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# Connecting - February 15, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

February 15, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

The heated, decades-long competition between AP and UPI to be the first to get the story or photograph is something those of us who experienced it will never forget.

It was drummed into us from the very first day on the job: Don't get beat by the competition! AP and UPI journalists fought the clock and each other to be first "to the

wire" - knowing that almost every minute somewhere in the world, a newspaper or broadcast station was on deadline. That same competition occurred on the business side as both AP and UPI worked to keep their customers and gain new customers from the other.

But what about the personal relationship between AP and UPI journalists who competed one on one? Our colleague **Norm Abelson** tells the story of how he and his UPI counterpart in Concord, New Hampshire, **Jack Maloy**, became good friends outside of the work arena in the 1950s. Norm asks, "Did I really betray The Associated Press those long years ago by consorting with the enemy?"

So what about you? Were you on friendly terms with your UPI or AP competitor? How did you handle the relationship? Connecting would like to hear your story.



**Douglas B. Cornell and his bride, Helen Thomas, stand in Lafayette Park near the White House in October 1971 in Washington after their marriage at St. Johns Church in Washington. President Richard Nixon called it a "marriage made not in heaven but in the White House." (AP Photo)**

The most famous AP-UPI relationship occurred in Washington, where two wire legends - UPI's **Helen Thomas** and AP's **Doug Cornell** - met in the White House briefing room and fell in love. Their engagement was announced by Pat Nixon in the White House state dining room in 1971 where President Nixon and his wife had gathered White House reporters to salute Cornell on his retirement from the AP. Cornell died in 1982 and Thomas left UPI in 2000.

"It is legendary," according to a Hearst story on Thomas' death in 2013, "that when she and Doug were together and she got a story, she went into the women's bathroom and, speaking in hushed tones, called the UPI desk to transmit the story."

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## Friendly 'enemies'



**Norman Abelson (Email)** - Did I really betray The Associated Press those long years ago by consorting with the enemy?

I'll let you be the judge.

After some two years, first as a copy boy and later as a member of the team covering the 1953 Maine legislature, I landed my first full-time assignment in the two-person Concord, New Hampshire, AP office. The cramped space was located on the second floor of the Concord Monitor building. Just down the hall to the left was the even smaller space housing the United Press one-person office. And that's where the "trouble" began.

I hadn't yet met my wife-to-be, Dina, and was living a pretty lonely bachelor-like life - that is, until I bumped into Jack Maloy. Yes, he was the UP guy stationed down the hall. We hit it off immediately, a couple of young curmudgeons who similarly viewed the world with suspicion, and that was best discussed over plenty of cold beer. There were other aspects to our friendship that were much to my advantage. Not the least of these was putting aside my nightly cheeseburger (at 40 cents, the best I could afford on a first-year AP salary), and being invited to Jack's apartment to share some of his wife Rosemary's fine home cooking.

At the heart of many of our discussions were our mutual feelings about our Boston-based bureau chiefs. We learned we each had been warned by them to steer clear of "the opposition." No sharing of any news leads or discussions of works in progress. Unstated, but fairly evident: no friendships. (Our negative feelings were only heightened when we found

out The AP and UP bureau chiefs were themselves social friends. So much for "do as I say, not as I do.")

Well, our friendship not only continued, it blossomed. Jack was well-read, shared my liberal bent, loved a hot discussion and was funny as hell. Incidentally, he was also a heck of a good reporter. Even though we outmanned him two-to-one, he scored beats on more than one occasion.

After my marriage, we became a foursome, delighting in each other's company. But that was not the worst of it. Here's where the "betrayal" comes in.

Jack and I were hardly advocates of dieting or exercise, beyond bending an elbow. To say we were somewhat overweight was a generous understatement. Our offices were maybe a half mile from the State House, where we covered the legislature and governor's press conferences. Neither of us was happy about running back to the offices to get our mostly run-of-the-mill stories out first.

So we made this pact: Hustling was out. The first 10 minutes after we left the State House were set aside for walking only.

After that, relaxed and certainly not winded, we'd approach our typewriters and the opposition would resume. At least until the evening, when Jack and I, over a couple of well-chilled brews, would resume (illicitly?) our critiques of the wire services and the world.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Jack Maloy died in 2015 at the age of 93.

## A tribute to AP colleagues covering Myanmar under military regime

*(Aye Aye Win began her career as AP Myanmar correspondent in 1989 after her father, Sein Win, moved to Kyodo after 20 years with AP. She retired from AP in 2015 after serving for almost 26 years. "After retirement," she said, "I spend most of my time reading, traveling, spending time with family and friends and occasionally giving talks and interviews on journalism and my 25-year career as AP reporter.")*

**Aye Aye Win (Email)** - This article is a tribute to the AP colleagues who had taken risks covering Myanmar under the military regime. (1988-2011)

I called them undercover agents. I literally called them undercover agents because they were agents from my news agency who had to enter Myanmar under cover to

get news out of the tightly controlled military-ruled nation. They came here either as businessmen, school teachers or mere tourists.

Those days when Myanmar was under the military rule and freedom of press was neither guaranteed nor given, journalists working for foreign media organizations usually came to Myanmar under the guise of tourists or under different professions. They were never given journalist visas except for special occasions when the military government held its press conferences for the foreign journalists or arranged press tours.

Since it was almost impossible to obtain journalist visa, AP journalists had no choice but to resort to entering the country with tourist visas in order to write in-depth stories or to cover events such as protests, opposition party events or even a natural disaster.

Standard practice for the undercover agents was to refrain from contacting me directly on the phone as my phone was tapped. They were also advised to avoid conducts that could further jeopardize my position or blow their cover. Sometimes, the undercover agents informed me of the upcoming visits and other times, they remained anonymous throughout their mission- to gather news to write a story for the world to read.



**Aye Aye Win**

Besides taking detailed caution to operate clandestinely in Myanmar, entering the country carrying appropriate gear for video cameramen and photo journalists was a major hassle as they had to go through suspenseful moments when passing through various checks at the airport. Any suspicion raised could land the agents on the regime's blacklist permanently or face stricter regulations in future.

Once they entered the country, interviews were done with extreme secrecy. Safe locations for the interviews were chosen both to ensure the safety of the interviewee and the interviewer. Sometimes my undercover colleagues had to switch hotels frequently to lose surveillance and there were a few instances when their hotel rooms were subjected to search.

Just like in the spy movies, the journalists had to use hidden cameras so that their cover would not be exposed. Memory cards and films were switched frequently or hidden in safe pockets. Videographers and photographers always kept a roll of film or memory card and prepared regular daily-life shots ready to surrender them to authorities if they were unfortunate enough to get caught.

Those were just a few tricks of the trade undercover agents had to familiarized themselves with when covering news in Myanmar.

In 2007, during the monk-led protests globally known as "saffron revolution", reinforcement to cover the event was required. However, due to extremely sensitive security conditions, my colleagues had to totally go under cover. Some of them had to contact me discreetly to share and exchange news but most of them remained incognito throughout the coverage. The general rule was to send undercover friends with Asian features at such times so that they can easily mingle among the crowd.

I remember the day when I walked among the protesters with one of my undercover friends in downtown Yangon in September 2007. I pretended talking on the phone while in fact, I was talking to my AP colleague walking beside me, about the day's plan. Caution was taken not to have direct communication with the undercover agents so as not to blow their cover which could lead to exposure of other agents working at that time.



***Aye Aye with husband Min Zaw who's a reporter for Tokyo and Chunichi shimbun.***

In 2008 during the coverage of the infamous Cyclone Nargis, Myanmar's largest natural disaster with an unprecedented number of casualties, undercover agents entered the country under different guises. Foreign journalists were barred from entering the country and a number of foreign reporters who did manage to enter the country on tourist visas were deported. The government was extremely sensitive of media coverage of the cyclone aftermath as they didn't want the world to know the scale of the disaster, the number of casualty and the government's poor and inadequate handling of the massive humanitarian disaster.

Many of the AP undercover agents who managed to enter the country made no direct contact with me except through my colleagues in Bangkok. Most of the time, I was kept in the dark of the whereabouts of the undercover agents so that I wouldn't be held responsible for their stealth mission; meaning getting news and information out of the tightly-controlled nation.

Those undercover agents were my partners in crime and they had played a big part in AP's reporting out of Myanmar during the years of Myanmar's military rule.

**Postscript:** Since the country transitioned to democracy in 2011, those days of dispatching undercover agents to cover Myanmar affairs are over. Acquiring journalist visas have become *relatively* flexible and reporting and news gathering less dangerous and much easier.

# Connecting mailbox

## *On the 1960 election call for JFK*

**Carl Leubsdorf Sr. (Email)** - Here's a footnote on the item (in Thursday's Connecting) about Amy Klobuchar's dad calling the 1960 election for JFK:

At dawn that day, UPI called California for Kennedy, declaring he had thus won the election. The only problem: he didn't carry California. I was a young AP reporter in the New Orleans bureau and was watching the national wires intently. Soon after noon, the bells rang and the Minneapolis bureau filed the "Kennedy elected by carrying Minnesota" bulletin by Jim Klobuchar.

Some of the histories of the period, however, still describe the Kennedys celebrating his election that morning, overlooking the fact that he had not, in fact, yet won. I also recall seeing the Jim Klobuchar byline on many sports stories during his AP days.

His daughter clearly inherited some affinity for the press; on March 2, Sen. Amy Klobuchar will be the Democratic speaker for the second time at the annual dinner of the Gridiron Club, Washington's oldest journalistic organization. (Ironically, her GOP counterpart will be John Kennedy, the Louisiana senator who bears the Kennedy name--but not his politics!)

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## *Joe Galloway recuperating after spinal surgery*

**Joe Galloway (Email)** - FYI, am just out of a week in hospital and two stage spine surgery. At home moving slowly and very carefully on my new walker. Physical therapy guy arrives today to begin repair and renovations. Surgery appears to have been total success, although the pain from the procedure is still considerable.

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## Connecting sky shot - Tanzania



**Kevin Walsh** ([Email](#)) - Sunrise, Serengeti National Park, Tanzania.

## Connecting profile - Richard Keltner

**Richard Keltner** ([Email](#)) - Working days and attending school nights is how I received my associate degree in electronics. But even before the degree, I was welcomed to AP in 1980 by Indianapolis CoC Walt Tabak. After working two years, I returned to Ivy Tech again attending nights to finish my degree.

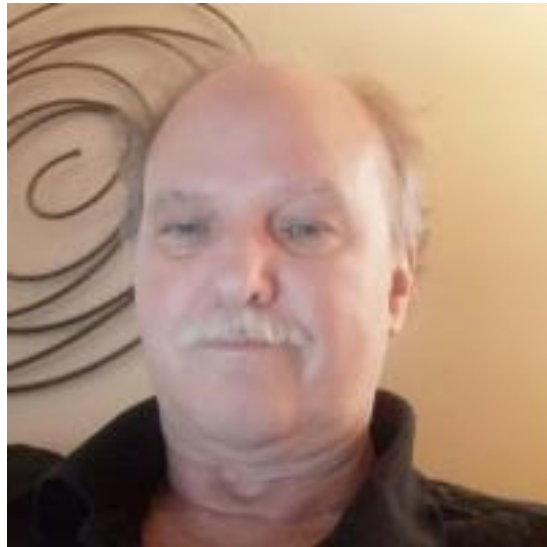
I started as a technician about the time AP started into the satellite business. Also, AP was getting out of the teletypes type printers and into electronic printer. With my degree in electronics I was a good fit for the job.

At that time the Indianapolis office was a 24-hour daily operation and had about 25 to 30 people working in the Indy office. (Sadly, there are only 8 working there now) As years went by, I became the Senior Technician in Indy around 1984.

Events that I was active in were the Indianapolis 500 for more than 30 years, the Brickyard 400 and later the Kentucky Derby, Men's and Women's Final Four, Iowa Caucus, Presidential Election after party Obama in 2012, G8 convention, Timothy McVeigh execution - and I have moved five bureaus.



At the end of my stay in Indianapolis I worked with all members to help them convert to Digital ingesting of all AP wire information which included AP photos. With reduction of staff I also worked with the surrounding states on the digital conversion. Then my task was the removal of all those satellite dishes we installed throughout the years at members' sites.



Before working in Chicago, I traveled to NYC for two or more weeks rotations to serve at the New York Help Desk in times of need.

In Chicago I was promoted to Technology Specialist and remained there until my job was abolished in 2018.

Certifications while working at AP include A+, Network+, Mac OS 10, CBNT, CIW

At the present I'm retired and now the house husband to my working wife Mary,

## **Arabic-speaking AP team documents Yemen horrors**



**Hagar Yahia holds her 5-year-old daughter Awsaf, who is malnourished from living mainly off of bread and tea, in Abyan, Yemen, Feb. 9, 2018. (AP Photo/Nariman El-Mofty)**

**By Lauren Easton**

AP's dedicated Yemen reporting team, comprising two Egyptians and a Yemeni journalist, is working diligently to break news and expose atrocities committed inside the war-torn country.

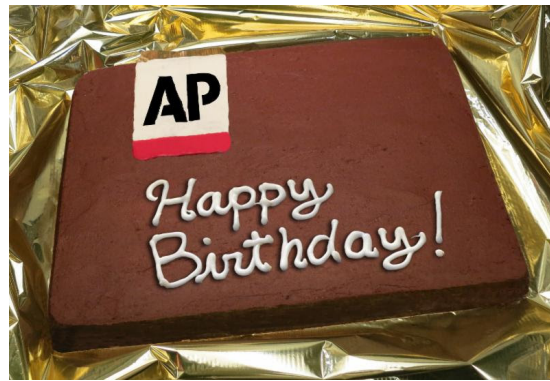
Correspondent Maggie Michael, photographer Nariman El-Mofty and video journalist Maad al-Zikry, all fluent in Arabic, have investigated food aid stolen from the starving masses, revealed the recruitment and deployment of child soldiers as young as 10 and exposed the torture of Yemenis held in secret prisons.

Their reporting caused a top Houthi rebel leader to order an investigation into torture. The United Nations went public with a threat to cut off help to Houthi-controlled areas unless the rebels stopped diverting food aid.

On Wednesday, the work of Michael, El-Mofty and al-Zikry was announced as a finalist for the Anthony Shadid Award for Journalism Ethics.

Read more [here](#).

# Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Tim Harmon - [timharmon11@icloud.com](mailto:timharmon11@icloud.com)

Linda Kramer Jennings - [linda.kramerjennings@gmail.com](mailto:linda.kramerjennings@gmail.com)

*On Sunday to...*

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## Stories of interest

***When it comes to calling out the news media, Ocasio-Cortez has some things in common with Trump*** (Washington Post)

**By Paul Farhi, The Washington Post**

A novice politician hailing from the New York borough of Queens gains enormous media attention and a huge and wildly passionate following in part by lobbing irregular critiques at the news media.

Donald Trump in 2015? Yes. But also Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, circa 2019.

Their backgrounds, gender and - especially - their politics are different, but the Republican president and the outspoken freshman Democratic congresswoman from New York share at least one similarity: Neither has been shy about using social media to pummel the press. And like Trump, Ocasio-Cortez has been cheered on by millions of followers when she does so.

Ocasio-Cortez has squared off on Twitter against such varied media outlets as the New York Post, The Washington Post, Politico, the Hill newspaper, CBS News, Fox News and Glenn Beck's BlazeTV for statements she deemed offensive, inaccurate or just tone deaf. And that was just in her first two weeks as a member of Congress.

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

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## ***AP Interview: Philippine journalist sees threat to democracy***



**Maria Ressa, center, the award-winning head of a Philippine online news site Rappler,**

**listens to a reporter's question after posting bail at a Regional Trial Court following an overnight arrest by National Bureau of Investigation agents on a libel case Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019 in Manila, Philippines. Ressa was freed on bail Thursday after her arrest in a libel case. (AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)**

**By KIKO ROSARIO and VICENTE GONZALES**

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - The head of a Philippine online news site who was arrested on a libel complaint accused President Rodrigo Duterte's administration of acting like a dictatorship and using the law as a weapon to muzzle dissent.

"What we're seeing ... is a level of impunity that I frankly haven't seen, and I've been a journalist for more than 30 some odd years," Maria Ressa told The Associated Press on Thursday after posting bail in a Manila court.

Ressa, who was selected by Time magazine as one of its Persons of the Year last year, is the head of Rappler Inc., which has aggressively covered Duterte's administration.

She was arrested Wednesday over a libel complaint from a businessman. Duterte's government has said the arrest was a normal step in response to the complaint and had nothing to do with press freedom.

Read more [here](#).

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***Sean Hannity comes up with a new way to describe his show's 'journalism'*** (Huffington Post)

**By ED MAZZA**

Fox News host Sean Hannity said he's not a journalist, but insisted his show "does journalism."

In the middle of a rant on media bias against President Donald Trump on Wednesday, Hannity said his show is "like the whole newspaper."

He explained:

"We do straight news when there's a war, straight news on weather, straight news on important incidences that are happening, like Ferguson when that was happening, or Baltimore. And then we give a lot of opinion. So we're the news page, editorial page, the opinion page. We even do gossip and sports like tonight, for example, Tim Tebow is on. So we're like the whole newspaper. That's what we do. Freedom of the press"

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

## Today in History - February 15, 2019



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2019. There are 319 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Feb. 15, 1961, 73 people, including an 18-member U.S. figure skating team en route to the World Championships in Czechoslovakia, were killed in the crash of a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 in Belgium.

### **On this date:**

In 1564, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa.

In 1798, a feud between two members of the U.S. House of Representatives (meeting in Philadelphia) boiled over as Roger Griswold of Connecticut used a cane to attack Vermont's Matthew Lyon, who defended himself with a set of tongs. (Griswold was enraged over the House's refusal to expel Lyon for spitting tobacco juice in his face two weeks earlier; after the two men were separated, a motion to expel them both was defeated.)

In 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.

In 1933, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that mortally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak; gunman Giuseppe Zangara was executed more than four weeks later.

In 1952, a funeral was held at Windsor Castle for Britain's King George VI, who had died nine days earlier.

In 1953, Tenley Albright, 17, became the first American woman to win the world figure skating championship, which was held in Davos, Switzerland.

In 1965, Canada's new maple-leaf flag, which replaced the "Red Ensign" design, was unfurled in ceremonies in Ottawa. Singer Nat King Cole, 45, died in Santa Monica, California.

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention.

In 1992, a Milwaukee jury found that Jeffrey Dahmer was sane when he killed and mutilated 15 men and boys. (The decision meant that Dahmer, who had already pleaded guilty to the murders, would receive a mandatory life sentence for each count; Dahmer was beaten to death in prison in 1994.)

In 2002, a private funeral was held at Windsor Castle for Britain's Princess Margaret, who had died six days earlier at age 71.

In 2004, Dale Earnhardt Jr. won the Daytona 500 on the same track where his father was killed three years earlier.

In 2006, Vice President Dick Cheney accepted blame for accidentally shooting a hunting companion, calling it "one of the worst days of my life," but was defiantly unapologetic in a Fox News Channel interview about not publicly disclosing the incident until the next day.

Ten years ago: President Hugo Chavez (OO'-goh CHAH'-vez) of Venezuela won a referendum to eliminate term limits, paving the way for him to run again in 2012. The Western Conference beat the East 146-119 in the NBA All-Star game. Matt Kenseth won the rain-shortened Daytona 500.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama signed measures lifting the federal debt limit and restoring benefits that had been cut for younger military retirees. Michael Dunn was convicted in Jacksonville, Florida, of attempted murder for shooting into a carful of teenagers after an argument over loud music, but jurors deadlocked on the charge of first-degree murder in the death of 17-year-old Jordan Davis. (Dunn was found guilty of first-degree murder in a second trial and sentenced to life in prison without parole.) Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice was caught on security video punching his then-fiancee (now wife) Janay Palmer inside a casino elevator in Atlantic City, New Jersey. (Rice was charged with assault; he entered an intervention program to have the charges dropped. He has not played again in the NFL.) At the Sochi Olympics, the U.S. hockey team won a shootout to defeat Russia 3-2 in the marquee game of the preliminary round.

One year ago: The last of the bodies of the 17 victims of a school shooting in Florida were removed from the building after authorities analyzed the crime scene; 13 wounded survivors were still hospitalized. In response to the Florida school shooting, President Donald Trump, in an address to the nation, promised to "tackle the difficult issue of mental health," but avoided any mention of guns. Nikolas Cruz, the suspect in the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, was ordered held without bond at a brief court hearing. Chicago Cubs star Anthony Rizzo left spring training in Arizona for his home in Parkland, Florida, to offer support in the wake of the deadly shooting at his former high school. American Mikaela Shiffrin used a hard-charging final run to win the women's giant slalom at the Winter Olympics in South Korea.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Claire Bloom is 88. Author Susan Brownmiller is 84. Songwriter Brian Holland is 78. Rock musician Mick Avory (The Kinks) is 75. Jazz musician Henry Threadgill is 75. Actress-model Marisa Berenson is 72. Actress Jane Seymour is 68. Singer Melissa Manchester is 68. Actress Lynn Whitfield is 66. "Simpsons" creator Matt Groening (GREE'-ning) is 65. Model Janice Dickinson is 64. Actor Christopher McDonald is 64. Reggae singer Ali Campbell is 60. Actor Joseph R. Gannascoli is 60. Musician Mikey Craig (Culture Club) is 59. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green is 59. Actor-comedian Steven Michael Quezada is 56. Country singer Michael Reynolds (Pinmonkey) is 55. Actor Michael Easton is 52. Latin singer Gloria Trevi is 51. Rock musician Stevie Benton (Drowning



Pool) is 48. Actress Alex Borstein is 48. Actress Renee O'Connor is 48. Actress Sarah Wynter is 46. Olympic gold medal swimmer Amy Van Dyken-Rouen is 46. Actress-director Miranda July is 45. Rock singer Brandon Boyd (Incubus) is 43. Rock musician Ronnie Vannucci (The Killers) is 43. Rock singer/guitarist Adam Granduciel (The War on Drugs) is 40. Singer-songwriter-musician Conor Oberst (Bright Eyes) is 39. Actress Ashley Lyn Cafagna is 36. Blues-rock musician Gary Clark Jr. is 35. Actress Natalie Morales is 34. Actress Amber Riley is 33. Actor Zach Gordon is 21.

**Thought for Today: "Fools act on imagination without knowledge, pedants act on knowledge without imagination." - Alfred North Whitehead, English philosopher (born this date in 1861, died 1947).**

## 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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