleven stores nationwide before dawn to check on the immigration status of employees in what officials described as the largest operation so far against an employer under Donald Trump's presidency. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra said Charles Dutoit had stepped down as artistic director and principal conductor after multiple allegations of sexual assault. After nine terms in the House, California Republican Rep. Darrell Issa announced that he would not seek re-election.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Sherrill Milnes is 84. Rock singer-musician Ronnie Hawkins is 84. Movie director Walter Hill is 79. Actor William Sanderson is 75. Singer Rod Stewart is 74. Rock singer-musician Donald Fagen (Steely Dan) is 71. Boxing Hall of Famer and entrepreneur George Foreman is 70. Roots rock singer Alejandro Escovedo is 68. Rock musician Scott Thurston (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers) is 67. Singer Pat Benatar is 66. Hall of Fame race car driver and team owner Bobby Rahal is 66. Rock musician Michael Schenker is 64. Singer Shawn Colvin is 63. Rock singer-musician Curt Kirkwood (Meat Puppets) is 60. Actor Evan Handler is 58. Rock singer Brad Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 55. Actress Trini Alvarado is 52. Rock singer Brent Smith (Shinedown) is 41. Rapper Chris Smith (Kris Kross) is 40. Actress Sarah Shahi is 39. Presidential adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner is 38. American roots singer Valerie June is 37.

**Thought for Today: "You got to look on the bright side, even if there ain't one."  
- Dashiell Hammett, American author (born 1894, died this date in 1961).**

## 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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