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Connecting - January 28, 2019

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Connecting

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Tom Raum (right) and AP White House correspondent Terry Hunt get set up before their interview with President George W. Bush, October 17, 2004. Bush was flying to a campaign event in Marlton, N.J. Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais (Courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

With sadness, Connecting brings you news of the death of our colleague **Tom Raum**, who worked in the AP's Washington bureau for most of his 44-year career, covering three presidents, Congress and national politics.

Recalls colleague **Merrill Hartson**: "Tom Raum was and will forever be there in the pantheon of great Washington AP Bureau political writers and reporters along with people like Walter R. Mears and the late Donald M. Rothberg - and Terry Hunt and David Espo."

His wife **Nora Raum** said Tom died early Friday morning from a brain injury suffered in a fall at their

home. He was 74. She said a memorial service will be held at a later date.

If you would like to send a note to Nora, her email is nraum@aol.com and her postal address is [5657 Rayburn Ave., Alexandria VA 22311](#).

If you would like to share a favorite memory of Tom with your Connecting colleagues, please send it along.



Tom Raum

We continue our Monday Profile series with the Connecting spotlight on **Mark Mittelstadt**, hired into the AP from a small Iowa daily and forging a fine career that included positions as Des Moines news editor, Albuquerque chief of bureau, Newark chief of bureau, director of editorial planning in New York headquarters, and APME executive director.

Mark and I share Iowa roots - we both grew up in Fort Dodge, attended the same community college, are both University of Iowa graduates and both of us served at one time as bureau chief in Albuquerque. At one point in our AP careers, we were the only two chiefs of bureau who hailed from the same hometown - that, a small city of 25,000.

Have a great week!

Paul

Connecting profile

Mark Mittelstadt



Mary and Mark in Guatemala last September.

What are you doing these days?

Enjoying breath-taking sunsets, star-filled nights and Nature's beauty in southern Arizona.

Following Mary's retirement as a public school music teacher and my departure from The Associated Press, we moved from New Jersey three years ago to a rapidly growing suburb on the outskirts of Tucson. The back of our house faces northwest across a large open area towards foothills and a mountainous horizon from which we marvel at a frequently colorful evening sky, the approach of desert monsoons and sip wine as we watch nighttime meteor showers from our balcony.

Mary re-started her business of teaching piano lessons in students' homes. I write occasionally, including for magazines and AP. I also referee adult and youth soccer and work part-time in a local hardware store. The latter has turned out to be a lot of fun. A journalist's salary forces one to become a do-it-yourselfer. I became proficient over the years with home repairs and improvements. At the store I help customers solve home maintenance issues and even work with children on class projects. At the end of the day I can walk out the door and not lug home a computer bag with a laptop and file folders I probably wouldn't get to anyway.

I also am secretary of the board of directors of a nonprofit that runs an 80-acre spiritual retreat on the northwest edge of Tucson. I volunteer to help with trail maintenance and other tasks.

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

I was editor of a small daily newspaper in Cedar Falls, Iowa in the late 1970s. We had UPI news and photo service. John Lumpkin, then chief of bureau for Iowa and Nebraska, visited frequently trying to get me to switch to AP. Our very tight budget didn't allow it. But in early 1981, John called with a different pitch: to become a reporter and desk editor in the Des Moines bureau.

Walking through the door on an upper floor of a downtown Des Moines bank building Jan. 19, 1981, I expected to meet and to receive orientation with the people I would be working with. Instead, news editor Don Beman rushed up with a pen and reporter's notebook and told me to head back to Northeast Iowa. Kathryn Koob was one of 52 American hostages who had been held hostage in Iran for then 443 days and who news reports said were about to be released. Koob was from Jesup. Don needed reaction from relatives and people in her hometown.



A photo of The Record news staff in their basement newsroom in Cedar Falls, Iowa, circa 1979.

I made the two-and-a-half hour drive and spoke with several folks who knew her. I also talked to her sister Jane Engquist, then called the bureau with quotes and color. One quote was included in a national roundup on the hostages by Louise Cook. Pretty cool for my first day on the job.

Mary and our two young boys hadn't moved to Des Moines yet, so Don told me to stay at home the next couple days as the story unfolded and Ronald Reagan was inaugurated. I eventually returned to Des Moines. The next days were a blur, with more news stories done by phone and out of the office, hurriedly being shoved into desk assignments and venturing out with



Covering flooding in western Iowa in the early 1980s with Des Moines photographer Bob Jarboe, one of the best travel buddies an AP reporter could have.

photographer Bob Jarboe to a fatal 30-car pileup on Interstate 80 during a blizzard.

About six weeks into my employment Beman came up to me with a twinkle in his eye: "Well, ya ready for your orientation?" We laughed.

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

Newsperson and desk supervisor (Des Moines) -- reporting and writing stories, taking over the early morning, night or broadcast desks as needed; News Editor (Des Moines) -- supervising production of the Iowa news and photo reports, scheduling staff, working with the chief of bureau to build relations with member newspapers and broadcasters, coordinating with AP national and international editors; Chief of Bureau (Albuquerque) -- ultimate oversight of New Mexico news and photo reports, recruiting, hiring and managing bureau staff, selling AP services to members and potential customers, building and maintaining relationships with newspaper and broadcast members, coordinating with executives in New York; Chief of Bureau (Newark and then Trenton, N.J.) -- ultimate oversight of New Jersey news and photo reports, recruiting, hiring and managing bureau staff, selling AP services to members and potential customers, building and maintaining relationships with newspaper and broadcast members, maintaining strong relations with critical newspaper members in New York City and Philadelphia, coordinating closely with executives in New York, being in charge of election operations each year; Director of Editorial Planning (AP headquarters, New York City) -- coordinating closely with leaders of AP News Department and other department heads on development and maintenance of a strategic plan; APME liaison, then APME Executive Director (AP headquarters, New York City) -- executive on loan in charge of operations of a nonprofit association of AP member newspaper and online editors, the Associated Press Managing Editors, and the association's fundraising foundation.



The APME Executive Committee visited Mexico City and Cuba in April 2004. Pictured in a square in Havana, from left: (unidentified), (Cuban handler), former APME President and Dallas Morning News Managing Editor Stuart Wilk, Cuban National Assembly of People's Power President Ricardo Alarcon, former AP Havana Correspondent Anita Snow, then board member and former The Day Editor Lance Johnson and former APME Executive Director Mark Mittelstadt.

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

Several people. Don Fish, an English instructor at Iowa Central Community College in my hometown of Fort Dodge, Iowa, got me interested in journalism and made me editor of the weekly campus newspaper. Wick Temple, first as AP's director of personnel and then as head of newspaper services, identified me as an early candidate for a bureau position and kept me engaged at a time when I wasn't certain I wanted to stay. And I always felt I had a friend and cheerleader in President and CEO Louis Boccardi, even when a "blue rocket" was aimed at my head.

But the most significant role was played by Dave Tomlin, who was put in charge of the Iowa and Nebraska operations following a tumultuous stretch in the bureau and the Iowa membership. Dave brought an

engaging yet friendly approach to restoring the two-state operation and in letting headquarters know the problems did not lie with the news editor. Dave gave me additional responsibility, encouraged me to get more involved in member relations and exhibited a positive style of management that yielded results. Shortly after Dave was promoted to a position at AP headquarters I was named bureau chief in New Mexico.



Former Iowa-Nebraska Chief of Bureau Dave Tomlin, his wife Pam Mauldin Tomlin and daughter Elizabeth stopped by the Mittelstadt household in Tucson May 2016 en route to California.

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

Overall I am very happy with the path my career took, often when I wasn't quite aware of where it was headed next. I got to work with many excellent journalists, recruited several to AP, found unexpected success placing good candidates in AP's minority internship program and directed coverage of two first-in-the-nation precinct caucuses. My assignments took me to places and allowed me to do things I never imagined: meeting Presidents and presidential candidates; riding in hot air balloons at the Albuquerque Balloon Festival; looking silly wearing a suit and tie, complete with wing-tip shoes, climbing primitive wood ladders to peer into cave dwellings at Bandelier National Monument near Los Alamos, N.M.; going behind the stage at the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City; getting to know top editors at leading newspapers; negotiating hotel contracts around the country for APME conferences; meeting and interviewing then Mexico President Vicente Fox at the presidential residence in Mexico City; traveling to Havana to meet with Cuban officials and separately with dissidents.

If anything I might have returned to school for more education in business management or a related field. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity while serving as APME executive director to take an intensive program in fundraising at New York University.

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

Hiking, bringing life and color to what had been a bare crushed rock back yard in Arizona and refereeing soccer.

How did you get involved with refereeing? What do you like about it?

As they were growing up I coached my sons in basketball and soccer. I apparently acted at times like the Bobby Knight of soccer, yelling at the referees from the sideline. After one game the referee approached and encouraged me to take a ref class which was just about to start. I did, completed the multi-session course and was assigned games a short time later. I continued as a referee as my sons got older and moved on to other things.

We didn't have soccer in Fort Dodge. Matches on TV could only be seen on grainy black-and-white UHF channels Sunday mornings.

I was fortunate to get my start in New Jersey, which has a rich soccer history stemming from early immigration from Europe and elsewhere. Germans, Italians, Irish, Russians, Puerto Ricans all have had soccer clubs for decades and several still maintain social clubhouses. The influx of immigrants from Central and South America has brought a new flavor to New Jersey soccer. Referee training is very good. Through a state soccer referee association I got to know several top U.S. soccer referees, especially New Jersey native Mark Geiger. Geiger received the high honors of being selected twice to officiate FIFA World Cup tournaments, as well as the Olympics and the championship of the global soccer region for North and South America. We occasionally still communicate online.

I now mostly officiate adult and high school matches, although occasionally I fill in at the youth level. I enjoy the game. But I also like the challenges of managing an 80- or 90-minute competition, even when the crowd and even players or coaches don't quite agree with my decisions. Management skills learned at AP come in handy.



Hurrying to keep up with play at the Special Olympics USA Games, held in the summer of 2014 in and around West Windsor, N.J. Thousands of athletes on teams from around the country competed in various sports, including soccer.

What are some of your soccer highlights?

I was selected to be the main referee for a match between top 16- and 17-year-old boys from New Jersey and lads visiting from Scotland. I was usually given the toughest matches in Over-30 (years old) and Over-40 divisions in New Jersey.

My most rewarding experiences have been with Special Olympics. You can celebrate when a Special Olympian has their own victory of simply running up and making contact with the ball, let alone scoring a goal. You high-five them and you never know when they'll come up and give you a big hug. The only "pay" is the joy of seeing smiles and satisfaction of the participants.

I was a referee for the national USA Special Olympics Games in central New Jersey in 2014. They produced many, many touching moments of joy and inspiration. Following a match between the MLS New York Red Bulls and Sporting KC, I had the whistle for a game in Red Bull Arena in Harrison, N.J., between Special Olympics teams from Kansas City and New Jersey.

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

Aruba in August 2005. We enjoyed the beaches, blue water and tropical feel. Our boys rented "quads" to drive around dune areas and stood on the famous Aruba Natural Bridge formation, which unfortunately collapsed into the ocean a month later. We ate at several great restaurants, including El Gaucho steakhouse and The Flying Fishbone, where our table was partially in the surf and fish swam inches away from our feet or skipped through the air.

A close second would be a 2016 trip Mary and I took to England to see youngest son, Brent, a post-doctoral researcher at the Oxford Internet Institute at the University of Oxford. We spent most of our time in Oxford, which with its history and architecture is fascinating in itself. We made side trips to London where we saw the British version of the musical comedy "The Book of Mormon" and took in a Tottenham Hotspur soccer match at famed Wembley Stadium. (Unfortunately Brent's favorite Spurs lost 2-1 to Monaco in the Champions League.)

Names of your family members and what they do?

Mary Mittelstadt, Tucson: wife, home organizer, piano teacher and sanity restorer.
Matthew Mittelstadt, Tucson: son, lawyer in the Executive Office of Immigration Review for the federal immigration court. Brent Mittelstadt, Oxford, England: son, post-doctoral fellow at Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford.

Mark Mittelstadt's email is - markmitt71@yahoo.com

Tom Raum, versatile Washington reporter for AP during 44-year career, dies at 74



Tom and Nora Raum with their grandson Avery in 2016

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

WASHINGTON (AP) - Tom Raum, a versatile writer who covered three presidents, Congress and national politics and translated knotty economic issues for readers during 44 years with The Associated Press, died Friday. He was 74.

The cause of death was a brain injury from a fall last week at home, said his wife, Nora Raum.

Raum joined the AP in Tallahassee, Florida, and spent two years there before transferring to the Washington bureau in 1973. He arrived during the turmoil of the Watergate investigation that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon. His first job in Washington was as an editor working the overnight shift.

He later became the AP's chief congressional correspondent, from 1980-1984, coinciding with President Ronald Reagan's first term. He covered Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush, traveling around the world as he reported on their diplomatic initiatives.

He also spent time on the economics beat, including covering the Great Recession, which began in December 2007 when George W. Bush was president and officially ended in June 2009 during President Barack Obama's first term.

In the newsroom, he was known for helping junior colleagues wrestling with issues like the federal deficit.

"He was so versatile," said Terence Hunt, former deputy bureau chief in Washington. "He could do everything, effortlessly, and he was a nice, graceful writer."

Raum also was an avid sailor, said Jim Drinkard, a former AP Washington editor and reporter. "He was a good skipper, patient with people who didn't know how to sail."

On 9/11, Raum was preparing to leave for work from his home in Alexandria, Virginia, when the first plane commandeered by terrorists hit the World Trade Center in New York. He heard the second crash on the radio, driving to his subway stop.

"I instantly thought: Washington's next," he wrote in a brief recollection of that day, during which he worked "writing and piecing things together" to deliver the AP's report.

Raum was born in suburban New Jersey in 1944, but he considered himself a New Yorker, his wife said. As a teen, he pushed a coffee cart up Lexington Avenue, and later he would relish taking AP colleagues on meandering walking tours of the city.

Raum originally had wanted to study physics, but "physics was a lot of math, so he switched to English," said Nora Raum. He graduated from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

His English degree helped him land a job at the Tampa Times newspaper in Florida. As a police reporter, he was issued a camera to shoot pictures of accident and crime scenes, and he'd later write the photo captions. But Raum moved up quickly to covering the Florida legislature and writing about politics. He started with AP in 1971 in Florida's capital, Tallahassee.

Raum "liked to write, and he got paid to write," said his wife, a lawyer and radio journalist. "He reluctantly retired at 71."

In addition to his wife, Tom Raum is survived by three children, a stepson and seven grandchildren.

Click [here](#) for link to this story. Shared by Carole Feldman.

Your memories of Tom Raum...



AP Washington staffers interview National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice

(center) on the eve of President Bush's trip to Asia in 2002. Pictured clockwise from left: Washington reporter at-large Tom Raum, White House correspondent Ron Fournier and Chief of Bureau Sandy Johnson. Photo: J. Scott Applewhite. (Courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Jane Anderson ([Email](#)) - I worked with Tom in Washington when I was a regional reporter from New England in the early 1980s. He was always helpful and courteous. I enjoyed knowing him and was grateful to him. His death is sad news indeed.

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Rita Beamish ([Email](#)) - Stunning news has come that Tom Raum, my former AP colleague and friend, one of the stalwarts of solid, savvy, honorable journalism, has died. In the years I covered politics and the White House with him, crammed into our little AP booth or traveling days on end, Tom was an unflappable professional who always got it right and made deadline. A delightful and considerate colleague, he was the epitome of the collegial relationship that we needed on our AP team. His generosity spilled out of our booth and to the rest of the White House press corps and everyone around him. Quick to laugh, dogged in his work, always ready to lend a hand no matter how mundane or lofty the story ... It was a pleasure to work with him every day, and a privilege to be his friend. A sad, sad day.

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Merrill Hartson ([Email](#)) - I'll never forget that searingly humid night in the Bayou, on the closing session of the 1988 GOP convention in New Orleans, when my good friend Tom Raum and I found ourselves commiserating in the late hours at a blues club in the French Quarter. Tom would sip on his beer and lament that he wouldn't be picking up with Dan Quayle's day-after campaign launch, in just a few hours. And that solo trip for the veep candidate, with his wife Marilyn to Dan's hometown of Huntington, Ind., was to be unforgettable.

Eileen Putman and I were slated to join the Quayle entourage for what could only be construed as a soft landing. It was his home town, after all. Little did we know the 'soft landing' would be so much more akin to the hard landings we had flying with the Quayles to small airports and short runways on their chartered Boeing 737 for the next few weeks. Nor could we - or did we - suspect it was the Bush high command's - and Lee Atwater's plot - to have Quayle immediately be harshly exposed to the tough and unpleasant questions about Vietnam and his National Guard service that had been percolating virtually out of the cauldron of excitement surrounding the crowning of the new GOP presidential pairing.

More experienced wags might have been tipped off by the mere presence of James A. Baker III on this trip. Tom's absence was assuredly, or seemed, no reflection in any way on him. It was essentially the sort of rotational Washington managers made in all such transitions from convention to campaign coverage.

Truth is, nevertheless, no assignment was too large, too enervating, too much cross-ways of convention or sufficiently stressful to scare away this ambulance chaser at heart. Tom Raum was and will forever be there in the pantheon of great Washington AP Bureau political writers and reporters along with people like Walter R. Mears and the late Donald M. Rothberg - and Terry Hunt and David Espo. But Tom also was a steadying, cheerful and supportive colleague, always. If he experienced the beating of deadline stress, as so many of us did, he never showed the downside of what was his signature brassy competitiveness. He also was virtually peerless in his command of all things Washington, and his grasp of economics, particularly, saved me in many situations.

But it was more the Tom Raum as a friend and joined-at-the-hip colleague that lives on so indelibly in my mind: Elegant writer, fearless reporter and masterful student of complex issues, his never-say-die journalism, his presence as a man with whom one would never shun sharing a foxhole.

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Michael Willard - Life, it seems, goes by with the frenzied flutter of a Hummingbird's wing. This came home to me with the death of an old friend.

His name was Tom Raum, and many might remember his byline as a White House correspondent for the Associated Press. He died last week from head trauma received in a fall at his home outside DC.

Tom and I met in our early 20s. The Vietnam War was going strong. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bobby Kennedy were still alive, though neither were to survive this particular year. It was the twin traumas of 1968.

We were going to light up the world with brilliant novels and insightful reporting that sent bad guys to jail and freed the oppressed. Write we did- sufficient words to fill a "Gone With the Wind" and dozens of sequels.

The fact that there were no Pulitzers or best-selling novels to come is merely a footnote to lives, not the headline. We worked in the brackish backwaters of the famous, the far-reaching and often the fatuous, chronicling history as we saw it.

That's what mattered - getting it right. Getting it true. It was a time before a term such as fake news became neon-lit, and no one could comprehend decades later a reality show and a pretend businessman becoming President.

When Donald Trump did become President, and I mounted my usual partisan high horse, Tom, the patient one, reached out to me on Facebook to take a wait and see attitude.

In the end, with Trump and his cat's cradle of lies, his patience had worn thin.

Tom Raum spent a career in wire service work, first in Tallahassee, then DC. On the other hand, my restless soul saw me in wire service, then politics, and then international business. Eventually, I came full-circle as a newspaper executive in Eastern Europe.

It came as a shock to me, those words "Tom has died" posted by his wife Nora on Tom's Facebook page. I was accustomed to hearing from Nora many mornings. She is a journalist on National Public Radio to which I tune.

Tom was 74-not a long-life in modern terms-but surely one of substance and meaning. I know this because we were brothers in news, starting about the same time on the long-gone Tampa Times.

The afternoon newspaper was dying even when Tom and I worked there, the fate of many such dailies. Gone was the 1950s version of the American man who came home, propped himself in an easy chair, and read the evening news with faithful Fido at his side.

The old timers on the Tampa Times-most Korean War veterans-knew its days were numbered when some marketing wise-guy suggested the paper feature reporters as significant personalities-like most local television stations do today.

It's done. Stick a fork in it, said Tom Englis, who was the toughest son-of-a-gun reporter I ever met. Charlie Robins, the daily humor columnist, did what he did best. He created satire around it.

Bob Turner, who taught me being nice to news sources gets you more informed and better stories than bluster, just smiled about it.

That was oh, so long ago. The Tampa Times, I have been told, was the last newspaper to go from a nickel to a dime, and then it folded. Tom and I had left years before, and Raum was settled in for good at AP.

We were, though, the young guns on Doyle Harvill's "ball team", as he called us. Harvill was mentor and editor. He could have been snatched from the stage of the 1928 comedy "Front Page". Doyle was tough and gruff, and we loved him.

Tom and I took different paths in wire service reporting. He went AP, and I United Press International. He retired two years ago, and appeared happy managing a stock portfolio, and keeping up with old friends.

As White House correspondent, Tom had a storied career, flying around on Air Force One with Presidents and chronicling the daily humdrum as well as the excitement of high officialdom.

I last saw Tom two years ago, though we often communicated on social media.

My wife and I had dinner with Tom and Nora at Joe Theismann's restaurant in Alexandria, Va. We talked over old times, and how we had both dressed up as pirates during Tampa's Gasparilla Festival on reporting assignments.

We had drinks and laughed a lot.

I am told by reliable sources that we all die. But I hate like hell when life-long friends die, and Tom was a good one.

Service remembers Fran Mears for her life with Walter, career in journalism and service to community

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Fran Mears, an Associated Press reporter, editor and bureau chief during a journalism career that spanned more than 40 years, died January 19 at the age of 66. She was the wife of Walter R. Mears, retired AP political writer and vice president. Here is a report on services held last Friday in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.)

Harry Dunphy (Email) - The "Service of Death and Resurrection," took place at Christ United Methodist Church, a Gothic-style stone building with bell tower near Chapel Hill, where Fran and Walter had been parishioners since they moved to the area some 20 or so years ago.

It was a traditional religious service with hymns ("Amazing Grace") and scriptural readings but there were some modern touches, Rodgers and Hammerstein's "You'll Never Walk Alone" at the start and Lennon and McCartney's "Let it Be" at the end.

Walter and his daughters and their husbands were in the front pew with five of Walter and Fran's seven grandchildren present. The family and Walter talked with those of us attending at a reception in the church hall afterward.

The Rev. Suzanne Hultman delivered the homily that was all about Fran and Walter and their life together. Hultman visited with Fran during her illness and recalled that even though she was suffering, Fran always greeted her with a smile and kept the conversation upbeat.

Hultman spoke about Fran's volunteer work with the Chatham County Literacy Council where she taught children and some adults to read.

Hultman reviewed Fran's career and how she helped many journalists. get their careers started.

She said that Fran always talked about Walter and his prize-winning accomplishments in the news business, but Fran had great success in her career as well with AP and Gannett.

The minister also told the story of how they met in Kansas City where Walter was talking to a newspaper group and Fran was responsible for shepherding him around.

Among those who attended with AP ties to Fran and Walter were Terry Hunt and his wife Jeanie, Dave Espo, Reid Miller and Pauline Jelinek.

Special AP citation: Mohamed Ben Khalifa



The Best of the AP committee has awarded a special lifetime citation to Libya freelance photographer and video journalist **Mohamed Ben Khalifa**, who died Jan. 19 when the military convoy with which he was traveling came under missile fire in southern Tripoli.

Ben Khalifa, 35, a beloved figure in the community of journalists in war-racked Libya, had worked frequently for AP since 2014. His images conveyed the arc of tragedy in his home country, from refugee corpses washing ashore on the Libyan coast to the ferocious militia warfare in and around Tripoli.

The committee honored Ben Khalifa for the body of his work, carried out with integrity and courage for The Associated Press and his other media clients.

Best of the Week

All-formats team dominates coverage of Nairobi terror attack



A member of the security forces helps civilians away from the DusitD2 hotel and office complex as cars burn during an attack by al-Shabab terrorists in Nairobi, Kenya, Jan. 15, 2019. The attack, which lasted almost 20 hours, left 21 people dead, including a police officer, in addition to the five attackers. AP Photo / Ben Curtis

The Nairobi team's coverage of the deadly extremist attack on a hotel complex was a textbook example of cross-format journalism that put the AP ahead on every element of a major breaking story: an extremist attack on a hotel complex that left 21 people dead, in addition to the five attackers.

From the first blasts, gunfire and panicked phone calls, the Nairobi bureau immediately assumed a terror attack and aggressively mobilized resources. Senior video producer Khaled Kazziha called freelance video journalist Joe Mwiha, who sped through snarled traffic on a motorbike and slipped into the scene with Kenyan special forces, filming exclusive footage as officers cleared rooms, guns drawn, and ran down rumors of a grenade. His three hours of exclusive reporting earned him the byline on the text story as editors compiled the story based on his detailed contributions.

Meanwhile, staff video journalist Joshat Kasire rushed to the scene with a LiveU and quickly scooped competitors with the first live shot showing burning cars, injured people, survivors fleeing in droves and witness accounts. His compelling footage became the heart of the text story, and the live images continued overnight as the roughly 20-hour attack unfolded.

Contributing to the outstanding video coverage were freelance cameraman Idi Ali Juma, freelance camera assistant Moses Ndungu and freelance producers Geoffrey Kaviti and Desmond Tiro.

"Sheer bravery," AP international editor Ian Phillips called it in The Definitive Source blog.

Around the same time, Nairobi photographers Ben Curtis and Khalil Senosi captured gripping images of people fleeing the mayhem, security forces aiming weapons at attackers, bodies slumped at tables in a café and, later, mourners burying the body of a victim, among dozens of other standout photos.

Kazziha also obtained surveillance footage of the attackers entering the complex, giving the AP an 11-hour scoop on competitors. The play for the photos, video and text was off the charts, including major client Sky News running live and packaged videos on a day busy with Brexit news.

For their formidable breaking news coverage across all formats, the Nairobi team of Kazziha, Curtis, Senosi, Mwihia, Kasire, Ali Juma, Tiro, Kavita and Ndungu wins AP's Best of the Week.

Best of the States

AP first with on-the-record report of Michigan State interim president's resignation



Michigan State University interim President John Engler speaks during a Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on "Strengthening and Empowering U.S. Amateur Athletes," in Washington, July 24, 2018. Engler resigned from the university after backlash over comments reported in The Detroit News that abuse victims of former sports doctor Larry Nassar had been in the "spotlight" and are "still enjoying that moment at times, you know, the awards and recognition." AP Photo / Susan Walsh

Over the course of days, calls for the resignation or firing of interim Michigan State University President John Engler crescendoed in the wake of offensive and insensitive comments he made to The Detroit News about victims of ex-sports doctor Larry Nassar.

As the fast-moving story developed, multiple outlets cited anonymous sources in reporting his imminent departure. But not the AP, whose News Values and Principles are clear on the preference to attach named sources to our reporting: "Whenever possible, we pursue information on the record."

Detroit reporter Corey Williams and Lansing, Michigan, correspondent David Eggert scored many significant beats on the story, all of them solidly sourced.

Williams successfully reached two MSU trustees - one who said the board had the votes to oust Engler and another saying he was expected to resign later that day. Meanwhile, Eggert scored a beat, contacting Rachael Denhollander, the first victim of Larry Nassar to have gone public, for exclusive early reaction.

And finally, working his sources, Eggert exclusively obtained a copy of Engler's resignation letter, which the university's board was refusing to release. Eggert got the letter via email while in his car and quickly forwarded to Ed White in the Detroit bureau. He digested the 11-page letter and worked with Central desk editor Jeff McMurray to APNewsAlert Engler's resignation far ahead of others and a half-hour before a trustee announced it on Twitter.

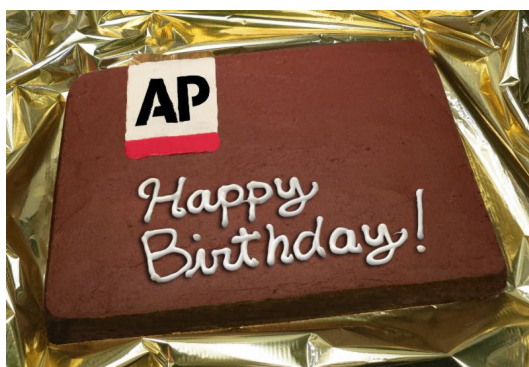
Working his sources, Eggert exclusively obtained a copy of Engler's 11-page resignation.

The AP was alone with the letter for at least an hour, and with the help of Katie Oyan on the West Desk, posted the document online so we could link to it from our breaking story.

The AP's story and reporting were widely used, including by The Detroit News - where Engler's offensive comments had appeared, setting the series of events in motion.

For solid on-the-record reporting that put the AP far ahead on a highly competitive story, Williams and Eggert win this week's Best of the States.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Carl Bell - caroui@bellsouth.net

Robert Kimball - rkimballdc@aol.com

Welcome to Connecting



Stan Tiner - stiner4312@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Johns Hopkins buying Newseum building in DC for \$372 million



This March 30, 2009 file photo shows the Newseum in Washington. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

By DAVID McFADDEN

BALTIMORE (AP) - The founder and main funder of the Newseum, a Washington museum devoted to journalism and the First Amendment, has reached a deal to sell its sleek steel-and-glass building on a prime stretch of real estate in the nation's capital.

In a Friday announcement, the Freedom Forum said Johns Hopkins University will buy its museum building on Pennsylvania Avenue between Congress and the White House for \$372.5 million. The deal still needs to be approved by regulators and the Newseum will remain open to the public through the end of the year.

Jan Neuharth, chairwoman and CEO of the Freedom Forum, the Newseum's creator and primary funder, said the group is committed to continuing the museum's programs.

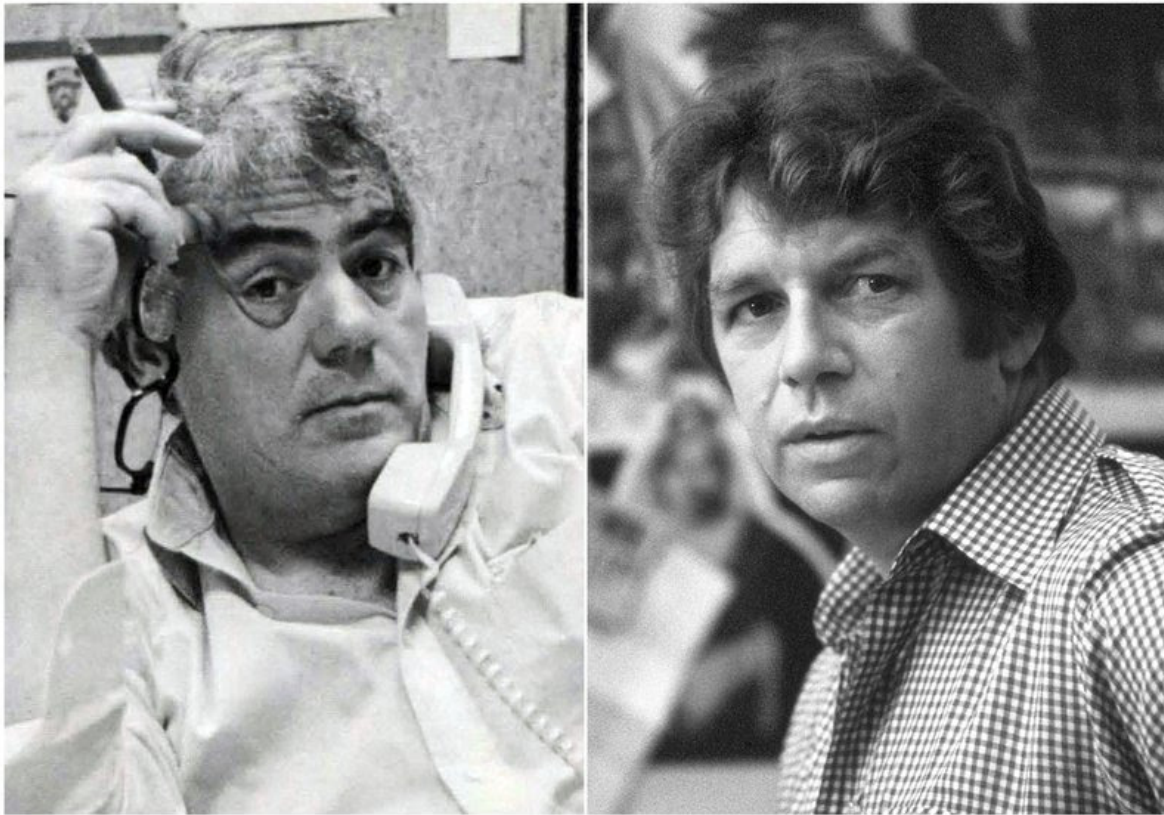
It's not clear what might eventually happen with the Newseum's exhibits after the deal is authorized, but the Freedom Forum says it is looking at "digital outreach, traveling exhibits, and web-based programs in schools around the world, as well as hopefully in a new physical home in the area."

Johns Hopkins, a Baltimore-based academic institution known for its medical center and university, intends to use the property as a consolidated center for its Washington-based programs, anchored by its School of Advanced International Studies.

Read more [here](#).

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Film on Breslin and Hamill shows perils of local journalism; premiers tonight on HBO



This combination photo of images released by HBO shows journalists Jimmy Breslin, left, and Pete Hamill who are the focus of the HBO documentary "Breslin and Hamill: Deadline Artists," premiering on Jan. 28. (Brian Hamill/HBO via AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - HBO's new film on newspaper columnists Jimmy Breslin and Pete Hamill romanticizes an era in New York and journalism that feels like a long, long time ago.

The fact that it's very recent history makes "Breslin and Hamill: Deadline Artists" partly a tragedy.

The two men embodied a time when New York was a rollicking and complicated place, and each lived for the streets and stories of the little guys who made the city run. Every city had their own Breslins or Hamills, who made the powerful tremble or shake their fists. Their newspapers were required reading.

Toward the end of the documentary, which premieres Monday at 8 p.m. ET, filmmakers unspool a statistic that shocks. In 1988, the New York Daily News, the tabloid both Breslin and Hamill called home at times, had 400 reporters and editors. Thirty years later, that number was 45.

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

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How CNN captured video of the Roger Stone raid

By JEREMY HERB

(CNN) The rare, dramatic video from CNN Friday capturing the early morning FBI raid of longtime Donald Trump confidante Roger Stone's Florida home was the product of good instincts, some key clues, more than a year of observing comings at the DC federal courthouse and the special counsel's office -- and a little luck on the timing.

CNN producer David Shortell and photojournalist Gilbert De La Rosa were outside Stone's home Friday morning to witness the FBI approaching Stone's door to arrest him on a seven-count indictment that special counsel Robert Mueller's grand jury approved a day earlier.

They were there staking out Stone because there was just enough evidence lurking in the special counsel's activity over the past week that CNN's team covering the Mueller investigation placed a bet that Stone could be arrested as early as Friday.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

The Final Word

The Half King Is Dead. Long Live the Half King

(New York Times)



After 19 years, the Half King is closing. Photo/Caitlin Ochs for The New York Times

By Derek M. Norman

It was a late-April evening in 2011 when news broke that two photographers were killed by a mortar blast in the besieged city of Misurata, one of the last anti-Qaddafi rebel strongholds of the Libyan civil war.

Calls were made. Texts were exchanged. Word spread that these two seasoned conflict photographers, Tim Hetherington and Chris Hondros, were killed in action, and their closest friends and colleagues were meeting to regroup and attempt to digest the tragic news together at a familiar spot: a small bar nestled just below the High Line on the corner of 23rd Street and 10th Avenue.

"We're meeting at the Half King," a text would read. Before long, the shocked and devastated had arrived to grieve at this impromptu meeting place by the hundreds. Friends and colleagues cried together. Acquaintances embraced in grief. And strangers shook hands, bonding over tragedy.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Craig Armstrong.

Today in History - January 28, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 28, the 28th day of 2019. There are 337 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff from Cape Canaveral, killing all seven crew members, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

On this date:

In 1547, England's King Henry VIII died; he was succeeded by his 9-year-old son, Edward VI.

In 1878, the first daily college newspaper, Yale News (now Yale Daily News), began publication in New Haven, Connecticut.

In 1911, the notorious Hope Diamond was sold by jeweler Pierre Cartier to socialites Edward and Evalyn McLean of Washington, D.C., for \$180,000.

In 1915, the United States Coast Guard was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill merging the Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service.

In 1916, Louis D. Brandeis was nominated by President Woodrow Wilson to the Supreme Court; Brandeis became the court's first Jewish member.

In 1945, during World War II, Allied supplies began reaching China over the newly reopened Burma Road.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made his first national TV appearance on "Stage Show," a CBS program hosted by Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey.

In 1960, the National Football League awarded franchises to Dallas and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

In 1973, a cease-fire officially went into effect in the Vietnam War, a day after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords by the United States, North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

In 1978, fire swept through the historic downtown Coates House hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, killing 20 people.

In 1980, six U.S. diplomats who had avoided being taken hostage at their embassy in Tehran flew out of Iran with the help of Canadian diplomats.

In 1988, a 13-day standoff in Marion, Utah, between police and a polygamist clan ended in gunfire that killed a state corrections officer, Fred House, and seriously wounded the group's leader, Addam (correct) Swapp, who ended up serving more than 25 years behind bars.

Ten years ago: In a swift victory for President Barack Obama, the Democratic-controlled House approved, 244-188, a huge \$819 billion stimulus bill with Republicans unanimous in opposition despite Obama's pleas for bipartisan support. Lynyrd Skynyrd keyboard player Billy Powell, who survived the 1977 plane crash that killed three band members, died in Orange Park, Fla., at age 56.

Five years ago: Seeking to energize his second term, President Barack Obama vowed in his State of the Union address to sidestep Congress "whenever and wherever" necessary to narrow economic disparities between rich and poor. Ukraine's prime minister, Mykola Azarov, resigned and the Ukrainian parliament repealed anti-protest laws in back-to-back moves designed to defuse the country's political crisis.

One year ago: Bruno Mars won all six Grammy awards for which he was nominated, including album of the year for "24K Magic;" the leading nominee, Jay-Z, walked away empty-handed. Roger Federer won his 20th Grand Slam singles title, defeating Marin Cilic in the Australian Open final. Protesters gathered across Russia to support the call from opposition leader Alexei Navalny to boycott the March presidential election; Navalny himself was arrested while walking to the Moscow demonstration.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Nicholas Pryor is 84. Actor Alan Alda is 83. Actress Susan Howard is 77. Actress Marthe (cq) Keller is 74. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., is 72. Actress-singer Barbi Benton is 69. Evangelical pastor Rick Warren is 65. Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy (sahr-koh-ZEE') is 64. Actress Harley Jane Kozak is 62. Movie director Frank Darabont is 60. Rock musician Dave Sharp is 60. Rock singer Sam Phillips is 57. Rock musician Dan Spitz is 56. Country musician Greg Cook (Ricochet) is 54. Gospel singer Marvin Sapp is 52. Singer Sarah McLachlan is 51. Rapper Rakim is 51. DJ Muggs (Cypress Hill) is 51. Actress Kathryn Morris is 50. Humorist Mo Rocca is 50. Rock/soul musician Jeremy Ruzumna (Fitz and the Tantrums) is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Anthony Hamilton is 48. Singer Monifah is 47. Actress Gillian Vigman is 47. Rock musician Brandon Bush is 46. Retired MLB All-Star Jermaine Dye is 45. Actress Terri Conn is 44. Singer Joey Fatone Jr. ('N Sync) is 42. Rapper Rick Ross is 42. Actress Rosamund Pike is 40. Actress Angelique Cabral is 40. Singer Nick Carter (Backstreet Boys) is 39. Actor Vinny Chhibber is 39. Actor Elijah Wood is 38. Rapper J. Cole is 34. Actress Alexandra Krosney is 31. Actor Yuri Sardarov is 31. Actress Ariel Winter is 21.

Thought for Today: "A self-taught man usually has a poor teacher and a worse student." - Henny Youngman, British-born American comedian (1906-1998).

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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