



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - January 17, 2019

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

January 17, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

This year marks 40 years since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, when 2,500 years of monarchy gave way to a Shiite supreme leader. The AP has launched the Iran video project, "Revolution in Iran: History Begins Again," a team effort that leverages AP's greatest strengths: in-house expertise, experience, history, global footprint and rich archives.

Several of our Connecting colleagues are featured in the first episode - including **Bob Reid, Tom Kent** and **Ted Anthony**. And many others were involved in the project including our friends in Corporate Archives, **Valerie Komor** and **Francesca Pitaro**. It's our lead story today on a busy Connecting news day.

25 years ago today: The 1994 Northridge earthquake occurred at 4:30:55 a.m. PST in the San Fernando Valley region of the County of Los Angeles. The quake lasted about 10-20 seconds and two major aftershocks followed, the first about one minute after the initial event and the second approximately 11 hours later. The death toll was 57, with more than 8,700 injured and property damage in the billions of dollars. Our colleague **Doug Pizac** recalls that morning in our lead article.

Correction: A photo in Wednesday's edition with a remembrance of Ed Blanche was not a picture of Blanche. Labeled "Ed in 1990," it is actually a photo of Farouk Nassar, the AP Beirut bureau's long-time Lebanese lead writer.

Finally, our hearts go out to colleague **Sue Price Johnson** on the death of her newspaperman dad **Gene Price**, one of North Carolina's finest editors ever. Sue, a former AP chief of bureau, was proud to follow in his journalism footsteps. Gene died Wednesday at the age of 90.

Have a good day!

Paul

AP launches video project: 'Revolution in Iran: History Begins Again



This year marks 40 years since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, when 2,500 years of monarchy gave way to a Shiite supreme leader.

The Iran video project, "Revolution in Iran: History Begins Again," was a team effort that leveraged AP's greatest strengths: in-house expertise, experience, history, global footprint and rich archives.

It kicked off with a conversation between Director of Original Programming Jaime Holguin, Director of Innovation Ted Anthony and Middle East News Director Karin Laub, when she was visiting headquarters in New York in late 2018. She mentioned that the Middle East desk would be marking the Islamic Revolution in Iran with a series of stories for the 40th anniversary. With that in mind, Holguin asked digital producer Trenton Daniel to contact her about what could be done as part of an original programming series that showcased AP's distinctive, on-the-ground coverage.

Daniel came up with the idea of a five-part series that highlighted several critical points in 1979 Iran and proposed them to Laub and acting Gulf news director Jon Gambrell. The five episodes ended up as follows: The shah's departure, Khomeini's return to Iran and the revolution's realization, the expulsion of AP reporters (and other journalists), the U.S. Embassy takeover and a final look back at how 1979 shaped modern-day Iran and the broader Islamic world.



Click [here](#) to view Revolution in Iran, episode 1: The fall of the shah.

Director of Corporate Archives Valerie Komor and archivist Francesca Pitaro provided archival material that included AP newsletters, original wire copy, and a black-and-white photo of a young Tom Kent. Daniel reached out to former AP Middle East correspondents Kent, Bob Reid and Nick Tatro to learn more about their time covering the revolution; Kent and Reid ended up as subjects for the first episode, about the shah's ouster (Tatro happened to be in Egypt, where the shah landed and got in a couple of questions). Daniel then wrote a script based on the interviews; Anthony edited and did the voiceover. Animator and video editor Heidi Morrow handled the video production, while the Kubrik-inspired original score was composed by Holguin.

The AP plans to time the release of each episode to the date that the actual event occurred. The embassy takeover episode, for example, will be released around Nov. 4.

For further information, contact Jaime Holguin at jholguin@ap.org

Northridge earthquake: 25 years ago today





Doug Pizac ([Email](#)) - Today is the 25th anniversary of the Northridge earthquake in SoCal for many of us. It woke my wife Betty and I up at 4:31a that morning. We looked at each other and knew it was the San Fernando area. Behind our then home in San Dimas is the county's largest man-made lake which buffers quake rattling. Based on past rumblings we experienced we knew which way I was to start driving.

Here are two of my photos from that morning. The fire pic made the cover of People Magazine as an inset. The old man went to see his friend's home and had to turn away because of the heat. I kept a AAA map marked with all the mobile home parks in my car because they are the first to go during earthquakes since being mobile they fall off their stands and break the gas lines. As I was driving on the freeway to Northridge I saw smoke off to the side over a hill, saw it was a park on my map and made it my first stop which resulted in the photo that got tremendous play nationwide.

The other one is a dead CHP officer who unknowingly drove his motorcycle off the elevated freeway onto the collapsed section in the darkness.

Click [here](#) for the AP story on the anniversary.

Father of AP's Sue Price Johnson

Veteran North Carolina Journalist Gene Price Dies at 90

GOLDSBORO, N.C. (AP) - Hillery Eugene "Gene" Price, an honored journalist whose career spanned nearly six decades, died Wednesday. He was 90.

Sue Price Johnson, his daughter and former Associated Press staffer, said her father died at a hospice in Raleigh after a long illness.



Gene Price became editor emeritus at the Goldsboro News-Argus after a nearly 50-year career during which he served as managing editor as well as editor.

Prior to his work in Goldsboro, Price worked at The Independent in his hometown of Elizabeth City, The Daily Reflector in Greenville and at The Virginian-Pilot of Norfolk. While he was in college, Price became the first sports publicity writer for the East Carolina University news bureau, working for tuition and meals.

Price also worked as press secretary for U.S. Rep. Herbert C. Bonner in the late 1940s and was chief of

an artillery firing battery with the 28th Infantry Division in Europe during the Korean War.

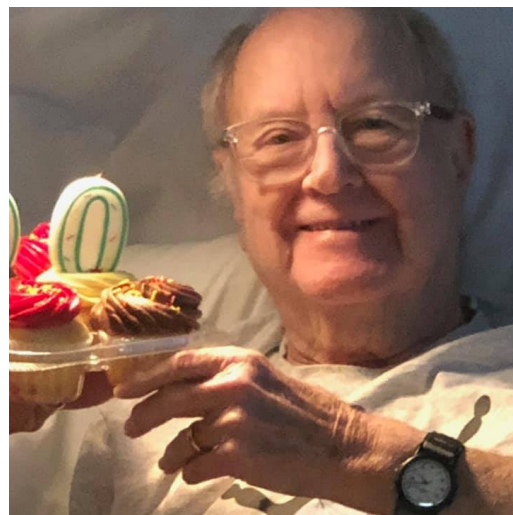
Five governors appointed him to major state commissions, among them the North Carolina Seashore Commission, which led to the creation of the Cape Lookout National Park in 1966.

His journalistic achievements were recognized in 2011 by his induction into the University of North Carolina's Media and Journalism Hall of Fame. Two governors awarded Price the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, awarded for exemplary service to the state of North Carolina and its communities.

In his retirement, Price wrote a book of his collected stories titled "Folks Around Here."

An avid outdoorsman, Price spent 25 years as a member of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, including two terms as its chairman.

Among the survivors is his wife of 68 years, Gloria MacCormack Price, as well as four children, and seven grandchildren.



Gene on his 90th birthday Jan. 5

A memorial service is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Goldsboro.

Click [here](#) for a link to this story. Sue Price Johnson's email - sue.price.johnson@gmail.com

Connecting series:

What do you fear?

Jill Arabas (Email) - When I see the question, What are you afraid of?, I'm two hours away from interviewing Richard Lloyd, one of the most influential guitarists in the history of modern rock and roll. Richard was one of two guitarists in the 1970s band Television, and a gatekeeper for who got to play at legendary CBGB's in New

York. If I were meeting him in person, or doing this interview for print, no problem. But I'm about to interview him live on the phone on radio - and that's what terrifies me.



Doing these live phoners always knots me up. You can't see your subject, so you have no idea how they feel about talking to you. Your questions need to provide context but not too much detail, and still be phrased in a way that teases out an answer that's colorful and interesting. Plus it's live. There are no do-overs. Everyone hears every word.

I'm also not sure how to tackle this interview. I've spent the weekend reading Richard's book, so I'm familiar with his time with Television and CBGB. The months he spent at the Creedmoor and Greystone mental institutions, and the horrid things he saw there. His drug use. The incident where he almost electrocuted himself. The time he was dead on a gurney, to be revived with paddles. Why he was punched by his idol, Jimi Hendrix. How he and a friend broke one of Buddy Guy's guitar strings right before a performance, only to restring it incorrectly, and Buddy's reaction on stage. Other stories from hanging out with Jimmy Page, John Lee Hooker, Keith Richards, Lou Reed, Keith Moon, and a slew of other famous people. Juicy stuff, but how will he feel about my bringing up his mental health? What's going to happen live, on air?

Richard is late. He's supposed to call at 1:20, and now it's 1:30. 1:45. Is he blowing me off? Is all this worry for nothing? When the green light finally flashes, at 1:50, my adrenaline peaks - it's Richard, who turns out to be quite fantastic. I relax right into the interview and we have a heck of a time.

And this is how it always goes. Nothing to be scared of, after all. My stress level would be so much lower if these rockers would just come into the studio. Or if I stuck to playing music and didn't do interviews. But then I wouldn't get to meet such interesting characters. So the momentary terror is worth it.

(I do these interviews at the college station where I got started in radio and now have a weekly show - WUNH in Durham, NH. Over the years I've had the good fortune to interview Iggy Pop, Jim Carroll, George Thorogood, Dave Evans of U2, Johnny Thunders, David Johansen and Peter Dinklage, among others. More recent interviews include Richard Lloyd, Dennis Diken of the Smithereens, and Chris Vos of the Record Company.)

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Gene Herrick (Email) - Connecting's series on FEAR hits an emotion that goes back to the beginning of time. We all have it, but in different degrees.

I feel that fear can be destabilizing to mankind, or it can be an alert to perk up our senses. Good journalists learn to look at fear as an alert, but not to shut down their mission. Doctors, nurses, emergency medical folks, and any of those professions, such as journalists, that deals with tragedy, the events of natural disasters, and fear of fear. We all have it, but how we deal with fear is the secret.

As a 28-year veteran Associated Press photographer and writer, I most definitely had my share of news events that made my hair stand up. Taking pictures in a war, as bullets and bombs land near you, sometimes the snap-crackle of bullets near your head is not a Saturday matinee. Covering big fires, riots, tornadoes, floods, wars, and other disasters, keeps one alert to the critical dangers, but if one is smart, you engage your rationality, and make decisions based on fact, not fear.

Whether the story is true, or not, we go back to the Adam and Eve story for the beginning of fear. I'm sorry, but parents, teachers, preachers, government leaders, and others, use fear as a tool to control the minds, and behaviors, of their children. They grow up and continue the practice. "Junior, come in; there's terrible storm coming." Or, "Junior, don't step on that sidewalk crack. You know what they say, "Step on a crack; break your mother's back!" The human race has done it from the beginning of time.

Have I been scared? Absolutely! However, as a child, I learned to grab my emotions, size up the situation, make a decision as to what the real danger might be, and decide what rational direction of action I should take.

Fear sets off many physical conditions. Most of the professions who deal with the tragedies and horrible sights of their jobs, learn to put up an imaginary glass between themselves and the ugliness. You still witness the problem, but you put up a barrier so that the view you have is not permitted to imbed itself in the mind. You still know it happened, you still remember the horrible scene, but it doesn't screw up your life.

Certainly I remember the horrible scenes in life, but I don't let it control me.

Then, of course, we have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). We notice it more in military personnel, usually those who have had serious battlefield experiences. It comes in degrees, and affects people in different ways. I have a slight case of it. I haven't slept in a bed for years. I will would often awaken and be panicky, and I would immediately have to get up. Upon getting out of bed I never had a remembrance of whatever bothered me. I have since slept in a lounge chair, where I don't have quick awakenings.

My dreams or sleep-time experiences are usually the frustration of trying to get to a disaster story. One recurring story involved a huge building fire, and my battle to go around parked traffic in the roadway. After finally parking, I grabbed my camera, and battled my way through a huge crowd to get to the fire. Upon getting there, I discovered I did not have a lens. I fought my way back to the car, only to find I didn't have any lenses. I took a piece of cardboard, punched a hole in the middle, and made a primitive lens. Just as I battled my way back through the crowd, I raised my camera, only to find that the fire had completely gone out, and was virtually not worth a picture. Ah, yes, frustration is wonderful.

Connecting mailbox

A favorite memory of Ed Blanche

Marcus Eliason ([Email](#)) - Ed was my very first news editor. He was sent to Tel Aviv shortly after the 1967 war to find the COB about to depart on home leave, which reduced his staff to one correspondent 40 miles away in Jerusalem, a couple of stringers and one very raw, untrained office boy (me). Somehow we still managed to crank out a daily running report of the war's aftermath, and I got to watch and learn from a true pro.

And also to laugh a lot. Ed not only made each day a master class in journalism; he was also a very funny man with a very warm heart. May he rest in peace.

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We called them 'nastygrams'

Adolphe Bernotas ([Email](#)) - Re "rockets" and other management missives to the hoi poloi. Before the late Chris Lindsay, funniest man I ever met in AP, arrived in the Concord bureau we called them "nastygrams." One day Chris opened the familiar blue envelope marked PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL in IBM Selectric typeface and called out in his radio voice: "Wow - hate mail!" From that day nastygrams became hate mail.

Parody editions of Washington Post claiming President Trump stepped down; Post objects to misrepresentation



An activist distributes a lookalike 'special edition' of The Washington Post in front of the White House. | Tasos Katopodis/Getty Images

By Politico Morning Media:

FAKE NEWS: Parody editions of the Washington Post circulated across Washington on Wednesday, with a headline falsely claiming that in an "UNPRESIDENTED" move, President Donald Trump had stepped down. Yes Men, a "trickster activist collective," along with writer Onnesha Roychoudhuri and author L.A. Kauffman, claim to have produced the impostor paper.

- Kauffman told Washington Post media reporter Erik Wemple that it took nine months to plan for the fake edition. In an interview with NPR, she also said that the distribution of the paper was tied to the upcoming third-annual Women's March this weekend. She added that: "We were very careful to date it in the future and frame it, essentially, as speculative fiction."

- Protest group Code Pink was one of several organizations that helped distribute 10,000 fake editions, co-founder Medea Benjamin told POLITICO . MoveOn said it

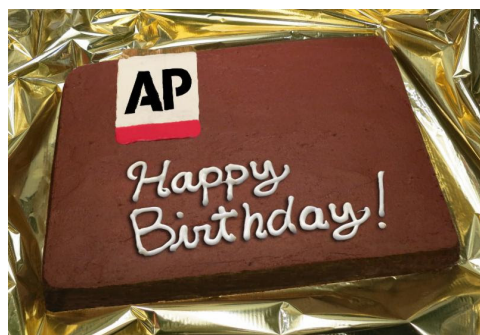
was not involved with the production of the paper, but promoted activists passing out the bogus newspapers on Twitter.

- Despite the satirical nature of the fake newspaper and the accompanying website several journalists, including some from the Post, did not find the parody paper amusing. The bogus paper comes at a time when trust in national media plummeted last year, with Trump often times decrying media outlets as "fake news" and the "enemy of the people."

- Andy Bichlbaum, the co-founder of Yes Men, said in an interview with WIRED , that the creators of the parody paper said that the fake news discourse was "foremost in our thinking about this." "If you look at the website, I think you might agree it would take someone very strange to spend much time believing it's true," Bichlbaum continued.

- WaPo's vice president of communications Kris Coratti said Wednesday that "We will not tolerate others misrepresenting themselves as The Washington Post, and we are deeply concerned about the confusion it causes among readers." She said the paper is "seeking to halt further improper use of our trademarks."

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Jim Salter - jsalter@ap.org

A day late to...

Arlene Sposato - aspot1011@aol.com

Welcome to Connecting



Trenton Daniel - tdaniel@ap.org

Stories of interest

In era of news deserts, no easy fix for local news struggles

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - The local news industry hasn't been the subject of much good news itself, lately.

Newspaper circulation is down sharply, and so is employment in the newspaper industry. Financial cutbacks have led to the shutdown of nearly 1,800 daily and weekly newspapers since 2004.

Two developments this week brought the issue into further focus. Facebook, whose success has contributed to the news business' decline, announced Tuesday it would invest \$300 million over three years in news initiatives with an emphasis in local coverage. More ominously, the hedge fund-backed Digital First Media, known for sharp cost-cutting strategies, bid to buy Gannett Co. , the publisher of USA Today and several daily newspapers across the country.

"It's a struggle every day," said Charles Sennott, a former newspaper beat reporter who co-founded The GroundTruth Project , a foundation that funds the work of journalists. "Every day we are facing the fact that American journalism is in crisis."

Sennott was buoyed this week to meet with Obed Manuel, a young reporter at the Dallas Morning News whose coverage of Hispanic immigration is paid for in part by The GroundTruth Project.

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

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Here are 12 principles journalists should follow to make sure they're protecting their sources

(Nieman)

By JOSHUA BENTON

In the public imagination, reporters working with whistleblowers has traditionally meant All the President's Men-style cloak-and-dagger stealth - meetings in shadowy underground garages, potted plants turned into signals, Hal Holbrook's whispered exhortations to "follow the money."

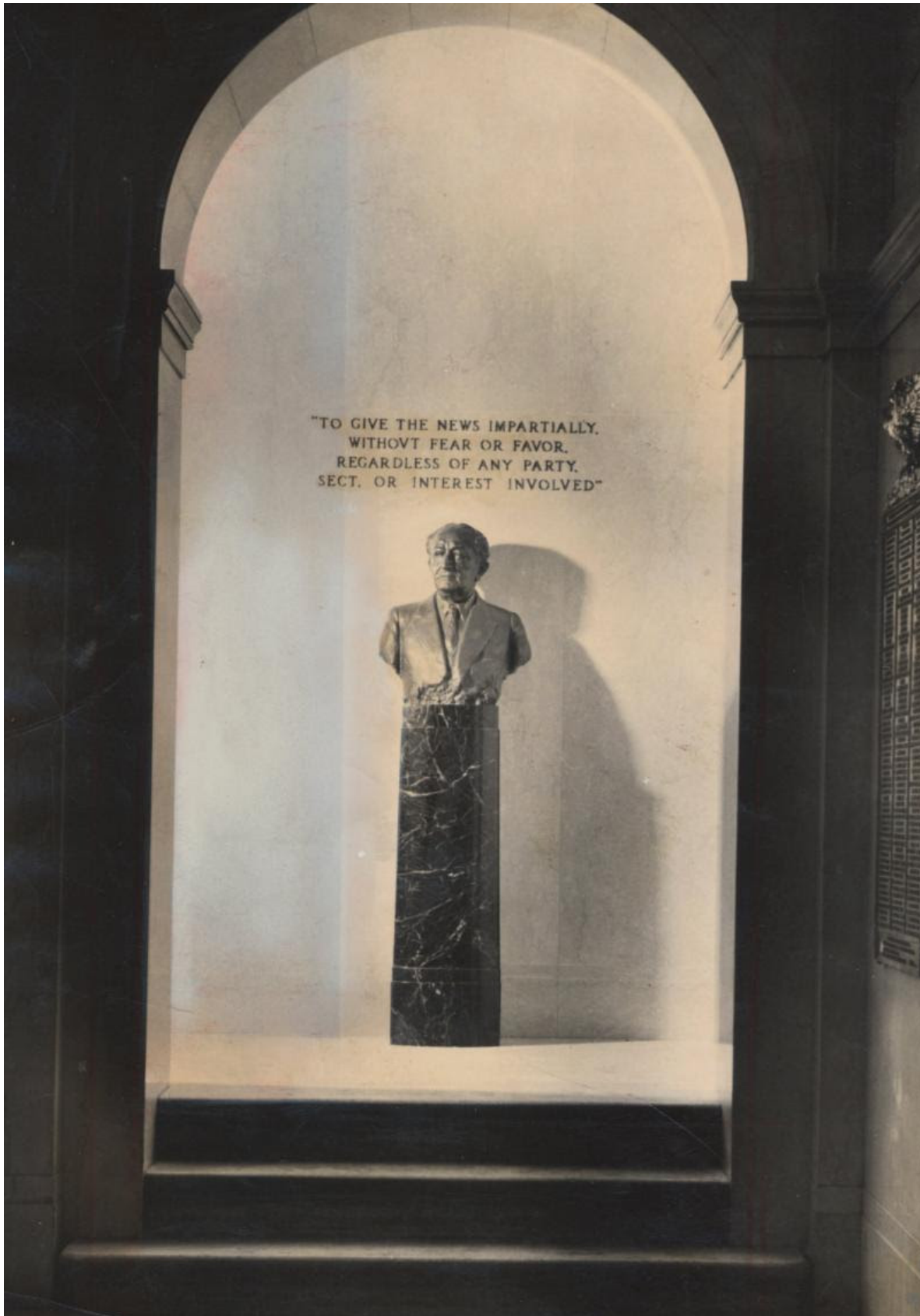
But today, journalists' interactions with whistleblowers are more likely to come in Signal chats or secure dropboxes than D.C. garages. And that shift has changed the terms of engagement in often confusing ways.

"We're being forced to act like spies, having to learn tradecraft and encryption and all the new ways to protect sources," says James Risen, The Intercept's senior national security correspondent, who has written often about secret government deeds. "But we are not an intelligence agency. We're not really spies. So, there's going to be a time when you might make a mistake or do something that might not perfectly protect a source. This is really hard work. It's really dangerous for everybody."

Read more [here](#).

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Impartial Coverage: As Good for Business as It Is for Journalism (New York Times)



A bust of Adolph S. Ochs occupied a landing on the main staircase of The New York Times Building until 1946. The New York Times Photo Archives

By Will Dudding

Times Insider explains who we are and what we do, and delivers behind-the-scenes insights into how our journalism comes together.

In 1896, Adolph S. Ochs, the 38-year-old publisher of what is now The Chattanooga Times Free Press, was wrestling with a problem. That March, he had received a telegram from Harry Alloway, an acquaintance and reporter for The New York Times, a paper in decay. Mr. Alloway wrote that after years of struggling, The Times could be bought for a relatively small amount of money. It was in desperate need of rescue, but Mr. Ochs didn't think he was capable of taking on such a challenge.

Herman H. Kohlsaat, the owner of The Chicago Times-Herald, gave Mr. Ochs some advice over dinner: "Don't tell anybody, and they'll never find out."

Eventually he was persuaded. A day after assuming the role of publisher of The Times, Mr. Ochs made a promise in the pages of the paper, under the headline "Business Announcement": "to give the news impartially, without fear or favor, regardless of party, sect, or interests involved." Those few words, it turned out, would help bring the paper back from the brink.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen, who noted, "Way down in this piece, AP is credited with helping the NYT get established during its early years."

The Final Word



Shared by Ed Williams

Today in History - January 17, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2019. There are 348 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Jan. 17, 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered his farewell address in which he warned against "the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

On this date:

In 1806, Thomas Jefferson's daughter, Martha, gave birth to James Madison Randolph, the first child born in the White House.

In 1893, Hawaii's monarchy was overthrown as a group of businessmen and sugar planters forced Queen Lili'uokalani (lee-LEE'-oo-oh-kah-LAH'-nee) to abdicate. The 19th president of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, died in Fremont, Ohio, at age 70.

In 1917, Denmark ceded the Virgin Islands to the United States for \$25 million.

In 1929, the cartoon character Popeye the Sailor made his debut in the "Thimble Theatre" comic strip.

In 1945, Soviet and Polish forces liberated Warsaw during World War II; Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews, disappeared in Hungary while in Soviet custody.

In 1977, convicted murderer Gary Gilmore, 36, was shot by a firing squad at Utah State Prison in the first U.S. execution in a decade.

In 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios, Inc.*, ruled 5-4 that the use of home video cassette recorders to tape television programs for private viewing did not violate federal copyright laws.

In 1994, the 6.7 magnitude Northridge earthquake struck Southern California, killing at least 60 people, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1995, more than 6,000 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 devastated the city of Kobe (koh-bay), Japan.

In 1996, Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman and nine followers were handed long prison sentences for plotting to blow up New York-area landmarks.

In 1998, the Drudge Report said Newsweek magazine had killed a story about an affair between President Bill Clinton and an unidentified White House intern, the same day Clinton gave a deposition in Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against him in which he denied having had a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

In 2001, faced with an electricity crisis, California used rolling blackouts to cut off power to hundreds of thousands of people; Gov. Gray Davis signed an emergency order authorizing the state to buy power.

Ten years ago: Israel declared a unilateral cease-fire in its 22-day Gaza offensive. President-elect Barack Obama arrived in the nation's capital after a daylong rail trip that began in Philadelphia, retracing the path Abraham Lincoln took in 1861. Salvage crews hoisted a downed US Airways jetliner from the Hudson River, two days after a dramatic water landing, survived by everyone on board.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama ordered new limits on the way intelligence officials accessed phone records from hundreds of millions of Americans; the president also signed a \$1.1 trillion spending bill to fund the federal government through the end of September 2014. Acting Surgeon General Boris Lushniak marked the 50th anniversary of the Surgeon General's report on smoking and health by saying one in 13 children could see their lives shortened by smoking unless the nation took more aggressive action to end the tobacco epidemic. A Vatican document obtained by The Associated Press showed that in his last two years as pope, Benedict XVI defrocked nearly 400 priests for raping and molesting children.

One year ago: Snow, ice and record-breaking cold closed runways, highways, schools and government offices across the South; at least 15 people died. A broad rally propelled the Dow Jones industrial average to close above 26,000 points for the first time. The rival Koreas agreed to form their first unified Olympic team and have their athletes parade together for the first time in 11 years during the opening ceremony of the upcoming Winter Olympics in South Korea.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betty White is 97. Former FCC chairman Newton N. Minow is 93. Actor James Earl Jones is 88. Talk show host Maury Povich is 80. Pop singer Chris Montez is 77. Rhythm-and-blues singer William Hart (The Delfonics) is 74. Actress Joanna David is 72. Actress Jane Elliot is 72. Rock musician Mick Taylor is 71. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sheila Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 66. Singer Steve Earle is 64. Singer Paul Young is 63. Actor-comedian Steve Harvey is 62. Singer Susanna Hoffs (The Bangles) is 60. Movie director-screenwriter Brian Helgeland is 58. Actor-comedian Jim Carrey is 57. Actor Denis O'Hare is 57. Former first lady Michelle Obama is 55. Actor Joshua Malina is 53. Singer Shabba Ranks is

53. Rock musician Jon Wysocki is 51. Actor Naveen Andrews is 50. Electronic music DJ Tiesto is 50. Rapper Kid Rock is 48. Actor Freddy Rodriguez is 44. Actor-writer Leigh Whannel is 42. Actress-singer Zooey Deschanel is 39. Dancer Maksim Chmerkovskiy (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 39. Singer Ray J is 38. Actor Diogo Morgado is 38. Country singer Amanda Wilkinson is 37. NBA player Dwyane Wade is 37. Actor Ryan Gage is 36. DJ-singer Calvin Harris is 35. Folk-rock musician Jeremiah Fraites is 33. Actor Jonathan Keltz is 31. Actress Kelly Marie Tran (Film: "Star Wars: The Last Jedi") is 30. Actress Kathrine (cq) Herzer is 22.

Thought for Today: "If there is one basic element in our Constitution, it is civilian control of the military." - President Harry S. Truman (1884-1972).

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.

Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

Connecting newsletter, [14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215](#)

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