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Connecting - April 18, 2019

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April 18, 2019

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Pallbearers carry Jon Wolman's casket to the hearse as they pass by family members and friends inside Temple Beth El. (Photo: Todd McInturf, The Detroit News)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 18th day of April,

The Associated Press was well-represented at Wednesday's funeral service for former AP executive editor and Detroit News Editor and Publisher **Jon Wolman** at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Speakers at Jon's funeral included former Washington bureau chief **Sandy Johnson** and retired Washington AP deputy bureau chief **Terry Hunt**. Their remarkable tributes to Jon are published below. **David Espo**, retired AP special correspondent, was one of the pallbearers.

Current AP people who attended were executive editor **Sally Buzbee**, regional director **Eva Parziale**, Illinois/Indiana/Michigan News Editor **Roger Schneider**, and Detroit photographer **Carlos Osorio**.

Other former AP attendees included former Washington AP bureau chief **Ron Fournier**; former White House correspondent **Michael Putzel**; former AP reporter

Ann Blackman; former AP political writer/director of election planning and Washington ACOB **Evans Witt**; former AP political correspondent, former AP wire staffer/AP Radio news editor **Amy Sabrin**; **John King** (now of CNN); former San Francisco assistant bureau chief **Mark Rochester** (now the investigative editor with the Detroit Free Press); former Washington AP reporter **Jennifer Dixon** (now a Detroit Free Press reporter); and retired Michigan AP bureau chief **Charles Hill**.



This photo includes some of the AP contingent at Jon's funeral. Back row, from left: Evans Witt, David Espo, Amy Sabrin, Michael Putzel, Terry Hunt, Ann Blackman, Chuck Raasch. Front row, from left: Andi Kasarsky, Sandy Johnson, Jeanie Johnson.

Several hundred other journalists from the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press, politicians, scholars, longtime friends and family were in attendance, including author Norman Ornstein, former Chief Federal Judge Gerald Rosen, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, and David Shribman, retired Pittsburgh Post-Gazette executive editor and syndicated columnist.

Jon's older daughter, Emma Wolman shared family memories of Jon, including telling how Jon commuted between New York and Washington for three years so she did not have to move to New York while in high school - something she did

not want to do. Sandy Johnson spoke movingly of Jon as her mentor, and the support he gave on election night in 2000, when she chose not to call the presidential race for Bush when most other major news organizations did. Terry Hunt talked about Jon as the consummate journalist. Many others spoke as well, and all touched on Jon's dislike of small talk, his integrity, his love of journalism and its place in a democracy, and most of all, his love for his wife of 40 years, Debbie Lamm, and his children, Emma, Jacob and Sophie, and Emma's husband, Ian.



Jon Wolman's daughter, Emma Wolman, looks at family members as she shares fond memories and stories about her dad. (Photo: Todd McInturf, The Detroit News)

Interment will take place on Monday in Madison, Wisconsin, where Jon grew up.

If you would like to send a card to Jon's family, here is the address for Debbie Lamm: [27185 Scenic Highway, Franklin, MI 48025](#).

Contributions in Jon's memory can be made to a charity of your choice or:

Committee to Protect Journalists - <https://cpj.org>

University of Wisconsin School of Journalism - <https://journalism.wisc.edu/>

Jewish Family Service - www.jfsdetroit.org

Click [here](#) for the Detroit News story on the funeral.

Click [here](#) for a video of the funeral.

(Shared by Eva Parziale and Charles Hill)

'Perhaps his greatest strength was his amazing eye for talent'

Sandy Johnson ([Email](#)) - I can hear Jon's voice in my head. Keep it tight.

Jon was everybody's friend, as evidenced by this gathering.

Still, his editing style intimidated scores of reporters over the years. Jon was the big-story editor on countless big-story days: election nights, inaugurations, State of the Union, etc. This was his M-O. Terry Hunt or Dave Espo or Don Rothberg or Walter Mears would file the 'masterpiece' that they had labored over for hours. Jon would pull down his suspenders, roll up his shirt sleeves, stick his pen in the corner of his mouth, and announce, "I can work with this." I can still picture Espo at a political convention, sitting next to Jon, his head in his hands while Jon "worked over" the masterpiece.

Jon had rock-solid news judgement, and complete faith in his decisions. He knew how to motivate people, and he set the bar very high. Perhaps his greatest strength was his amazing eye for talent. He didn't care where you went to school. He *really* didn't care if you had a journalism degree. What mattered was passion and ambition. Jon groomed an entire generation of Washington journalists. He took a chance on people, putting them in roles that perhaps they weren't obviously ready for.

That included me. I was the new kid on the block in 1983, working the overnight shift in Washington. Believe it or not, my re-writes of what we called the PMs report caught his attention. He promoted me to the political desk in 1984, and that was the beginning of a 20-year collaboration.

Jon was my mentor. He was my biggest cheerleader. And he was my biggest critic. I can hear him say:

"Do we have that?"

Or -- "What were you thinking?"

I knew I was in trouble when I heard "Sandra!" Only my mother -- and Jon, when peeved -- used my full name.

I was Jon's deputy for nine years, and our offices were side-by-side. I started each morning in his office, and we talked through the day that was about to unfold. Our children were roughly the same age, and we bonded over stories about Jacob, Emma, and Sophie, and my two, Will and Sam, as they grew up.

Newsrooms are like foxholes - I'll get back to that in a minute - and our friendship and partnership were cemented by an endless crush of adrenalin-stoked stories too numerous to count.

When Jon was promoted to New York, I applied for the bureau chief's position. I asked him to handicap my candidacy. He sent me a list. It started with Shortcomings and he wrote: "None that I know of." Then *Perceived Shortcomings*. Of which he had a long list: stubborn, opinionated, temperamental, classic Washington defensiveness and more.

I worked on the perceived shortcomings and convinced Lou Boccardi I could follow in Jon's shoes as bureau chief.

Those early months were overwhelming, as I realized how much I *did not* know. I kept a post-it note taped to the corner of my computer - it read WWJD, for "what would Jon do." WWJD informed many of my early decisions as I learned to run AP's largest bureau.

Fast forward to the 2000 election. Jon liked to say that elections always 'broke' one way or another. But the race between Al Gore and George W. Bush was neck and neck right up to election day. I got up that morning with a pit in my stomach. Jon had flown down to edit the main story and he assured me, again, that the election would probably break.

But of course it didn't. The electoral count see-sawed all night. Shortly after 2 a.m., Fox declared Bush the winner in Florida and thus the president-elect. Within four minutes, NBC, CBS, CNN and ABC did the same. That left AP alone in not calling it.

My team doubled down-desperately trying to find what the networks saw. But the vote count was actually getting closer and we knew there were Democratic strongholds still to report in Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Volusia counties. Meanwhile, thousands of newspapers around the world rely on AP for election results. They started calling AP headquarters, "Why is AP waiting? We need to put the paper to bed."

But here's the thing. Jon absorbed every anxious phone call and email, allowing me and the projections team to do our jobs and analyze the vote count. He would occasionally come to my desk and ask, 'what do you think?' No pressure, just asking. I truly didn't realize until much later how much stress he was under. It was indicative of his trust in us to get it right.

And of course the networks retracted their calls - sorry Evans - and the election lasted another five weeks.

Faith and trust in his people. That was a hallmark of Jon's management style. It's why we all flocked to him; we were his acolytes. I'm certain there are similar stories at The Denver Post and the Detroit News.

Then came the bombshell diagnosis last year.

Time after time, the doctors had bad news. The cancer wasn't operable. It was spreading. As Jon put it, he "flunked" chemo. At one point, he tick-tocked all the bad news from the oncologists and figured he was 0-for-10. And on the worst day of his journey, when NIH ended his treatment, Jon remembered to wish me a happy birthday.

I would argue that his was a success story. He kept telling the doctors that he had a three-year plan, to find a way to give him three years. He got about half that.

But that borrowed time gave Jon and Debbie the chance to plan a wedding weekend filled with love and joy and family. Jon emailed me afterward: "Our wedding day was perfect, and lingered merrily through Thanksgiving. Emma and Ian very happy, and my siblings were well behaved. A run of the mill pumpkin pie totally overshadowed by key lime pies made by the newlyweds."

It was ironic - a word he hated -- that Jon died on the day the Pulitzer Prizes were announced, journalism's highest award that AP won on Jon's watch. Another friend-of-Jons, David Shribman, won his second Pulitzer on Monday for directing coverage of the Pittsburgh synagogue massacre. Dave asked the newsroom for a moment of silence for the victims and said, "We are not so much celebrating, as affirming the job we were put on this earth to do."

Jon was definitely put on this earth to be a journalist.

Another fine journalist, the one I am married to, wrote a column recently headlined "why do we do this thing called journalism?" Chuck wrote: "I have come to love many of my journalism colleagues the way soldiers love brothers and sisters in arms. It's different from love of life partner or child or parent, no doubt. But it's as claiming on the soul, and as searing at separation. Foxholes will do that to you. Journalism, done right, is a calling like law or the ministry or medicine."

Searing at separation -- the perfect phrase for how we feel about losing Jon Wolman.

As the great AP editor Bob Furlow said, "Jon has gone to the great newsroom in the sky."

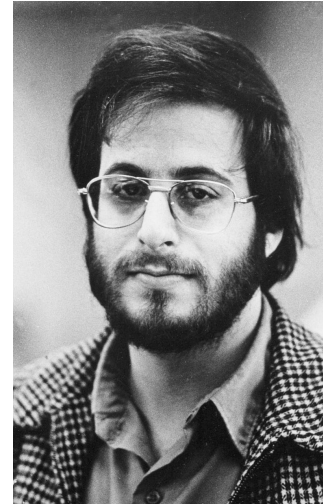
And maybe, just maybe he'll finally unravel the Jimmy Hoffa mystery.

(Sandy Johnson joined the National Press Foundation in October 2014 as its president and COO. She was with the AP for 29 years including 10 as Washington

chief of bureau.)

For his meeting with Lou Boccardi, Jon wore a new suit - with borrowed tie

Terry Hunt ([Email](#)) - There was a great picture in the Detroit News of Jon from the 1970s in AP's Washington bureau (photo at right). Big aviator glasses. His hair was long and black and merged with sideburns that turned into a beard and mustache. You don't see it in the picture but I can reliably tell you he was wearing scruffy shoes and he had a beat-up book bag nearby. Truly, Jon was an unconventional look in a pretty strait-laced newsroom. But that was Jon - totally unconventional, a newsman who was passionate about reporting and writing. And even though we didn't know it then, he would become an unstoppable force for change and excellence at AP and beyond.



First, one more word about Jon's look. Several years after he arrived in Washington, Jon was being considered for news editor of the bureau. So he had to go to NY for a meeting with the executive editor, Lou Boccardi. Which meant he had to wear a suit. But Jon didn't own a suit.

So our colleague Ann Blackman took him to a Georgetown shop where a salesman helped them pick out a blue-pin-striped suit. Ann picked out a shirt and tie. Jon agreed to the shirt but not the tie. "Evans owns one," Jon said. Jon and Evans Witt were roommates.

The next morning Jon came to work in his new clothes - with Evans' tie. But instead of good shoes, he was wearing skuffed-up Docksidors-and he carried the ever-present book bag slung over his suit. No matter, he went to NY and came home with the job.

Throughout his life, Jon burned with energy and curiosity, a competitiveness and the conviction that the press had to poke its nose into difficult places to find the truth. His attitude was summed on a tee-shirt he got when his son Jacob was a newborn. It didn't have an animal or cartoon character on it. The shirt said simply: Question Authority. To her credit, Debbie let Jacob wear it.

I think of Jon as a show up guy. He always showed up at our front door when a friend was needed, like when my father died or my wife's father died. Jon was there.

Everyone talks about how Jon lived and breathed politics. That's true. He infused the newsroom with an excitement about politics. He was incredibly smart, very thoughtful and analytical. He read more than anyone else I know. Didn't sleep much. Didn't drink. He was a homebody, avoided Washington's cocktail and dinner party circuit. I liked what Ron Fournier wrote of Jon: "a quiet, unassuming man in an era of self-flattering celebrity."

At work he was demanding, sometimes blunt and direct but always fair. Kathleen Carroll, picked by Jon to succeed him as AP's executive editor, wrote me, "He was gentle, even saying `that's the stupidest idea I've ever heard.'"

But he wasn't the kind of boss who ever raised his voice. Yet he did have a hard stare that made you realize you had said or done something wrong. He was bored by small talk. He was very private. When we'd have lunch, I'd realize that I had told him everything I knew and he had given up nothing, no gossip. The most I ever got was the latest on Debbie and the kids.

I realize that everything I've said has just been about Jon in Washington. Nothing about Denver or Detroit where he held important, powerful jobs. But I'm confident that Jon was the same person everywhere. The same integrity, the same passion for news. Solid judgment. A good listener.

Merrick Garland, a longtime friend and neighbor who is chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, gave the Detroit News the perfect epitaph for Jon. "He just exuded old-school honor."

Jon excelled in many things, as a newsman, a mentor, an editor, a leader and most importantly as a friend. That's what brings us together today, to honor our friend. We'll leave here with sadness but with a lifetime of wonderful memories. They're packed with so much enthusiasm, energy, fun and passion. I'm so glad we had the opportunity to share Jon's incredible life.

(Terry Hunt retired from the AP in late 2016 after a 46-year career with the AP that included 25 years as chief White House correspondent.)

More of your memories of Jon Wolman

Walter Mears ([Email](#)) - Jon and I were close friends and colleagues - that is not to say we didn't argue, sometimes heatedly over how to handle a story - and often - how to write the lead. I usually won those.

He was good with people and he worked long and hard days to make the Washington - and then national news flowing smoothly.

It was a privilege to work with him., When he was new to Washington, and some of the set in their ways old timers resented the new guy. I told them his talents spoke louder than his seniority.

Years later, his father, Murphy, editor in Madison, Wisconsin, took me aside at an APME meeting and said I want to thank you for all that you did for my kid. I thanked him and said his "kid" didn't need my help to become one of the leading journalists in the nation. He did that himself, and often helped me.

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Paul Simon ([Email](#)) - Jon Wolman was in the top echelon of professionals I worked with as a fellow bureau chief. It was an honor to collaborate anew with him he came to the Denver Post, about 15 years ago, where I was operating the MediaNews Group News Service. I deeply respected him as a beacon of responsible journalism and for his lasting contributions to our profession.

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Peggy Walsh ([Email](#)) - Jon Wolman touched so many lives, professionally and personally. There is no greater tribute to a life well lived. I am fond of saying my condolences go to those who didn't know a special person we have lost. Jon personified this.

Connecting mailbox

Congratulations, Warren, for job well done

Mark Hamrick ([Email](#)) - on retirement of Warren Levinson in Wednesday's Connecting - Congratulations and thank you Warren, my former colleague, for a job very well done! Warren is a multifaceted talent, which is an understatement. One of the things I value most about his work as a broadcast (multimedia) journalist is his superb writing. At once, his work for AP Radio was concise, engaging, insightful and factual.

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'Turning kindness into action:' Son celebrates father's memory with good deeds



Jerry Nachtigal (far left) died of cancer two years ago and left behind a legacy of community commitment. His family is carrying it on. (Photo: Courtesy of Nachtigal Family)

By Makenzie L Huber, Sioux Falls Argus Leader

On the day of his father's death two years ago, Jack Nachtigal was mortified.

Last year's one-year anniversary left him feeling bittersweet. His grief almost eclipsed his effort to get out of bed, but he started a day of kindness to honor his father's memory that touched thousands of people across the United States.

This year, he felt empowered.

April 16 was the two-year anniversary of Jerry Nachtigal's death. Jack has continued to celebrate #JerrysDayOfKindness as a way for friends, family and community members to honor Jerry's memory.

In addition to random acts of kindness, Jack is hoping this year people will turn their kindness into action.

"Kindness is great and it really helps the world around you," said the 22-year-old Washington High School alum. "But how can you use that kindness to elevate a cause?"

Read more [here](#).

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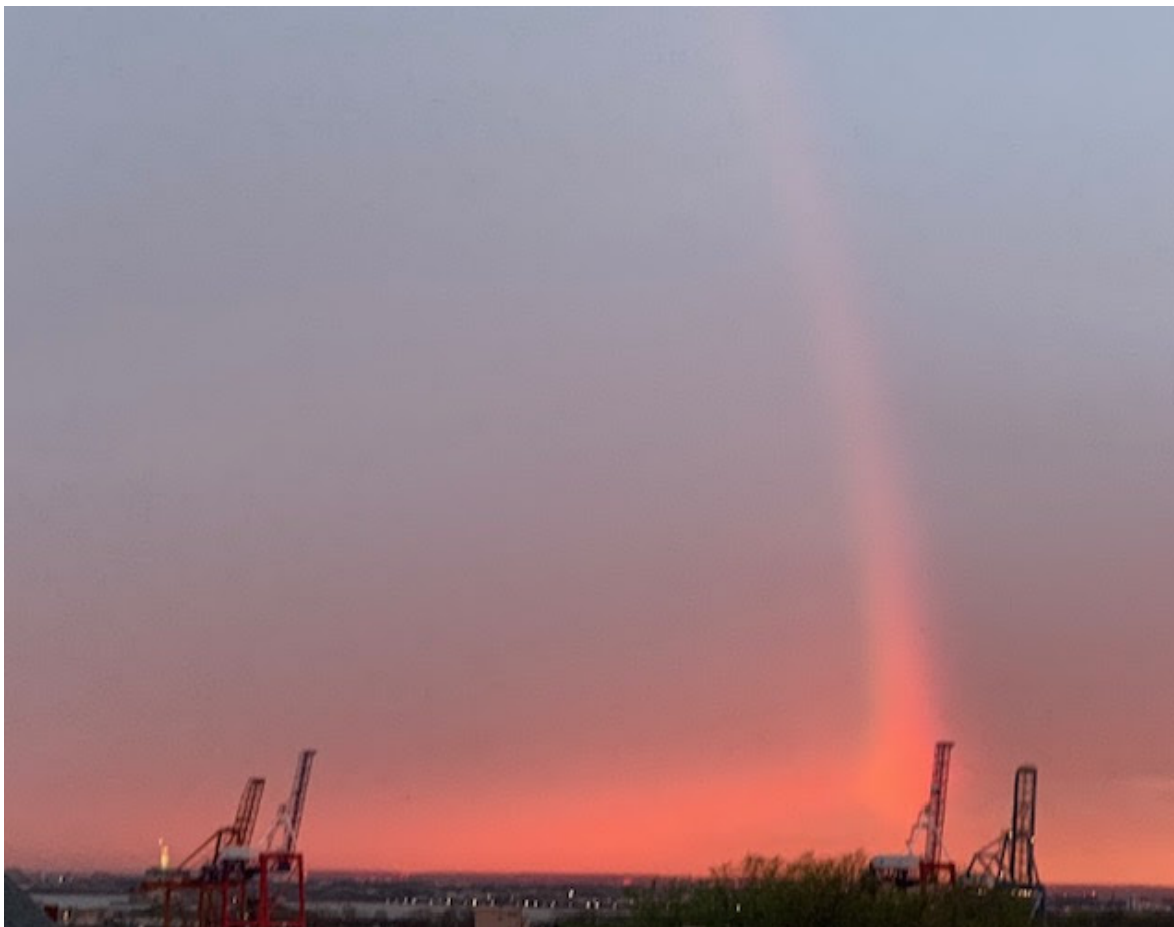
Another sign of spring



Ken Fields ([Email](#)) - Here is a photo of some of the tulips in bloom in Skagit Valley, Washington State. About an hour north of Seattle.

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A dawn rainbow in Brooklyn



Brenda Smiley ([Email](#)) - From our rooftop deck in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn. Awakened by a cardinal's song, I went to our westward facing window and was astonished by the sight in the sky. A dawn rainbow, shooting upwards like a fuchsia-colored waterspout over the New Jersey horizon. Lady Liberty still glows to the left of the ever-present cranes. We look out over what is still a working dock.

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Connecting series: Memories of your first flight

Henry Bradsher ([Email](#)) - About 1939, Wolf's Bread in Baton Rouge offered rides on a Ford Trimotor (built by Henry Ford between 1925 and 1933 and shown in

photo at right) for one bread wrapper and 50 cents (equivalent today to \$25). My parents made it possible for me to circle above the city then of about 37,000 people (now more than 10 times as many).



Several plane rides later, I was on my way in 1949 to a bicycle tour of western Europe on a left-over WWII DC-4 when we flew through a storm on the way from New York's Idlewild to refuel at Gander, Newfoundland (before jets could fly above most such storms). By lightning flashes, I could see the wings flexing up and down more than I thought they should or could, but we made it.

Later, lots of Korean War time in Air Force B-29s, C-119s, and SA-16s, mentioned in earlier Connecting reports. Then I spent a lot of time around South Asia in other left-over WWII planes, particularly DC-3s, the American wartime C-47s called Dakotas there. They were used on regional routes, such as getting to Tezpur, Assam, to meet the Dalai Lama when he came out of Tibet.

And some old DC-4s. Long before FedEx started, India's mail had an overnight service between the four main cities, Delhi, Bombay (now Mumbai), Calcutta (now Kolkata), and Madras (now Chennai). Mail posted in any of those cities before 6 p.m. was flown to Nagpur in the center of the country along with passengers. We sat sleepily in the Nagpur terminal while mail bags were sorted and then flew on to arrive somewhere about 6 a.m. - and the mail was delivered by 10:30 a.m. The only flight to Kerala, where I went several times in 1959 to cover political agitation, left Madras at 7 a.m. in a hot, stuffy DC-3, too early to connect with the nonstop morning flight from Delhi to Madras, so I saved a working day by flying "the night mail".

Then there were more than a dozen flights around the world in modern fixed-wing planes (well, one was not flying all the way; I lectured on a cruise ship between Kenya and Singapore). I also logged a lot of time in helicopters, including in India (in the aftermath of its 1962 China war), Pakistan (during the 1971 Bangladesh war), the USSR, the wars in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and in the Philippines and the United States - most recently over the Grand Canyon. But the first memories are of that Ford Trimotor.

One non-flying hazard occurred while coming into Tashkent, USSR, on an Aeroflot flight from Delhi with magnificent views of the Himalayas and Karakoram. When we landed, nurses boarded and handed out very large thermometers to check that no one was bringing in an illness. At the front of the rear cabin, I took one, puzzled over its size, and finally stuck it under my tongue. Then I looked around and saw that the Soviet passengers were sticking theirs in their armpits. I wondered for a while if I might have gotten an illness from the thermometer, but nothing developed.

New-member profile: DeNeen Brown

DeNeen L. Brown ([Email](#)) - is an award-winning staff writer at The Washington Post, where she has worked for more than 30 years, arriving as a summer intern after graduating with a journalism degree from The University of Kansas.

Since then, she has worked in a range of positions at The Post, including as a copy editor, night police reporter, courts reporter, education reporter and as a general assignment reporter, writing about the middle class, culture and urban gentrification.

From 2000-2004, she was the Post's Canada bureau chief - covering Canadian politics and culture, and traveling extensively throughout the Canadian Arctic and Arctic Archipelago to write about climate change, environmental damage, indigenous populations and cultural erosion. She has traveled as a correspondent to Greenland, Haiti, and has written dispatches from an icebreaker in the Northwest Passage.



In 1999, Brown was named the winner of the annual prize for non-deadline reporting awarded by the American Society of Newspaper Editors. She received the award for five narratives, including a profile of a school superintendent and a narrative called "The Accused," about two young boys wrongly accused of murder in Chicago. That narrative also won the 1999 Salute to Excellence First Place feature award from the National Association of Black Journalists.

She has won the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association awards for education reporting, public service and team series. She received a 2005 NABJ Salute to Excellence third-place award for "Tight Corner," a feature using dialogue to capture the life in a D.C. corner store.

In 2006, Brown's story entitled "Mr. Wonderful" won first place and the Best-in-the-Show Award for daily writing from the Virginia Press Association. The story also won first place in the 2006 Excellence-In-Feature-Writing Contest for Narrative Features from the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors.

In 2007, Brown won first place in the NABJ magazine investigative category for a story in The Post magazine called "To Catch a Killer" unraveling a woman's quest to

find her sons' killers.

Brown has been a Knight Fellow and a Washington Post Media Fellow at Duke University.

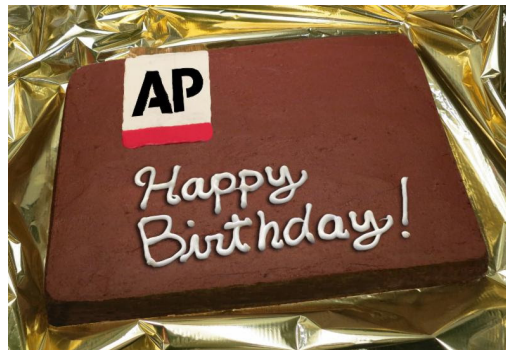
In 2003 and in 2004, Brown taught writing seminars at Harvard's Nieman Conference on Narrative Journalism. She has been a guest lecturer on narrative writing at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in Florida. She has taught writing at National Writers Workshops in Seattle, Atlanta, Wichita, Austin and at the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors conference in New York.

She has been invited to speak about journalism in elementary schools, middle schools, high schools and universities including the University of Toronto, Ryerson University, Princeton University and Howard University.

Brown's award-winning writing was published in "The Best Newspaper Writing of 1999." Her essays about writing are included in the anthology, "Telling True Stories: A Nonfiction Writers' Guide."

(Brown grew up in Kansas.)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Marc Wilson - marcus@townnews.com

Welcome to Connecting



Emily Persaud - epersaud513@gmail.com

Story of interest

Lessons from those local Pulitzers (Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

"...This year's winning work reflects yet again a steely resolve in upholding the highest principals and ideals of this noble profession," Pulitzer Prize administrator Dana Canedy said on Monday before announcing the winners of the 2019 prizes.

You can see that resolve in all of the winning work, including in the six local newsrooms that produced that work under an array of challenges. I spoke to people in those newsrooms about how they did that work. Today, I want to take a few minutes now to share a few bits of advice they shared on Monday.

There's a theme, I think, and I'd distill it down to this: The basics - community, reporting, righting wrongs - all still matter.

"Don't give up your ambition," said the St. Louis Post-Dispatch's Tony Messenger, who won the 2019 Pulitzer in Commentary. "Apply the same old shoe-leather standard to your news reporting to figure out what the real story is. That's always been the standard."

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - April 18, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 18, the 108th day of 2019. There are 257 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 18, 1983, 63 people, including 17 Americans, were killed at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, by a suicide bomber.

On this date:

In 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride from Charlestown to Lexington, Massachusetts, warning colonists that British Regular troops were approaching.

In 1906, a devastating earthquake struck San Francisco, followed by raging fires; estimates of the final death toll range between 3,000 and 6,000.

In 1923, the first game was played at the original Yankee Stadium in New York; the Yankees defeated the Boston Red Sox 4-1.

In 1934, the first laundromat (called a washateria) opened in Fort Worth, Texas.

In 1938, Superman, AKA The Man of Steel, made his debut as the first issue of Action Comics (bearing a cover date of June) went on sale for 10 cents a copy. (In 2014, a nearly flawless original copy was sold on eBay for 3.2 million.)

In 1943, Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet, was shot down and killed by U.S. fighters while approaching Bougainville in the Solomon Islands.

In 1945, famed American war correspondent Ernie Pyle, 44, was killed by Japanese gunfire on the Pacific island of Ie Shima (ee-EH shee-MAH), off Okinawa.

In 1956, American actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier (ren-YAY) of Monaco in a civil ceremony. (A church wedding took place the next day.)

In 1978, the Senate approved the Panama Canal Treaty, providing for the complete turnover of control of the waterway to Panama on the last day of 1999.

In 1988, an Israeli court convicted John Demjanjuk (dem-YAHN-yuk), a retired auto worker from Cleveland, of committing war crimes at the Treblinka death camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. (However, Israel's Supreme Court later overturned Demjanjuk's conviction.)

In 1995, quarterback Joe Montana retired from professional football. The Houston Post closed after more than a century.

In 2013, the FBI released surveillance camera images of two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing and asked for the public's help in identifying them, hours after President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama attended an interfaith service at a Roman Catholic cathedral.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama offered a spirit of cooperation to Americas hemispheric neighbors at the Summit of the Americas in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. The White House said Obama was deeply disappointed at news Iran had convicted American journalist Roxana Saberi of spying for the United States and sentenced her to eight years in prison. (Saberi was released on appeal the following month.)

Five years ago: An avalanche swept down a climbing route on Mount Everest, killing 16 Sherpa guides in the deadliest disaster on the world's highest peak.

One year ago: Cuba's government selected 57-year-old First Vice President Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel Bermúdez as the sole candidate to succeed President Raul Castro, a move that would install someone from outside the Castro family in the country's highest office for the first time in nearly six decades; the 86-year-old Castro would remain head of the Communist

Party. Amid a blackout that affected much of the rest of Puerto Rico, generators helped keep the lights on at a stadium in San Juan for the second of two games between the Cleveland Indians and the Minnesota Twins. Bruno Sammartino, who had once been one of the longest-reigning champions in professional wrestling, died at the age of 82.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clive Revill is 89. Actor James Drury is 85. Actor Robert Hooks is 82. Actress Hayley Mills is 73. Actor James Woods is 72. Actress-director Dorothy Lyman is 72. Actress Cindy Pickett is 72. Country musician Walt Richmond (The Tractors) is 72. Country musician Jim Scholten (Sawyer Brown) is 67. Actor Rick Moranis is 66. Actress Melody Thomas Scott is 63. Actor Eric Roberts is 63. Actor John James is 63. Rock musician Les Pattinson (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 61. Author-journalist Susan Faludi is 60. Actress Jane Leeves is 58. Ventriloquist-comedian Jeff Dunham is 57. Talk show host Conan O'Brien is 56. Bluegrass singer-musician Terry Eldredge is 56. Actor Eric McCormack is 56. Actress Maria Bello is 52. Actress Mary Birdsong is 51. Actor David Hewlett is 51. Rock musician Greg Eklund (The Oolahs) is 49. Actress Lisa Locicero is 49. Actress Tamara Braun is 48. TV chef Ludovic Lefebvre is 48. Actor Fedro Starr is 48. Actor David Tennant is 48. Country musician Marvin Evatt (EH-veht) is 45. Rock musician Mark Tremonti is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Trina (Trina and Tamara) is 45. Actress Melissa Joan Hart is 43. Actor Sean Maguire is 43. Actor Kevin Rankin is 43. Actor Bryce Johnson is 42. Reality TV star Kourtney Kardashian (kar-DASH-ee-uhn) is 40. Detroit Tigers first baseman Miguel Cabrera is 36. Actress America Ferrera is 35. Actor Tom Hughes is 34. Actress Ellen Woglom (TV: Marvels Inhumans) is 32. Actress Vanessa Kirby is 31. Actress Alia Shawkat is 30. Actress Britt Robertson is 29. Actress Chloe Bennet is 27. Rock singer Nathan Sykes (The Wanted) is 26. Actor Moises Arias is 25.

Thought for Today: War makes strange giant creatures out of us little routine men who inhabit the earth. - Ernie Pyle (1900-1945).

Connecting calendar



June 20 - 25-Year Club Celebration, 5:30 - 8 p.m., AP headquarters, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY. RSVP by May 10. RSVP online [here](#). Any questions may be directed

to recognition@ap.org

August 17 - Albany AP bureau reunion (including other upstate bureaus), 1-5 p.m., Marc and Carla Humbert residence on Tsatsawassa Lake, [68 Marginal Way, East Nassau, NY](#).
Contact: Chris McKnight ([Email](#)).

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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