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# Connecting - June 06, 2019

1 message

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Thu, Jun 6, 2019 at 8:51 AM

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# Connecting

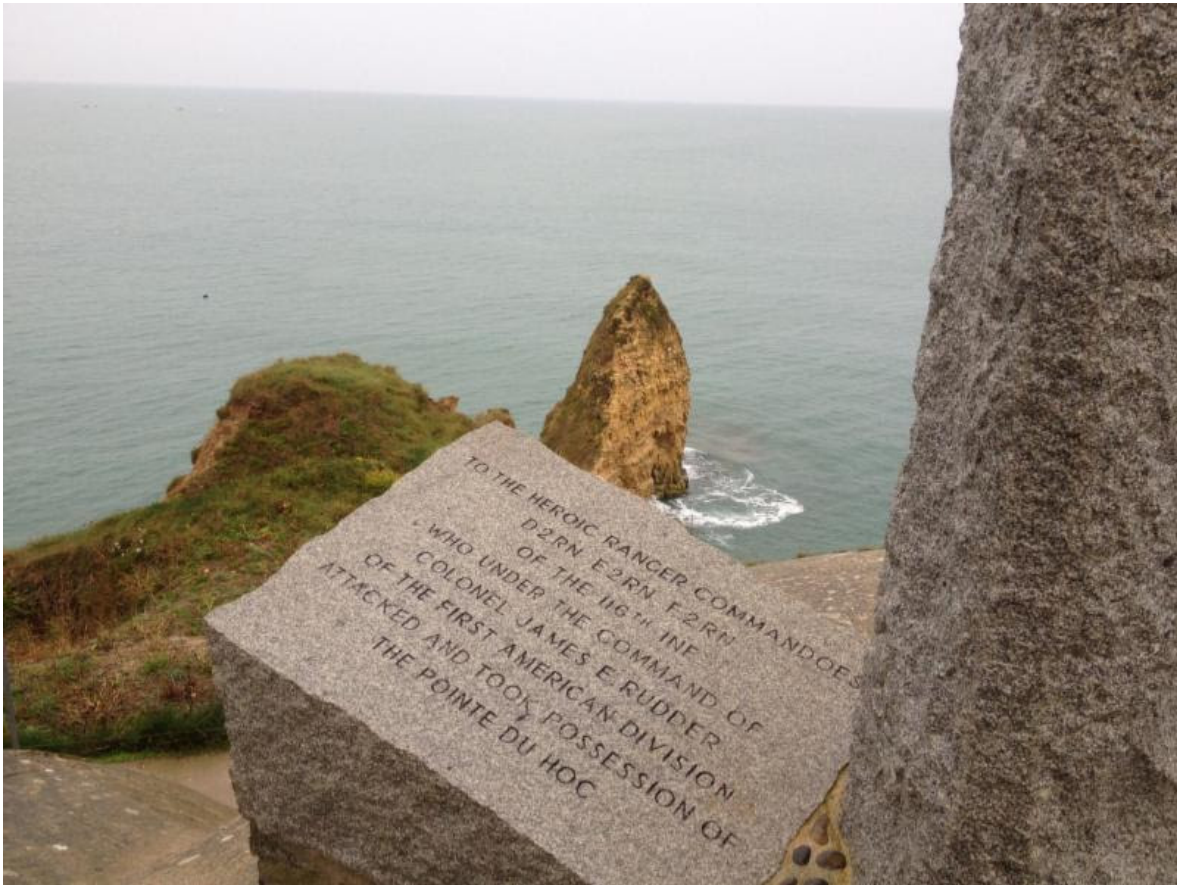
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En hommage à celles et à ceux dont la bravoure a permis de séparer la lumière des ténèbres

## LES BRAVES

Sculpteur: Anilore Banon

*"Sculpter, c'est graver dans le cœur des hommes le souffle d'un espoir infini."*

*Au nom du peuple américain, j'exprime notre gratitude pour votre œuvre de création d'un mémorial à Omaha Beach à l'occasion de 60ème anniversaire des débarquements en Normandie.*

*L'œuvre "Les Braves" rend un véritable hommage au courage des soldats des Forces Alliées qui ont sacrifié leurs vies pour la liberté de nos peuples et rappelle aux générations futures que ceux qui sont morts se sont sacrifiés pour la défense de nos valeurs communes que sont la tolérance et la liberté.*

*L'esprit de ceux qui ont tant sacrifié s'élèvera au dessus des eaux et restera dans nos mémoires collectives grâce à cette sculpture monumentale.*

*Howard H. Leach  
Ambassadeur des Etats Unis d'Amérique.*

*On behalf of the American people, I would like to express our gratitude for your work creating a memorial on Omaha Beach on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Normandy landings.*

*"The Braves" will serve as a significant tribute to the courage of the Allied Forces soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the liberty of our peoples and as a reminder to coming generations that those who died did so in defense of our shared values of tolerance and freedom.*

*The spirit of those who sacrificed so much will rise through the waters and linger in our collective memories thanks to your sculpture.*

*Howard H. Leach  
Ambassadeur des Etats Unis d'Amérique.*

**Œuvre en 3 éléments : Les Ailes de l'Espoir - Debout, la Liberté ! - Les Ailes de la Fraternité**

**Hauteur :** 9 mètres - **Largeur :** 15 mètres - **Poids :** 15 tonnes  
**Fabrication :** Constructions Mécaniques de Normandie - CMN Cherbourg  
**Etudes :** R.F.R. - Denis Ouvrard  
**Fondations :** Entreprise de Travaux Publics de l'Ouest - E.T.P.O.  
**Matériaux :** Inox ; Arcelor / Industeel - Métaux d'apport : Air Liquide Welding  
**Création & Réalisation :** Anilore Banon

Cette œuvre commémorative a pu être réalisée grâce au soutien de Monsieur et Madame Jean Paul Delorme, citoyens français, en remerciement à ces hommes d'avoir rendu à la France et à l'Europe leur liberté. Elle a été inaugurée sur la plage d'Omaha le 5 juin 2004.

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019,

Today marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day - and among the memories we bring you in this issue are from two of our colleagues who remember that day firsthand - **Gene Herrick**, who was 17 and working in the AP Columbus bureau as a copy boy, and **Malcolm Barr**, who was 11, an Englishman whose parents ran a bar near an aircraft factory.

In 2013, my wife **Linda** and I had the opportunity - almost a religious experience, to be truthful - to visit the Normandy beaches and the Normandy American Cemetery where today, leaders from the United States, Britain, Canada, France and Germany will honor the troops who stormed the fortified beaches to help turn the tide of war. It was the experience of a lifetime for the two of us, whose fathers fought with the U.S. Army in World War II, hers (Capt. Ernest Saul) in the Pacific and mine (Capt. Walter Stevens) in Europe.

I thought this an opportune time to share a few photos that I took on that cold, rainy day - one not all that dissimilar from the weather conditions on the morning of June 6, 1944. Those photos are displayed above.

Each of us on Connecting have our own memories of that day and how it impacted our families. May those who gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives rest in peace.

Paul

## Your connections to D-Day

**Malcolm Barr** ([Email](#)) - My USAF son emailed me from his base in Germany five years ago to accompany him to the D-Day beaches. He said I was the only person alive on June 6, 1944, that he knew and he wanted that person to accompany him. Also, it was close to Fathers' Day! On D-Day, I was 11 years old (do the arithmetic!), the son of a "publican" in England. My mum and dad ran a bar close to the Rolls Royce aircraft factory, so we saw and felt something of the bombing. Most nights during the war years, our pub, the Durham Ox in Derby, was filled by American, Canadian, British members of the armed forces. My job was to pick up empty glasses. Close to what was to be called D-Day, I recall a steady decline in

customers. My dad pointed this out to one of the soldiers, a regular in the bar and a former neighbor on our street. "I dunno, but something's up," he responded. A couple of days later came the invasion. We never saw our former neighbor again. Nor did we see any of the military who my mum and dad served. But today, at home in Virginia, I have the names I collected from most of the soldiers and airmen in an autograph book in my bedside drawer. I took it with me on that 70th anniversary trip to Normandy with my son. We stepped on all of the famous beaches and visited many of our old customers in the cemetery. RIP.

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**Gene Herrick (Email)** - I wasn't there as an AP War Correspondent photographer, but I vicariously lived the D-Day landing on June 6, 1944, and the many exciting, and historic battle reports that followed.

At that time I was a 17-year-old lop-eared kid working the "Early" trick (Mid-night to 8 a.m.) as an office boy (Printer Attendant) in the Columbus bureau. As such, my job was to rip off the hard copy from the old 12-type teletype printers and send it by pneumatic tube to either the Ohio State Journal, or the Columbus Dispatch.

When our troops landed at Normandy Beach, on June 6, 1944, all hell broke out in newsrooms around the world. The old word "Flash," along with multi-bell ringing, and the many line-feeds (where the printer paper, sometimes many layers) most often caused paper jams. The next noise usually came from the office boy who would leap into action, and swearing words a mother would not like. The next action was plugging in another printer, and then going back to the printer and trying to un-jam it. The scene was awful. Paper jammed, ribbons wadded up in entanglement, ink spewed all over. You get the picture? Then came the excitement of reading about the landing and invasion. History in the making, and I knew it.

Little did I realize that one day - August of 1950 - that I would be in a war. It was the Korean War, and I became a part of the Associated Press photo team covering that war.

I remember meeting a military intelligence veteran years later who told me the story of his conversation with a GI who would be making the landing at Normandy. He said he told the soldier about various geographic features of the landing area. The soldier asked how he knew. "When you land, you will see a big tree near the spot. Go and look next to the big roots from the tree, and you will find a package of cigarettes!" He said he left them there during an intelligence mission.

However, war is exciting and tragic, but something that will never leave the memories of mankind.

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**Brad Kalbfeld (Email)** - Thirty-five years ago this morning, I awoke in a beach house on the coast of Normandy and headed out to cover the ceremonies commemorating the 40th anniversary of D-Day. The story of the invasion was one of the most emotional I've ever covered: it gave me a first-hand understanding of the places and circumstances in which so many young men put their lives on the line to defend a way of life for everyone else.

I spent weeks gathering information and sound for a 10-part series for AP Radio, including a tour of Allied headquarters in Britain, a crossing on a ferry that followed (approximately) the invasion route across the English Channel, and a tour of the landing beaches and nearby towns. Paris' Paul Treuthardt had arranged a series of interviews across Normandy, from Le Havre to Cherbourg, in March 1984.

I met James Mays, an American logistics officer stationed in Britain. When his jeep wouldn't start one day, the British motor pool mechanic who showed up to fix it was a woman who won his heart. They married and, 40 years later, hosted me and my wife in their home in New Forest to talk about the logistical complexities of the invasion.

Then there was Philip Jutras, who came ashore with the Quartermaster Corps at Utah beach a few weeks after D-Day. After years as a Maine politician, he returned to Normandy, married a woman with whose family he had stayed during the war, and became volunteer curator of the Airborne Museum in Ste. Mere Eglise. He took us on a tour of the airborne landing zones.

And I had the good fortune to meet Michelle de Valavielle, the mayor of Ste. Marie du Mont, who hosted us in his farmhouse, in a room the Germans had used as the headquarters of an artillery battery during the war. He was a young man back then, and when he ran out to meet Allied paratroopers the morning of the invasion, they mistook him for a German soldier and shot him. He was taken to a field hospital on the beach. He told us how a medic, leaning over his stretcher, had exclaimed, "Frenchie! Frenchie!"

But most of all, the story was about standing on Omaha beach and seeing first-hand just how little cover there was for the men coming ashore. And peering over the edge of the cliff at Pointe du Hoc and seeing just how sheer was the climb for the Army Rangers who were charged with disarming the big guns there. And seeing the charring inside the battery's pill box, from the grenades the rangers tossed in.

"I still don't understand how we got off the beach," Clair Martin of San Diego told me on the 40th anniversary. He was an infantry sergeant on D-Day. "The Germans were well-prepared, they had good positions, they're good soldiers, they did what they were supposed to do, but obviously we must have been better because we got off of the beach."

As a student of history, I'd often read about courageous people in perilous times. On this story, I saw for myself -- and felt in my gut -- just what that really meant.

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**Jeffrey Ulbrich** ([Email](#)) - In the run-up to the 40th anniversary of D-Day I spent about 10 days traveling around Normandy collecting memories for a package of stories AP was planning to advance. I wrote quite a number of pieces about what people saw, did, felt, loved, regretted. Apart from all the drama, however, I think my favorite interview was with a woman in Sainte-Mère-Eglise, the town over which American airborne troops parachuted. The woman, whose name I have long forgotten, was a teenager at the time. She said she was peering from the window of her father's bakery when she saw an American soldier, rifle at the ready, sliding his back along the outside wall of the bakery. He turned his head, saw her at the window and paused. She said he reached into a pocket, pulled out a handkerchief and gave it to her, saying: "My mother told me to give this handkerchief to the first girl I meet in France." He continued his way along the building and she never saw him again. But she still had the handkerchief.

## AP reporters appearing on cable news shows - Yea and Nay

**Sibby Christensen** ([Email](#)) - I don't agree with the complaints about reporters appearing on cable TV.

Beyond the conversational "I think" and small talk, their appearances don't differ that much from the analytical pieces from seasoned reporters that occasionally appear in print and on the wire.

On the positive side, audiences - fed "enemy of the people" propaganda - can see reporters supporting credibility with their expertise and insight. That can only help us with a populace now less inclined to read than to view or listen.

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**Marc Humbert (Email)** - The back-and-forth on AP reporters doing TV and perhaps slipping into opinion now and then during those appearances is interesting. Back in the day when I was covering Mario Cuomo (who never ran) and Hillary Clinton (who tried it twice), I was regularly invited to do TV for New York outlets and national programs. It had to be approved by the higher ups, and always was. And, I was always reminded, "Just stay away from opinion." I did and they still invited me back. I did provide plenty of color and behind-the-scenes anecdotes. Other guests took care of opinion. When asked about such opinions, I would simply declare the idea "interesting" while noting that "there are many sides to most stories."

It would be nice to see the AP use that old standard, and do a better job of policing what its reporters say on TV, what they tweet and yes, sometimes, what they rant about on their personal Facebook and other social media pages. Being an AP reporter - and the responsibility that goes with that - doesn't stop when your shift ends.

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**Steve Loeper (Email)** - Regarding the flurry of comments from Connecting colleagues critical of AP reporters on TV, here's how I feel: PROUD. As a former career editor in LA, I'm damn proud whenever I see a Julie Pace or a Jonathan Lemire on a cable news show. Proud of how they adroitly hold the line between fact and opinion. Proud of how they're using a powerful medium to cultivate sources and remain relevant in the hyper-competitive mediasphere. Proud when an MSNBC commentator tosses it to an AP journalist with the acknowledgement that the reporter will focus on her reporting, not conjecture. What better way to broadcast AP's core principle to the world? And finally, back in the day, I was pretty proud, after some convincing, to get one of my reporters on the air, thereby enhancing not their brand but the AP brand.

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**Ed Tobias (Email)** - A couple of thoughts about Joe Edwards' comments regarding reporters on cable shows.

There's nothing wrong with journalists discussing their reporting but they should never stray from the old AP rule to never say "I think," or to provide their opinion. This rule should apply to all journalists and to all news organizations that understand the responsibility that comes with that title.



That leads me to my second concern. I regularly see posts from Facebook friends who are reporters, and/or broadcast anchors, who regularly opine about political decisions - mostly trashing POTUS and his "people." They do this on FB accounts that identify their news media employer. This, perhaps, is even more responsible for the perception of biased media than what's happening on cable.

## Welcome to Connecting



Bo Jones - [bojonesjr@gmail.com](mailto:bojonesjr@gmail.com)

Jeanny Sharp - [jeanny.sharp61@gmail.com](mailto:jeanny.sharp61@gmail.com)

## Stories on 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day

**D-Day 75: Nations honor veterans, memory of fallen troops**



**U.S. World War II veteran Jacques Michienzi, center, stands up among other veterans during a ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy, France, Thursday, June 6, 2019. World leaders are gathered Thursday in France to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. (AP Photo/David Vincent)**

**By RAF CASERT and JOHN LEICESTER**

OMAHA BEACH, France (AP) - With the silence of remembrance and respect, nations honored the memory of the fallen and the singular bravery of all Allied troops who sloshed through bloodied water to the landing beaches of Normandy, a tribute of thanks 75 years after the massive D-Day assault that doomed the Nazi occupation of France and portended the fall of Hitler's Third Reich.

French President Emmanuel Macron and President Donald Trump praised the soldiers and airmen, the survivors and those who lost their lives, in powerful speeches Thursday that credited the June 6, 1944 surprise air and sea operation that brought tens of thousands of men to Normandy, each not knowing whether he would survive the day.

"You are the pride of our nation, you are the glory of our republic and we thank you from the bottom of our heart," Trump said, of the "warriors" of an "epic battle" engaged in the ultimate fight of good against evil.

In his speech, Macron praised the "unthinkable courage," "the generosity" of the soldiers and "the strength of spirit" that made them press on "to help men and

women they didn't know, to liberate a land most hadn't seen before, for no other cause but freedom, democracy."

He expressed France's debt to the United States for freeing his country from the reign of the Nazis. Macron awarded five American veterans with the Chevalier of Legion of Honor, France's highest award.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***'Woo-hoo!' At 97, D-Day veteran parachutes into Normandy***



**U.S. World War II D-Day veteran Tom Rice, from Coronado, CA, parachutes in a tandem jump into a field in Carentan, Normandy, France, Wednesday, June 5, 2019. Approximately 200 parachutists participated in the jump over Normandy on Wednesday, replicating a jump made by U.S. soldiers on June 6, 1944 as a prelude to the seaborne invasions on D-Day. (AP Photo)**



**U.S. World War II D-Day veteran Tom Rice, from Coronado, CA, after parachuting in a tandem jump into a field in Carentan, Normandy, France, Wednesday, June 5, 2019. Approximately 200 parachutists participated in the jump over Normandy on Wednesday, replicating a jump made by U.S. soldiers on June 6, 1944 as a prelude to the seaborne invasions on D-Day. (AP Photo/Rafael Yaghobzadeh)**

**By JOHN LEICESTER**

CARENTAN, France (AP) - No murderous hails of gunfire this time. No D-Day objective that had to be taken, whatever the cost. This time, 75 years almost to the hour after he parachuted into Nazi-occupied France, Tom Rice again found himself floating down through Normandy's skies, now a grizzled 97-year-old thrilled as a little kid.

"Woo-hoo!" the ex-paratrooper yelled after hitting the ground, carrying the memories of comrades lost in battle and on a new mission - of remembrance this time - for the ever-shrinking numbers who sacrificed so much in World War II.

"I represent a whole generation," Rice said.

Engines throbbing, C-47 transport planes dropped string after string of parachutists, a couple of hundred in all - including Rice, who jumped strapped to a partner, not alone and laden with weapons as he did on June 6, 1944.

"It went perfect, perfect jump," Rice said after catching his breath. "I feel great. I'd go up and do it all again."

The clouds of jumpers, with round 'chutes akin to those used by D-Day soldiers, were honoring the thousands of paratroopers who leapt into gunfire and death 75 years ago.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***The Man Who Told America the Truth About D-Day*** (New York Times)



**Ernie Pyle listening to a news report on war activities over the loudspeaker of a Navy transport carrying Marines to the invasion of Okinawa in 1945. Photo/Bettmann Archive/Getty Images**

**By David Chrisinger**

Most of the men in the first wave never stood a chance. In the predawn darkness of June 6, 1944, thousands of American soldiers crawled down swaying cargo nets and thudded into steel landing craft bound for the Normandy coast. Their senses were soon choked with the smells of wet canvas gear, seawater and acrid clouds of powder from the huge naval guns firing just over their heads. As the landing craft drew close to shore, the deafening roar stopped, quickly replaced by German artillery rounds crashing into the water all around them. The flesh under the men's sea-soaked uniforms prickled. They waited, like trapped mice, barely daring to breathe.

A blanket of smoke hid the heavily defended bluffs above the strip of sand code-named Omaha Beach. Concentrated in concrete pill boxes, nearly 2,000 German defenders lay in wait. The landing ramps slapped down into the surf, and a catastrophic hail of gunfire erupted from the bluffs. The ensuing slaughter was merciless.

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

## Stories of interest

***Americans think "made-up news" is a bigger problem than climate change*** (Nieman)

**By LAURA HAZARD OWEN**

U.S. adults are more likely to say that "made-up news/info" is a big problem than they are to identify climate change, racism, terrorism, or sexism as such, according to a study out from the Pew Research Center Wednesday: Fifty percent of those surveyed said made-up news (the artist formerly known as "fake news") is a "very big problem" in the United States. By comparison, 46 percent called climate change a "very big problem"; 40 percent said the same about racism; 34 percent said the same about terrorism.

"Made-up news/info" can't touch some other issues, though - like drug addiction and affordable health care. It ranks only a hair behind income inequality.

The report is the bleakest I've seen when it comes to the partisan divide in the United States around fake news. Republicans are much more likely than Democrats to identify made-up news as a "very big problem." (They are, after all, told it's a huge problem repeatedly by the president.) They are also more likely to say that they see it "often," and they are three times as likely as Democrats to blame journalists for creating it. Republicans are also more likely to say that they have "reduced the amount of news they get overall" out of their concerns over fake news.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Google and Facebook sucked profits from newspapers. Publishers are finally resisting.***

(Washington Post)

**By MARGARET SULLIVAN**

Republicans and Democrats in Congress seem to agree on almost nothing these days.

That's why it's startling to see bipartisan support for something you might think would be unpopular with politicians: the very local newspapers that hold elected officials accountable.

But it's happening. And, given the gloomy state of the newspaper industry, it's a rare break in the clouds.

"It does seem like we're getting somewhere," said David Chavern, president and CEO of the News Media Alliance, which represents 2,000 news publishers - mostly local newspapers, but also some national papers (including The Washington Post) and digital-only news sites.

The legislation in the House and Senate would provide a temporary "safe harbor" - a four-year antitrust exemption for news publishers as they negotiate with Google and Facebook over how news content is used and how advertising dollars are distributed.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Dine.

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## ***These Reporters Lost Their Jobs. Now They're Fighting Back Against Big Tech.*** (Buzzfeed News)

By ROSIE GRAY

Two prominent reporters who were recently laid off from digital media outlets are forming a new advocacy group to raise awareness about Big Tech's impact on the journalism industry.

John Stanton, a longtime congressional correspondent and former BuzzFeed News Washington bureau chief, and Laura Bassett, a former culture and political reporter for nearly 10 years at HuffPost, have teamed up to launch a new initiative called the Save Journalism Project. The two have firsthand experience with the troubled state of the news industry: Stanton was laid off from BuzzFeed News during a round of layoffs that affected 200 people companywide this winter and helped spur a unionization drive among the news staff. Bassett lost her job in similar fashion in January after HuffPost laid off 20 employees as part of larger cuts at its parent company, Verizon Media.

Read more [here](#).

Read [this version](#) in The Hill. Shared by Paul Shane, Doug Pizac.

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## ***'A bad, sad and dangerous day': Australian police raid public broadcaster, seize emails and documents*** (Washington Post)

By Tim Elfrink



Two years ago, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation published a searing investigative report based on hundreds of pages of secret military files that suggested Australian soldiers had killed unarmed civilians and children in Afghanistan.

On Wednesday, federal police showed up at the ABC's Sydney headquarters armed with a warrant naming a news director and the two reporters who broke that story and demanding access to everything from emails to notes and drafts. Federal agents later reviewed more than 9,000 documents, according to John Lyons, ABC News's executive editor.

"I have to say, sitting here watching police using a media organisation's computers to track everything to do with a legitimate story I can't help but think: this is a bad, sad and dangerous day for a country where we have for so long valued - and taken for granted - a free press," Lyons tweeted.

The raid is the second this week by Australian Federal Police on a journalist and comes at a time of growing concerns of eroded press freedoms around the world and in the U.S. Advocates decried the police actions at ABC's headquarters and warned it would have a chilling effect on investigative reporting in the country.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

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## ***Covering climate is big. Start small.*** (Poynter)

**By KRISTEN HARE**

Last week, I went to Ukraine and got a reusable water bottle.

Let me explain: I was invited to Lviv, near the Polish border, to speak about what's working and what's not in local news in the United States. Speakers at the Lviv Media Forum got a tote, some stickers, and in an effort to reduce single-use plastics, reusable water bottles instead of abundant plastic ones. (LMF also paid for my travel, hotel and conference meals.)

A lot of things struck me as great about that conference - it was held in a cool old factory complex, it was full of great local news ideas from across the world, and yeah, I thought the water bottle and the purposeful messaging behind it were savvy and smart.

At an event one evening, I mentioned my new and treasured water bottle to a woman and learned about all the ways organizations in Ukraine are pushing for small, smart choices like this one. Maybe it's my jet-lagged brain, but now I'm thinking about single-use plastics and what my family can do to cut back more than I was before.

It's a start.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - June 6, 2019



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, June 6, the 157th day of 2019. There are 208 days left in the year.

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

On June 6, 1944, during World War II, Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, on "D-Day" as they began the liberation of German-occupied Western Europe.

**On this date:**

In 1654, Queen Christina of Sweden abdicated; she was succeeded by her cousin, Charles X Gustav.

In 1799, American politician and orator Patrick Henry died at Red Hill Plantation in Virginia.

In 1816, a snowstorm struck the northeastern U.S., heralding what would become known as the "Year Without a Summer."

In 1918, U.S. Marines suffered heavy casualties as they launched their eventually successful counteroffensive against German troops in the World War I Battle of Belleau Wood in France.

In 1925, Walter Percy Chrysler founded the Chrysler Corp.

In 1933, the first drive-in movie theater was opened by Richard Hollingshead in Camden County, New Jersey. (The movie shown was "Wives Beware," starring Adolphe Menjou.)

In 1939, the first Little League game was played as Lundy Lumber defeated Lycoming Dairy 23-8 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

In 1966, black activist James Meredith was shot and wounded as he walked along a Mississippi highway to encourage black voter registration.

In 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy died at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, 25 1/2 hours after he was shot by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

In 1978, California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 13, a primary ballot initiative calling for major cuts in property taxes.

In 1982, Israeli forces invaded Lebanon to drive Palestine Liberation Organization fighters out of the country. (The Israelis withdrew in June 1985.)

In 1985, authorities in Brazil exhumed a body later identified as the remains of Dr. Josef Mengele, the notorious "Angel of Death" of the Nazi Holocaust.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama visited the American cemetery at Omaha Beach in France to commemorate the 65th anniversary of D-Day. Summer Bird won the Belmont Stakes, rallying past Mine That Bird to spoil jockey Calvin Borel's attempt at winning all three legs of the Triple Crown. Svetlana Kuznetsova beat top-ranked Dinara Safina 6-4, 6-2 in an all-Russian final at the French Open.

Five years ago: Men who'd stormed Normandy's shore 70 years earlier joined world leaders in paying tribute to the 150,000 Allied troops who risked and lost their lives in the D-Day landings.

One year ago: Breaking with President Donald Trump, House Speaker Paul Ryan said there was no evidence that the FBI had planted a "spy" in Trump's 2016 presidential campaign in an effort to hurt his chances at the polls. Trump commuted the life sentence of Alice Marie Johnson, who had spent more than two decades behind bars for drug offenses; her cause had been championed by reality TV star Kim Kardashian West. Carrie Underwood continued to make history as the most decorated act at the CMT Music Awards as a new award for female video of the year gave her 18 wins overall; Blake Shelton walked away with the night's top prize, video of the year. Hall of Fame second baseman Red Schoendienst, who also managed the St. Louis Cardinals to two pennants and a World Series championship in the 1960s, died at the age of 95.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-songwriter Gary "U.S." Bonds is 80. Country singer Joe Stampley is 76. Jazz musician Monty Alexander is 75. Actor Robert Englund is 72. Folk singer Holly Near is 70. Singer Dwight Twilley is 68. Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., is 67. Playwright-actor Harvey Fierstein (FY'-ur-steen) is 67. Comedian Sandra Bernhard is 64. International Tennis Hall of Famer Bjorn Borg is 63. Actress Amanda Pays is 60. Comedian Colin Quinn is 60. Record producer Jimmy Jam is 60. Rock musician Steve Vai is 59. Rock singer-musician Tom Araya (Slayer) is 58. Actor Jason Isaacs is 56. Actor Anthony Starke is 56. Rock musician Sean Yseult (White Zombie) is 53. Actor Max Casella is 52. Actor Paul Giamatti is 52. Rhythm and blues singer Damion Hall (Guy) is 51. Rock musician James "Munky" Shaffer (Korn) is 49. TV correspondent Natalie Morales is 47. Country singer Lisa Brokop is 46. Rapper-rocker Uncle Kracker is 45. Actress Sonya Walger is 45. Actress Staci Keanan is 44. Jazz singer Somi is 43. Actress Amber Borycki is 36. Actress Aubrey Anderson-Emmons is 12.

**Thought for Today: "As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being." - Carl Jung (1875-1961).**

# Connecting calendar



**June 20** - 25-Year Club Celebration, 5:30 - 8 p.m., AP headquarters, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY. RSVP online [here](#). Any questions may be directed to [recognition@ap.org](mailto: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.

**Paul Stevens**  
**Editor, Connecting newsletter**  
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